



## Sunday January 19

15:30 – 17:00  
Library

### **WEMW 2025 Opening Keynote** **Creative Innovation:** **Exploring Challenges** **and Opportunities**

Talk

by Graham Hitchen

(Director of Policy for the UK's Creative Technologies Foresight Lab and Professor in the Institute for Creative Futures at Loughborough University)

Moderated by Tamara Tatishvili

Graham Hitchen will address the current policy focus on innovation and its application in the creative industries. Drawing on examples from the UK and elsewhere, he will highlight the ways in which creative practitioners are responding to the innovation challenge – testing new ways of working, and creating new products and experiences. He will explore how innovation can create space for new ways of working and inspire new creative processes but also its implications for training, organisational development and business models. This engaging discussion will be hosted by industry strategist Tamara Tatishvili and serves as an inspirational prelude to various professional activities planned during WEMW 2025.

17:00 – 18:00  
Sala Zodiaco

### **Marketing for Movies from Development** **Stage to Release**

Talk

by Boris Pagnet (Space Odyssey)

in collaboration with [First Cut+](#)

A quick overview on how marketing can help producers and distributors from an early development stage (sometimes even before the script is written) to the release of the movie, to convince financial partners and the audience.

17:00 – 19:00  
Sala Imperatore

### **Last Stop Trieste Screenings**

Works in Progress

for sales, distributors & festivals only

*Becoming Roosi*

*My Dad's Lessons*

18:00 – 19:30

### **DAE Confidential**

Networking

An informal session to get to know documentary experts and hear their thoughts on filmmaking, financing and distribution over a glass of wine.

Moderated by Brigid O'Shea and Heidi Fleisher in collaboration with DAE

with Themba Bhebhe (Indigenous Cinema Alliance),

Zeshawn Ali (Points North Institute),

Thanos Stavropoulos (Thessaloniki International Film Festival),

Patrizia Mancini (Sheffield DocFest)

18:00 – 19:30  
Sala Tergeste

### **First Cut+ Screenings**

Works in Progress

for sales, distributors & festivals only



# WHEN EAST MEETS WEST programme



## Sunday January 19

18:30 – 19:00  
Sala Zodiaco

### **Producing Amidst Economic Downturn and War: How Do We Turn Challenges into Opportunities?**

Talk

by Kateryna Vyshnevskya  
in collaboration with Cold Open Inspirational Lab & MIDPOINT Institute

Kateryna Vyshnevskya, a UK-based Ukrainian producer, hard on the heels of receiving the Honorary Producer Award at Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event, shares her journey producing *Those Who Stayed*, *Moloch* and *Citizens at War*. By overcoming adversity (including filming during the war) and setting up innovative funding strategies, she offers hope and practical insights on how to get things made when the world is falling apart.

20:00 – 21:00  
Library

**Opening Cocktail**  
hosted by **Catalan Films**

Networking

## Monday January 20

09:30 – 13:00  
Sala Tergeste

**WEMW 2025 Opening & Co-Production Forum Pitching Session**

Pitching

11:00 – 11:30  
Library

**Coffee Break**  
co-hosted by Cinecucine

Networking

13:00 – 14:30  
Library & Savoia restaurant

**Networking Lunch**  
co-hosted by **Apulia Film Commission**

Networking

*The actions to promote and enhance the Puglia brand and the internationalization of Puglia producers within the WEMW initiative are carried out using resources from the POC Puglia 2014/2020 - Axis VI - Action 6.7., intervention "Promuovere il Cinema 2024"*

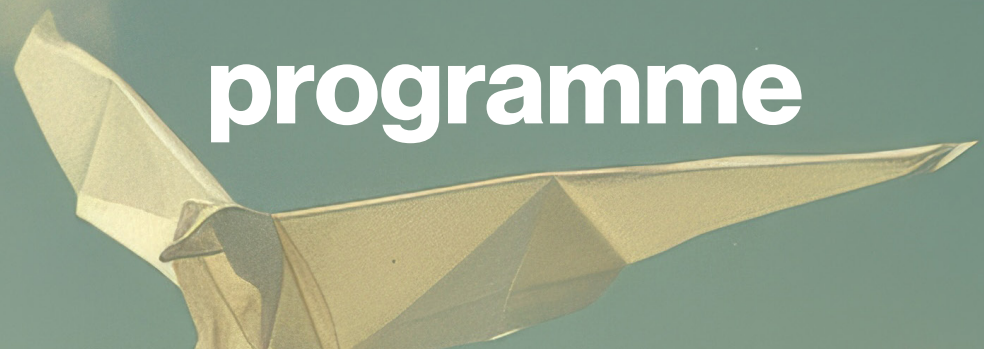
14:30 – 15:00  
Sala Zodiaco

**Uprooted: An American Perspective on Docuseries**  
by Avril Speaks (azUspeak Productions)  
Presented by Global Media Makers

Talk

Avril Speaks draws from her experience directing and producing the acclaimed series *Uprooted* to explore what makes a great docuseries. She shares key lessons on the pitfalls to avoid, strategies for connecting with audiences—particularly from a U.S. perspective—and her take on the future of the format. With practical examples, this session offers an inspiring and grounded perspective for those interested in navigating the evolving world of docseries storytelling.

# WHEN EAST MEETS WEST programme



## Monday January 20

15:00 – 16:00  
Library

**CIRCLE Networking Ring**  
in collaboration with  
CIRCLE Women Doc Accelerator

Networking

15:00 – 18:00  
Sala Tergeste

**Co-Production Forum & First Cut+  
one-to-one meetings**

Matchmaking

15:00 – 18:15  
Sala Imperatore

**Last Stop Trieste Screenings**  
for sales, distributors & festivals only  
*Home Is Where the Films Are*  
*Divia*  
*Electing Ms Santa*

Works in Progress

15:30 – 16:00  
Sala Zodiaco

**Spotlight IDM Film Commission Südtirol**  
with Luisa Giuliani and Renate Renzi  
(IDM Film Commission Südtirol - Alto Adige)

Talk

The IDM Film Commission South Tyrol invites you to an interactive and stimulating meeting to discover the funding opportunities and initiatives available. Through a quiz, we will present our fund e new project: MASO - Short Film Training Programme. This will be an opportunity to discover, in a concise yet effective way, the main activities that define our work.

16:30 – 17:30  
Sala Zodiaco

**MIDPOINT Shorts Showcase**  
Short film projects developed within  
MIDPOINT Shorts 2024-2025  
in collaboration with MIDPOINT Institute

Pitching

17:00 – 18:00  
Library

**Inclusive Co-Productions:  
A Roadmap from Development to Release**  
in conversation with  
Gema Juárez Allen (Gema Films, Argentina),  
Karen Harnisch (Film Forge, Canada),  
Jennifer Sabbah (Big Sister Production, France),  
Amil Shivji (Kijiweni Productions, Tanzania)  
Moderated by Tamara Dawit (Gobez Media, Canada)  
in collaboration with EAVE Impact Think Tank

Talk

This panel will explore strategies for embedding inclusivity into every stage of the co-production process, from pre-development to release. Drawing on insights from the 2025 EAVE Think Tank, this session provides a practical framework for fostering collaboration and creating ethical co-productions.





## Monday January 20

18:00 – 18:30  
Sala Zodiaco

### **Anybody Playing Video Games Here?**

Talk

by Thierry Baujard (SpielFabrique) and Mafalda Duarte (Telescope Games) in collaboration with Film x Games Inspirational Lab & SpielFabrique

A short overview of the video Games sector and the opportunities of collaboration within the European independent Games sector ([www.spielfabrique.eu](http://www.spielfabrique.eu)). A case study on how to strategically develop games and animation projects within Telescope production company in Potsdam.

18:00 – 19:30

### **DAE Confidential**

Networking

An informal session to get to know documentary experts and hear their thoughts on filmmaking, financing and distribution over a glass of wine. Moderated by Brigid O'Shea and Heidi Fleisher in collaboration with DAE with Carmen Vicencio (American Documentary | POV), Tereza Bona Keilova (HBO Max), Anne-Laure Negrin (ARTE)

19:30 – 20:00  
Library

### **CIRCLE, ReACT & Italian-Baltic**

Awards

**Co-Development Award Ceremony**  
**WEMW Green Lottery & Inspirational Gifts**

20:00 – 21:00  
Library

### **A Taste of Cinema:**

Networking

**Italian Film Commission Wine Journey**  
co-hosted by the **Italian Film Commissions**

## Tuesday January 21

09:00 – 10:30  
Library

### **Breakfast with CIRCLE |**

Networking

### **Ethics of Filmmaking:**

### **Practices Swept Under the Rug**

with Masa Neskovic (film director & intimacy coordination graduate) and Marija Zidar (documentary filmmaker & researcher) in collaboration with CIRCLE Women Doc Accelerator

In conversation with Masa Neskovic (film director and intimacy coordination graduate) and Marija Zidar (documentary filmmaker & researcher) on changing standards in working with performers and protagonists.

## Tuesday January 21

10:00 – 10:30  
Sala Zodiaco

### **How to Share Earth with AI Robots?**

Talk

by Maciej Żemojcin (VeriSearch.ai)

in collaboration with

Amazing Intelligence Inspirational Lab & ACE Producers

As Artificial Intelligence becomes integral to our lives, how do we ensure harmonious coexistence with humans? Aligning AI with human values is key, but defining these values is complex. Can machines truly grasp human emotions? Should AI be team members? How will AI's rise influence storytelling and creativity in the film industry? Sharing Earth with AI is both a challenge, shaping our future profoundly.

10:00 – 13:00  
Sala Tergeste  
Sala San Giusto

**Co-Production Forum,**  
**Last Stop Trieste & MIDPOINT Shorts**  
**one-to-one meetings**

Matchmaking

10:30 - 13:00  
Teatro Miela

### **This Is IT Screenings**

Works in Progress

for sales, distributors & festivals only

11:00 – 12:00  
Sala Zodiaco

### **East & West 2025 | Spotlight on Benelux**

Talk

in conversation with

Carole Kremer (Film Fund Luxembourg),

Katrien Maes (Flanders Audiovisual Fund),

Emmanuel Roland (Centre du Cinéma et de l'Audiovisuel de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles),

Ilse Ronteltap (Netherlands Film Fund)

Moderated by Tamara Tatishvili

in cooperation with MEDICI - The Film Funding Journey (organised by FOCAL)

11:00 – 12:00  
Library

### **CIRCLE Networking Ring**

Networking

in collaboration with CIRCLE Women

Doc Accelerator

12:00 – 13:00  
Sala Zodiaco

### **East & West 2025 | Spotlight on Baltics**

Talk

in conversation with

Dita Rietuma (National Film Centre of Latvia),

Edith Sepp (Estonian Film Institute),

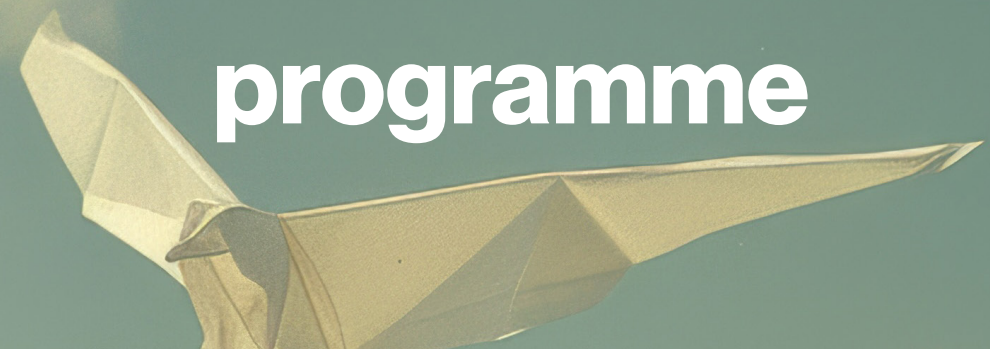
Laimonas Ubavičius (Lithuanian Film Center)

Moderated by Tamara Tatishvili

in cooperation with MEDICI - The Film Funding Journey (organised by FOCAL)



# WHEN EAST MEETS WEST programme



## Tuesday January 21

13:00 – 14:30

Library & Savoia restaurant

### **Networking Lunch**

co-hosted by

**2025 East & West Spotlight Countries**

Networking

14:30 – 15:30

Sala Zodiaco

### **Embracing for Change and Innovation. Towards a Better and Stronger Level Playing Field in the EU AV Landscape**

with Niels Alberg (Publikum), Jakob Isak Nielsen (Associate Professor Aarhus University Denmark), Danna Stern (In Transit Productions)

by Creative Europe MEDIA Desks Belgium Flanders, Belgium Wallonia-Brussels, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia.

Talk

Key insights from CresCine report on seven selected small ecosystems as well as six large markets in Europe in particular, will frame the current state of play when it comes to feature film, long form-drama, and AV storytelling. What options do small EU ecosystems have to stay competitive considering the challenges related to domestic and international audiences? As regards to the TV content – how do we focus more on retaining loyal viewers? How the Publikum project can help in understanding and create new audiences?

15:00 – 16:00

Library

### **Meet the Circle Delegation**

Networking

15:00 – 18:00

Sala Tergeste

### **Co-Production Forum & This Is IT one-to-one meetings**

Matchmaking

16:00 – 16:45

Sala Zodiaco

### **Money for Movies: Equity Financing and Raising Capital**

with Mollye Asher and Alix Madigan

Moderated by Caroline Libresco

Presented by Global Media Makers

Talk

Equity financing is a common practice used by independent filmmakers in the U.S. Piquing interest of investors and engaging them as partners requires research, skill, practice and luck! Through their diverse experiences, U.S. producers Mollye Asher, Alix Madigan, and Caroline Libresco provide a 360° view of the equity financing model. Their insight will enlighten those embarking on their next fundraising journey.





## Tuesday January 21

17:00 - 18:00  
Sala Zodiaco

### **Pop Up Film Residency Dialogues: A Creative Community**

Talk

with Leila Basma (Filmmaker & Pop Up Film Residency alumna), Anna Ciennik (Script Consultant & Screenwriter), Matthieu Darras (Pop Up Film Residency Founder), Antonia Girardi (Pop Up Film Residency Managing Director), Ada Solomon (Producer & Pop Up Film Residency Host) in collaboration with Pop Up Film Residency

Launched at WEMW in 2019, the Pop Up Film Residency is celebrating its 100th residency in January 2025. This is the perfect opportunity to come together in Trieste, and to exchange with members of our growing community (filmmakers, mentors, hosts, etc.) on what has been accomplished and what's ahead - exploring the diverse creative journeys taken by films to come into life. Through its tailor-made residency programs, the Pop Up Film Residency supports filmmakers, and their projects, at various stages of development.

18:00 – 18:30  
Library

### **Going with the Flow**

Talk

by Matīss Kaža (Dream Well Studio)  
in collaboration with Anima Spirit Inspirational Lab & CEE Animation Workshop

Producer Matīss Kaža will give a presentation on the incredible success story of Latvian/French/Belgian low-budget animation Flow by Gints Zilbalodis, from its conception to distribution and marketing strategies which led the film to receive more than 50 international awards, including the European Film Award and Golden Globe for Best Animated Film.

18:00 – 19:30

### **DAE Confidential**

Networking

An informal session to get to know documentary experts and hear their thoughts on filmmaking, financing and distribution over a glass of wine.

Moderated by Brigid O'Shea and Heidi Fleisher  
in collaboration with DAE

with Gaia Furrer (Giornate degli Autori), Sarah Dawson (IDFA), Thomas Ross (Semaine de la Critique), Jessica Kiang (Berlinale Film Festival)

19:30 – 20:00  
Library

### **WEMW Award Ceremony**

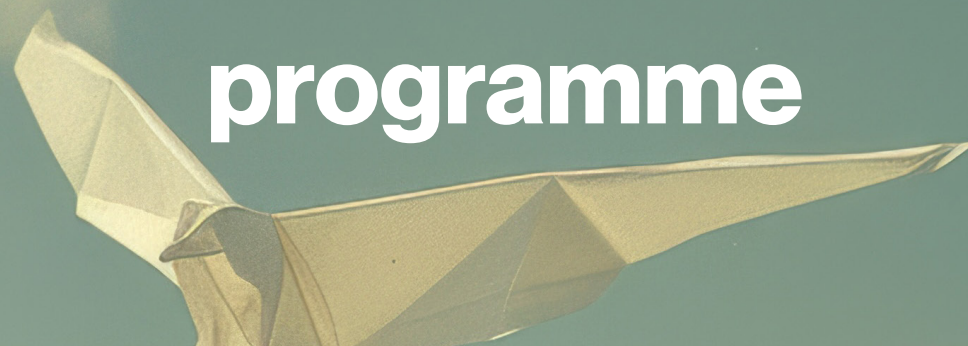
Awards

20:00 – 21:00  
Library

### **Closing Cocktail**

Networking

co-hosted by **Creative Europe MEDIA Desks Belgium Flanders, Belgium Wallonia-Brussels, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia.**



## Tuesday January 21

22:30 – 02:00  
LOFT

### **Closing Party**

co-hosted by **WEMW & Trieste Film Festival**

**Dancing & Singing**

## Wednesday January 22

12:30 – 13:00  
Sala Zodiaco

### **The Market of Genre Film Explained in Two Moves**

by Céline Dornier (Logical Pictures)

in collaboration with Genre Rules Inspirational Lab &

Fantastic Film Forum of the Trieste Science+Fiction Festival

**Talk**

Genre films often need to rest more on the market than on public financing. But what are really the options? How can genre films get financed? Céline Dornier, VP of Financing and Acquisitions at Logical Pictures, will provide an insider's look at the genre film industry by comparing two specific examples: The Innocents by Eskil Vogt and Night of the hunted by Franck Khalfoun.

13:00 – 14:30  
Library

### **Inspirational Networking Lunch**

co-hosted by **IDM Film Commission Südtirol**  
for Inspirational Labs participants only

**Networking**