



**41. Kurzfilm  
Festival Hamburg  
3.–8. Juni 2025**

# 2. FILM SCHOOL DAY

AT 41. KURZFILMFESTIVAL HAMBURG

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO THE  
2. FILM SCHOOL DAY ON THURSDAY, JUNE 5,  
AT THE 41TH EDITION OF KURZFILM FESTIVAL HAMBURG  
IN COOPERATION MOIN FILMFÖRDERUNG HAMBURG  
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN AND SUPPORTED BY THE  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE. ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE  
NEW CINEMA "SAAL" ON THE "POST" FESTIVAL  
GROUNDS.

# TIMETABLE

10:00 OPENING

10:05 İLKER ÇATAK ABOUT PROFESSIONALIZATION

10:35 FILM ACADEMIES IN FOCUS

11:50 KIMO NATIONAL FILM SCHOOL: BALTIC CINEMA

12:50 LUNCH BREAK

13:50 WORKSHOP PRESENTATION: »PITCH, PLEASE! –  
FROM STORY TO SCREEN«

15:00 TABLE TALK: YOUR DIRECT LINE TO THE INDUSTRY

16:30 APERÓ CLOSING

20:00 OPEN SCREEN SESSION



10:05

## İLKER ÇATAK ABOUT PROFESSIONALIZATION

Transitioning from studying to working as a freelance artist rarely works out in a straightforward manner. There are often uncertainties, questions, as well as opportunities, between training and career. Director İlker Çatak talks to presenter Jing Haase about his path into the film industry—from his studies at the Hamburg Media School to early festival successes, such as at the Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg, to international recognition. His feature film *The Teachers' Lounge* was nominated for an Oscar for Best International Film in 2024.

In this interview, he provides personal insights into the decisions, hurdles and turning points that have shaped him. What do young filmmakers really need to get started? What structures help and where does the industry's responsibility lie?


A conversation about professionalism, perseverance and staying power in filmmaking—for anyone who wants to take the leap from training to freelance work.

 Invited by MOIN Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein

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10:35

## FILM ACADEMIES IN FOCUS


 As part of the Film School Day, the five partner universities of the Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg will present a compact overview of their profiles, main areas of study and talent promotion. In conversation with Jing Haase, they will address central questions of the respective universities in comparison.

Representatives of the universities will provide insights into their respective educational concepts, accompanied by selected short films and project excerpts.

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11:50

## KIMO NATIONAL FILM SCHOOL: BALTIC CINEMA

 This year's School of Honor introduces itself: The study coordinator Dovilė Lapinskaitė and student Paulius Jusevičius provide insights into the training model, everyday life and special features of the Lithuanian film school in a discussion. The school will then present a selection of current works by its students. The films reflect KIMO's hands-on training, interdisciplinary collaboration and the fresh perspective of a new generation of European filmmakers.



13:50


## WORKSHOP PRESENTATION: »PITCH, PLEASE! – FROM STORY TO SCREEN«

In the »Pitch, Please!—From Story to Screen« workshop, students worked on developing and presenting their film ideas in order to convincingly convey their content and personal style. Now they are presenting their results: creative pitches that show the diversity and passion of the next generation of filmmakers, from documentary to fictional and hybrid projects.

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15:00

## TABLE TALK: YOUR DIRECT LINE TO THE INDUSTRY



What happens after making the film? What paths are there for distribution, festivals and funding? »Table Talk« brings students and industry representatives together—in the truest sense of the word. In small groups, participants have the opportunity to engage in a direct exchange with experts from distribution, festival strategy, production and the promotion of young talent in four 15-minute slots.


You can find a complete list of all Industry Representatives further down in the document. Please consider in advance who is of interest to you and ideally have a few questions ready so that the exchange can unfold its full potential.

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 16:30

## APERÓ CLOSING




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20:00

## OPEN SCREEN SESSION



As an unofficial finale, the Open Screen Session invites you to discover films together and bring the day to a close. Students have the opportunity to spontaneously bring their own work—whether it's short films, experiments or rough cuts—and present themselves and their work on the big screen.

# LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES INDUSTRY

1. FESTIVAL STRATEGY & DISTRIBUTION.....	4
2. SALES & INTERNATIONAL LICENSING.....	7
3. FUNDING, MENTORING & INDUSTRY ENTRY.....	8
4. INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.....	10
5. GERMAN SHORT FILM – REPRESENTATION & PROMOTION.....	12
6. FILM IN ARTISTIC SPACES.....	12

# 1. FESTIVAL STRATEGY & DISTRIBUTION

## FESTIVAL FORMULA (UK)

FESTIVAL FORMULA helps filmmakers navigate the worldwide festival circuit. With 20+ years of experience, they provide knowledge about the submission process, how to best prepare materials, and how to understand the wider circuit. Using each film's assets, they create bespoke strategies based on budget, quality, and goals.

**Katie Bignell** founded Festival Formula after noticing a gap in filmmakers' knowledge about festivals. She's an active member of the Short Film Conference, the Film Festival Alliance, and a spokesperson featured in The Hollywood Reporter and Screen Daily. She and Ian were co-recipients of the 2024 Pioneering Spirit Award from Heartland Film and also received the Outstanding Contribution to Film award from London Breeze Film Festival.

**Ian Bignell** is a Film Festival Strategist often seen as a guest at festivals globally, offering honest and practical advice. He's spoken at HollyShorts, Heartland, Encounters, Bolton, Norwich, and more, and was also awarded for his contributions to film in 2024.

**You're in the right place with Katie and Ian if you have questions about festival submissions and want to develop a strategy for your film together.**

## TRAVELLING DISTRIBUTION (CANADA)

Since 2007, Travelling Distribution (based in Québec, Canada) is a pioneer in short film distribution and international sales, both in Quebec and internationally. With a catalogue of 200+ hand-picked titles including BROTHERHOOD (Oscar® Nomination), NO CRYING AT THE DINNER TABLE and AN AVOCADO PIT, in addition to collecting hundreds of selections and awards annually at the world's most prestigious festivals, Travelling has made a name for itself in the industry as a key player. Travelling is a breeding ground for talent and new cinematic voices, an ally that allows filmmakers to focus on what they do best... films!

**Tam Dan Vu** holds a BA in Cultural and Media Production Strategies and is a cinephile passionate about connecting film with its audience. She worked with Québec Cinéma and H264 and helped launch Plein(s) Écran(s), the world's first Facebook-based festival. She oversaw social media for Oscar® campaigns of "Fauve", "Marguerite", and "Brotherhood", and worked at Arsenal Contemporary Art Montreal. She joined Travelling in 2020.

**Not sure how to get your short film into international festivals? Wondering how a distributor can help build your visibility and career? Then Tam is exactly the right place for your questions.**

# SALAUD MORISSET (FRANCE/GERMANY)

Salaud Morisset ([sa-lo mo-ri-say]) is an International Distribution & Production company of short and feature films, based in Paris and Berlin. Since its founding in 2007, the company has cultivated a dynamic ecosystem by championing emerging talents like Ladj Ly and Molly Manning Walker, while collaborating with esteemed directors such as Yorgos Lanthimos, Jonathan Glazer, and Wim Wenders. Dedicated to the emergence of new talents, Salaud Morisset carefully selects a limited number of films annually, ensuring focused attention and significant impact. The company takes pride in promoting bold and distinctive narratives that resonate globally and achieve international recognition. In 2024, Salaud Morisset represents Mahdi Fleifel's TO A LAND UNKNOWN (Cannes Directors' Fortnight) and Damian Kocur's UNDER THE VOLCANO (TIFF), Poland's official submission for the 97th Oscars®.

**Grégoire Féron** is a Berlin-based French distributor specializing in short film festivals. Since 2023, he's worked at Salaud Morisset, handling award-winning films that premiered at Cannes, Berlin, and Locarno. Previously, he worked for Series Mania, the Ukrainian Film Festival Berlin, and ZEBRA Poetry Film Festival. He holds a Master's in Cultural Management from Sciences Po Lille.

**You want to learn how to pitch your short or feature film to a boutique distributor that prioritizes strong artistic vision over mass appeal? Then this is where you should be!**

## VIDEO POWER (NETHERLANDS)

VIDEO POWER is an audiovisual platform based in Maastricht. Founded in 2013, it sees itself as a creative sparring partner for filmmakers in both production and distribution. The focus is on works that, despite their diversity, share a willingness to go beyond conventional narrative forms in order to express a unique personal perspective.

**Jade Wiseman** is a distributor, curator, and festival producer originally from Montréal, now based in Amsterdam. She worked with Vidéographe (CAN), IDFA (NL), and now coordinates sales for Video Power (NL).

**Do you have questions about the production and distribution of your films and need support from brainstorming to distribution? Then Jade from Video Power is your ideal partner.**



# KURZFILM AGENTUR HAMBURG – KURZFILM VERLEIH

Since 1994, the Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg has been operating a commercial distribution service for short films, whose catalog includes more than 500 German and international short film titles. In addition to supporting films in various genres and lengths, the distributor currently offers 15 feature-length short film compilations, including two programs for children aged five and over. Thanks to the work of the distributor, many millions of viewers can enjoy short films in the cinema. This commitment was honored in 1996, 2004 and 2014 with the BKM Distributor Award.

**Anne Jagemann** studied film studies and journalism at the Free University of Berlin and began working in the festival programme department at the Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film in 2011. Since 2015 in the distribution department of the Short Film Agency Hamburg. The Short Film Agency has been distributing short films to cinemas since 1992 - partly as short film programs, but mainly as supporting films in over 100 German arthouse cinemas. Anne Jagemann is intermittently involved in the competition selection for the German Competition of the Hamburg Short Film Festival and on the jury for the annual short film catalogs of the AG Kurzfilm. She often finds new films for the distribution catalog at international festivals and among the submissions to the Hamburg Short Film Festival.



**Mara Marxsen** belongs to the distribution team of the Short Film Agency Hamburg. Since 2011, Mara has supported the Hamburg Short Film Festival in various functions, for instance as curator of programs about disco, pleasure, or sex work. She studied "Preservation and Presentation of the Moving Image" at the University of Amsterdam, was research associate at the University of Hamburg, and co-authored the monograph *The Literariness of Media Art* (Routledge, 2019). In 2024, she completed her doctorate on the willful poetics of Sadie Benning, Sarah Jacobson, and Jennifer Reeder.






## 2. SALES & INTERNATIONAL LICENSING


### KURZFILM AGENTUR HAMBURG – KURZFILM SALES

Since the mid-1990s, the Sales department of Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg has been licensing usage rights of short films worldwide, with a catalogue currently comprising about 200 international short films of all genres and subject areas. Every year, around 15 new high-quality and topical shorts are added. In addition to the current catalogue, Kurzfilm Sales also has access to the in-house short film archive with over 40,000 indexed titles.








**Anna Leimbrinck** completed her Master of Arts in Media and Music in 2014 and has worked at Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg since then, handling international world sales together with Stine Wangler. She is also part of the Triple Axel Competition selection committee at Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg.



**Stine Wangler** studied at Leuphana University and the University of Glamorgan. She wrote her thesis on short films on the internet and has worked at Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg since 2012, specializing in distribution and license acquisition. She was a long-standing member of the German Competition selection committee at the Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg and is also a photographer.



**You're wondering what realistic distribution opportunities exist beyond festival participation, or what the path from production to licensing looks like? Which markets might be relevant for you and your project? Then you should definitely talk to Anna and Stine from Kurzfilm Sales.**



### 3. FUNDING, MENTORING & INDUSTRY ENTRY

## YTF – YOUNG TALENT FOUNDATION BERLIN

The YTF Young Talent Foundation Berlin (YTF Berlin) is a non-profit organization founded in 2022. It supports emerging film talent in Germany—regardless of nationality—through funding and mentorship. YTF Berlin focuses on student and independent filmmakers, particularly those working on passion projects without sufficient funding. In close collaboration with film schools and young creatives, the foundation offers both financial and professional guidance. In addition to direct project support, YTF Berlin awards advancement prizes and participates in scholarship programs to enable outstanding students to join selected initiatives in Germany and abroad. Since its founding, YTF Berlin has supported 30 short films, 6 feature films, 20 scholarships, and 10 film awards.

**Armin Schneider** Founder and managing director of YTF Berlin, Armin Schneider spent over 30 years in the international film industry, including 20 years as Head of European Publicity for Warner Bros. He was involved in campaigns for directors like Stanley Kubrick and Christopher Nolan, and the entire "Harry Potter" series. Since 2017, he has focused on supporting young talent.

**You should talk to Armin if you want to know how to access scholarships and project funding, if you're looking for mentoring support, or if you're wondering what makes a strong funding application.**

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## STUDIO HAMBURG PRODUCTION GROUP

STUDIO HAMBURG PRODUCTION GROUP, with over 30 years of experience and continuous growth, is one of the market leaders in the film and television industry. As a production holding company, it operates through thirteen independent subsidiaries at six locations, enabling the realization of outstanding fiction and non-fiction projects, as well as innovative formats for both national and international broadcasters, distributors, platforms, and brand partners. Our portfolio includes classic film and television productions, long-running series, internationally successful high-end cinema and streaming projects, award-winning nature documentaries, journalistic formats, and a wide range of talk, quiz, and award shows.

**Julia Grosch** has worked in the German film industry since 2004, including at Filmfest Hamburg and later MOIN Filmförderung where she coordinated EU media projects. Since 2024, she has worked at Studio Hamburg as Director of Corporate Affairs, with a focus on HR, recruiting, and talent development.

**You want to realize film projects but don't know where to start? Then you're in the right place. Julia Grosch will tell you everything about talent development at Studio Hamburg Production Group.**



# OHNE FALSCH FILM / MOIN "NORDLICHTER"

OHNE FALSCH FILM is interested in films that wonder about something. Films that don't know a simple right and wrong and, when in doubt, opt for doubt. Films that are more curious than cool, more sincere than perfect, more vulnerable than correct.


**Marian Freistühler** is a filmmaker and co-founder of Ohne Falsch Film. He received the German Short Film Award for "Alturas" (dir. Roxana Reiss) and premiered his work internationally. In 2024, his debut series BRÜT was released on NDR.

**If you have questions about newcomer programs like Nordlichter or want to know more about producing a debut feature like BRÜT (2024), talk to Marian Freistühler.**

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## HAMBURG KREATIV GESELLSCHAFT

HAMBURG KREATIV GESELLSCHAFT is a central hub for promoting Hamburg's creative industries across all sectors—film, design, music, games, and more. They offer consultations, workshops, funding, and space.




**Andreas Rautenberger** previously led VUT-Nord and Jazzbüro Hamburg. At Hamburg Kreativ Gesellschaft, he manages the label funding programme, the coach and expert network, and provides individual guidance.

**He is the right person to talk to if you have questions about starting your own business or becoming self-employed, if you're looking for financing options, or if you need guidance on suitable funding opportunities.**

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## MOIN FILMFÖRDERUNG HAMBURG SCHLEWIG-HOLSTEIN

As the regional film fund for Northern Germany, MOIN supports a wide range of audiovisual projects—from feature films and high-end series to XR and short films. The fund aims to promote innovative storytelling and strengthen the regional film industry with tailored financial support and hands-on guidance.



**Stella Flicker** and **Julia Gläsker** are part of the MOIN team focusing on emerging talent and short film. They are your go-to contacts if you have questions about funding opportunities, how to navigate the application process, or how to get your first project off the ground.

**You're in the right place with Stella and Julia if you're working on a short film or looking to enter the industry with the support of one of Germany's most dynamic regional film funds.**

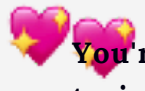


## 4. INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

### CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA – HAMBURG

CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA is the European Union's funding programme for the audiovisual sector, operating under the umbrella of the Creative Europe initiative. Running until the end of 2027, MEDIA has a total budget of €1.4 billion, with a particular focus on promoting transnational collaboration within the European audiovisual industry. Support for short films is available through experienced production companies, which can include a short film in their applications for the development of feature-length fiction or documentary projects. Additionally, MEDIA supports a wide range of training opportunities and international networking initiatives.

**Lisa Emer** has been supporting MEDIA applicants and promoting European audiovisual networking at Creative Europe Desk Hamburg since 2012. She also organizes national and international events and supports professionals with funding and programme guidance.



**You're in the right place with Lisa if you have questions about funding, professional training, or are looking for ways to connect internationally.**

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# T-PORT – ONLINE MARKET FOR STUDENT & SHORT FILMS

T-PORT is an innovative non-profit organisation supported by the Creative Europe MEDIA programme, dedicated to promoting emerging filmmaking talent and facilitating the international circulation of short films. The platform hosts over 2,000 titles from student and independent filmmakers, including numerous award-winning shorts and festival-selected projects. With a network of leading film schools, festivals, and national promotion bodies, T-Port helps bridge the gap between education and industry. The platform regularly engages with key international festivals and markets to amplify the visibility of new talent.

**Amos Geva** is a Berlin-based producer born in Israel, co-founder and Managing Director of T-Port Germany e.V. He produces documentaries and is an alumnus of Berlinale Talents and Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris. He also sits on festival and fund selection committees and is a member of the European Film Academy.

**If you're looking to understand how to increase the visibility of your short film, access festivals through industry platforms, and position yourself as an emerging filmmaker in a competitive market, Amos is the right person to talk to.**

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## DOHA FILM INSTITUTE (QATAR)

Doha Film Institute (DFI) is a non-profit organization supporting bold storytelling through funding, training, and mentorship. While focused on the MENA region, many of its programmes—like year-round workshops, labs, and the prestigious Qumra industry event—are open internationally. DFI also hosts the Doha Film Festival, featuring global competition sections and strong industry presence. Whether you're developing your first feature or seeking post-production support, DFI offers resources to help filmmakers grow and connect globally.



**Ania Wójtowicz** is a Polish-American producer and filmmaker based in Qatar. Since 2015, she has coordinated film training and manages the Qumra Shorts Programme at DFI, supporting the production of over 50 short films. Her own work spans creative documentaries and video installations showcased internationally. As a mentor and juror, she is the right person to talk to if you're applying for workshops or grants, working on your debut project, or seeking insights into the short film industry.

**If you'd like to learn more about the process of applying to workshops, grants and festivals, you're developing your first feature or series project, or you have general questions about the short film industry, Ania is the perfect person to talk to!**




## 5. GERMAN SHORT FILM – REPRESENTATION & PROMOTION

### GERMAN SHORT FILM ASSOCIATION (AG KURZFILM)

Nationwide organization representing the interests of German short film; Members: film festivals, film schools, short film distribution and sales companies, film and cinema industry institutions; Objective: to improve the public perception of German short films at home and abroad; Service center for short film makers and institutions; Contact for politics, the film industry, cinemas and film festivals; Credo: Short film is an independent, innovative medium and artistic form of expression.

**Jana Cernik** has worked for film archives, festivals, and as a journalist. She founded the Czech Film Center and has led AG Kurzfilm since 2013, focusing on advocacy and film policy.

**Jutta Wille** has worked at AG Kurzfilm since 2003, overseeing festival markets and publications. She's been on various festival juries and also works for Filmfest Dresden.


 **You're in the right place if you have questions about distributing your (German) short films at festivals, how to fund and finance them.**



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## 6. FILM IN ARTISTIC SPACES

### GALERIE MELIKE BILIR (HAMBURG)

**Melike Bilir** is the founder and curator of Galerie Melike Bilir in Hamburg, a 2025 scholarship holder in the Cultural Leadership Program of the HfMT Hamburg, co-researcher in the dialoguing@rts project at the Institute for European Ethnomusicology at the University of Cologne and active at the Fleetstreet Theater Hamburg. Galerie Melike Bilir is a curatorial experimental field for contemporary art and performance. At Hajasom, she is involved in the artistic direction of transdisciplinary formats.

 **Are you wondering how films get into museums and galleries and whether this is not the place where you see your works? Then Melike Bilir is your contact person for the Table Talks.**



# HOW TO GET THERE

The Film School Day will take place on the Festival Center »Post« Kaltenkircher Platz im Kino Saal.

Das Festivalzentrum »Post« erreicht ihr über den Eingang der Memellandallee (Ecke Augustenburger Straße/Kaltenkirchener Straße)

# ACCREDITATION

Participation in the 2. Film School Day is **free of charge**. However, a **student accreditation allows you to participate in all other events** of Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg. You can find the entire program including the industry events [here](#).

If you signed up for an accreditation, you can get it at the **Infocounter** in the Festival Center. The opening hours of the Infocounter are **Tue., 3. - Sun., 8. June 11 - 20 o'clock**.

# CATERING

We will provide you with water and coffee free of charge during the Film School Day.

Lunch is included for registered classes from HAW, HMS, HBK, HS Flensburg and HFBK only.

# CONTENT NOTES

We use content notes to mark sensitive content in all our film programs. All information on this and the complete content list are available [here](#).

# OPEN SCREEN SESSION

Want to show your film at the Open Screen Session?

Then please submit it by 3:00 PM at the FOH (Front of House) in the Post Hall on a storage device labeled with your name. The film should be an **MP4** or **MOV file using the H.264 codec**, with a resolution of **1920x1080 pixels and stereo sound**.

# OTHER INFORMATION

The Film School Day is all about **professionalization and exchange**. So be open to new contacts. You will not only have the opportunity to network during the discussion rounds, but also over lunch and at the closing drinks - make active use of this opportunity.

In general, we have many programs and a strict timetable. In order to support this and to show respect for the other work, please be punctual and stick to the specified times.

# VALUE STATEMENT

By participating in the Film School Day, you - as well as all those who are accredited for the festival and move around our venues - agree to our value statement. You can find our value statement [here](#).

# CONTACT

Thalia Ristau  
Organization

[thalia.ristau@shortfilm.com](mailto:thalia.ristau@shortfilm.com)