

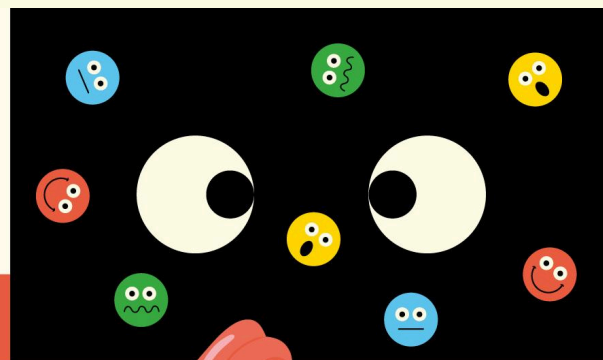
FILEM'ON 2024

PROFESSIONALS

FILEM'ON
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18^{DE} INTERNATIONAAL FILMFESTIVAL VOOR JONG PUBLIEK
18^{ÈME} FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE CINÉMA JEUNE PUBLIC
18TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

23.10 - 06.11.2024



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GUESTS



Sarvnaz Alambeigi (*Maydegol*, director)



Sarvnaz Alambeigi is an Iranian multidisciplinary artist best known for documentary filmmaking and painting. She graduated from Graphic Art School and studied painting at the University of Art and Architecture in Tehran. She received film training from 2013 to 2018 at Documentary Campus Masterschool and Danish Film School. In 2013, she founded her own film company, Rabison Art. Alambeigi's most notable work is *1001 Nights Apart*, a documentary released in 2022 in Germany that won the VFF Documentary Film Production Award at DOK.fest Munich. It was shown in cinemas across Germany in 2022, as well as on TV channels such as Arte, SVT, TVO and Avrotros. She is currently a member of Film Fatales, The European Women's Audiovisual Network and the Association of Iranian Documentary Cinema Directors.

Nouf Aljowsair (*Where am I From?*, director)



Nouf Aljowsair is a Saudi new media artist examining our changing behaviours and interactions with algorithms. By navigating intimate questions with AI tools and challenging their conventional utility, her work uncovers their underlying training logic and capitalist motivations that shape their outputs and influence our perspectives. Her work has been displayed in galleries and festivals globally, including Centre Pompidou, Museo Tamayo, CPH:DOX, Tribeca Film Festival, and others. Her latest film, *Where Am I From?*, won the 2023 Lumen Prize Moving Image award and was recently released with The New York Times Op-Docs series in June 2024.

Daniël Bakker (*Pocket Change*, director)



Daniël Bakker (Netherlands, 1995) directed several short films before attending the Netherlands Film Academy, including *Touch the Leather*, which premiered at Nowness and was selected for the Netherlands Film Festival. In the third year of the Film Academy he directed *Zonnestorm*, a nuanced character driven film. In addition, he directed the SIRE commercial VAKMENS that won the Camelot commercial prize. Daniel graduated with the film *Pocket Change*. Daniel's films are intimate and recognizable with flesh and blood characters. He wants to make physical films in which the youth and teenage years play a major role.

Franco García Becerra (*Raíz*, director)



The second feature film of Franco, *Raíz/Through Rocks And Clouds* (2024), made its world premiere at the 74th Berlin Film Festival and was awarded with the Special Mention in Berlinale Generation Kplus. It was also selected in the Open Doors section and the Director's club of Locarno Film Festival and was awarded the International Jury Prix for Best Direction at Lima Film Festival 2024.

His short film *Lima* received the Best Short Film and Best Screenplay Award from the Ministry of Culture of Peru in 2011 and won the best short film award at the Peruvian Film Festival in Paris in 2013.

Zohra Benhammou (*Rupture*, co-director)



Zohra Benhammou is a Belgian-Moroccan filmmaker from Brussels. Drawing on her background, she delves into the subtleties of personal narratives and family heritage. Through her work she aims to convey the nuances of culture, religion and identity, weaving connections that bridge different realms and fostering understanding. Benhammou debuted with the mid-length documentary *Rupture*, created in collaboration with Younes Haidar. Her latest work, the feature documentary *Ana + Yek (Me + You)*, co-directed with Romy Mana, had its world premiere at Gent Film Festival this year.

Grace Biot (*Julie Keeps Quiet*, actress)



Born in 2005, Grace made her film debut with the role of Laure in *Julie Keeps Quiet*. Driven to embrace new challenges each time, she brought the character Laure to life in Leonardo's first feature film full of energy. In addition, Grace is a passionate tennis player, active at national level in the highest women's series 1. She succeeds in combining this sport at a competitive level with her academic career as a second-year student of commercial engineering at KU Leuven.

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Tessa Van den Broeck (*Julie Keeps Quiet*, actress)



Tessa Van den Broeck (° 2006) participated in a casting for the first time and was chosen from a whole series of young tennis players by Leonardo van Dijn to star in his feature debut *Julie Keeps Quiet*. The film had its world premiere at the Semaine de la Critique in Cannes in 2024. This was Tessa's first step in the film world. She is currently in her second year of nursing at UCLL University of Applied Sciences. She shares her passion for tennis as a club referee and 'Start to Coach' at Tennis Flanders. Since 2013, she has developed her tennis skills at various academies, including the Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin Academies, and continues to pursue her love for sports at TC Panorama in Overijse.

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Domenico Cricelli (*Donna Sola*, producer)



My professional career has been characterized by significant progress in the field of media production. From May 2020 to March 2024, I held the role of Executive and Financial Producer at The Storytellers Srl, where I was responsible for creating production budgets, financial plans, managing regional Film Commission grants, tax credits, and the overall organization of projects such as the short films *Mazarol* and *Donna Sola*. Between 2010 and 2020, I worked as Artistic Director and Manager at HARP S.r.l. in Bologna, where my responsibilities included organizing music festivals, financial and accounting management, payroll administration, and much more. This position allowed me to develop skills in staff management, staff training, order management, stock control, and the organization of weekly and extraordinary events. Previously, from 2016 to 2018, I worked as Production Manager for Sara Scamarcia Produzioni,

specializing in the production of web content for Unipol.

Elise Debruyne (*On the 8th Day*, co-director)



Elise Debruyne, graduate of the 3D Pole (Roubaix, France). In 2021, she co-directed the short film *Ah les crocodiles*. Then in 2023, she co-directed the short film *On the 8th day*.

Fien Donckers (*Onderweg*, director)



Fien Donckers (2001) is the screenwriter and director of the short film *Onderweg*, her master's thesis at Sint-Lukas. Her bachelor film *Schemer* was selected in 2022 for the Leuven Short Film Festival. Her work focuses on themes such as growing up, femininity and friendship. She shapes her stories with a focus on details from everyday life.

Nicolás Escarpentier (*Where am I From?*, producer)



Nicolás Escarpentier is a non-binary immersive media artist and producer with extensive experience in interactive and emerging media. Born in Chile and based in Brooklyn, they specialize in creating multi-layered pieces, seamlessly blending diverse forms of media technologies to create rich storytelling experiences. Deeply focused in stories about belonging and identity, Escarpentier's projects explore how these facets are performed both in physical and digital spaces.

Currently, they have been leading and producing several emerging media projects. These projects have been showcased all around the world, including the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, Tribeca Film Festival, the UN's HLPF, Games for Change, and more.

Marie Falys (*Between the Others*, director)



Marie Falys, originally from Belgium, discovered cinema as a teenager and developed a passion for it. As soon as she finished secondary school, she began studying filmmaking at the IAD in Louvain-la-Neuve. During her two years at master's level, she co-directed a fiction film featuring a strong female character: Aurore. Then, for her graduation film, she made an intimate documentary about a young teenager in search of herself. In early 2024, she directed a short film in collaboration with Elles Tournent : *Les Gueuses*. She is currently working on her next short film.

Eric Goossens (*Fox and Hare Save the Forest*, producer)



Eric Goossens is a co-founder of Belgium's acclaimed animation studio, Walking The Dog, established with Anton Roebben in 1999. The studio excels in both traditional and CGI animation, with its works including names such as "The Triplets of Belleville" (2003) and "The Secret of Kells" (2010), both Oscar-nominated. Its portfolio includes "A Monster in Paris," "The Congress," "Jack and the Cuckoo Clock Heart," "Another Day of Life," "Where is Anne Frank," "Richard The Stork 2," and "Fox and Hare Save The Forest." Upcoming releases feature "The Magnificent Life of Marcel Pagnol" by Sylvain Chomet and "Outfoxed!" by Paul Bolger.

Younes Haidar (*Rupture*, co-director)



Younes Haidar is a 32-year-old self-taught film director and camera operator currently based in Brussels, Belgium. Born to a Belgian mother and a Moroccan father, he grew up in a small Flemish town near Brussels. After missing the enrollment deadline for film school, Younes studied literature at KU Leuven. Upon completing his studies, he began working as a freelance TV journalist. Frustrated by the dominant voice of mainstream media—often portraying marginalized communities negatively without telling their side of the story—he turned to documentary filmmaking as a way to give a voice to the oppressed.

Together with Zohra Benhammou, he co-directed, shot, and edited the documentary TV series *Generatie BX* for the Brussels regional broadcaster Bruzz. Both filmmakers discovered a shared passion for telling the stories of

stigmatized youth, many of whom come from migration backgrounds. Their cinematic debut, *Rupture*, is the outcome of this shared vision.

Phil Hawkins (*Robin and the Hoods*, director)



Phil Hawkins is a feature film and commercials director from the UK. His work in film includes the family action/adventure *ROBIN AND THE HOODS* starring Naomie Harris & Gwendoline Christie and *PRANCER: A CHRISTMAS TALE* starring James Cromwell for Universal Pictures. He also wrote and directed the world's most expensive Star Wars/Indiana Jones fan film *STAR WARS: ORIGINS* which has over 2.5m views and has been critically acclaimed as an "epic masterpiece".

Ineke Houtman (*The Book of Everything*, director)



Ineke Houtman makes feature films and television programs. *Madelief*, *krassen in het tafelblad*, *Polleke* en *De Indiaan* were shown at many festivals, including Berlinale, and received many prizes. *Madelief*, *krasen in het Tafelblad* was the Dutch entry for the Oscars. *Mijn Opa de bankrover*, *Toen was Geluk heel gewoon* en *De Ontsnapping* all three received the 'Gouden Film' award. In addition to making feature films, Ineke also directed series such as *Dokter Deen* en *Zwarte Tulp*.

Ineke's penultimate production is the telefilm *Matties*, which received the prize of the children's jury at both the Cinekid festival and the Barnefilm festivals in Kristiansand, Norway. *The Book of Everything*, based on a beautiful book by Guus Kuijer, was shown in Malmo and Kristiansand and was published in the Netherlands on October 10, 2024.

Anna Huix (*Girls Move Mountains*, director)



Anna Huix is a director and photographer who lived and worked in Paris, New York City and London. She graduated, with honours, at Parsons School Of Design in New York City. After living abroad for 12 years, she moved back to Barcelona, where she keeps on working for leading international publications and advertising firms. Her work has been exhibited in art spaces such as The State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg. She specializes in portraiture & travel.

Her editorial clients include The New York Times, Time, The Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, The Guardian, Sunday Times or The Telegraph amongst others. Her commercial clients range from Google and United Bank Of Switzerland to Visa, Airbnb or Nespresso.

Anna has worked in Pakistan several times. She finds the country and its people fascinating. She went to the Karakoram Mountains Range for the first time 13 years ago and fell in love with the area. Some other highlights in her career are creating work while sailing the Arctic or documenting Buzkashi in Tajikistan.

Neyrouz Jemour (*Nina's Friend*, director)



Neyrouz Jemour is a Belgian animator and filmmaker, with a preference for 2D frame by frame animation and a passion for children's and youth animation. They graduated from master in animation film at KASK School of Arts in Gent, in 2023.

Thomas Leclercq (*The Genie in the Bottle*, director)



Thomas Leclercq is a Belgian animation director and cartoonist from Brussels, Belgium. His films are often made with a deep sense of nostalgia and try to tell a story to the child that remains in each one of us. His most recent one, *The Genie in the Bottle*, reminds us that with a bit of imagination, adventure is just around the corner.

Bert Lesaffer (*The Night Tunnel*, director)



Bert Lesaffer (°1983) is the co-founder, creative producer and screenwriter at Animal Tank, a production company and animation studio based in Belgium. Animal Tank has produced short films that were selected at Berlinale, Annecy, Fantoche, SXSW and Clermont-Ferrand, and have been nominated for European Film Awards twice.

Bert supervises screenplays in different stages, discusses artistic choices with directors/screenwriters and gives feedback where needed. As a screenwriter, he worked on the animated shorts *Oddland* (2022) and *The Night Tunnel* (2024) and has some shorts, features and series in development.

Bert's background is in psychology and psychoanalysis, theater and film. He wrote and directed five plays with Stuurs

Opzicht, worked at MEDIA Desk Flanders and the Flanders Audiovisual Fund and was KASKcinema's programmer and communication manager for seven years. He currently also works at School of Arts Gent as a teacher in the film department and as ombudsperson and confidentiality advisor.

Leif Lindblom (*The Pinchers' High Voltage Heist*, director)



Leif Lindblom, born in 1967 in Södertälje, is one of Sweden's most successful directors. He has primarily directed TV series, but made his debut as a feature film director for cinema in 2007 with *Solstorm*. He has made a lot of successful humor series for television, and feature films.

Deepak Lohana (*The First Film*, co-writer)



Deepak Lohana is a graduate of R.A. Podar College of Commerce & Economics and holds a PGDM in Marketing from SIES College of Management Studies. He co-wrote the acclaimed FTII student film *The Real Millionaire* which was nominated for the International Grand Prix at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and screened at over 75 film festivals worldwide. He won The Indian Express Film Award for Best Script. His latest short fiction, *The First Film* for which he co-wrote the story, screenplay, and dialogue, premiered at BOGOSHORTS in Colombia and won 'The German Star of India - Audience Award' at the Stuttgart Indian Film Festival.

Liza De Maeyer (*Somewhere in Between*, director)



Liza De Maeyer graduated at the Royal Institute for Theatre, Cinema & Sound in Brussels in 2024. Prior to her audiovisual arts studies, she graduated as a sexologist at the KU Leuven. In her work as a documentary filmmaker she tries to use her knowledge as a sexologist to tell real stories that are vulnerable at times but that nevertheless need to be told.

Alicia Massez (*On the 8th Day*, co-director)



Alicia Massez, graduate of the 3D Pole (Roubaix, France). In 2021, she co-directed the short film *Vent d'hiver*. Then in 2023, she co-directed the short film *On the 8th day*.

Dominique Mertens (*Field Mushroom*, director)



Since 2000, Dominique Mertens has dedicated himself entirely to illustration. In 2001, following his selection at the Bologna fair, he released his first album in England. Others followed. He works with the traditional technique of watercolor. Nature has always been his favorite subject. He is active in both the youth illustration sector and in didactic/naturalistic illustration. For some years, in parallel with his work as an illustrator, Dominique has been passionate about wildlife observation and animation. Since 2022, he has directed 4 short films which have all been selected in numerous festivals in Belgium and internationally. *Field Mushroom* is his first animated film.

Joren Molter (*Summer Brother*, director)



Joren Molter graduated from the Netherlands Film Academy with the film *Greetings from Kropstdam*. This graduation film was selected for 54 international film festivals, including prestigious festivals such as Clermont-Ferrand, Busan, and Palm Springs. The film won 13 international awards, including the Audience Award at the Warsaw International Film Festival.

Joren was the first Dutch director selected by the European Film Promotion for “Future Frames: Ten New Directors to Follow” at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival. His TV film *Døst* was bought by Amazon and translated into 27 languages, making his work accessible to a global audience.

His feature film debut, *Summer Brother*, was widely acclaimed and won the Dutch Critics’ Award. The film was nominated for four Golden Calves (the Dutch Oscars) and won the Audience Award at the Transilvania International Film Festival (TIFF). Additionally, *Summer Brother* took home the main award at the Giffoni Film Festival.

Mari Monrad Vistven (*Todd & Super-Stella*, director)



Mari has been working as a filmmaker for Norwegian and English television for about 20 years. She has experience from both documentaries and fiction films, commercials, and music promos. She has also worked as an editor for documentary series for Norwegian TV. Mari has also worked as a stills photographer for Elle, Aftenposten, Dagbladet and Redwood Publishing in London.

Stephen Owino (*Jump Out*, actor)



Stephen is an actor, acrobat, stuntman, filmmaker and a painter from Nairobi, Kenya. He is currently based in the Netherlands. His inspirations in arts started while he was young. He found it easier to communicate and express himself through arts. With less resources around he became a self-taught artist. Having grown in a less privileged community his aim was always to give back to the community. He has been part of both philanthropic and artistic organizations and projects within Nairobi and Europe. For over 10 years Stephen has performed and participated in numerous projects, circuses and shows all over Europe. The documentary *Jump Out* is centred around one of Stephen's artistic projects within the less fortunate neighborhoods of Nairobi, Kenya.

Alexandra Pärn (*Happy Things*, director)



Alexandra Pärn graduated from the Baltic Film, Media, and Arts School (BFM) at Tallinn University in 2024, specializing in film directing. The short films Pärn made during her studies, *Smalltown Miss* (2022) and *Christmas Day* (2023), have successfully participated in many festivals (PÖFF Shorts, Ale Kino!, Film'On, Münster Filmfestival, Fish Filmfestival, Weihnachtsfilmfestival Berlin, Ińskie Lato Filmowe, among others) and have received significant attention and won awards. She has also been working as a freelance AD in multiple films and TV series and is currently working at a casting agency.

Marzieh Rasekh (*Let's Play*, director)



Marzieh, is an Iranian female 2D animator based in the Netherlands. She embarked on her animation journey during her Masters in Iran after completing her bachelor's in Graphic Design. Driven by a passion for both stop motion and 2D animation, Marzieh aims to seamlessly blend traditional styles with the digital realm. Her diverse experience includes working as an animator for book publications and board game companies, primarily focusing on commercials for social media platforms. Despite her commercial endeavors, Marzieh has successfully produced two short animations, *More* (2018) and *Let's Play* (2023), both of which have garnered nominations and selections at various festivals.

Joanna Rusinek (*Nabu*, director)



2024.

Polish illustrator and graphic designer. She defended her degree at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków in 2006 at the Animated Film department under Professor Jerzy Kucia. Although animation is no longer her principal area of activity, she does take on projects involving motion pictures and theater scenography. Her debut film, 'Nabu' (2023) is based on a book by Jarosław Mikołajewski, with her illustrations.

Joanna Rusinek's day job on the whole consists of illustration work. Apart from illustrating children's books she works as an editorial illustrator for Newsweek, Gazeta Wyborcza, Twój Styl and other magazines.

"Wędrówka Nabu" ("Nabu's Journey"), a book with her illustrations received a special IBBY award in 2022 (International Board of Books for Young People). "Szalik" ("A Scarf") an illustrated biography of Wisława Szymborska received an Literary Award of Greater Poland Readers in

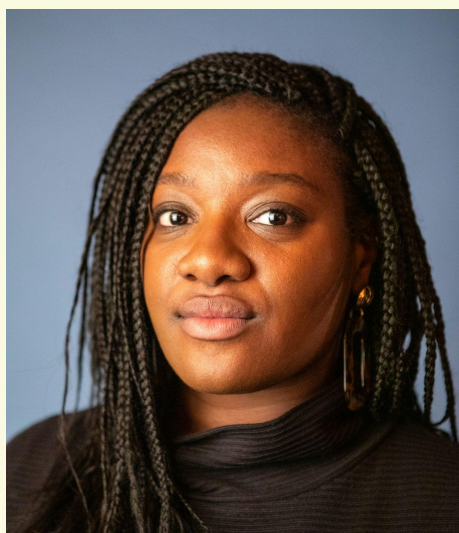
Eirik Sæter Stordahl (*Lars is LOL*, director)



Eirik Sæter Stordahl is a director and screenwriter, born in 1988 in Oslo, Norway. He graduated from the National Film School of Denmark in 2015 with the sci-fi short *In Pieces*.

Based in Copenhagen, he works on feature films and series in both Norway and Denmark. Also working in alternative formats, he directed the radio-fiction series *The Thing With Liv*, winner of Prix Europa in 2018, and the film-theatre hybrid *Quarantine* (2020) for the Royal Danish Theatre. *Lars is LOL* is his feature film debut.

Yero Timi-Biu (*Essex Girls*, director)



Yero Timi-Biu is a British multiple award-winning writer and director for TV and film. Her selected short films *ESSEX GIRLS*, *SIGNS*, *BENEATH THE SURFACE* and *0.5%* have played in competition internationally at festivals such as Sundance, BFI London Film Festival, Palm Springs, Hamptons, Milwaukee, and Seattle. She has developed, written and directed projects for the BBC, Channel 4, Sky, Amazon and Netflix. Yero is currently developing a thriller with HBO and is writing her first feature film.

Emma Vandevelde (*Peeing in the Wild*, director)



Hi, my name is Emma and I am a West-Flemish filmmaker. I love mountains and sheep. With *Peeing in the wild* I would like to show you how being in the mountains feels like and how it helps me believe in myself.

Elke Vanoost (*Oddballs*, director)



Elke Vanoost is a filmmaker from Brussels. Her work balances on the boundary between documentary and fiction. Her films address complex themes, such as mental health and discrimination. Despite the heavy themes, they are characterized by a hopeful tone and vibrant colors.

Margareth Villers (*Happy Things*, producer)



Margareth Villers graduated from the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School in Tallinn where she studied Film Arts and specialized in film production. Her previously produced films *Smalltown Miss* and *What's Up With Numbats?* have participated in several prestigious film festivals, including Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival and Sony Future Filmmaker Awards. She is currently working as a production assistant at Estonian film company Stellar Film.

Eveline Welschen (*Rupture*, producer)



Eveline studied film directing at the Netherlands Film and Television Academy in Amsterdam. She worked as a researcher/director for the VPRO (Dutch national public broadcasting company) and directed several documentaries for Dutch television, such as *Kids in Control* and *Lessen van Tulay, Bahar en Naima*. After moving to Brussels, she explored the world of high-end post-production, being a post producer for several TV- and cinema commercials and videoclips. Five years ago, Eveline joined BRUZZ as an all-round producer, specializing in TV- and LIVE-productions. She produced several documentary series such as *De Stad van de Toekomst* and was an editor-in-chief for 'Generation BX'. She also produced the documentary debut film of Zohra Benhammou & Younes Haidar for BRUZZ: *Rupture*.

Anneke de Lind van Wijngaarden (*Sweeties*, director)



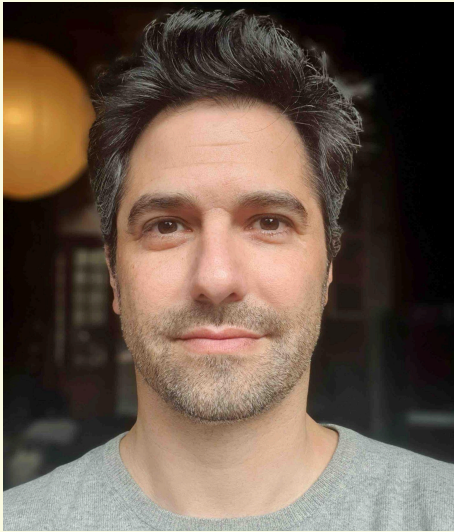
Anneke de Lind van Wijngaarden is a Dutch documentary filmmaker from Amsterdam. She studied film at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. In her work, Anneke searches for poetry, humor and lightness in her sometimes heavy subjects.

Sarah Winkenstette (*Greetings from Mars*, director)



Sarah Winkenstette was born in Rheda-Wiedenbrück on January 2nd 1980. She studied at the RTL School of Journalism and at the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne and worked as a freelance editor and director for various television formats between 2005 and 2011. Her films received many awards including ECFA Award at International Children's Film Festival, Kristiansand, Goldener Spatz Award at German Children's Media Festival, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury at International Film Festival for Children and Young Audience SCHLINGEL to name a few.

Gregory Zalzman (*Flow*, producer)



Gregory Zalzman is a self-taught producer who honed his skills on set, embracing a wide range of roles, from runner to production manager. His true passion lies in shaping the creative process from inception to realization. With his production company, Take Five, he produces both live-action and animated films. His latest project, *Flow*, directed by Gints Zilbalodis, has garnered international acclaim, being selected for prestigious festivals such as Cannes, Annecy, and Toronto.

JURY MEMBERS

&

PROFESSIONAL

EVENTS

Jule Murmann (ECFA Short jury)



After studying media studies in Bonn, Jule Murmann worked as a curator and project manager for exhibitions and film educational projects at the Deutsches Filmmuseum in Frankfurt. Since 2023 she has been responsible for the program for kids and young adults at the Internationales Frauen Film Fest Dortmund + Köln.

Alessandro Stevanon (ECFA Short jury)



Alessandro Stevanon is an Italian producer, director and film lecturer. His productions include short films and documentaries that have been presented in several international festivals (Clermont - Ferrand, Visions du Réel, Toronto International Film Festival, Tirana International Film Festival, Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica di Venezia, etc.) and have received important awards, including the "Michelangelo Antonioni" Award. From 2016 to 2021, he was the director of Frontdoc-International Documentary Film Festival. Since 2021 he has been the artistic director of the Cactus International Children's and Youth Film Festival for which he is also responsible for the educational program.

Polar Vaes (ECFA Short jury)



Polar Vaes' passion for film sparked at a young age. He graduated from Film & Television studies at the University of Gent. After an internship at the Ostend Film Festival he's now currently active as Sales Coordinator at the Brussels based international sales company Best Friend Forever, bringing carefully curated arthouse-titles to the international market.

Olivia Anna Christensen (ECFA Feature jury)



Olivia Anna Christensen works as responsible for development and projects at BUSTER Film Festival in Copenhagen. BUSTER Film Festival is one of the biggest children and youth film festivals in the Nordic area and is a part of the NoJSe festival network, a collaboration between the Nordic children and youth festivals. Olivia has a background in culture events and communication.

Ilona Herbert (ECFA Feature jury)



Ilona Herbert works at the Munich Media Center, where she focuses on film productions for children and young people and organizes the Munich Youth Film Festival flimmern&rauschen. There she is responsible in particular for the design of the children's program. In order to get to know other children's and youth festivals, she is happy to be appointed to the jury. Ilona's path to moving images began with concert recordings and skate videos, and soon led to reports and documentaries with a focus on music and culture.

Günther Kinstler (ECFA Feature Jury)



Director of the International Children's Film Festival in Bonn. He has been active in the media field since the 90s in many different functions. He is chairman of the German Association of Children's and Youth Film Clubs and board member of the International Federation of Film Societies.

Sannette Naeyé (ECFA Feature Jury)



Sannette Naeyé, is an independent consultant and producer in the field of media. She is the former CEO of Cinekid Film, TV and New Media Festival in the Netherlands. Curating for 20 years the film section of the festival herself, Naeyé has an in-depth knowledge of media for young audiences. Under her guidance the festival developed into the largest of its kind in the world (Variety), located in Amsterdam with satellite festivals in +35 cities all over the Netherlands and an in-depth media literacy program all over the year. It provided a leading support program for the international media industry aiming at young audiences. She conceptualized the yearly Cinekid MediaLab, 1200 m2 full of installations, games and apps for children, seen by the industry as the place to be to get updated on new tech and media innovation.

In her previous jobs as Head of departments of Dutch Public TV-networks she gained knowledge of the media industry and of cultural programming and reaching out to the young audiences. As a former curator of the Royal Tropical Institute and the head of Tropenmuseum jr, she is an experienced exhibitions developer with a focus on (interactive) vis a vis audience relations. Naeyé gives talks, is invited for consultancies and festival juries in several continents, member and/or founder of many foundations and adviser of funds, script doctor, media developer. She focused her entire career on impact and quality. Currently she is working for a cooperative to support biodiversity and nature inclusive agriculture.

Levan Dvali (ECFA Documentary jury)



Levan Dvali was born in Tbilisi on April 15, 1993. His academic journey commenced with a Bachelor's degree in Art Management from the Shota Rustaveli Theater and Film Georgia State University. He furthered his education by obtaining a Master of Business Administration from the Business and Technology University.

Driven by a passion for fostering emerging talent and advancing the art of filmmaking, he assumed the role of Founder and Director General of the Taoba International Youth Film Festival in 2018. Beyond his role with the Taoba International Youth Film Festival, Levan is actively engaged in various professional endeavors aimed at advancing film art and cultivating a young audience. In 2023, he was honored with membership in the Georgian Film Academy.

Additionally, Levan Dvali serves as a member of the steering group of the EU digital education initiative, DigiEduHack. In this capacity, he leverages his expertise to contribute to the development of digital education and promote digital literacy among youth across Europe.

Pieter Van Eecke (ECFA Documentary jury)



Pieter Van Eecke is a Brussels-based filmmaker. After the medium-sized documentary GOUDOUGOUDOU (2011) about the earthquake in Haiti, his first long documentary film SAMUEL IN THE CLOUDS (2016) about melting glaciers in Bolivia was widely praised. In 2023 he released 2 films: HOLDING UP THE SKY follows a shaman in the endangered rainforest in Brazil and PLANET B follows two young people who fight climate change for 4 years.

Marjo Kovanen (ECFA Documentary jury)



Marjo Kovanen works as a senior specialist at Koulukino (School Cinema Association). Koulukino develops film education and film literacy in Finland and promotes film screenings for children and young people in cinemas during the school day. Kovanen is currently a doctoral student at Tampere University and a member of the board of The Finnish Society for Cinema Studies, The Finnish Society on Media Education, and ECFA.

Doros Demetriou (CIFEJ Jury)



Doros Demetriou, born in Nicosia in 1970, is a cinema historian, event organizer, and film screening curator. He is a member of the European Children's Film Association (ECFA) and an elected member of the Director's Board of the International Centre of Films for Children and Young People (CIFEJ). Additionally, he serves on the Cinema Advisory Committee of Cyprus (SEKIN) and the Cyprus Board of Film Classification. As the manager and curator at the Cultural Workshop Agion Omologiton in Nicosia, he oversees film screenings, events, and education programs. Doros is one of the artistic directors of the 'Images and Views of Alternative Cinema' (IVAC) annual film festival and vice-president and event curator at the "Fotodos" Photography Club. He collaborates with the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus on various film education programs, under the banner "The Power and Magic of Cinema."

Doros is on the Board of Advisors and a jury member at the British Columbia Environmental Film Festival (BCEFF) in Vancouver, Canada. He is also the Artistic Advisor, Director of International Development, and Youth Programs Manager at the Archeological, Ethnographic, and Historical (AEI) Film Festival in Nicosia. Since 2023, he has served on the Selection Committee for the National Program of the International Short Films Festival Cyprus and is the Media Coordinator for the 2025 Biennale Larnaca.

Doros lectures on cinema history and has studied Cinematherapy at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He co-founded the CineTexts webpage with Foivos Delivorias and produces radio content for OldTownRadio. He holds degrees in Electronic Engineering (BEng) and Visual Theories/Cinema (MA) from London.

Karen Vázquez Guadarrama (CIFEJ Jury)



Karen Vázquez Guadarrama was born in Mexico City and studied film at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent, Belgium. Her short film *Mont d'Or*, her short documentary FLOR DE MIL COLORES and her long documentary WHEN THE BULL CRIED, were selected at several important international film festivals. Karen won the prestigious Camerimage for her work as a DOP. In addition to directing the film WE ARE FIRE about the Mexican cartoonist Maremoto, in the documentary series *Draw for Change !*, she was also the DOP for the Egyptian episode about Doaa El -Adl.

Emma Pendiuc (CIFEJ Jury)



I am Emma Pendiuc. I am the founder and president of the first school of film and television for children in Romania, LITTLE STARS SCHOOL . I founded the school 14 years ago with the purpose of helping children aged 6 to 12 to put their artistic abilities into value and in the same time, become more confident and trust their own inner power. Since at that time the film industry for children in Romania was almost non existing we also had to produce the films in which our children played. We were providing acting and television courses for children in front and behind the camera. Therefore we started our own production company and since then we have produced over 50 films for children, short and medium artistic movies , all with educational messages. Seven of them were selected and participated in different sections of the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, but also in films for children festivals. Due to this performance, since 2012 I was elected twice as Vice President of CIFEJ and also member of the Board of Directors of CIFEJ. CIFEJ is the organization at world level of professionals in the industry of films for children and youth. I am

also a sociologist and mindset mentor and over the past 4 years, post pandemic, I enrolled many professionals in the mindset programs and I helped them to fulfill their goals and mission in life, including film professionals. In Romania I organize and host large conferences for teachers on the theme of mental and nutritional education for children, alongside our beloved cooking show for children "Little Stars in the Kitchen".

Els Kuiper (TV Jury)



Els Kuiper (1959) received her Master's degree in Art and Culture Studies from the University of Amsterdam in 1986. She has worked in Television since then, in several positions. She started at Dutch Public broadcaster VPRO TV as a buyer and co-producer of children's programmes and films. As buyer of foreign children's films for all Dutch broadcasters and editor of Dutch family films since 2005, she is now considered a specialized children's film-expert in Holland.

Eloïse Ngangura (TV Jury)



Passionate about movies, I work as a video-on-demand specialist at Pickx. Novels, short stories, feature films: whenever a narrative unfolds, I'm curious to discover it.

Yves Calbert (Press Jury)



Film journalist since 1999, Yves is now affiliated with the "Union de la Critique de Cinéma" ("UCC"). After being a dancer in the troupe "Up With People" in the USA and Latin America, and a tour guide for different tour operators in Asia and Europe, he worked as the director-animator of a francophone cultural radio program and as an associate professor of French.

Adrien Corbeel (Press Jury)



Adrien Corbeel is the editor-in-chief of the Belgian film magazine *Surimpressions* and also works as a film critic for *Télépro* and *RTBF Culture*.

Chantal Moens (Press Jury)



Chantal Moens studied Film and Photography at the Luca School of Arts. Since the late '70s she has felt at home in the Film Museum. Since then she has explored just about all aspects of the film profession, ranging from editor for the Yearbook of Belgian film to film critic for various magazines or still press attaché and marketing manager in the film distribution. She has a preference for youth films, animated films and arthouse films. She has been a PR member of the UFK-UCC for decades.

Emilie Praet (Distribution Award Jury)



Communications and Press Relations Assistant for the Belgian streaming platform *Sooner*. She contributes to the editorialization of the platform to promote art house cinema. As a cinema enthusiast, she has also volunteered at the BIFFF, BSFF and Korean Film Festival.

Sarah Semana (Distribution Award Jury)



Sarah Semana is responsible for programming and film acquisition for the Sooner platform, available in the Benelux and specializing in art house films. Previously, she coordinated audiovisual documentary projects at RTBF. She produced a podcast called "Les Glaneuses" profiling women filmmakers in Belgium, for which she won the Audience Award 2022 at the Brussels Podcast Festival.

Aline Bouillaud (Belgian Short Film Award Jury)



Aline works as animator for young audiences at the Ciné4 of the Cultural Centre of Nivelles and is responsible for the school section and the Clap4 project for teenagers in Nivelles who are passionate about cinema. She is also a member of the organization of the Festiv'elles which takes place every year in March. For Festiv'elles she organizes creative workshops, playful debates, collaborative workshops, thematic events... A key word for her? Creativity.

Pauline David (Belgian Short Film Award Jury)



As a trained historian, Pauline likes to be told stories. Independent programmer of contemporary real cinema and heritage for several cinemas in Brussels for almost 15 years (asbl LPC), she also ensures the direction of the film festival En ville!. Cinéphile and passionate about issues of transmission, she has organized several training courses and activities for young audiences.

Renaud Flemal (Belgian Short Film Award Jury)



Fascinated by cinema and fed on films by Scorsese, Spielberg or Zemeckis, Renaud takes care of general communication and film programming for the Cultural Center of Perwez. He is the co-organizer of the PIFF festival (formerly «Vivre debout»), and also a radio film columnist and podcast host on the 7th art.

Zoé Leclercq (Belgian Short Film Award Jury)



Creative and passionate, Zoé has always been fascinated by the world of animation. After completing an art course, she is currently the coordinator of hospitality and box office at the Quai10 cinema in Charleroi. Her job allows her to be in daily contact with the clientele, especially the young public, with whom she exchanges and shares her passion for animation.

Christel Dequinnemaere (Belgian Short Film Award Jury)



Christel - after years in the entertainment sector (music, TV and corporate video) – ended up at SABAM at the end of April. Her task is to familiarize (potential) members with the ins and outs of Sabam. Sabam is the Belgian association for authors, composers and publishers. In 2023, the Woord & Beeld department distributed no less than 25.7 million euros with its 4 disciplines (audiovisual, literature, visual arts and performing arts). With the Sabam for Culture cultural fund, they support through scholarships, prizes and partnerships of many events, associations, students and members with the development of their careers. Similarly, Film'On.

Caroline Daemen (Masterclass Audiodescription in Film)



Caroline Daemen has a degree in tourism and public relations. In 2004 she had severe eye problems and since then her vision has been deteriorating. She participated in the Art in the dark project and followed the museum guide course. She guides in various places for the blind and visually impaired and gives guest lectures on guide techniques for her target group in the guide courses. She is an active member of the culture network of the (European Blind Union), where she is mainly closely involved in the audio description project.

Mereijn van der Heijden (Masterclass Audiodescription in Film)



Mereijn is the owner of Soundfocus, a post-production facility specialized in accessible media. His company is involved with all the major audio description projects in the Netherlands. He started researching film accessibility for the blind and partially sighted during his MA studies in Music Technology (HKU) and his studies in Sound Design (MMus, Bournemouth University). Because of his background as a sound designer, the improvement of sound-quality is always an important factor in both production and research. In 2013 Mereijn came up with the idea for Earcatch (a mobile application for audio description) because the Dutch film and broadcast industry couldn't provide a proper solution for an audience with sight problems. Earcatch was launched in 2015 and has become the industry standard for delivering AD in the Netherlands. In 2016 Earcatch received the Dutch Interactive Award and won a European Lovie Award.

Currently the app offers accessible film, tv and theatre in 12 different countries.

Joanna Ruba (Masterclass Audiodescription in Film)



Joanna Ruba (° 1980) is a knowledge assistant at the blind and visually impaired platform Symfoon. She has been visually impaired since birth and uses daily audio description.

Gert Vercauteren (Masterclass Audiodescription in Film)



Gert Vercauteren is a tenure track lecturer at the Applied Linguistics, Translation and Interpreting program of the University of Antwerp and is a member of the OPEN Expertise Center for Accessible Media and Culture. In addition to teaching, he focuses his research on making films and TV series accessible by means of audio description. In doing so, he looks at how descriptors can determine what they include in their description and at the impact of audio description on the cognitive load of the target audience. He has also worked as a professional audio writer for film and television for more than ten years. Based on the theoretical knowledge from his research and the practical experience as a descriptor, he regularly gives lectures and workshops for academics and the professional field.

Jorinde Bosma (Will & Agency)



Jorinde is a cultural analyst and consultant at Will & Agency, where she specializes in research and analysis to help filmmakers connect with their audiences on a deeper level. Since 2021, Will & Agency has supported over 70 projects in 9 countries, working with creatives in film, TV, streaming, gaming, museums, theatres, and sports. Through AI-backed anthropological research, Jorinde helps filmmakers explore and improve audience engagement, focusing on films for both children and adults across Europe, and providing insights to build and engage audiences of all ages effectively.

Anne Schultka (Kids Regio Forum)



Anne Schultka, 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.

Elisabeth Wenk (Kids Regio Forum)



Elisabeth Wenk is a film enthusiast and cultural anthropologist. With a passion for film festivals and high quality content for young audiences, she currently holds the position of CEO of the German Children's Media Foundation GOLDEN SPARROW and acts as Festival CEO of the German Children's Media Festival GOLDEN SPARROW. Her work focuses on the cultural relevance of the audiovisual sector, especially in the field of children's media. With a strong belief in supporting the next generation of decision-makers by providing them with a diverse and relevant spectrum of audiovisual media created specifically for their needs, she takes the privilege of speaking for them seriously and wants to give a voice to those who are often underrepresented. Elisabeth has experience in various aspects of the media industry including production, distribution, film festival work and organizing industry events.

Natalie Haspeslagh (Script doctor)



Natalie Haspeslagh (° 1968) studied film at RITCS in Brussels, but mainly focused on writing television scripts and youth theater pieces such as 'Mundus Novus', 'Dawn & Dagobert', 'Onderweg', "Het hart van Don Quichot", 'Odyssey', 'William', 'B L G E (ceci n'est pas un pays)'... She wrote storylines for the Thuis series for 22 years and in between wrote for series such as 'De Vijfhoek', 'Vriendinnen', 'Dertigers'; and the documentaries 'Later Als Ik Groot Ben' (youth documentary) and 'Kazungu, le métis' (dramatic documentary). A nice collaboration with Vanya Wellens (Femke in Thuis) led to the theater monologue 'MonaLoog' and after the corona period she followed her desire to write theater again for adults such as 'Fanny & Hilarius', 'What Blijft', 'IJstijd' and 'Kunnen we elkaar een beetje graag zien'...

Bulle Decarpentries (Script doctor)



Bulle Decarpentries was born, lives and works in Brussels as a scriptwriter and script-doctor. She graduated from INSAS in 2009. Bulle collaborates with many Belgian directors such as Nabil Ben Yadir, Joachim Lafosse, Manu Payet, Adil and Bilal, Emmanuelle Nicot to name a few. The diversity of their sensibilities broadens the author's register, allowing her to move from drama to comedy with ease. She has been a member of the FWB's Film Centre for several years.

Markéta Pášmová (Zlín Film Festival, artistic director)



Markéta Pášmová started working at the Zlín Film Festival in 1999 and became its artistic director in 2013. She focuses on European cinema for young audiences and is active in educational programmes for children and youth. She is a member of the board of directors of the FILMTALENT ZLÍN foundation, which supports young talented filmmakers from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Markéta Pášmová is also the head of Zlín Industry Days – a programme for film professionals.

Amélia Nanni (Work-in-progress)



With the project: Au Bord du Monde/At the Edge of the World- Fiction

Glenn Dumortier & Steven D'Hoedt (Work-in-progress)



With the project: Monstertje/Little Monster - Documentary

Veerle Appelmans & Rudi Mertens (Work-in-progress)



With the project: De Omgekeerde Rivier/Upside Down River - Animation

Geert Genbrugge & Alizé Loumaye (Speeddate: Meet the Organisations, Mediarte)



Noël Magis (Speeddate: Meet the Organisations, Screen Brussels)



Michael-John Joosen & Tara Beutels (Speeddate: Meet the Organisations, Amplo)

