



Locarno Festival  
2-12 | 8 | 2017

\*\*\* INDUSTRY ACADEMY 2017 - PARTICIPANTS' PROFILES \*\*\*



**GIAMPIETRO BALIA**

Giampietro Balia was born in 1986, in Sardinia, Italy. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Media and Communication from IULM University in Milan, as well as a Master in Fine Arts Film Directing from the Baltic Film and Media School in Tallinn, Estonia. Following an internship with Universal Studios in Rome, he acquired hands-on experience in the film industry by directing and producing award-winning short films, TVCs and TV Shows for his own independent production company BumbleBee Films and the Estonian National Television channel Eesti Kanal2. After joining the programming team of the A-class Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival in 2015, he now also works as a film programmer for Cape Town International Film Market & Festival, as consultant on sales/acquisitions for Coccinelle Film Placement and as a film critic, mainly for cineuropa.com.



**EMMA CAVIEZEL**

Emma Caviezel is part of the team who run Draken Film, Göteborg Film Festival's subscription streaming service and the video-on-demand home of arthouse and classic films in Sweden. She started working with film thanks to a UK-based training scheme run by the Independent Cinema Office and Film Distributor's Association amongst others, in the international sales department of Umedia. Having decided that she wanted to work closer to audiences, she took up a position with Glasgow Film Festival, following which experience she joined Draken Film and Göteborg Film Festival. Emma holds a degree in International Relations from the University of Edinburgh. Although originally from Nyon, Switzerland, she has predominantly lived abroad and has been living in Sweden for the past year.



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#### **JOHAN FOGDE DIAS**

Johan Fogde Dias graduated in 2014 from Stockholm University with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in cinema studies. During the course of his studies, he worked with several film festivals in Stockholm and pursued an internship with the Swedish Film Institute. In 2015, he co-founded the Latin American Film Festival – Panoramica, in Stockholm. Since 2016, he's been working as a producer for cinema Zita while working on different cultural projects. In 2017, Johan became a part of the arthouse distribution company Folkets Bio, initiating the Swedish edition of Scope100 as it's project coordinator.



#### **KATERINA DVORAKOVA**

I grew up in a small town in the southern part of the Czech Republic. I started to discover my passion for the world of films and cinema during my teenage years, but I initially didn't see a way I could pursue it professionally. After graduating from high school, I moved to Prague, where I started studying law, but I gradually found a way to follow my heart. Instead of getting a job in a law office I started studying Marketing & PR at the Faculty of Social Sciences and managed to get an internship at Aerofilms, the largest Czech arthouse distribution company.

The internship became a full-time position and I have been with the company for three years now, as a member of the Marketing & PR team, which is basically a dream come true for me. In my free time, I also help out with the Queer Film Festival Mezipatra, the largest showcase of LGBT films in the Czech Republic, where I am a member of the programming team.



#### **EDWARD FROST**

I work as Marketing Manager at the UK-based company Thunderbird Releasing, which sits at the forefront of independent distribution and works across world and arthouse cinema releases. Having been at the company for over a year now, and it being my first role in distribution, it has subjected me to an intensive insight into the inner-workings of the independent climate and the company's relationship both to audiences and within the larger European environment.



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#### **MARIEKE DE MEERLEER**

Marieke De Meerleer graduated from Ghent University with a master's degree in Languages & Literature, with English being her major. During her University training she worked for Kinopolis Ghent and experienced the ins and outs of a movie theatre first hand. Pursuing her cinephile interests she applied for an internship at Remain In Light distribution, where she cooperated on Benelux releases such as "20,000 Days On Earth", "While We're Young" and "Clouds of Sils Maria". This not only proved to be an excellent learning opportunity to acquire experience in the various fields of film distribution, but it also has yielded her a fulltime job as sales and marketing assistant. In November 2015, Marieke joined The

Searchers as their operations manager, only months after the company's launch and oversees day-to-day production and home entertainment sales, and contributes to global release strategies, both theatrical and home entertainment.



#### **RICARDO MONASTIER**

After graduating in Cinema & Audiovisual at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Ricardo completed his studies in Europe at Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris, a post-graduation course organized by La Fémis in France, the Baden Württemberg Film Academy, Germany and at the National Film and Television School. After working for different companies in production and sales departments, Ricardo currently holds the position of Head of International Sales at MPM Film.



#### **VALENTINA NEUMANN**

Valentina Neumann studied at Bocconi University and Copenhagen Business School. She began working in the film industry as an intern for the European Independent Film Festival in Paris, where she worked in different areas like programming, partnerships and creative content creation. Since 2015, Valentina has been working for Alphapanda, a film marketing agency based in London and Berlin, where she handles the marketing, outreach and festivals' presence of independent film



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using traditional and innovative tools. Since September 2015, she has been the community manager for the European Film Awards, covering their social media presence throughout the year and during the ceremony.



#### **EMMA SILHOL**

Emma Silhol was born in Fontainebleau, France in 1992. She graduated from Sciences Po Bordeaux in 2015. After her studies, she moved to Berlin and joined the short film production and distribution company, Salaud Morisset. Now she is working at Films Boutique in the festivals department and as executive assistant to the CEO.



#### **YASMINA TAMER**

I am Yasmina, 36 years old. I have been raised in Morocco and I arrived in France when I was 18 to study Management Sciences and Marketing at Paris Dauphine University. Following my studies, I have spent 10 years working in the International Departments of French Fashion Retail groups. After this first career path I have switched to cinema. I have attended a master's degree course that combined documentary cinema with a social science approach. I also worked for 3 years for several independent cinema production companies, before joining the Memento Films International team, in March 2017, as sales coordinator. I have explored different career paths and the field of independent cinema international sales now makes perfect sense to me, as it pulls together several of my work experiences, skills and interests. I can now

work in an international context, on independent films with international potential, with a reasonable amount of business drive.