Hansestadt LÜBECK

68 NORDISCHE FILMTAGE LÜBECK

4.-8.11.2026

LÜBECK MEETINGS
FUTURE NORTH

DAS FESTIVAL FÜR DEN NORDISCHEN FILM



Donnerstag, 5.11.2026, und Freitag, 6.11.2026, 10:00 Uhr

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

For the fourth year, thanks to the subsidy of the Possehl Foundation, FUTURE NORTH brings emerging directors from the Baltic countries, the Faroe Islands, Sápmi and Schleswig-Holstein to Lübeck. The programme offers a space for distinctive cinematic perspectives from across Northern Europe, inviting participants to present excerpts from their works in progress and receive constructive feedback from international industry experts and the festival audience.

Ieva Lība Ratniece (Latvia):	DAINTY NEIGHBOURS
Oskar Östergren Njajta (Sápmi):	SAAJVE
Anna Maria Sloan and Annika Olsen (Faroe Islands):	GØTUBRÁ
Johanna Jannsen (Schleswig-Holstein):	ELIAS
Milda Augustaityte (Lithuania):	GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS
Villem Roosa and Roland Abel (Estonia):	LEG DAY

Beyond the public work-in-progress sessions, participants have opportunities to exchange ideas, build connections and engage with the international film community throughout the festival.

For audiences and industry professionals alike, FUTURE NORTH is a chance to discover promising new voices, experience projects at an early stage and become part of their creative development.

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FUTURE NORTH Day 1

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Projects
Ieva Lība Ratniece *(Latvia)*
Stop-Motion Animated Mini-Series DAINTY NEIGHBOURS (page 3)
Oskar Östergren Njajta *(Sápmi)*
2D Feature/Series Animation SAAJVE (page 4)
Anna Maria Sloan and Annika Olsen *(Faroe Islands)*
Comedy-Drama Series GØTUBRÁ (page 5)

With Industry experts:
Susanne Freese *- Senior Manager Content Acquisitions at Lighthouse Home Entertainment (Germany)*
Amos Geva *- Managing Director of T-Port (Germany)*
Linda Hambäck *- Director and Producer for Animated Features (Sweden)*
Ida Håndlykken Kvernstrøm *- TV Producer (Norway)*
Arttu Manninen *- International Project Coordinator at the Finnish Film Foundation (Finland)*
Mara Marxsen *- Distribution Team at the Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg (Germany)*
Henriette Steenstrup *- Actor and Screenwriter (Norway)*

FUTURE NORTH Day 2

Friday, Nov. 6, 2026
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Projects
Johanna Jannsen *(Schleswig-Holstein)*
Poetic Documentary Short Film ELIAS (page 7)
Milda Augustaityte *(Lithuania)*
Short Documentary Film GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS (page 8)
Villem Roosa and Roland Abel *(Estonia)*
Short Fiction LEG DAY (page 9)

With Industry experts:
Susanne Freese *- Senior Manager Content Acquisitions at Lighthouse Home Entertainment (Germany)*
Amos Geva *- Managing Director of T-Port (Germany)*
Markku Heikkinen *- Documentary Filmmaking (Finland)*
Arttu Manninen *- International Project Coordinator at the Finnish Film Foundation (Finland)*
Mara Marxsen *- Distribution Team at the Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg (Germany)*
Rafa Molés *- Director and Producer (Spain)*

Moderated by Anne Schultka, Head of Industry Lübeck Meetings
Admission is free with a ticket, which can be booked at nordische-filmtage.de, and must be shown at the door either digitally or printed. Last-minute guests are welcome, but ticket holders will be given priority. Admission without a ticket is subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed.



Ieva Lība Ratniece

(Latvia)

DAINTY NEIGHBOURS / SMALKIE KAIMIŅI
Stop-Motion Animated Mini-Series

A young pantry moth ventures beyond her colony into the human world, where she must navigate everyday obstacles and life threatening dangers in search of a place to survive and belong.

Set within an apartment block, DAINTY NEIGHBOURS is a stop-motion animated mini-series revealing the hidden lives of moths and other tiny creatures living alongside humans. Each episode opens a window into a different apartment and a different struggle for survival. At the centre is a young pantry moth who leaves the safety of her oat-jar colony and ventures into the unfamiliar world beyond the pantry. As she explores cupboards, sugar jars and shared spaces, she encounters other insects and animals, each adapting to the hazards of domestic life in their own way. Humans, pets and everyday objects become unpredictable threats, turning an ordinary home into a vast and dangerous landscape. Through the perspective of these small, often unwanted creatures, the series explores coexistence, resilience and adaptation, inviting us to notice the fragile forms of life that inhabit our homes unnoticed.



Biography

Ieva Lība Ratniece is an animation director and educator based in Riga, Latvia. She holds an MA in Animation Film from KASK, Ghent. Her work explores experimental media, materials, and tactile forms of storytelling. Her graduation film, WANDERING DOT AND THE BLANK SQUARE PAGE UNIVERSE (2024), has screened at PÖFF, ANIFILM, Tricky Women/Tricky Realities, and Punto y Raya. She is currently directing a stop-motion series.



Oskar Östergren Njajta

(Sápmi)

SAAJVE

2D Feature Animation

Family adventure inspired by Sami folktales and magical realms. The young siblings Bräjta and Aanta are tasked with returning a sacred figure to the magical world Saajve to stop the evil giant Staaloe from destroying all the world's knowledge

SAAJVE is an exciting adventure. An animated feature film for the whole family, inspired by Sami fairy tales, realms and beings. The story takes place in the middle of Sápmi where the forest meets the mountain. It is midwinter. Through the northern lights, the siblings Bräjta & Aanta travel to the parallel world Saajve, where it is always summer. Here the young heroes are given a mission: they must save Saajve by retrieving the sacred wooden figure, the Goddess Uksahka. It is the crow Voerhtje that has stolen the wooden figure from Saajve and brought her to the human world to fulfill her own plan. Voerhtje thinks Uksahka can transform her from a crow into a human being. As a human she can gain real power! But, the goddess Uksahka has a much bigger task: to protect the Forest of Knowledge in Saajve by making sure the two realms are separated. Now, when she is not in her place, a rip begins to form between the two worlds. Bräjhta & Aanta´s mission is very dangerous because the crow Voerhtje is friends with the evil, but gullible, giant Staaloe. He loves to destroy things with his big club. And they must hurry, if Staaloe discovers the rip between the worlds he surely will go crawl through and destroy everything. Including the forest of knowledge.



Biography

Oskar is an award-winning Sami filmmaker from Sweden. He has played an important role in the rising Sami film wave, for instance as co-producer of SAMI BLOOD by Amanda Kernell (2017). He also initiated and ran the Sami festival Dellie maa – Sápmi Indigenous Film & Art Festival between 2013-2022. He is writer/director of the coming animated film SAAJVE, the first ever Sami animation for cinematic release.



Anna Maria Sloan und Annika Olsen

(Faroe Islands)

GØTUBRÁ

Comedy-Drama Series

Helena returns to the Faroe Islands after years abroad only to discover that dating in a place where everyone knows everyone is a comedy, a catastrophe, and occasionally something close to love.

The Faroe Islands. Population 50,000. Everyone knows everyone, someone has probably already slept with your date, and a one-night stand may involve meeting his mother before breakfast. After thirteen years abroad, Helena (31) has come home single. In a country where adulthood still means finding a partner, buying a house, and having children, she enters a dating pool small enough to calculate her actual odds of finding love.
GØTUBRÁ is Fleabag in the Faroe Islands: a fast-paced, sexually honest, and tragicomic dramedy about terrible dates, female friendship, family, and trying to build a life of your own in a place where privacy is mostly theoretical.

Anna Maria Sloan und Annika Olsen *(Faroe Islands)*

GØTUBRÁ - Comedy-Drama Series





Biography

Anna Maria trained in ballet, hip-hop and theater from childhood, and went on to appear in Danish film and television: including Christoffer Boe's SPIES and Glistrup and Mikkel Nørgaard's THE WOMAN IN THE CAGE. She studied Didactics in Denmark and today works as a project manager and event coordinator, leading projects from concept to completion.

Biography

Annika grew up between theater stages and film sets, taking part in Faroese youth productions and smaller film projects from an early age. Today she works as a photographer, creative director and editor, with professional experience directing the visual execution of commercial productions with responsibility for aesthetics, structure and cinematic expression on set.



Johanna Jannsen

(Schleswig-Holstein)

ELIAS
Poetic Documentary Short Film

While awaiting the birth of his first child, blind Afghan refugee Elias moves between the streets of Kiel and memories of Afghanistan as the film searches for a shared cinematic language to make sense of a world that cannot simply be seen.

ELIAS is an essayistic short documentary that explores sensory perception through an inclusive filmmaking process. At ist center is Elias, a blind Afghan refugee building a new life in Kiel with his wife as they prepare to welcome their first child. Having lost his sight at the age of five, Elias retains vivid visual memories of Afghanistan. Addressed to his unborn child, his letters lead the film through a rich sonic landscape. He reflects on his childhood, the home he left behind, and his present life in Kiel, a city he has never seen yet one that will become his child's homeland. Structured around the chapters Dreams, Trees, and Sea, the film unfolds through memory, sensation, and association. Written reflections intertwine with fragments of everyday life, immersive soundscapes, and observational scenes. Rather than treating blindness as its subject, the film embraces Elias' perspective, exploring how cinema can evoke experiences that lie beyond visual representation. Developed in close collaboration with Elias, ELIAS searches for a cinematic language between listening, remembering, and seeing, transforming acoustic perception into visual expression.



Biography

Johanna Jannsen is a documentary filmmaker based in Flensburg, near the Danish border. Alongside directing films for ARTE and NDR and working on international documentary co-productions, she explores personal stories through collaborative and sensory-driven filmmaking. Her short documentary MY FATHER / M'ATHAIR screened at over 20 international festivals. In 2026, she founded schnüüsch film, an independent production company based in Schleswig-Holstein. Through documentary and hybrid films, the company aims to tell stories shaped by trust, curiosity and long-term relationships with its protagonists, giving them the time and space to unfold naturally.



Milda Augustaityte

(Lithuania)

GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS /
DIEVO KELIAI NEŽINOMI
Short Documentary Film

Identical twin sisters have spent twenty years singing at funerals. They know how to accompany people to their final destination. Getting there themselves is another matter.

GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAS is a short documentary about identical twin sisters Rima and Vida, who have been singing at funerals in Vilnius for more than twenty years. The phone can ring at any moment: someone has died, there is another address, and they get into the car and go. The film follows the sisters between farewells, talking, joking, arguing and dealing with the small disruptions of everyday life. Conversations about death can suddenly turn into discussions about navigation or the next trip to Dubai. Even outside work, they are rarely apart. Their familiar routine continues, while every new journey or unexpected situation unsettles the order they have created together. They always try to stay in control, but something is always recalculating. Observational and quietly playful, the film is a portrait of two women living alongside death, with each other as their greatest constant in the ordinary rhythms of life.



Biography

Milda Augustaitytė is a Lithuanian film director. In 2024, Milda graduated from KIMO with a Bachelor's degree in Video Directing. During her studies, she made three short documentary films that were screened at film festivals. Her debut film, NUMBER ONE (2023), received national recognition at the National Film Awards Silver Crane, where it won the Best Student Work of the Year award.



Villem Roosa and Roland Abel

(Estonia)

LEG DAY / JALAPÄEV

Short Fiction

Following his father's death, a newly minted high schooler looks to his new classmates for guidance. In his search for belonging, he unwittingly becomes the architect of his own downfall.

Before high school, Jürgen's daily life is defined by his father and his iron principles. But in the wake of a tragic accident, a void is left in Jürgen's life... The start of the school year brings a shift - Mairo, a physical education teacher preaching life lessons, and a group of classmates who make Jürgen feel like he is falling short. Flashy sneakers, protein powder, and peer validation turn into an obsession. Jürgen spirals toward a tragedy that no pair of sneakers can undo. The film takes a look at men and their concept of manhood in a world where the yardstick of values is deeply warped.

Villem Roosa and Roland Abel *(Estonia)*

LEG DAY / JALAPÄEV - Short Fiction





Biography

After graduating cum laude in film editing from BFM in Tallinn, Villem Roosa has balanced his time between the set and the cutting room, working as a 1st AD and editor. Having worked on three feature films as 1st AD while editing several documentaries and short films, he is now preparing to edit his first feature film while wrapping up post-production on his debut short film as co-writer, director and editor.

Biography

Roland Abel graduated from the Baltic Film and Media School as an editor. After film school, he has worked as an editor on documentaries, commercials, and everything in between. He has also directed several music videos, which eventually led to him working for an advertising agency, where he directed TV commercials. Currently, he is working as the editor on his second feature documentary and is finishing post-production on his first co-written and co-directed short film.

EXPERTS 2026

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***Susanne Freese** is Senior Manager Content Acquisitions at Lighthouse Home Entertainment in Hamburg, focusing on international Kids & Family acquisitions, co-productions and theatrical releases for the German-speaking market. She has over 25 years of experience in film and TV, including many years at Studio Hamburg Enterprises/OneGate Media, where she specialized in Kids & Family and licensed content for NDR, KiKA and other ARD broadcasters.*



***Amos Geva** is a film producer and industry professional specialising in film distribution, emerging talent, and international industry networking. He is the co-founder and managing director of T-Port, where he has supported over 2000 filmmakers in exhibiting their short films internationally. Active in selection committees for European film festivals and funding bodies, as well as a jury member for short film competitions, Amos also collaborates with leading international film schools and industry organisations. Amos is committed to fostering meaningful connections and accessible opportunities for emerging filmmakers across the international film industry.*



***Linda Hambäck,** born in 1974, studied at the Stockholm University of the Arts. For many years, she produced animated children's films with her production company, LEE Film. Her directorial debut, GORDON & PADDY, premiered in the Berlinale Generation section in 2018. Her second film, THE APE STAR, first screened at Annecy in 2021. In 2019, she received the Gullspira award for her outstanding contribution to children's film.*



***Ida Håndlykken Kvernstrøm** is an established Norwegian TV producer with extensive experience in entertainment and acclaimed drama. Her credits include YOUNG & PROMISING (NRK), AFTERGLOW (NRK), BLOODRIDE (Netflix), and the award-winning series PØRNI (Viaplay/Netflix) and NEPOBABY (TV 2), the latter winning two awards at Canneseries. Known for combining creative vision with commercial appeal, she champions compelling, original stories that resonate with audiences nationally and internationally.*



***Markku Heikkinen** studied documentary filmmaking at the ELO film school of Aalto University, and has made more than 20 short and feature documentaries. At the Helsinki DocPoint festival, his NO ROAD HOME (2018) was awarded both the film critics and the audience prize. Between 1984 and 2013, he worked as a freelance journalist for Finland's state broadcaster.*



***Arttu Manninen** is a Helsinki-based film industry professional specializing in the international festival circuit. With over 10 years of experience in the field, he has worked with organizations including Helsinki International Film Festival and DocPoint International Documentary Film Festival. Since 2019, he has held various roles at the Finnish Film Foundation, ranging from advisory positions to project management. He holds an MA in Comparative Literature.*



***Mara Marxsen** is part of the distribution team at the Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg. Since 2011, she has worked in various roles for the Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg, including curating programs on disco, pleasure, and sex work. She studied "Preservation and Presentation of the Moving Image" in Amsterdam and completed her PhD in 2024 on the poetics of Sadie Benning, Sarah Jacobson and Jennifer Reeder.*



***Rafa Molés** has been writing and directing documentaries since 2013. His films have screened at international festivals, including the San Sebastián International Film Festival, Visions du Réel in Nyon, Dok.fest Munich, and the Thessaloniki International Film Festival.*



***Henriette Steenstrup,** born in Norway in 1974, is an actor and screenwriter known for the award-winning series PØRNI (2021), among other projects. She developed NEPOBABY, in which she also plays one of the lead roles, with actor-screenwriter Siri Seljeseth.*

MODERATION



***Anne Schultka** has headed up Lübeck Meetings since 2024. She also works as a consultant for CineRegio, and as co-head of studies at Germany's Academy for Children's Media. Her many years of work in the film and cultural policy sectors combines programme development, fostering young talent, and issues such as audiences, diversity, and participation. Anne Schultka is invested in creating spaces for dialogue, where differing perspectives can be debated and new ideas spawned.*

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

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Breite Str. 6/8
23552 Lübeck/ Deutschland
www.nordische-filmtage.de
nordischefilmtage@luebeck.de

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