

EUROPEAN WORK IN PROGRESS ● COLOGNE

Oct. 14-16, 2019

European Work In Progress Cologne 2019: This year's international board of jury

Four high-class representatives of the film industry will convene to decide on this year's award winners of **European Work in Progress Cologne** (EWIP). With **Lili Hinstin**, who currently accomplishes her first edition as the new Artistic Director of the Locarno Film Festival, **Margrit Stärk** the Director of Acquisitions for Feature Films at ZDF Enterprises, **Sabina Kodra**, the co-founder of the Albanian film production company ERAFILM as well as **Yohann Comte**, Sales Agent and co-founder of the world sales agency Charades in France, an excellent board of jury could be won over.

Until August 15, 2019 it is still possible to submit for European Work in Progress Cologne. More than 100 projects from 34 countries have been submitted so far. The jury will acknowledge the winners with prizes worth around 45.000 EUR including post-production services as well as international festival publicity. Award Sponsors are ARRI Media, K13-Studios, Eclair, LAVA Labs Moving Images and ZOOM Medienfabrik.

"Particularly in times of a rapidly changing market environment and the fast progressing digitalization, platforms like European Work in Progress Cologne are of significant importance. Because, what could be more elevating than the intersectoral networking and exchange? Especially strengthening the work of female directors and producers is very dear to me, as European cinema needs the daring and artistic input of women" says jury member **Margrit Stärk**.

Leopold Grün, Managing Director of AG Verleih, adds: "I am very pleased that we once again succeeded to assemble a distinguished jury for our next edition of European Work in Progress Cologne: With the new Artistic Director of the Locarno Film Festival, the co-founder of a French world sales company, an experienced veteran acquisitions and co-production executive as well as an internationally acclaimed producer, we not only managed to gather those whom we appreciate and value in their pivotal roles within the industry, but also precisely those, who represent EWIP's conception of giving a new impetus to the European arthouse cinema."



Lili Hinstin



Margrit Stärk



Sabina Kodra



Yohann Comte

Lili Hinstin is the new Artistic Director of the Locarno Film Festival, succeeding Carlo Chatrian in December 2018. Before, she worked as Artistic Director of the International Film Festival Entrevues Belfort in France since 2013. From 2011 to 2013 she was the Deputy Artistic Director of the Paris-based international documentary film festival Cinéma du Réel. From 2005 to 2009 she was responsible for the film-related activities of the Academy of France in Rome and has founded the production company Les Films du Saut du Tigre in 2001.

Margrit Stärk is the Director of Acquisitions for Feature Films at ZDF Enterprises. Since 1995 she is responsible for fictional acquisitions, pre-buys and international co-productions for ZDF. She has built long-term business relationships with producers, distributors and world sales companies in all major territories. In 2001 she received the Telly Award as Executive Producer for "Rock the Boat". 2015 she

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founded the SI STAR Award for Female Directors, was a jury member in 2016 and the speaker of the Jury in 2018. In the same year, she was also a jury member for the International Emmy Awards.

Sabina Kodra co-founded the film production company ERAFILM in 2001 after graduating from the Academy of Arts in Tirana with a degree in theater direction. She has filled numerous roles from line producer to assistant director on various Albanian and international co-productions. She produced, among others, the feature films "Agon" (2012) by Robert Budina and "Bota" (2015) by Iris Elezi and Thomas Logoreci, both of which were the Albanian nominees in the race for the Academy Award Best Foreign Language Film. Her recent production "A Shelter Among the Clouds" by Robert Budina (2018) is currently successfully traveling the festival circuit. In 2018, she also founded the association Albanian Woman in Audiovisual (AWA) with the goal of strengthening women's potential in the Albanian audiovisual environment.

Yohann Comte is the co-founder of the French world sales company Charades since 2017. The sales portfolio includes films such as "I Lost My Body" by Jérémy Chaplin, the winner of the Semaine de la Critique in Cannes 2019, as well as "Leto" by Kirill Serebrennikov, which premiered in the competition of the Festival de Cannes in 2018. From 2010 to 2016, he was Deputy Head of International Sales at Gaumont. In 2009 he became Vice President of International Sales at EuropaCorp. Prior to that, he was Head of International Sales for Companies ARP Sélection and Roissy Films.

European Work in Progress Cologne 2019 will take place from October 14-16, 2019 during the **Film Festival Cologne**. It is an industry event for European films and co-productions with high-quality appeal and crossover market potential.

It is mainly supported by the **Film- und Medienstiftung NRW**, one of Europe's leading film funding institutions, and hosted by **AG Verleih**, the association of German independent film distributors.

European Work In Progress Cologne (EWIP) seeks to elevate European films that are in production or postproduction by opening up opportunities to match your project with world sales, financing or distribution partners and festivals.

In addition to one-to-one meetings, EWIP offers a supporting programme consisting of moderated panels in collaboration with Creative Europe Desks Germany and EAVE, evening events and the Award Ceremony for the best projects.

For more information, please visit the website: www.european-work-in-progress.eu.

Please do not hesitate to contact the team or the press agency with all your enquiries.

CONTACT:

Hen-Suk Jung
Eventmanagement EWIP
e-mail: jung@european-work-in-progress.eu

Leopold Grün
Managing Director AG Verleih
e-mail: contact@european-work-in-progress.eu

Erna Kiefer
Film- und Medienstiftung NRW

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e-mail: ernakiefer@filmstiftung.de

PRESS ENQUIRIES

ZOOM Medienfabrik GmbH

Felix Neunzerling & Lena Siegel

Suarezstraße 62 | 14057 Berlin

e-mail: office@zoommedienfabrik.de | phone: +49 30 3150 6868

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