

EUROPEAN

SHOWRUNNER

PROGRAMME

ROUNDUP 2024



Internationale
Filmschule
Köln

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MISSION

With the 2024 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

Founded 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 Partner

As the sole funder, the **Creative Europe MEDIA Programme** strongly supported the European Showrunner Programme.

Cooperation Partners

With the **Croatian Audiovisual Centre CAVC** and the **CED – MEDIA Office Croatia** we were fortunate to gain a cooperation partner that granted us unique access to the Central and Eastern European series markets.

Partners Think Tanks and Network

And again, we were delighted to find prestigious festivals and industry conferences as partners for Think Tanks and networking events. We were delighted to continue our strong partnerships with **TV Drama Vision at Göteborg Film Festival, Seriencamp Conference and the Film Festival Cologne**. New events included **Meeting Point Vilnius, NEM New Europe Market Zagreb and SerialCon Warsaw**.

Media Partner

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

Many thanks to our partners!

Funded by:



Cooperation Partners:



Media Partner:



Partners Think Tanks and Network:



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 third edition started in June 2024 and ended in November 2024.

Applicants

For the third 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 a small group of participants among a large group of writers that would have been just as qualified.

Participants

The group of participants selected consisted of thirteen series writers from ten European countries. The majority of whom – again – came with many years of experience as series writers including numerous head writing positions. However, the committee also decided to take on a younger writer 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.

Anna Brotkin | Finland
»Aikuiset/Adults«, »Rakkaat lapset/ Perfect Sisters«

Tanja Bubbel | Germany
»Charité«, »Smilla's Sense of Snow«

Charlie Dewulf | Belgium
»Brak«, »Liefdestips aan Mezelf«

Jon Gunnar Geirdal | Iceland
»My Funeral«, »The Teacher's Lounge«

Martin Horvat | Slovenia
»Talking Tom and Friends«, »Primeri inspektorja Vrenka«

Juha Karvanen | Finland
»The Laws of Man«, »66 North Precinct«

Rachel Kilfeather | Ireland
»Vikings-Valhalla«, »King and Conqueror«

Alain Moreau | France
»Enchaînés«, »OPJ«

Rikke Louise Schjødt | Denmark
»Limboland« (seasons 1 and 2)

Sumerah Srivastav | UK
»Manifest«, »Lupin«

Daria Stilin | Croatia
»The Highlands«, »Godparents«

Marie-Therese Thill | Austria
»Am Ende – Die Macht der Kränkung«, »School of Champions«

Nathan Vecht | The Netherlands
»The Year of Fortuyn«, »Mission Earth«



From top left to bottom right: Nathan Vecht (Netherlands), Daria Stilin (Croatia), Juha Karvanen (Finland), Jon Gunnar Geirdal (Iceland), Anna Brotkin (Finland), Tanja Bubbel (Germany), Rikke Louise Schjødt (Denmark), Marie-Therese Thill (Austria), Rachel Kilfeather (Ireland), Charlie Dewulf (Belgium), Alain Moreau (France), Martin Horvat (Slovenia), Sumerah Srivastav (UK)

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. The 2024 edition also introduced the topic AI in Showrunning: both with regard to the story development phase and to the production and postproduction phases. 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



“The ifs European Showrunner Programme blew my very high expectations. It was an eye-opener on so many levels of the industry on top of strengthening my global network. I could not be happier with what I learned and how the program will strengthen me and my vision in my future projects.”

Jon Gunnar Geirdal | Iceland
»My Funeral«, »The Teacher's Lounge«



“The European Showrunner Training Programme has been a brilliant and informative experience, helping to propel my producorial skills and knowledge, particularly in the European TV market. I have made some amazing friends in my cohort that span many countries and they continue to be a source of support beyond the programme. The only one of its kind, I cannot recommend ESP enough!”

Sumerah Srivastav | UK
»Manifest«, »Lupin«



“This was truly a life-changing experience for me. It was fantastic to learn everything about making a TV show, and the showrunner model which is benefiting everyone, while creating precious connections. This programme is why I'm decidedly optimistic about the future of our industry.”

Daria Stilin | Croatia
»The Highlands«, »Godparents«



“The European Showrunner Training is a truly unique experience that fosters connections and creativity, and strengthens the role of Showrunners. I met great people, got pushed in my skills, and am sad that I could participate only once.”

Tanja Bubbel | Germany
»Charité«, »Smilla's Sense of Snow«



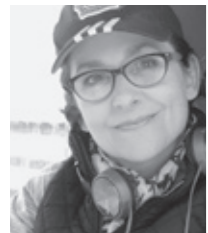
“The European Showrunner Programme is a total game changer. Not only is it a brilliant, insightful deep dive into all the facets of Showrunning, but it is also a fantastic opportunity to make meaningful connections with writers, directors, and producers across all of Europe.”

Rachel Kilfeather | Ireland
»Vikings-Valhalla«, »King and Conqueror«

Speakers and Mentors (Selection)



Lisa Ambjörn
Sweden | writer, producer,
showrunner »Young Royals«,
»Sjukt (Sick)«



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



Katharina Eyssen
Germany | writer, showrunner
»The Empress«



Johan Fasting
Norway | writer, showrunner
»Makta/Power Play«,
»Heimebane/Homeground«



Teresa Fernández-Valdés
Spain | writer, producer,
showrunner »Grand Hotel«,
»Velvet«, »Cable Girls«



Fana Giorgis
Germany | Marketing
Manager DACH at Netflix
»Kleo«



Edgar Medina
Portugal | writer, producer,
showrunner »Matilha/
Dogpack«, »South«, »Causa
Própria«



Barbara Petronio
Italy | writer, executive
producer, showrunner
»Uonderbois (Wonderboys)«,
»Suburra«



Marie Roussin
France | writer, producer,
showrunner »Mixte«, »Lupin«,
»Borgia«, »Les Bracelets
Rouges«



Frank Spotnitz
USA/UK | writer, executive
producer, showrunner
»The X-Files«, »The Man in
the High Castle«



6 editions of the European Showrunner Think Tank – four much noted panel discussions, one masterclass and one closed session – featured 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 VI Showrunning in Europe – Spotlight on: The HaRiBos

When their latest hit show »Kleo« called for a showrunner-led production, creators Hanno Hackfort, Richard Kropf, and Bob Konrad employed a unique three-person showrunner model. Having worked together for years, the »HaRiBo« trio had created, tested, and revised this work method by building on their strong friendship as well as on their extensive knowledge and refined collaboration skills acquired in their successful careers as series writers. By exploring this journey from the learning-by-doing approach of their first shows as creators to the well-oiled machine their show-run productions resemble today, this session spotlighted the collaborative aspect of the writer-led showrunner model – within the showrunner team and beyond.

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
at TV Drama Visions Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden

Speakers

Hanno Hackfort
Germany | writer, director, showrunner
»Kleo«, »4 Blocks«, »You Are Wanted«

Bob Konrad
Germany | writer, showrunner
»Kleo«, »4 Blocks«, »You Are Wanted«

Moderator

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

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



CLOSED
SESSION

THINK TANK VII CLOSED SESSION Showrunning in Europe: The Showrunners' Perspective

The closed session format invites experienced European series professionals to come together behind closed doors to dive deeply and honestly into the general as well as the individual challenges of implementing the showrunner system in Europe. The first of these three sessions focused on the showrunners' perspective, with sessions on the producers' and the broadcasters' perspective coming up in 2025.

Monday, March 18, 2024
at Series Mania, Lille, France

Delegates

Pedro Lopes

Portugal | writer, producer, showrunner
»Glória«, »O Códex 632«

Teodora Markova

Bulgaria | writer, showrunner
»Patomju dzinsi / Soviet Jeans«, »Me and My Wives«

Franck Philippon

France | writer, producer, showrunner
»Maison close«, »No Limit«, »The Tunnel«

Mikko Pöllä

Finland | writer, producer, showrunner
»White Wall«, »Black Widows«, »Easy Living«

Marianne Wendt

Germany | writer, showrunner
»Neumatt«

The results of all closed sessions will be presented in written format in the final report 2025



THINK TANK VIII Showrunning in Eastern Parts of Europe

The showrunner system originated in the United States, where the industry is very different from that in Europe. And yet more and more European series are produced in variations of this model - even in Eastern Europe, where big budgets are rare, and the auteur tradition is still very much alive. Why is that? What makes this model so attractive? Three European showrunners - Teodora Markova from Bulgaria, Stanislavs Tokalovs from Latvia, and Wiktor Piątkowski from Poland - explored this phenomenon, discussing for which types of productions a showrunner system makes sense and what issues still need to be addressed to truly reap its benefits.

Tuesday, March 26, 2024
at Meeting Point Vilnius, Lithuania

Speakers

Wiktor Piątkowski

Poland | writer, showrunner
»Wataha/The Pack«, »Wojenne dziewczyny/ War Girls«

Teodora Markova

Bulgaria | writer, showrunner
»Patomju dzinsi / Soviet Jeans«, »Me and My Wives«

Stanislavs Tokalovs

Latvia | writer, director, showrunner
»Patomju dzinsi / Soviet Jeans«

Moderator

Alex Traila

Romania | Council of Europe / Conseil de l' Europe

A recording of this think tank will be available at www.showrunners.eu



THINK TANK IX Social Impact Storytelling & Showrunning

In recent years, series have become central pillars of social narratives. Because of the large amount of time audiences spend with characters and stories that are told in serial formats, series writers have a great influence – and responsibility – in this regard. Showrunners are able to extend this influence to the production side of their work. As lead creatives overseeing the entire creation and production process of a drama series, they can have a lasting impact on cast, crew, and audience.

Matthew Hastings and Tyron Ricketts discussed the power of serialised fictional storytelling and production, and the social responsibility that comes with it.

Monday, April 8, 2024
at Filmforum NRW, Cologne, Germany

Speakers	Matthew Hastings USA/UK writer, director, executive producer »The Handmaid's Tale«, »Smilla's Sense of Snow«, »Fallen«
	Tyron Ricketts Austria actor, writer, executive producer »Sam – A Saxon«, »Dogs of Berlin«

Moderator	Fitore Muzaqi Germany writer, director
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A recording of this think tank can be found at www.showrunners.eu



THINK TANK X Showrunning in Europe: Spotlight on Miikko Oikkonen

The international co-production »Estonia« is Finland's biggest drama project to date. Showrunner Miikko Oikkonen (»Estonia«, »Bordertown«) used this ambitious project to illustrate his approach to showrunning in Europe. A special focus was on the relationship between showrunner and lead director as well as on strategies for ensuring the success of a series that is co-produced with partners from seven (!) European countries.

Thursday, June 6, 2024
at SerienCamp, Cologne, Germany

Speaker	Miikko Oikkonen Finland writer, showrunner, director »Estonia«, »Bordertown«
Moderator	Barbara Petronio Italy writer, showrunner »Suburra – Blood on Rome«, »Uonderbois/ Wonderboys«

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



THINK TANKS

THINK TANK XI

Showrunning in Europe: Comparing Markets

»It's impossible«, they said. »It does not make sense«, they explained. »There is neither the infrastructure nor the budget needed«, they reasoned. And yet: the showrunner model is getting more and more popular in all parts of Europe.

This well noted all-female panel, organized in cooperation with Creative Europe Media Desk Croatia and NEM Zagreb explored the phenomenon of showrunning in various European markets.

Thursday, December 12, 2024
at NEM Zagreb, Croatia

Speakers

Teresa Fernández-Valdés

Spain | writer, producer
»Cable Girls«, »Nacho«

Teodora Markova

Bulgaria | writer, showrunner
»Patomju dzinsi / Soviet Jeans«, »Me and My Wives«

Marie Roussin

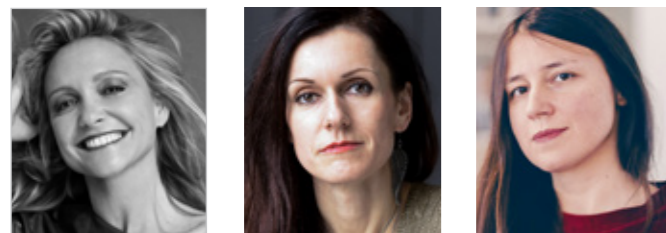
France | writer, showrunner
»Mixte«, »Lupin«

Moderator

Daria Stilin

Croatia | writer, director
»The Highlands«

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



European Showrunner Network Meetings

January 29, 2024
@TV Drama Vision, Gothenburg

February 19, 2024
@Berlinale, Berlin

March 20, 2024
@Series Mania Forum, Lille

December 9, 2024
Online Edition

Training Partners

Building on the strong ties already in place between the ifs' series department and various international training programmes focusing on series – such as EPI's Series Women, Midpoint and Serial Eyes –, in 2024 the ifs Internationale Filmschule Köln became founding member of the newly founded STREAM network.

Exchange and Support

To further advance the mutual support amongst showrunners, the »European Showrunner Network« featured a series of meetings for established and aspiring showrunners. In 2024, three of these meetings were again scheduled at key industry events: at Göteborg Film Festival's TV Drama Vision in Sweden, at Berlinale in Germany, and at Series Mania in Lille, France. The gatherings were open to participants, alumni, and the showrunners among the lecturers of the programme. They served as a platform for discussing recent developments in the industry, for sharing advice, and for exchanging best practices.

For the final meeting was held online. Here, the 2024 edition of the European Showrunner Training introduced the peer consulting methods Mastermind and Collegial Consultations as powerful leadership tools among participants and alumni of the programme.

Initiated by Series Mania Institute, this network aims to provide a platform for exchange and support between series-related training programmes throughout Europe and will benefit the European Showrunner Programme by providing visibility, knowledge and expert exchange.

European Showrunner Programme 2025

The 2025 edition of the European Showrunner Programme kicks off with a much anticipated European Showrunner Think Tank focusing on French showrunner Fanny Herrero and her approach to showrunning at Göteborg Film Festival's TV Drama Vision in January.

Another highlight will be two special think tank editions: behind closed doors, key producers and broadcasters from across Europe will get together for a frank and constructive discussion of showrunning in Europe. Here, benefits as well as challenges specific to the players invited will be addressed and solutions to key issues discussed.

Together with the findings from the closed session in 2024 and those of a survey among key showrunners to be conducted in 2025, the results of these sessions will be compiled into a publication on showrunning in Europe that will be presented by the end of the year.

For the 2025 edition we are also delighted to welcome the renowned Swiss institute FOCAL as new cooperation partner.

**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
Carolyn Große Hellmann, programme manager
Hannah Schorr, programme coordinator

Contact

showrunners@filmschule.de
www.showrunners.eu

Funded by:



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Hrvatski audiovizualni centar



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Partners Think Tanks and Network:



SERIENCAMP
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COLOGNE



NEM
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Internationale
Filmschule
Köln

Schanzenstraße 28 | 51063 Köln
T +49 221 920188-0 | info@filmschule.de
www.filmschule.de | Instagram: filmschule_koeln