

Open Call for the Belgrade March Debut Workshop 2023

The March Film Festival invites authors and producers who have not made a feature film in their previous work, to the third edition of the workshop for the development of feature, documentary, animated and experimental film projects. An international team of experts will aim to develop the potential of seven selected film projects (from the aspects of direction, production and placement) and provide support for professional affirmation of debutants.

The two best projects chosen by experts, will be awarded with a scholarship for professional development and project development.

Experts

Jovana Nikolić, producer (**Prababa Production, RS**)

Andrijana Stojković, director and producer (**All Inclusive Films, RS**)

Sari Volanen, TV editor (**New Cinema YLE, FI**)

Time and place:

March 30 - April 1, 2023

Belgrade Youth Centre, Belgrade, Serbia

Terms of application

Applications are open to all authors and producers from Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Albania, who have not produced a feature-length film in their previous work, and who submit the following project documents in English: cover page with contact information of the project holder, logline, synopsis, director's note, and biographies of a screenwriter and director with links to previous works.

The working language of the workshop is English.

Registration is free. The application deadline is March 15, 2023.

The selection will be announced no later than March 22, 2023.

Applications are submitted by sending complete documentation to the following email addresses: jovan.pantovic@martovski.rs, jovana.prababa@gmail.com

The festival is able to provide **partial scholarships** (accommodation) for participants of the workshop. Food and transport will be covered by participants. Participants who apply for the scholarship should indicate this in application.

Description of the workshop

Belgrade March Debut Workshop is aimed at debut film projects with international potential of emerging filmmakers. The selected projects are discussed in the group. Every project is the separate case study. Andrijana Stojković discusses projects from the point of the director's approach (visual style, storytelling, sound ...). Jovana Nikolić discusses projects from the point of production (marketing, fundraising, distribution strategy) and moderates sessions. Sari Volanen discusses the film projects from the point of an active decision-maker at European film markets, and also, from the point of TV programming.

Experts

ANDRIJANA STOJKOVIĆ – director (ALL INCLUSIVE FILMS)

Andrijana Stojković holds MA in Film and TV directing at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade. Author of 7 short fiction and 8 short documentary films; 1 feature and 2 mid-length documentary and 1 feature fiction film. Her films were screened and awarded at festivals like IDFA, HotDocs FF, Rotterdam IFF, FidMarseille, Raindance FF, Sofia, IFF, Havana IFF, Krakow FF etc. She established film production company ALL INCLUSIVE FILMS whose special interest lays in films that creatively interweave two film forms – documentaries that impress like fiction films and fiction films that seem like documentaries. She is a founding member of Association for Education in Audiovisual Culture FILMKULTURA. She is a member of Film Artists' Association of Serbia, Serbian Film Directors Guild and DokSerbia - Documentary Filmmakers of Serbia. As the associate professor she teaches documentary filmmaking at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade.

JOVANA NIKOLIĆ – producer (PRABABA PRODUCTION)

Jovana Nikolić is the main producer of documentary films *The Undertaker* (IDFA 2013), *The Caviar Connection* (IDFA 2008) and *National Park* (IDFA 2006). She is a minority co-producer of the first Swiss-Serbian co-production *Real News* (Locarno film Festival 2021). She coproduced with ITVS International (US), Cognito Films (CH) and ARTE ZDF (DE), in association with Channel 4 (GB), SVT (SE), YLE (FI), NRK (NO) etc. Jovana is a founding member of DokSerbia where she served in 2017 as the President of the Board. Holds a PhD from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, with a focus on the management and production of documentary films. An EAVE, EURODOC and Berlinale Talents alumna, and the associate professor at Academy of Arts in Belgrade and Academy of Arts in Banja Luka.

SARI VOLANEN – commissioning editor (YLE)

Sari Volanen is a commissioning editor at YLE (Finish Broadcasting Company). She works at YLE's Co-production department producing mainly short films with Finnish independent filmmakers and producers, and she is in charge of a strand called "New Cinema". As a commissioning editor she was involved in Oscar and European Film Academy nominated films. "New Cinema" is an

open-end strand on Tuesdays at 23.00. The main focus of “New Cinema” is on cinematic, surprising, original, and quirky films. The films in the strand are acquired through co-productions (main producer Finnish), but also prebuys (international) and acquisitions. The latest prebuy from Serbia was the documentary *Speak so I can see you* by Marija Stojnić, premiered at IDFA, and shown in MoMA.