



FULL PROJECT PORTFOLIO AND MENTORS FOR FIRST SESSION OF FIRST CUT+ 2021 ANNOUNCED

First Cut+, the new program created for boosting the **competitiveness and marketability** of feature films that previously participated in First Cut Lab, is gearing up for its second-year edition that will take place from January 22 to 26 2021 in hybrid format during **Trieste's When East Meets West**; First Cut+ consists in the promotion of a **portfolio of 16 fiction feature films** per year at the stage of post-production, predominantly from countries with a low production capacity (at least 75% of the films) and with a **focus on Central & Eastern Europe**. The range of films is large: both debut & experienced directors, small and larger budgets.

Eight films – half of the portfolio – are promoted during the **winter session at Trieste's When East Meets West** (January 2021), and another half during the **summer session, at Karlovy Vary IFF's Eastern Promises Industry Days** (early July 2021), enabling to welcome most eligible projects, no matter the timeline of their production.

Participating projects will have **4 days of consultations** on promotion, marketing, press, trailer making, festival launch, sales strategy from various film industry consultants, followed by a **Works-in-progress session** open to selected decision makers (as major festivals' programmers, buyers, international sales agents etc).

/// ADVISORS for the Winter session 2021 will be:

Boris Pugnet as **Marketing Specialist**, formerly in charge of the marketing campaigns of Nanni Moretti, Hirokazu Kore Eda and Jim Jarmusch's films for the independent French distributor Le Pacte, now Boris works as a marketing consultant and trailer editor for both independent and major companies.

Alexis Hamaide as **Digital marketing specialist**. As former Marketing Manager for Playtime (ex-Films Distribution), he supervised the international marketing strategies for films such as *By the Grace of God* (François Ozon), *120 BPM* (Robin Campillo) and *Son of Saul* (Laszlo Nemes) among others. Alexis teamed up with Viviana Andriani and Gabriele De Bortoli at L'avventura Studio, a digital creative agency specialized in arthouse films.

Laurin Dietrich & Michael Arnon, International publicists & **PR specialists** of the well-established press agency WOLF, handling titles such as *Martin Eden* by Pietro Marcello (Platform Prize, TIFF 2019 & Coppa Volpi, Venice 2019), *Touch Me Not* by Adina Pintilie (Golden Bear & Best First Feature, Berlin 2018) and *Custody* by Xavier Legrand (Best Director & Best First Feature, Venice 2017). Both of them will be tutors for the PR module.

Ioanna Stais, senior executive at Heretic Outreach, the first international sales agent based in South-eastern Europe with titles like *Take Me Somewhere Nice* by Ena Sendjarevic, *Holiday* by Isabella Eklöf and *The Reports on Sarah and Saleem* by Muayad Alayan) will be in charge of **International Sales Strategy**.

Ilaria Gomasasca, former Pyramide International's Festivals Manager, who handled the launch in the International Festivals' circuit of award-winning films such as the Golden Globe winner *Leviathan* by Andrey Zvyagintsev, *The Pearl Button* by Patricio Guzman (Silver Bear at 2015 Berlinale) and three

Golden Camera winners (*Party girl* by Marie Amachoukeli, Claire Burger, Samuel Theis, *Land and Shade* by César Acevedo, *Our mothers* by César Díaz) will be in charge of **Festivals' strategy**.

Benjamin Mirguet, will be advisor on video's editing. As an editor, he was involved in projects as *Batalla En El Cielo* by Carlos Reygadas, *40 Days Of Silence* by Saodat Ismailova, *Dau* by Ilya Khrzhanovski, and other films premiering in international festivals such as Cannes, Berlin, Locarno, Rotterdam and Karlovy Vary.

/// WORK-IN-PROGRESS

The other aspect of the program is a **Work-in-Progress** presentation of the full project portfolio, which will take place online on: **Tuesday January 26th 2021 as part of When East Meets West activities.**

/// SELECTED PROJECTS

For this second session, First Cut+ selected the following **eight promising projects**:

TITLE: BALAUR

DIRECTOR: Octav Chelaru

PRODUCER: Radu Stancu, deFilm (DE FILM PRODUCTION)

COUNTRY: Romania

COPRODUCTION COMPANIES AND COUNTRIES: 42film (Germany), eed Productions (Serbia)

LOGLINE: Ecaterina, an attractive Religion teacher and wife of the town priest, gets involved with Iuliu, an audacious 16-year-old pupil of hers. He starts confessing to the priest.

ENGLISH TITLE: CENSOR (Note: still a working title)

DIRECTOR: Peter Kerekes

MAIN PRODUCER NAME AND COMPANY:

Ivan Ostrochovský / Punkchart films

COUNTRY: Slovakia

COPRODUCTION COMPANIES AND COUNTRIES: endorfilm (Czech Republic), Arthouse Traffic (Ukraine), Rozhlas a televízia Slovenska (Slovak Republic), E-S Production (Slovak Republic), Peter Kerekes (Slovak Republic)

LOGLINE: *An imprisoned mother of an almost 3-year old boy, who was born in jail, starts her race against time, desperately trying to keep her son from ending up in an orphanage.*

ENGLISH TITLE: FAMILY DUST (working title)

DIRECTOR: Nina Viočić

MAIN PRODUCER NAME AND COMPANY: Vanja Sremac & Zdenka Gold // Spiritus movens

COUNTRY: Croatia

COPRODUCTION COMPANIES AND COUNTRIES: MP Film Production (CROATIA)

Zagreb Film (CROATIA)

Propeler Film (CROATIA)

LOGLINE: Family Dust in Rashomon style follows the final half-hour of crumbling of one marriage. Using fiction and animation form through the perspectives of wife, husband and their child we learn about their own truths.

ENGLISH TITLE: Holy Emy

DIRECTOR: Araceli Lemos

MAIN PRODUCER NAME & COMPANY: Konstantinos Vassilaros, StudioBauhaus

COUNTRY: Greece

Other PRODUCTION COMPANIES AND COUNTRIES: Mathieu Bompont, Utopie Films (France), Giulia Caruso & Ki Jin Kim, Nonetheless (USA)

LOGLINE: Emy, a young Filipina in Athens, with an inherited gift that transcends her is torn between the multiple realities that surround her and want to claim her.

TITLE: Il Boemo

DIRECTOR: Petr Václav

MAIN PRODUCER NAME AND COMPANY: Jan Macola, Mimesis Film

COUNTRY: Czech Republic

COPRODUCTION COMPANIES AND COUNTRIES: Dugong (Italy), sentimentalfilm (Slovakia)

LOGLINE: Josef Myslivecek, friend and teacher of Mozart, known as "Il Boemo", is an opera composer who did everything he could to be free, loved and famous.

ENGLISH TITLE: LOOKING FOR VENERA

DIRECTOR: NORIKA SEFA

EDITOR: STEFAN STABENOW, NORIKA SEFA

MAIN PRODUCER NAME AND COMPANY: BESNIK KRAPI, CIRCLE PRODUCTION

COUNTRY: KOSOVO

COPRODUCTION COMPANIES AND COUNTRIES: AUDIOHAUS (NORTH MACEDONIA), IN MY COUNTRY POSTPRODUCTIONS HOUSE (KOSOVO)

LOGLINE: Caught in the throes of her emerging sexuality Venera is pushed to follow open minded Dorina, who's attitude is far more thrilling than anything that surrounds her in this Kosovan small town.

ENGLISH TITLE: ORCHESTRA

DIRECTOR: MATEVŽ LUZAR

MAIN PRODUCER NAME AND COMPANY: PETRA VIDMAR – GUSTAV FILM

COUNTRY: SLOVENIA

COPRODUCTION COMPANIES AND COUNTRIES: NAPRAVI FILM, Croatia

LOGLINE: Events during orchestra tour should change band members lives, but they decide to sweep them under the rug and ignore the guilt that comes with it.

ENGLISH TITLE: THE STORK

DIRECTOR: Isa Qosja

MAIN PRODUCER NAME AND COMPANY: Ivan Durovic, Artikulacija Film

COUNTRY: Montenegro

COPRODUCTION COMPANIES AND COUNTRIES:

Kosovo, North Macedonia, Albania

LOGLINE: One village, two men, three families and four wives.

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