

**EUROPEAN**

**SHOWRUNNER**

**PROGRAMME**

ROUNDUP 2023



Internationale  
Filmschule  
Köln

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# MISSION

**W**ith the 2023 edition of the European Showrunner Programme, ifs continued its unique initiative to promote the showrunner position in Europe. The aim of this programme is twofold: to continue the focused conversation amongst European series professionals about this position and to provide experienced series writers with the leadership- and production-related skills and insights needed to successfully take on this demanding position.

The programme consists of three parts:

### 1. The European Showrunner Training

A top-level advanced training and mentoring programme for experienced series writers.

### 2. The European Showrunner Think Tank

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

### 3. The European Showrunner Network

A series of network meetings for established and aspiring showrunners, scheduled at key industry events.

## Head of Programme



The European Showrunner Programme is headed by Danish writer and showrunner Jeppe Gjervig Gram («Borgen», «Follow the Money«).

# ABOUT THE IFS

**F**ounded in 2000, the ifs Internationale Filmschule Köln is one of the leading schools for film and moving images in Germany today. As an internationally focused institution for education and professional training, it provides film and media professionals with a high-quality, future-oriented education in a close combination of theory and practice. The fact that it is located in Cologne – a film, media, and TV hub – is particularly characteristic of its close proximity 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 international 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. In 2022, ifs launched the European Showrunner Programme – a unique initiative aiming to support the discussion and implementation of a truly European showrunner model that has just successfully concluded its second edition.

# 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 Partner

With the streaming service **Netflix** we were very fortunate to gain a top-level industry partner who has been at the forefront of implementing the showrunner system in Europe. Netflix' support enabled us to lower the participants' fees and ensured a strong connection with the actual needs of the industry.

## Partners Think Tanks and Network

More excellent partners of the European Showrunner Programme were the prestigious industry events **TV Drama Vision at Göteborg Film Festival, SerienCamp Conference, Film Festival Cologne and Nederlands Film Festival** – all hosting think tanks of the European Showrunner Programme (see page 14).

Moreover, **Series Mania** continued to be a valuable network partner.

## Media Partner

The European Showrunner Training was promoted by media partner **Blickpunkt:Film**.

Many thanks to our partners!

Sponsored by:



Industry Partner:



Media Partner:



Partners Think Tanks:





# TRAINING

**A**iming 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 second edition started in June 2023 and ended in November 2023.

## Applicants

For the second edition, the European Showrunner Programme again received a vast number of applications from all over Europe, most of them from highly accomplished series writers. Thus the selection committee had the demanding task to decide on twelve participants among a large group of writers 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.

### Tunde Aladese

Nigeria / Germany | writer »MTV Shuga«, »Transatlantic«

### Sylvain Caron

France | creator »The Cage«, writer »Balthazar«

### Dávid Csicskár

Hungary | writer and director »Tóth János«, »Elephant«

### Senad Halilbašić

Austria | writer »Der Pass« / »Pagan Peak«, »Der Greif« / »The Gryphon«

### Frederik Hunschede

Germany | producer »Think Big!«, creator »Nix Festes«

### Matus Krajnak

Slovakia | creator, writer, director and producer »Sexfluencing«, »Other White«

### Agnieszka Kruk

Poland | writer »Na Wspólnej«, language assistant »1899«

### Matti Laine

Finland | head writer »The Paradise«, writer »Bordertown«

### Pedro Lopes

Portugal | creator and writer »Glória«, writer »O Códex 632«

### Mona Masri

Sweden | writer »Easy Money« / »Snabba Cash«, »Copenhagen Cowboy«

### Malina Nwabuonwor

Austria | writer »Sam – Ein Sachse« / »Sam – A Saxon«, »Para – We are King«

### Rachel Paterson

UK | writer »Domina«, head writer »Fallen«



From left to right: Tunde Aladese (Nigeria / Germany), Sylvain Caron (France), Senad Halilbašić (Austria), Matti Laine (Finland), Malina Nwabuonwor (Austria), Pedro Lopes (Portugal), Agnieszka Kruk (Poland), Matus Krajnak (Slovakia), Rachel Paterson (UK), Frederik Hunschede (Germany), Dávid Csicskár (Hungary)

## Modules

Module 1:  
The Showrunner as Creator

Module 2:  
The Showrunner as Head Writer

Module 3:  
The Producer's Mindset

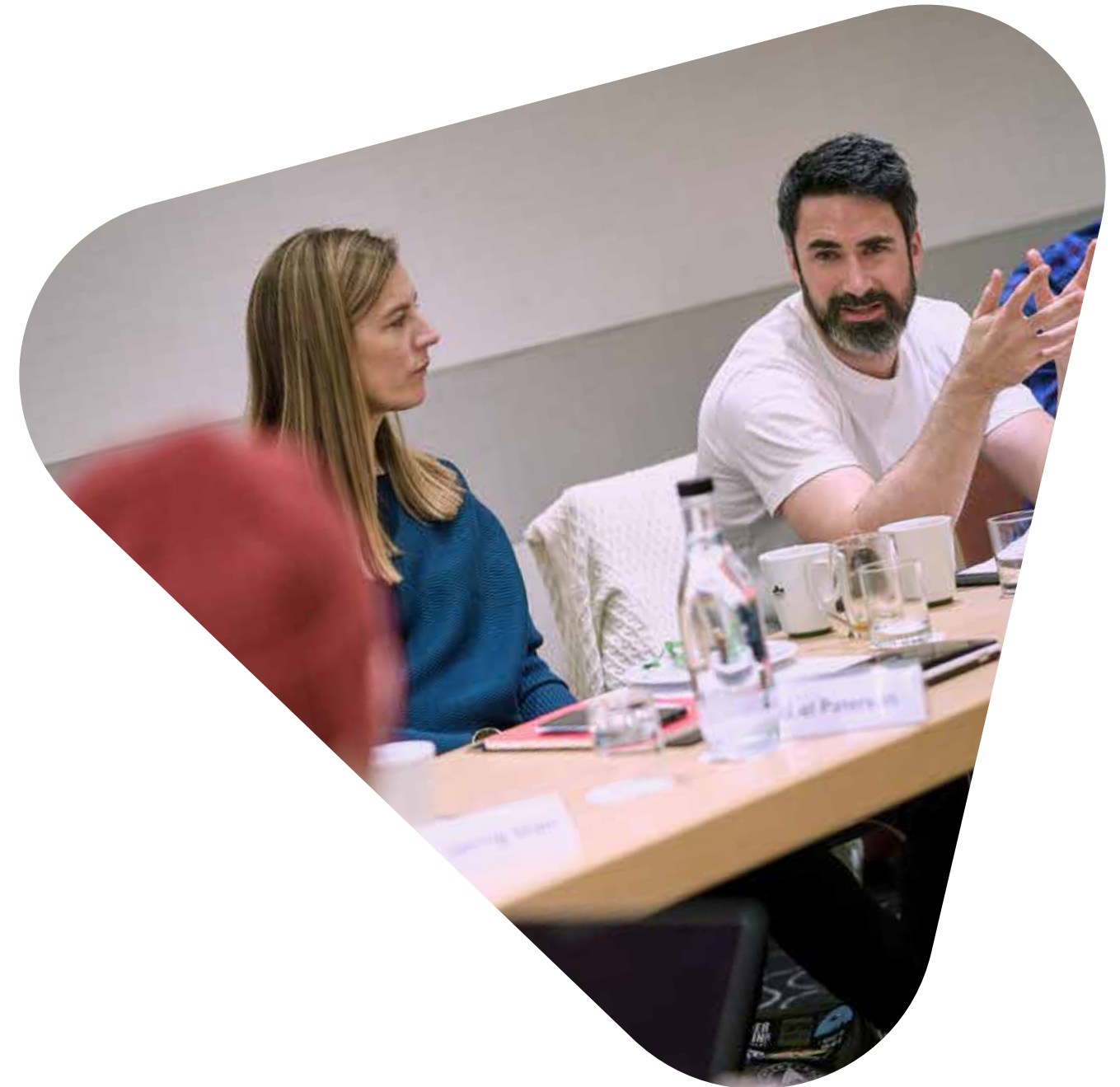
Module 4:  
The Director's Mindset

## Curriculum

On as many as 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 established 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 experienced 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.





## Quotes



*"I would definitely recommend the European Showrunner Programme to any film professional looking to take their career to new levels in terms of vision and creative ownership. The programme gave me a very good insight into the responsibilities of a showrunner and provided valuable insights into potential models for a European approach to the topic."*

**Malina Nwabuonwor**  
Austria | writer »Sam – Ein Sachse« /  
»Sam – A Saxon«, »Para – We are King«



*"The European Showrunner Programme has given me more tools to deal with all the challenges. The trainers are key names who generously share all their knowledge and experience. On this programme I also had the opportunity to create a friendly relationship with other creators that will continue well beyond this programme."*

**Pedro Lopes**  
Portugal | creator and writer »Glória«  
writer »O Códex 632«



*"The European Showrunner Programme has been truly transformational. I've gained a broad insight into various aspects of the TV industry across Europe, which is of huge benefit at a time where European co-productions become increasingly important to the UK market."*

**Rachel Paterson**  
UK | writer »Domina«  
head writer »Fallen«



*"A very well structured, intensive and eye-opening programme with an excellent opportunity to have a professional network and friendship with showrunner classmates from all over Europe."*

**Dávid Csicskár**  
Hungary | writer and director  
»Tóth János«, »Elephant«



*"It has been incredible to learn from some of the top creators, who have been very generous with their experiences and knowledge. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity, and it has already helped me take the steps forwards in running my own shows."*

**Mona Masri**  
Sweden | writer »Easy Money« / »Snabba Cash«,  
»Copenhagen Cowboy«

## Speakers and Mentors (Selection)



**Lisa Ambjörn**  
Sweden | Writer, Producer,  
Showrunner »Young Royals«,  
»Sjukt (Sick)«



**Maja Jul Larsen**  
Denmark | Writer, Showrunner  
»Cry Wolf«



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



**Gabór Krigler**  
Hungary | Writer, Producer,  
Showrunner »Aranyélet/Easy  
Living«, »In Treatment«



**Jantje Friese**  
Germany | Showrunner,  
Executive Producer,  
Headwriter »1899«, »DARK«



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



**Francesca Gardiner**  
UK | Writer, Executive  
Producer »Succession«,  
»Killing Eve«



**Sanne Nuyens**  
Belgium | Showrunner, Writer  
»Hotel Beau Séjour«, »The  
Twelve«



**Clementine Gayet**  
France | Creative Executive  
- French Original Series at  
Netflix



**Barbara Petronio**  
Italy | Writer, Executive  
Producer, Showrunner  
»Suburra«



**Matt Hastings**  
USA/UK | Showrunner,  
Executive Producer, Director  
»Fallen«, »The Handmaid's  
Tale«



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



**5** much noted panel discussions featuring top-level experts from key parts of the series industry examined the current situation for showrunners in Europe, discussing both challenges and advantages, and providing a glimpse of what a sustainable, truly European showrunner model might entail.



## THINK TANK I Showrunning in Europe: Spotlight on Julie Andem

Julie Andem, the creator, writer, and director of the Norwegian teen hit series »Skam«, explored new avenues of distribution and proved how the power of storytelling can cross social, geographic, and generational boundaries. The interview delved into Julie Andem's showrunner model, »Skam«'s unique storytelling approach and international impact with numerous remakes all over the world. A particular focus was placed on the different style of working Julie experienced as the showrunner for the US remake of the show.

Thursday, February 2, 2023  
at TV Drama Visions Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden

Speaker	<b>Julie Andem</b> Norway   writer and showrunner »Skam«
Moderator	<b>Andrea Reuter</b> Finland   journalist and producer

A recording of this think tank can be found at [www.showrunners.eu](http://www.showrunners.eu)





VIA  
ZOOM

## THINK TANK II Showrunning in Europe: Spotlight on Chris Chibnall

Screenwriter, executive producer and playwright Chris Chibnall is one of the pioneers of adapting the US showrunner model to the needs of the European series market. In this session, he looked back at how his work method evolved, reflected on his own personal showrunning style, and discussed the opportunities for a more diverse, equal and inclusive series market.

Wednesday, May 31, 2023, online

Speaker	<b>Chris Chibnall</b> UK   writer and showrunner, »Broadchurch«, »Dr. Who«
Moderator	<b>Marike Muselaers</b> Sweden   Head of International Financing & Coproductions at Nordisk Film Production

A recording of this think tank can be found at [www.showrunners.eu](http://www.showrunners.eu)



## THINK TANK III Showrunning in Europe: Directing in the Showrunner Model

Renowned European directors with experience working with showrunners discussed the differences between the directing position in the showrunner model and their traditional roles as directors. The discussion shed light on how a fruitful cooperation between director and showrunner may increase a show's quality.

Thursday, June 15, 2023  
at SerienCamp Conference, Cologne, Germany

Speakers	<b>Kaat Beels</b> Belgium   director, writer and producer, »Tabula Rasa«, »The Clan«, »Hotel Beau Séjour«
	<b>Nathalie Basteyns</b> Belgium   director, writer and producer, »The Clan«, »Hotel Beau Séjour«
	<b>Annetta Laufer</b> UK   director and writer, »Get Millie Black«, »Doctor Who«
	<b>Lutz Heineking jr.</b> Germany   director, writer and producer, »Andere Eltern«, »Drinnen«, »Wir sind die Meyers«
Moderator	<b>Adrian Spring</b> Switzerland   writer and showrunner, »Nr. 47«, »Neumatt«, »All You Need«

A recording of this think tank can be found at [www.showrunners.eu](http://www.showrunners.eu)



# THINK TANKS

## THINK TANK IV

### Showrunning in Europe: Who Runs the Show?

In a solo interview, showrunner Jeppe Gjervig Gram shared insights into his personal approach to showrunning and the effects recent developments in the European series market have had on the Danish showrunning system. For the following panel discussion the ESP's Head of Programme was joined by Belgian showrunner and ESP-alumna Sanne Nuyens and Dutch showrunner Pieter Bart Korhuis. The three showrunners investigated how the US showrunner model has been adjusted to the European series market, and what might be needed to review and adjust it in the then-present climate.

Saturday, September 23, 2023

at NFF Conference at Nederlands Film Festival, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Speakers

**Jeppe Gjervig Gram**

Denmark | writer and showrunner, »Borgen«, »Follow the Money«

**Sanne Nuyens**

Netherlands | writer and showrunner, »Hotel Beau Sejour«

**Pieter Bart Korhuis**

Belgium | writer and showrunner, »Dirty Lines«

Moderator

**Lemba de Miranda**

Netherlands | writer and actress

A recording of this think tank can be found at [www.showrunners.eu](http://www.showrunners.eu)



## THINK TANK V

### Adapting the Showrunner Model to a Project's Needs

In this panel, Marianne Wendt, Bettina Alber and Benedikt Böllhoff explored the absence of a one-size-fits-all showrunner model in the European series landscape and the necessity for its adjustment on a project-by-project basis. Based on their latest projects, the NETFLIX show »Neumatt (New Heights)« and the ARD series »Wer Wir Sind«, they highlighted distinct approaches to running successful series productions.

Friday, October 20, 2023

at European Series Day at Film Festival Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Speakers

**Marianne Wendt**

Germany | writer and showrunner, »Wer Wir Sind«, »Neumatt (New Heights)«

**Bettina Alber**

Switzerland | Head of Series at SRF Swiss Radio and Television

**Benedikt Böllhoff**

Germany | Producer at VIAFILM

Moderator

**Marike Muselaers**

Sweden | Head of International Financing & Coproductions at Nordisk Film Production

A recording of this think tank can be found at [www.showrunners.eu](http://www.showrunners.eu)



## European Showrunner Network Meetings

January 31, 2023  
@TV Drama Vision, Gothenburg

February 21, 2023  
@Berlinale, Berlin

March 21, 2023  
@Series Mania Forum, Lille

June 13, 2023  
@SerienCamp, Cologne

## Exchange and Support

To further advance the mutual support amongst showrunners, in 2023 ifs implemented a third key pillar to the programme: the »European Showrunner Network«, a series of meetings for established and aspiring showrunners. Each meeting was scheduled at a key industry event. The gatherings were open to participants, alumni and lecturers of the programme and served as a platform for discussing recent developments in the industry, for sharing advice and for exchanging best practices

## Training Partners

For two of this year's European Showrunner Network Meetings, ifs teamed up with training partners: the event in Gothenburg was attached to the Series Women leadership workshop hosted by EPI Erich Pommer Institute, while the gathering during Series Mania in Lille was loosely connected to the Prime Drinks reception jointly hosted by ifs and Serial Eyes @dffb Berlin.

Other training partners included Midpoint in Prague and Series Mania Institute in Lille.

## European Showrunner Programme 2024

After the successful second edition in 2023, we are thrilled to continue the European Showrunner Programme in 2024 and beyond!

European Showrunner Think Tank:  
5 Panel Discussions

European Showrunner Training:  
18 Training Days  
(8 days on location + 10 days online)

European Showrunner Network  
several online and on-site meetings  
throughout the year, e.g. at Series Mania,  
Berlinale, SerienCamp, Content London

To further advance the discussion and implementation of a sustainable showrunner model in Europe, ifs will host two "behind-closed-doors"-editions of the European Showrunner Think Tank. Building on recent scientific studies, here top-level showrunners, producers and broadcasters will get together to develop a manifesto for setting up efficient showrunner-run series productions in Europe.

**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

Nadja Radojevic, Director of Programme  
Carolin Große Hellmann, Programme Manager  
Hannah Schorr, Programme Assistant

### Contact

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www.showrunners.eu



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