

# 37. FILMFEST DRESDEN 2025 - BIG NAMES, SMALL TALKS

---

For two hours, our “big names” are going to answer questions and discuss issues. In our speed-dating event, you have an opportunity to get to know and make contacts with important players from the short film scene, including commissioning editors, festival organisers, producers and representatives from film funding bodies. The only challenge: You have to keep it short – just 10 minutes are available for each of the personal discussions.

Please register by email for the event with details of your desired discussion partner by 11 April to [events@filmfest-dresden.de](mailto:events@filmfest-dresden.de).



## MARGOT AMADEI

is a film festival programmer based in Europe. She started out programming short films at the Rome Independent Film Festival. She then worked in distribution with the French company Épicentre Films, releasing international feature films such as *Wolf and Dog* by Cláudia Varejaõ and *When the Waves are Gone* by Lav Diaz.

Since 2024, she's been part of the selection committee for short and feature films at Film Fest Gent in Belgium. Since the same year, she has also worked in Lithuania as a programmer and head of short films at the Vilnius Film Festival Kino Pavasaris. Margot studied Political Sciences at Sciences Po Aix and obtained her Master's degree in Cultural Management with her thesis, 'LGBTQ+ film festivals, between politics and aesthetics'.



## SOFIA TOCAR

is a film distributor specializing in festival distribution and sales strategies for auteur-driven fiction and documentary films at Square Eyes, a Vienna-based agency dedicated to bold, non-mainstream cinema. Originally from Moldova and now based in Prague, she recently joined Square Eyes, where she oversees short films. Previously, she worked at the Institute of Documentary Film in

Prague, managing the East Silver Caravan project, which supported the festival distribution of Central and Eastern European documentaries, as well as the East Doc Market, a key networking platform within the East Doc Platform.

With a background in art history, Sofia also works as a curator and co-creator of craftivist and activist projects.



## SARAH DOMBRINK

is Acquisition Manager for interfilm's sales & distribution and she's a member of INTERFILM's Festival Curatorium – the artistic directorial team – and a curator.

Established in 1999, interfilm's internationally operating short film sales and distribution agency offers a selected catalog of outstanding short films to cinemas, TV, internet, educational and other

media worldwide. interfilm Berlin hosts the Academy Award® qualifying INTERFILM Berlin ISFF and the KUKI Young Short Film Festival.



## LAURENCE RILLY

was born in Angers (France) and studied translation in Austria and France. She worked in various Film-Festivals, as well as for the European Union. Her professional journey began in 1997 as a manager of online projects at Franco-German cultural broadcast ARTE. Key aspects in her work were development of new formats in the fields of new media, experimental TV and underground-culture. She is since 2015 the program officer of “Kurzschluss” – a short film magazine broadcasted every Saturday evening on ARTE – and promotes furthermore the search for new ideas and formats.

## BIG NAMES, SMALL TALKS



### KATRIN KÜCHLER

studied media and communication science at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena and „meedia en cultuur“ at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. After her studies, Katrin Küchler worked for Berlinale Shorts under the artistic direction of Maïke Mia Höhne at the time. From 2006 on, Katrin Küchler's involvement with FILMFEST DRESDEN international short film festival started and between 2011 and 2017 she functioned as its co-director (artistic direction). From 2017 on, Katrin Küchler got involved with MDR and by 2018 took on the editorial leadership of the short film programme „unicato“ at television broadcaster MDR - commissioned by television broadcaster ARD. From 2025 on, Katrin Küchler in the name of MDR and vicariously also in the name of ARD takes on editorial charge of the arte short film programme „Kurzschluss“ as well. Katrin Küchler regularly acts in various juries and work groups.



### GABRIELE BRUNNENMEYER

is a script mentor, pitching coach and project consultant. She ran the MEDIA Antenna Berlin-Brandenburg, worked for Kuratorium Junger Deutscher Film in the area of young talent support and has developed industry events including Connecting Cottbus, the IDM Film Conference Incontri and MDM's Meet Your Neighbour in Leipzig. Alongside consulting on script development, packaging, and pitching for individual projects, she consults for several European Training Programs as HerArts FilmLab, Midpoint Feature Launch, Midpoint Shorts, Cutting Edge Talent Camp, Baltic Pitching Forum, Euro Connection Clermont- Ferrand, Cannes SFC, AKM, Berlinale Talents & Sarajevo Talents and many others.



### OANA GHERA

is the Artistic Director of the Bucharest International Experimental Film Festival (BIEFF) since 2020 and the Industry Coordinator of the European Short Pitch (starting with the 2023-2024 edition). She also collaborates with Go Short and Vienna Shorts as a member of their pre-selection committees and she participates in the curation of the market catalogue of SFC | Rendez-vous Industry, in the context of the Cannes Film Festival. Previously, she was a co-programmer for the Next International Film Festival (2016 – 2019) and has collaborated with and coordinated various cultural projects and film education programs in Romania (2014-2024).



### MIRJA FREHSE

graduated in Film- and TV-Production at the Filmuniversity Babelsberg. After working as Marketing-Manager at the Berlin based X Verleih AG she worked as executive producer for Novotny & Novotny Filmproduktion in Vienna focused on international co-productions. Following her work as consultant for national and international financing for several German and Austrian production companies she started working as Senior funding consultant for the Creative Europe MEDIA Desk Berlin-Brandenburg in 2007. She is specialized in international financing for European audiovisual projects and their distribution. The Creative Europe Desks are contact points for media professionals in Europe offering information and networking events to support international cooperation amongst professionals. As part of such activities Mirja is often present at festivals and markets or audiovisual trainings in Europe, the European children's film as well as young talents are very close to her heart.