



Locarno Festival
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*** INDUSTRY ACADEMY 2017 - SPEAKERS' PROFILES ***

Bobby Allen / MUBI, UK

Bobby Allen has over twenty years of experience in the global film and entertainment business. Currently, he is the VP of Content at MUBI, one of the fastest growing independent VOD platforms in the world, where he is responsible for all programming, content and editorial. He is also leading MUBI's move into theatrical distribution and co-production. Before joining MUBI he was an independent film producer and the VP of Sales & Acquisition at Celluloid Dreams. Prior to that, he was Head of Production at MTV Films Europe, Head of Acquisitions at Film Four and has held senior executive positions in international film sales and acquisitions at companies such as PolyGram Film International, Lionsgate, and Mayfair Entertainment.

More info on [MUBI](#)

Tim League / ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE & NEON, USA

Tim League graduated from Rice University in 1992 with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Art/Art History. After a two-year stint at Shell Oil in Bakersfield, California, Tim left the engineering profession and opened up his first movie theater, the Tejon Theater. When that theater closed after a short run in 1995, he and his wife Karrie loaded a truck with 200 seats, a projector, screen, and speakers and headed to Austin. They founded Alamo Drafthouse in 1997 where, as CEO, League remains committed to providing creative programming and a zero tolerance policy for disruption during the theater experience.

League also co-founded Fantastic Fest, the largest genre film festival in the United States, and NEON, the newest powerhouse in US Film Distribution with titles such as Colossal and The Bad Batch.

More info on [NEON](#) / [ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE](#)



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Robert Walak / Focus Features, UK

Robert Walak is President of Focus Features, one of the most important distribution and production company of specialty films worldwide, premier label of iconic movies from fearless filmmakers. Based in London, Mr. Walak was previously Co-Managing Director of Universal Pictures International Productions, and before, Managing Director Europe/President Production, Acquisitions and Television at The Weinstein Company, where he acquired titles such as Todd Haynes' Carol, Justin Kurzel's Macbeth, Paul King's Paddington, Morten Tyldum's The Imitation Game, and Garth Davis' Lion. Mr. Walak was also executive producer on Tom Harper's epic miniseries War and Peace. He was previously Senior Vice President, Acquisitions & Production at Alliance Films/Momentum Pictures, shepherding projects such as The King's Speech, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, the Twilight franchise, and Steve McQueen's Shame, which he exec-produced. Earlier in his career, he worked in business development at Endemol and was a producer at MTV Europe. Mr. Walak holds a Masters in Film & Television from the University of Amsterdam.

More info on [Focus Feature](#)

Mathias Noschis / Alphapanda, UK / Germany

Mathias Noschis is a film marketing strategist specialised in digital and social media. He is the founder of promotion agency Alphapanda, based in London, Berlin and Warsaw. Mathias has recently worked on fiction projects A Heart of Love (Berlinale '17), The Last Family (Locarno '16) and Orecchie (Venice '16) and documentaries The Trial (Berlinale '17) and Porn To Be Free (IFFR '16). He is also a consultant for Creative Europe MEDIA and a marketing expert and tutor for training organisations such as TorinoFilmLab, FOCAL, the National Film and Television School, Marché du Film de Cannes and IFFR.

More info on [Alphapanda](#)

Pierre Menahem / Still Moving, France

Pierre Menahem started his career in the film industry in 1997, working at Celluloid Dreams as director of sales and acquisitions, supervising the marketing of a catalogue of 200 titles of acclaimed directors (Kitano, Kiarostami, Dardennes, Sokourov, Jia Zhangke, Bellochio, Dumont, Audiard, Ozon...) and attending all principal festival and markets (Sundance, Berlin, Cannes, Tokyo, Filmart HK, Locarno, Venice, Toronto, AFM...). He founded Scalpel Films in 2004 and then created a sales division in production company MPM Film. During this period he served as jury member in several festivals (San Francisco, Jerusalem, Palm Springs, Belfort, Annecy, BAFICI, Holland Film Meeting). As an expert in international sales he participated in many workshops such as Produire au Sud (Bogota, Bangkok,



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Recife, Buenos Aires, Nantes), The Producers Network (Cannes), Mediterranean Films Crossing Borders (San Sebastian, Berlin, Malta), and EAVE. He was a programmer at the Belfort International Film Festival for 4 years and a consultant to the Film Office of the Rotterdam Film Festival. He is currently part of the selection committee of the Hubert Bals Film Fund and Cinemart.

More info on [Still Moving](#)

Lorenzo Fiuzzi / Filmatique, USA

Lorenzo Fiuzzi is originally from Florence, Italy. He is an entrepreneur in spirit and a devoted advocate of the arts. He lives between Rome and New York, where he founded the boutique streaming platform Filmatique in November 2016. He is also the producer of feature film Noble Earth, a portrait of Italy's new lost generation, that was completed in March 2017 and is now entering the festival circuit. Recent production credits also include an immersive fashion video installation for Florentine atelier Loretta Caponi. Lorenzo often collaborates with Italian independent distributor Bunker Hill, theatrically distributing art-house and independent films.

More info on [Filmatique](#)

Janet Pierson / SXSW, USA

Janet Pierson is responsible for the vision, programming, and execution of the SXSW Film Festival and the film-focused content within the SXSW Conference. Before joining SXSW for the 2009 event, Janet spent over 30 years championing independent films and filmmakers in a variety of roles including exhibitor, producer's rep, executive producer, and segment director of the IFC cable TV series Split Screen. She appears in Steve James's Documentary Reel Paradise and Andrew Bujaski's Beeswax. She loved curating In The Dark: Filmmakers Illuminate, Stories From the Film World for The Moth in 2001. Pierson made The Guardian's Film Power 100 list in 2010 and 2013's Indiewire Influencers. She regularly serves on panels and juries for other festivals and agencies including the NEA, ITVS, BFI, and Creative Capital. She is a member of the Austin Film Society Advisory Board and UT Press Advisory Council.

More info on [SXSW](#)

Allison Gardner / Glasgow Film, UK

Allison Gardner is Programme Director at Glasgow Film, which is composed of:



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- Glasgow Film Theatre, a year-round screening programme of the classics of world cinema and contemporary art house films. The GFT's Learning programme aims to teach and cultivate an understanding of the moving image – in all its diversity.
- Glasgow Film Festival, which screens the best of international, Hollywood and Scottish cinema, is the fastest growing film event in the UK. The 2016 edition saw over 41,000 admissions.
- Glasgow Youth Film Festival, presenting outstanding international films and popular workshops geared for families, school groups and young people.
- Glasgow Short Film Festival is Scotland's largest showcase of emerging film talent, an annual competitive event that brings together local and international filmmakers with the Glasgow audience.

Additionally, Allison is a director of CinéFile, a distribution company that releases widely different titles ranging from classic thriller, costume drama, youthful escapism, family comedy, to documentary films.

More info on [Glasgow Film](#)

Roberto Olla / Eurimages, France

Roberto Olla is the Executive Director of Eurimages, the Council of Europe's film fund. A lawyer by training, he holds a Ph.D. in entertainment law from the European University Institute of Florence. Roberto joined Eurimages in January 2002 as a project manager and in 2008 became its Executive Director. Before this, he was a researcher in media law, worked for the MEDIA Programme of the European Union and was a legal adviser on audio-visual matters to the European Commission in Brussels. He contributes his specialised expertise in film production to many European training initiatives in this sector.

More info on [Eurimages](#)

Isabelle Fauvel / Initiative Film, France

After having worked at Flach Film and gathered experience as a producer, Isabelle Fauvel created Initiative Film in 1993, a company exclusively dedicated to film development. Since, she is the privileged partner of writers, directors and producers for all matters of projects and talents development around the following activities: talent scouting, subject research in literature, consulting, story editing and insightful advising during the whole project gestation period. As such, she holds talks regularly in forefront events like the Crossroads forum of Thessaloniki IFF, Sofia Meeting...and within the Toronto International Film Festival, where she is a mentor for Studio and Talent Lab.

She is also a speaker at the Sorbonne University and works as a consultant for MFI (Mediterranean Film Institute), for ACE (Atelier du Cinema Européen) and for a large



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number of Euromed program's formation, including creating training programs on demand, and cinema schools like FAMU in Prague. Isabelle also ventures into the world of edition where she facilitates book adaptations: AdaptLab and now Matchpoint within the TorinoFilmLab for example. She also collaborates with Shoot the Book! in Cannes and Toronto, the crime novel festival Quais du Polar in Lyon and the Toronto International Film Festival through their Studio and Talent Lab programs. Her will is to contribute to the circulation of ideas and talents and to enrich the field of film development. Finally, and since the creation of Initiative Film, Isabelle is a scout for the Jerusalem International Film Lab.

More info on [Initiative Film](#)

Nicholas Kaiser / Memento Films International, France

Nicholas Kaiser, born in Paris in 1981, studied Finance at Dauphine University and Copyright Law at Sorbonne. He started for REZO, as Head of Festivals and Marketing for four years, working with

many prestigious directors (Rohmer, Sokurov, Schlöndorff, Delpy...). Before gradually moving into the development and production side of the industry,

Nicholas joined the sales department of Memento Films International in 2008. He's now COO at MFI. He's the coproducer of Jim Mickle's *We Are What We Are* (Sundance, Cannes' Directors' Fortnight 2013) and recently an Executive Producer on films *Small Crimes*, *Call Me By Your Name* and *Berlin Syndrome*.

More info on [Memento Films International](#)

Beki Probst / Berlinale EFM, Germany

Beki Probst was born in Istanbul and studied law and journalism before joining the daily newspaper *Tercuman* and the weekly newspaper *Hayat*. In 1960, Beki Probst moved to Switzerland where she organized several cultural projects. She then became manager of the Probst-Kinobetriebe. Her commitment to film and cinema soon led her to extend her activities to Europe and beyond.

From 1981 to 1988 she was the Berlin International Film Festival's delegate for Turkey and Greece. In 1985 she organized a tradeshow for the Locarno International Film Festival. She also served on Locarno's Selection Board until 1995.

From 1988 to 2014 she was director of the "Film Fair" of the Berlin International Film Festival. She renamed the section "Film Fair" into European Film Market. Under her management, the European Film Market was established as one of the biggest and most important international film fairs.



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In addition, she was artistic director of the Geneva Festival "Stars de Demain". She has served on the juries of several international film festivals, among them Toronto IFF, Jerusalem FF and San Sebastián IFF. In 1992, Beki Probst was decorated as "Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres" by the French Cultural Minister. Beki Probst is president of the European Film Market since 2014.

More on [European Film Market](#)

Dominique Welinski / DW, France

In 2012, after more than 20 years in the distribution field, Dominique Welinski set up DW, a producing and consulting company.

Dominique has been working as a consultant for development and international strategy for several films and has also been an expert and coach for Produire au Sud (Nantes) since 2012, Fabrique des Cinémas du Monde (French Institute, Cannes), Cannes Market, MEDIA Talent Award Cannes (from 2004 to 2014) and expert for Creative Europe, Focal, and a member of the Open Doors team in Locarno. She's also recently been working as an editing consultant on documentaries and feature films.

Since Summer 2012, she's been setting up, curating and running The Factory, in partnership with the Directors Fortnight in Cannes. Since 2013, The Factory has been promoting talents from Taipei, Nordic countries (Denmark and Finland), Chile, South Africa and Lebanon. The 2018 edition of The Factory will take place in Tunisia. The Factory allows 8 young directors to launch their 1st or 2nd feature films in Cannes with coproduction meetings. After Cannes, some of the short films have been competing in festivals such as Toronto, Tribeca, Sundance, the European Film Awards, the Oscars, Hong Kong, Sidney, FIC Valdivia, Durban and others.

She's developing feature films from Iran, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Kenya and other countries as producer or associate producer.

More on [DW](#)

Anne Delseth / Directors' Fortnight, France

Anne Delseth was born in Switzerland, where she studied journalism and started her career at Fribourg International Film Festival (2000-2009). In 2010, she moved to Paris to start working in world sales and was afterward called by Edouard Waintrop to join Cannes' Directors' Fortnight programming team in 2011. Anne is currently living between France and Switzerland and is also responsible for the Masters in Cinema studies in art schools ECAL in Lausanne and HEAD in Geneva. She is also a



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consultant for Neuchatel International Fantastic Film Fest and for Zurich International Film Festival. She also directs an independent cinema venue in Lausanne, Switzerland.

More on [Directors' Fortnight](#)

Sylvain Auzou / Venice Days, Italy

Sylvain Auzou was born in 1970. He graduated in International Trade, Political Science and Public Law. From 1999 to 2008, he held the position of International Advertising Director for Le Film Français, a professional French review. Meanwhile, from 2005 to 2011, he also worked for International Film Festival Rotterdam as matchmaker at Cinemart. Sylvain founded Rome Film Festival's industry market Business Street in 2006 and served as its director until 2012. From 2011 to 2016, he was the international advisor for Cinema do Brasil's event - Boutique. Sylvain is the co-founder of Venice Days, a side section of Venice International Film Festival, and has been its Vice Director since 2004.

More on [Venice Days](#)

Jenn Murphy / AFI FEST, USA

Jenn Murphy is Senior Programmer for AFI FEST and produces Werner Herzog's Rogue Film School. She has previously worked with the Los Angeles Film Festival, Film Independent Spirit Awards, Sundance Film Festival and the New Orleans Film Society.

More on [AFI FEST](#)

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Marion Klotz / Locarno festival, Switzerland

Marion Klotz was born in France and studied literature and languages in Paris Sorbonne. She worked 6 years at MEMENTO FILMS INTERNATIONAL, Paris based sales company, as head of festivals and non-commercial distribution. She also took part in the acquisition activities of the company and developed in that frame the label ARTSCOPE. Since 2006, Marion is script reader for different institutions and funds in France and abroad such as ARTE and the DOHA FILM INSTITUTE. In 2014, she started to collaborate with LOCARNO FESTIVAL as project manager of the Industry Academy and Industry Academy International programs, and as a member of the selection committee of the Locarno coproduction lab & hub OPEN DOORS until 2016. She has also collaborated with the Rotterdam IFF's CINEMART as a freelance consultant. Marion is now based in Buenos Aires where she works as a



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freelance consultant for producers and directors, and develops with LOCARNO FESTIVAL the Industry Academy International.

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