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EUROPEAN SHOWRUNNER PROGRAMME

ROUNDUP 2022



Internationale
Filmschule
Köln

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MISSION

With the European Showrunner Programme the ifs launched a unique new initiative focusing on the showrunner position in Europe. The aim of this programme was twofold: to start a focused conversation amongst European series professionals about this position and to provide experienced series writers who have what it takes to become a showrunner with the leadership- and production-related skills and insights needed to successfully take on this demanding position.

Head of Programme



ifs was thrilled to win Jeppe Gjervig Gram as Head of Programme for the European Showrunner Programme. The Danish writer and showrunner («Borgen», «Follow the Money») was a great fit and took the curriculum to a higher level.

From this, a two-part structure originated:

1. The European Showrunner Think Tank

A series of industry events focusing on analysing, discussing, and eventually implementing a truly European showrunner model.

2. The European Showrunner Training

A top-level advanced training and mentoring programme for aspiring and first-time showrunners.

ABOUT THE IFS

Founded in 2000, the ifs Internationale Filmschule Köln today is one of the leading schools for film and moving images in Germany. It views itself as a central, internationally oriented institution for education and professional training for the audiovisual media industry. It has the aim to provide film and media professionals with a high quality, future-oriented education in a close interweaving of theory and practice. The fact that it is located in Cologne, a film, media, and TV hub, is particularly characteristic of its claim to being close to the industry. The sole principal partner of the ifs is the Film- und Medienstiftung NRW.

Since 2013, the ifs has been offering the MA Serial Storytelling, the first and only Master's programme in Europe with a focus on collaborative writing for series. The intensive study programme focuses on both German-language and international series markets, combining screenwriting craft with techniques of cooperative story development («Writers' Room») and applied artistic research.



PARTNERS

Funding Partners

As the main funder, the **Creative Europe Media Programme** strongly supported the European Showrunner Programme.

As second funding partner, ifs was delighted to have won the **Film- und Medienstiftung NRW**.

Industry Partners

With the streaming service **Netflix** we were very fortunate to gain a top-level industry partner. This enabled us to lower the participants' fees and ensured a strong connection with the actual needs of the industry.

Another excellent partner of the European Showrunner Programme was the prestigious international series festival **Series Mania** - and furthermore an ideal platform for the kick-off session in March 2022 (see page 7).

Media Partners

The European Showrunner Training was promoted by media partners **Blickpunkt:Film** and **Variety**.

Many thanks to our partners!

Sponsored by:



Industry Partners:



Media Partners:



THINK TANKS

5 much noted panel discussions featuring top-level experts from key parts of the series industry discussed the current situation for showrunners in Europe, including both the challenges and advantages, and gave an outlook into what a sustainable, truly European showrunner model could look like.



THINK TANK I

Showrunning: A European Approach

The opening panel in Lille aimed to shed light on the current situation in the European series market from the showrunners' perspective, focusing on the opportunities and challenges this new approach implies.

Wednesday, March 23, 2022
at Series Mania, Lille

Speakers

Jeppe Gjervig Gram

Denmark | writer and showrunner »Borgen«,
»Follow the Money«, Head of Programme of
the European Showrunner Programme

Annette Hess

Germany | writer and showrunner
»We Children from Bahnhof Zoo«,
»Ku'damm 56/59/63«

Frank Spotnitz

USA/UK/France | CEO Big Light Productions,
showrunner, writer and executive producer
»Leonardo«, »Medici«, »The X-Files«,
»The Man in the High Castle«

Moderator

Marie Roussin

France | writer and showrunner
»Lupin«, »Mixte«

A recording of this think tank can be found at www.showrunners.eu



THINK TANK II

Showrunning in Europe: The Broadcaster's Perspective

The second panel aimed to shed light on the broadcaster's perspective and gave voice to representatives from European broadcasters and streamers sharing their experiences with the showrunner model, the challenges and opportunities they see, as well as their visions for the future.

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Speakers

Bettina Alber

Switzerland | Head of Series, SRF Swiss Radio and Television

Christian Wikander

Sweden | Commissioning Editor and VP, Original Programming HBO Max Nordic

Marianne Furevold

Norway | Executive Producer, NRK Drama, Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation

Moderator

Torsten Zarges

Germany | Chief Reporter DWDL.de, Cologne

A recording of this think tank can be found at www.showrunners.eu



THINK TANK III

Embracing Diversity and Social Responsibility

Showrunners are the lead creatives overseeing the entire creation and production process – a position that combines huge responsibilities with unique opportunities. In our European Showrunner Programme we want to encourage a more diverse and societal approach to producing and telling stories. Showrunners can make a real difference and have a lasting impact by considering those factors, spreading them among cast, crew and audience. This panel aims to showcase opportunities and discuss challenges that come with implementing societal issues in TV series.

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

Speakers

Nataly Kudiabor

Germany | Executive Producer »All You Need«,
Managing Director UFA Fiction

Lauren Schmidt Hissrich

USA | Executive Producer »The Witcher«,
Writer, Producer »Private Practice«

Moderator

Marieke Muselaers

Belgium | Chief Content and Partnerships
Officer, Lumière Benelux Group

A recording of this think tank can be found at www.showrunners.eu



THINK TANKS

THINK TANK IV Producing in the Showrunner Model

The October panel aimed to discuss the challenges and opportunities that come with producing series in the showrunner model. Three experienced professionals shared their experiences with various types of the showrunner approach and discussed how this model benefits not only the quality of the show but also their work as producers.

Thursday, October 20, 2022
at »European Series Day«/Film Festival Cologne

Speakers

Maria Cervera

Spain | producer »Elite«, »Cable Girls«, Vice President, Content Development EMEAA, VIS (a division of Paramount)

Petja Peltomaa

Finland | writer and showrunner
»Syke / Nurses«

Andi Wecker

Germany | producer, writer and showrunner
»Start the Fck Up«, »The Team«

Moderator

Marike Muselaers

Belgium | Lumière Benelux Group

A recording of this think tank can be found at www.showrunners.eu





TRAINING

Aiming to provide brilliant series writers with key leadership- and production-related skills, the ESP is designed as a six-month blended learning programme featuring both on-site and online sessions. The European Showrunner Training consists of lectures, seminars, interactive workshops, case studies, and masterclasses, as well as mentoring in the form of one-on-one online consultations.

The first edition started in June 2022 and will end in November, 2022.

Applicants

Even though it was a new initiative, the European Showrunner Programme received a vast number of applications from 31 countries, most of them from highly accomplished series writers. The selection committee, thus, had the demanding task to choose a group of twelve, since there were many that would have been just as qualified.

Participants

The group of participants selected consisted of twelve series writers from ten European countries. The vast majority of them came with many years of experience as series writers including numerous head writing positions. However, the committee also decided to take on two younger writers who in spite of their junior years have already led their first shows in the showrunner role.

The positive group dynamics proved that the selection created a good match. From the very first module on the aspiring and first-time showrunners acted in an open, resourceful and supporting manner, aiming to further the showrunning model in all parts of Europe.

Lisa Ambjörn

Sweden | creator »Young Royals«,
»Sjukt/Sick«

Johann A Evar Grimsson

Iceland | creator and head writer »Sisterhood«,
head writer »Stella Blomkvist«

Sanja Kovačević

Croatia | head writer and creative producer
»Good Intentions«, co-writer and head editor
»Ours & Yours«

Tarja Kylmä

Finland | head writer »Invisible Heroes«

Katri Manninen

Finland | creator and head writer »Shadow
Lines«, creator »Secret of the Borderwoods«

Sanne Nuyens

Belgium | co-creator, co-writer »Hotel Beau
Séjour«, »The Twelve«

Margrét Ornlófsdóttir

Iceland | head writer »Flateyjargátan/
The Flatey Enigma«, »Fangar/Prisoners«

Wiktor Piątkowski

Poland | creator and writer »Wataha«,
writer »War Girls«

Julie Skaufel

Norway | writer »Home for Christmas«,
head writer »I Do«

Adrian Spring

Switzerland | creator and showrunner »Nr. 47«

Markus Stromiedel

Germany | creator and head writer
»Das Geheimnis meines Vaters/My Father's
Secret«, creator »Der Staatsanwalt/
The Prosecutor«

Tijs van Marle

The Netherlands | writer »Dirty Lines«,
head writer »Mister Twister«



From left to right: Margrét Ornlófsdóttir (Iceland), Tijs van Marle (The Netherlands), Katri Manninen, (Finland), Sanne Nuyens (Belgium), Julie Skaufel (Norway), Johann A Evar Grimsson, (Iceland), Lisa Ambjörn (Sweden), Adrian Spring (Switzerland), Tarja Kylmä (Finland), Wiktor Piątkowski (Poland), Sanja Kovačević (Croatia), Markus Stromiedel (Germany)

Modules

Module 1:
The Showrunner as Creator

Module 2:
The Showrunner as Head Writer

Module 3:
The Producer's Mindset

Module 4:
The Director's Mindset

Curriculum

On thirteen weekends – three of them on site in Cologne – the participants dove deep into the topics leadership and series producing, discussed issues of sustainability and learned from successful showrunners as well as from the perspective of their key creative partners what is needed for a successful creative collaboration on eyelevel. From leading the writers' room to marketing and branding, they touched upon every aspect of the showrunning process. Throughout the intensive six-month training, many successful showrunners gave detailed insights into their individual work models, their challenges, and the benefits they see in the showrunner approach.

Evaluation

From the very first module on, the participants have voiced their gratefulness for the insights and support they have received in this programme. Especially the many different and individual approaches to showrunning, but also much-missed insights into issues like budgets and finances, they said, enabled them to approach their current and upcoming projects with greater ease.



TRAINING

Quotes



"It's very valuable to discuss what show-running means today in the European industry and to think about where it can evolve to. We all want to tell great stories in the best way possible. The programme is a think tank in which we can not only share our strengths and weaknesses, but also improve our skills."

Sanne Nuyens

Belgium | co-creator, co-writer
»Hotel Beau Séjour«, »The Twelve«



"Taking part in the ifs European Showrunner Programme has been incredibly rewarding, both in sharpening the knowledge I've already accrued, as well as introducing me to some new ideas and approaches that will absolutely help me in my work going forward."

Johann AEvar Grimsson

Iceland | creator and head writer »Sisterhood«
head writer »Stella Blomkvist«



“Even after just one month of the programme I was not only able to enhance my leadership style but to expand my horizon with what kind of people I want to work with and what kind of stories I want to tell in the future.”

Adrian Spring

Switzerland | creator and showrunner »Nr. 47«



“The European Showrunner Programme has helped me find strength and developed my leadership skills as a writer and showrunner in the projects that I’m currently working on and for future projects. The community I’ve found with the other writers and showrunners helps and guides me when I encounter professional challenges.”

Julie Skaufel

Norway | writer »Home for Christmas«
head writer »I Do«



“The European Showrunner Programme is like a great anthology series – every module is another fascinating story with inspiring characters – and you can always find something interesting that improves not only your showrunner skills.”

Wiktor Piątkowski

Poland | creator and writer »Wataha«
writer »War Girls«

TRAINING

Speakers (Selection)



Anne Bjørnstad
Norway | Creator, Writer,
Showrunner »Beforeigners«,
»Lilyhammer«



Jeff Melvoin
USA | Writer, Showrunner
»Northern Exposure«,
»Designated Survivor«,
»Killing Eve«



Uta Briesewitz
USA/Germany | Cinema-
tographer, Director
»The Wire«, »Stranger
Things«, »Westworld«



Jannik Tai Mosholt
Denmark | Writer, Showrunner
»The Rain«, »Chosen«



Trygve Allister Diesen
Norway | Writer, Director,
Showrunner »Wisting«



Mikko Pöllä
Finland | Writer, Producer
»White Wall«, »Black
Widows«, »Easy Living«



Silje Hopland Eik
Norway | Producer »Wisting«,
»Atlantic Crossing«



Nichelle Tramble Spelman
USA | Writer, Executive
Producer, Showrunner »Truth
be Told«, »The Good Wife«



Annette Hess
Germany | Creator, Writer,
Producer, Showrunner
»Ku'damm 56-63«, »We
Children from Bahnhof Zoo«



Frank Spotnitz
USA/UK | Creator, Writer,
Executive Producer,
Showrunner »The X-Files«,
»The Man in the High Castle«



Philipp Käßbohrer
Germany | Writer, Producer,
Showrunner »How to Sell
Drugs Online (Fast)«



Marianne Wendt
Germany | Writer, Showrunner
»Eden«, »Neumatt/New
Heights«

OUTLOOK

European Showrunner Programme 2023

After the successful first edition in 2022, we are thrilled to continue the European Showrunner Programme in 2023 and beyond!

European Showrunner Think Tank:
5 Panel Discussions

European Showrunner Training:
19 Training Days
(8 days on location + 11 days online)

European Showrunner Network
(new in 2023)

In addition, to further advance the mutual support amongst showrunners, ifs will implement a third key pillar to the programme: a series of meetings for established and aspiring showrunners, scheduled after each think tank at key industry events. These networking meetings will be open to participants, alumni, and lecturers of the programme and to other (aspiring) showrunners in the industry.

**DATES
TBC**

Think Tank Dates

Think Tanks in Gothenburg (January/February at the TV Drama Visions Conference), Berlin (February at Berlin Series Days) or Lille (March at Series Mania Forum), Cologne (June at SerienCamp and/or October at European Series Day) and online

Application Deadline Training

April

Training

June–November

Team

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