

NORDISCHE FILMTAGE LÜBECK

6.-10.11.2024

LÜBECK MEETINGS FUTURE NORTH

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Hansestadt LÜBECK





Discover the Talents from the North in the Hanseatic City of Lübeck

For the second year running, the programme to foster young talent brings six directors from the Baltic countries, Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Schleswig-Holstein to Lübeck. Each of the directors from these often-underrepresented regions of northern Europe will show a clip from the project they are currently working on.

- Johannes Magnus Aule (Estonia):** "Big Zeus", see page 4
- Jackie Gillies (Schleswig-Holstein):** "No Time", see page 5
- Rūta Znotina (Latvia):** "Bound Together", see page 6
- Dennis Møller (Greenland):** "Don't look", see page 7
- Gabrielė Urbonaitė (Lithuania):** "Renovation", see page 8
- Andrias Høgenni (Faroe Islands):** "93 / Echoes from a collapse", see page 9

Following public screenings of these projects, the talents will receive feedback from industry experts and the audience. These feedback sessions will be complemented by a full programme for the young directors, who will experience everything the festival has to offer.

FUTURE NORTH offers the Lübeck audience as well as the German, Nordic and Baltic industry the opportunity to be the first to discover the work of young and upcoming directors. A first look at what the future holds for film fans at Nordic Film Days Lübeck and beyond!



National Film Centre of Latvia





FUTURE NORTH Day 1

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024

Projects

Johannes Magnus Aule (Estonia)

Short Fiction "Big Zeus" (see page 4)

Jackie Gilles (Schleswig-Holstein, Germany)

Short Fiction "No Time" (see page 5)

Rūta Znotiņa (Latvia)

Feature Documentary "Bound Together" (see page 6)

With Industry experts:

Amos Geva (Co-founder and Head of Industry at T-Port, Germany)

Jaana Puskala (Head of International Department Finish Film Foundation, Finland)

Jamila Wenske (Producer, Director ACHTUNG PANDA! Media GmbH, Germany)

Supported by delegates from the Nordic Screen Director Guilds

Schedule for both days:

11:00 am – 12:15 pm Public screening of the projects at Filmhaus 1, Königstr. 38–40, 23552 Lübeck

12:15 pm walk together to European Hanseatic Museum

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Public feedback round with industry experts and the audience for the directors

European Hanseatic Museum, An der Untertrave 1, 23552 Lübeck, Room Visby & La Rochelle

To RSVP to the event please send an email to industry_1@nordische-filmtage.de until Nov. 6, 2024.

Last-minute guests are also welcome.

FUTURE NORTH Day 2

Friday, Nov. 8, 2024

Projects

Dennis Møller (Greenland)

Short Fiction "Don't look" (see page 7)

Gabrielė Urbonaitė (Lithuania)

Feature Fiction "Renovation" (see page 8)

Andrias Høgenni (Faroe Islands)

Feature Documentary "93 / Echoes from a collapse" (see page 9)

With Industry experts:

Amos Geva (Co-founder and Head of Industry at T-Port, Germany)

Jaana Puskala (Head of International Department Finish Film Foundation, Finland)

Olivia Kpalété (Producer at Studio Zentral, Germany)

Supported by delegates from the Nordic Screen Director Guilds



Johannes Magnus Aule (Estonia)

“Big Zeus” – Short Fiction

Amid Estonia’s 2008 financial crisis, a clergyman spirals into online gambling, using church funds for his addiction. His savvy 11-year-old daughter discovers the deceit and confronts him, seeking redemption.

„Big Zeus“ is set in a small Estonian village during the 2008 economic downturn, where a church and its clergyman, Isa Koit, face the impact of societal changes brought by the internet and EU regulations. Koit becomes addicted to online gambling, worshipping a digital slot game called Big Zeus. He begins diverting church funds to feed his addiction. His daughter, Maria, a sharp 11-year-old who despises injustice, discovers her father’s secret. Disturbed by their worsening poverty and her father’s deceit, she confronts him, demanding an end to his gambling. Despite her efforts, Koit’s addiction deepens.



Biography

Johannes Magnus Aule transitioned from producer to director during his studies at BFM. After his directorial debut won accolades, he never looked back, earning a spot at NFTS. He is currently developing a feature film and a HETV series with support from the Hungarian and Estonian film institutes.



Jackie Gillies (Schleswig-Holstein)

“No Time” – Short Fiction

An elderly woman lives in her house in deep loneliness. When a new caregiver starts his job, they both discover an unexpected connection. But the old woman’s plan to end her life puts the young caregiver in a difficult position.

Dagmar lives alone in her flat, surrounded by memories of her past life. Her everyday life, marked by routine and loneliness, is structured around regular visits from her caregiver - until one day, she is replaced by newcomer Matthias. Due to a staff shortage, Matthias has to cover twice as many rounds and is therefore barely able to attend to Dagmar’s needs. Despite the initial distance, a bond slowly forms between the two through their shared passion for making music. But when Dagmar’s cat, her last companion, dies, she no longer sees a reason to live. Matthias discovers a large stash of pills in a drawer and a letter revealing her suicidal intentions. Overwhelmed by the situation, he tries to dissuade Dagmar from her decision, but ultimately has to accept her free will. Distressed, he leaves the house and makes his way to the next person in need of care, without time to process the tragic event.



Biography

Jackie Gillies completed her training as a writer for film & TV at the Master School Drehbuch, Berlin, in 2017. Since then, she has been working with production companies on feature film and series concepts. She also directs corporate films and teaches filmmaking to students at Kiel University. In 2023, she won the Schleswig-Holstein Screenplay Award with her short filmscript ‘Oktopus’. The short film “Keine Zeit (WT)” is her debut as a director/producer in the field of fiction.



Rūta Znotiņa (Latvia)

“Bound Together” – Feature Documentary

A story of growing up and letting go.

A coming-of-age story about a solo mother, Solvita, and her autistic son, Jurģis, capturing their relationship over nine years throughout Jurģis’ adolescence, leading up to the most transformative time of their lives—Jurģis’ graduation from school and his transition into early adulthood. During this time, both protagonists must face the many challenges that come with the passage of time. Will they learn to accept these changes, despite Solvita’s close attachment to her child and Jurģis’s love for routine?

What began in 2019 as a short documentary portrait Jurģis, has now taken the course to become a feature film. After completing the short film in 2020, we have returned to document the lives of the characters, and plan to continue to follow their ever-evolving relationship for the next four years.



Biography

Rūta Znotiņa is a film director and screenwriter based in Riga, Latvia. In 2022, she graduated from the Latvian Academy of Culture with a bachelor’s degree in Audiovisual Arts. In the first year of Academy, she made her first nationally recognized documentary short, ‘Dream Spring’, which was nominated for the National film award of Latvia, ‘Lielais Kristaps’ as the best student film. Her bachelor’s thesis film, ‘Let’s Start From the Beginning’, a rock & roll infused mockumentary short, was nominated for the same award in two categories - the Best Student Film and the Best Fiction Short.



Dennis Møller (Greenland)

“Don’t Look” – Short Fiction

You can’t hide from the memories that come knocking.

A woman, mourning the loss of a close friend who was passionate about photography, sets out to organize a reunion for their old group. As she struggles to find the right words for the invitation, a mysterious knock at the door reveals an unmarked box left on her doorstep. Inside, she uncovers a series of Polaroid photos that unveil a chilling secret, turning her quiet evening into a haunting ordeal.



Biography

Dennis Møller is an emerging Indigenous director from Greenland, with a vision to strengthen Indigenous voices, one story at a time. He has an exceptional talent and a unique eye for photography and storytelling. His pursuit of his education in filmmaking started in high school, after an introduction to filmmaking he then went further with his studies at University in Greenland, Noroff, in Oslo Norway, and Oslo Fotokunstsolen where he further honed his skills as a storyteller as well as a director and gained valuable insights that would later contribute to his work.



Gabrielė Urbonaitė (Lithuania)

“Renovation” – Feature Fiction

The building’s renovation makes Ilona, a perfectionist who seeks to get settled and successful by the age of 30, realize that true renovation begins from the inside.

Present day Vilnius, Lithuania. A perfectionist 29-year-old Ilona lives under pressure to get settled and successful by the age of 30. She’s close to it: nominated for the translator of the year award, she’s in a promising relationship with her boyfriend Matas, and together, they finally found a perfect apartment. However, the building’s renovation begins, exposing cracks not only in the building, but also in their relationship. A new connection with Oleg, one of the construction workers from Ukraine, makes Ilona question whether she really wants to settle down and have a family. Echoes of the war in Ukraine remind Ilona that life’s fragile, and she starts reconsidering how she wants to live it.



Biography

*Gabrielė Urbonaitė is a Lithuanian writer, director and editor. She holds a BFA in Film from Emerson College and an MFA in Screenwriting & Directing from Columbia University. She directed several short films, including *The Swimmer* that won National Lithuanian Film Award “Silver Crane”. *Renovation* is her debut feature.*



Andrias Høgenni (Faroe Islands)

“93 / Echoes from a collapse” – Feature Documentary

“93” follows Marita’s time in office and shows a kaleidoscopic view of a collapsing nation told through the lens of a woman that has the weight of that country on her shoulders. A portrait of what happens when there are no good options for survival.

When Marita Petersen was selected as the first female head of government for the Faroe Islands in 1993, the small island nation was in dire financial straits. The banking sector had collapsed, unemployment had skyrocketed, and a mass exodus was underway. International commentators called it the largest societal collapse in Europe since the fall of the Soviet Union, and the Faroe Islands set a world record in foreign debt per capita. There were not a lot of options, as Marita took over leadership of the islands, and many tough choices had to be made. Both internally on the Faroes, and with the Danish government that was the only willing country that offered to consolidate the debt. But the terms of the deal proved to be catastrophic for Marita’s political career as head of government, which only lasted a year and a half.



Biography

Andrias Høgenni is a film director from the Faroe Islands who graduated from the alternative Danish film school Super16 in 2018. His graduation film „No ill will” won the Canal+ award at Semaine de la Critique in Cannes the year after. He has since solo-directed three fiction series for Danish broadcaster DR.



Amos Geva is Co-founder and Head of Industry at T-Port, a non-profit platform that promotes emerging talent and showcases over 1,800 independent and student films globally. Since 2018, he has led workshops and industry events, mentoring film students on the challenges of short film distribution. Based in Berlin, he also works as a film producer and serves on various film festival selection committees and development platforms. A graduate of Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris and Berlinale Talents, Amos is a member of the European Film Academy, earning recognition as both a producer and director.



Jamila Wenske studied at Babelsberg Film University, and at L'Atelier in Paris and Ludwigsburg. Her successful productions include "Elbow" by Asli .zarslan (Berlinale 2024), Juho Kuosmanen's "Compartment No.6 (Grand Prix Cannes 2020), and "The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki" (UCR Cannes 2016). In 2018, Variety named Wenske one of "10 producers to watch" at Cannes. The following year, she took part in the first leadership programme for women at the Erich Pommer Institute. Screen International chose her company Achtung Panda! as one of Europe's 75 leading independent producers at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival.



Jaana Puskala has worked in the International Promotion department of the Finnish Film Foundation since 1990. She was the acting Head of International Promotion during 2003–2006 and was appointed the Head of Feature Film Promotion in 2008. As the Head of Feature Film Promotion, she is responsible for promoting Finnish feature films abroad as well as building and reinforcing contacts between the Finnish film industry and international festivals, sales companies and distributors around the world.



Olivia Kpalété is a producer with Studio Zentral in Berlin. Over the last ten years, she has had a wealth of experience in the film and television industry, including stints in the commissioning editors' departments at public broadcasters ARD and ZDF. In 2020, she began producing fiction. She is a fan of complex, entertaining material that has a point of view. She most recently headed up the team for the ARD series "Schwarze Früchte" created by Lamin Leroy Gibba in co-production with Jüinglinge Film and ARD Degeto.

Supported by delegates from the Nordic Screen Director Guilds, who are holding their annual meeting at the Nordic Film Days this year.

MODERATION



Anne Schultka is project manager at KIDS Regio since 2018, joined the board of the German Children's Film Association in 2022. She is the author of the Cine Regio Gender, Equality and Diversity Report (2021, 2024) and co-author of the research report "Children in Film Culture" (2021). Since 2023, she has been in charge of the industry programme of the German Children's Media Festival Golden Sparrow, and in 2024, she became Head of Industry for the "Lübeck Meetings" at the Nordic Film Days Lübeck. She holds an MA in Media Management.

**VIELEN DANK · TUSIND TAK · AITÄH · TÚSUND TAKK
PALJON KIITOKSIA · QUJANARSUAQ · THÚSUND THAKKIR
LIELS PALDIES ACIU LABAI · TUSEN TAKK · OLU GIITU · TUSEN TACK**

DIE NORDISCHEN FILMTAGE LÜBECK SIND EINE VERANSTALTUNG DER

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**NORDISCHE
FILMTAGE
LÜBECK**
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