



**Damir IBRAHIMOVIC**  
Producer

### 11th JULY

Born on July 18, 1965, in Sarajevo, Damir is a graduate of the Faculty of Economics in Sarajevo. He is the producer and Head of the Association of Artists DEBLOKADA.



**Heinz STUSSAK**  
Producer

### OPERATION GREENUP

As Producer and Managing Director Heinz Stussak has produced over 30 national and international productions for cinema and television. As for feature films, he has produced successful co-productions such as LUNA PAPA and BELLA MARTHA, as well as the Austrian feature debuts TOTAL THERAPY and STEP ON IT.

His feature film REVANCHE was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film in 2009. 2012 he produced THE SILENT MOUNTAIN which was sold to 54 countries globally including the USA, China and India.



**Elaine CONSTANTINE**  
Producer

### THE MAN UNRAVELLED

I'm a globally recognised photographer and filmmaker and made my name working for *The Face* magazine in the 90's. I was subsequently commissioned by the *New York Times* & leading fashion publications including French, Italian & US Vogue magazines. I wrote & directed my debut feature, NORTHERN SOUL, based on my experience growing up in the North of England in the 70's. The film was produced independently through my own production company in 2012 and privately financed after being turned down by all public funding bodies. Once complete the film was picked up for distribution by Universal & nominated for both a BAFTA Outstanding Debut and a London Critics' Circle award and was awarded the NME's Best Film award, the latter being an audience vote.

The film made the box office top ten in its opening weekend, despite only having a two-day cinematic window and a very modest advertising budget. I am now in development on my next screenplay. I am entirely self taught in both disciplines.

20. International Screenwriters ' Workshop & Master Class  
26. April - 4. May 2017 Balestrand, Norway

**PRODUCERS, CO-WRITERS AND DIRECTORS**





**Ruth WALDBURGER**  
Producer

## SCHWESTERLEIN

Ruth Waldburger is the owner of the production company Vega Film AG and the distribution company Vega Distribution AG. Vega Film (founded in 1988) is one of the most renowned film production companies in Switzerland, having produced over 80 films, many of which were awarded prizes. Some of them international coproductions, like «Johnny Suede», starring Brad Pitt and directed by Tom DiCillo, which won the Golden Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival in 1991 and «On connaît la chanson» by Alain Resnais (Silver Bear at the Berlinale in 1998) or «Notre musique» by Jean-Luc Godard (Grand Prix FIPRESCI at the San Sebastian Film Festival in 2004). But VEGA also produced numerous Swiss films, among them «La petite chambre», which represented Switzerland at the Oscars in 2010, and was awarded the Quartz for Best fiction film (Swiss Film Award). In 2011, «The Turin Horse» by Béla Tarr was awarded the Jury Grand Prix – Silver Bear in Berlin, and more recently «L'enfant d'en haut» («Sister») by Ursula Meier won the Special Award – Silver Bear. No less than 11 films by Jean-Luc Godard were produced by Ruth Waldburger throughout the years.

In 2003 the Locarno Film Festival awarded Ruth Waldburger with the Raimondo Rezzonico Life Achievement Award for the entirety of her production activities. Besides this main line of activity, Ruth Waldburger founded in 1994 the French film production company Avventura Films SA in Paris. With this company she has produced numerous Franco-Swiss films, including the last three films of Jean-Luc Godard «For Ever Mozart» (1996), «Éloge de l'amour» (2001) and «Notre musique» (2004).

VEGA Distribution was created in 2000 in order to distribute the films from VEGA and on occasion, externally produced films. More than 50 titles have been released under this label. In 2014, VEGA Production was founded in order to strengthen our position in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. This new company is based in Lausanne and deals mainly with French-speaking projects.

Trained as an actress, Stéphanie Chuat created a dozen theatre shows as a stage duo together with Véronique Reymond. They took their first steps towards film by including video in their plays. This led them to write and direct four short films and two documentaries. The duo moved further on by writing and directing their first feature, THE LITTLE BEDROOM, starring major French actor Michel Bouquet, which premiered at the Locarno International Film Festival in 2010. The movie was the Swiss Entry for the Best Foreign Film Language at the Academy Awards 2011. Screened in more than 20 festivals, it received a dozen awards, among them two Swiss Quartz 2011 for Best Film and Best Screenplay. THE LITTLE BEDROOM was released in Switzerland, France, Germany, and USA. In 2014, Stéphanie Chuat and Véronique Reymond wrote and directed *Open Book*, a 6x52 minutes TV series broadcast on Swiss and French Television. The binomial just finished shooting *Ladies*, a TV documentary exploring loneliness of elderly women. They are currently developing a new TV series project, *Toxic*. They are also employed as consultants for TV series in Denmark and Switzerland.



**Stéphanie CHUAT**  
Co-Writer, Director



**Arek GIELNIK**  
Producer

## BLACK MADONNA

Arek Gielnik is producer and managing director of INDI FILM GmbH, responsible for project development, financing and production. Established in Stuttgart, Germany in 2001, INDI FILM GmbH is a documentary and feature film production company with a focus on high quality productions for national and international cinema and TV markets. INDI FILM has received international recognition for its feature length documentaries and feature films such as Neukölln Unlimited (Crystal Bear Berlinale 2010), California City, (nominated for the German Film Critics Award 2016) Democracy (IDFA 2015, nominated for German Film Award 2016) Morris from America (competition Sundance 2016, lead-producer Lichtblick Media), and recently Nellys Adventure (Griphon Award Giffoni 2016). All of the aforementioned have been released in German cinemas.

Arek Gielnik is a graduate in audiovisual media from the University of Media in Stuttgart, participant of the international training and project development programme EAVE 2004, Rotterdam LAB 2005 and Screen Leaders EU. He is a member of the German Film Academy and the European Film Academy.



**Eldar GRIGORIAN**  
Co-Writer

Eldar Grigorian was born 1982 in Riga, Latvia. At the age of 13 his family immigrated to Germany. After receiving his high-school diploma, he began studying „documentary directing“ at the University of Television and Film in Munich. His student shorts received recognition at different film festivals around the world. Together with Tomasz. E. Rudzik he attended the Ekran Programme at the Andrzej Wajda Master School in Warsaw and began his writing career. In 2010 he began working as a script reader and dramaturgical advisor on different feature and short-film projects. IN 2014 he graduated with a script based on Stefan Zweig's „THE ROYAL GAME“. He attended the 27th Script Factory Munich (2015/2016) where he developed the romantic comedy „SUPER-MAN“.



**Zdeněk VIKTORA**  
Producer

## MISS HANOI

Writer, Director, Producer Zdeněk Viktora (born 1976 in Prague, Czech Republic) even in his student years at FAMU (Department of Screenwriting 2000-09), has already won for his screenplays numerous awards: TEARPHONE (Central European Sundance Institute Screenwriting Workshop. HOTEL PRAGUE, (support from the Czech Cinematography Fund. And script (V.O.) won an Award for the most original screenplay at the FAMU festival. His latest feature script, a modern urban musical, RAPORTER (2017) is in production.

He is one of the few Czech filmmakers awarded the prestigious US Fulbright scholarship, which allowed him to study in New York at the Tisch School of the Arts (Department of Dramatic Writing).

In 2014 he wrote and directed the noir-crime feature RALUCA, which won the Best Cinematography Award of the Year and was shown at festivals NOIR FILM FESTIVAL, OSTRAVA KAMERA OKO, FINÁLE PLZEŇ, among others.

Zdeněk is the founder of the production company SCREENPLAY BY s.r.o., which focuses on producing movies based on quality screenplays (even quality genre pictures with a high level of craftsmanship). The company's feature debut was RALUCA (2014). Currently in development is the crime drama MISS HANOI, which received development support from the Czech Cinematography Fund and was selected for BALTIC EVENT CO-PRODUCTION MARKET.



**Maria TSIGKA**  
Producer

## LIFE ON LAIKA

Maria Tsigka was born in Athens. She has a master's degree on Communication & Mass Media from the University of Athens and, following her love for film, she started working in the Greek audiovisual industry in 2001. Since 2009 she is a partner at Argonauts Productions, an Athens based production company. Over the years she has worked on several films, including Greek box office successes, art-house films and international co-productions. Several of the projects she has developed have been presented and awarded in international markets (Sofia Meetings, Cinelink, Crossroads, the Jerusalem Film Lab). In 2010 she graduated the EAVE Producers Workshop and in 2015 she was selected to participate in the prestigious Inside Pictures program.

Maria recently founded, together with producer Markus Halberschmidt, Fiction Park, a production company based in Dusseldorf, dedicated to developing and producing original, high quality fiction film and TV content.



**Christoph MATHIEU**  
Co-Writer

Since 2005, after his studies at the International Filmschool Cologne, Christoph Mathieu works as a screenwriter, journalist and marketing manager. His 3D-Sci-Fi film script „Life on Laika“, which he wrote with Dennis Todorovic, received the Wim Wenders Scholarship in 2015. In 2017 the book series „Lucid“, also written by Christoph Mathieu and Dennis Todorovic, was published by Bastei Lübbe.

Since 2014 Christoph Mathieu works as marketing manager for film distributor Rushlake Media, where he oversees new video-on-demand solutions like Kino on Demand, a service which allows cinemas to present films online. As a freelancer Christoph Mathieu develops marketing strategies and concepts for film- and video-companies including Broadview TV, Tubelounge and Hitchon. He teaches marketing and drama at the Pop Akademie Mannheim.



**Pauli PENTTI**  
Producer

## ME AND MAX

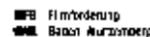
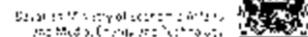
In 1980's and early 1990's Pauli Pentti directed two feature films "Waiting for Darkness" and "Macbeth", produced a feature length documentary "From Russia with Rock" - and worked as 1st assistant director for Aki Kaurismäki, Mika Kaurismäki, Jim Jarmusch and Joseph Vilsmaier altogether ca. in 50 films. 1995-98 worked as a film commissioner for the Centre of Audiovisual Culture in Finland (AVEK - local copyright fund) financing short films and documentaries.

1998-2003 produced 400 TV-commercials and was a partner of Also Starring, the most successful Finnish production company of commercials of all time. 2003-2006 worked as an inhouse producer for Nokia Mobilephones and Multimedia.

Since 2006 he produces for his own company First Floor Productions. He has worked, for example, in Berlin, Stockholm, Rio de Janeiro, London, Paris, Norway, Malta, New York, New Orleans, Texas, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca, Moscow, Prague, Bukarest, Cape Town, Tampa, Miami, New York, Oslo, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Warsaw.



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**Jackie SMITH**  
Producer

## THE MAN UNRAVELLED

Jackie's film career commenced at HSBC Private Bank where she oversaw s.48 and s.42 film tax incentives. She subsequently left HSBC in 2006 and set up her own business development company, Utopia Media. Since then she has worked on numerous films with several blue chip companies including; Canal +, Prescience (*The King's Speech*) and Grosvenor Park. She has overseen £500m of film lending / tax incentives. Jackie also has experience in the UK of dealing with key stakeholders such as the DCMS and with Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. She has historically worked with these government stakeholders to develop the film finance market, the practical impact of tax incentives and the state of the film sector in general. Most recently, she has assisted an Export Accelerator Program funded by the Department of Trade and Industry (in South Africa) with a focus on Job Creation within the Media Sector.

She holds numerous professional qualifications including; a BA Hons in Philosophy and a Post Graduate Diploma in Law. Jackie is well respected in her field and circulates within an esteemed network of industry professionals.



**Markku FLINK**  
Producer

## ME AND MAX

Markku Flink, a producer-writer in Nordic countries since the 1990's. He has created and produced films and tv-series with the Nordic countries, UK, Ireland, Germany, France, Luxemburg, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Latvia. He is a founder of the first regional film fund and film commission in Finland. Markku is an active member of the ACE Producers Network- Ateliers du Cinéma Européen.

Luminoir (est. 2015) is a Helsinki based production company founded to develop and produce international TV series and feature films. Luminoir also provides production services for foreign productions taking place in Finland. Founded by two experienced producers Markku Flink (*Miss Blue Jeans*, *Girls Lost*, *Devil's Bride*) and Pauli Pentti (*Naked harbour*, *Nordic Murder Mystery*). We think that the future of storytelling is not only on the silver screen but in longer stories written for television and other digital platforms. As our slogan goes - brighter the light, deeper the shadow.

