



Sunday January 19

15:30 – 17:00
Library

WEMW 2025 Opening Keynote **Creative Innovation:** **Exploring Challenges** **and Opportunities**

Talk

by Graham Hitchen

(Director of Policy for the UK's Creative Technologies Foresight Lab and Professor in the Institute for Creative Futures at Loughborough University)

Moderated by Tamara Tatishvili

Graham Hitchen will address the current policy focus on innovation and its application in the creative industries. Drawing on examples from the UK and elsewhere, he will highlight the ways in which creative practitioners are responding to the innovation challenge – testing new ways of working, and creating new products and experiences. He will explore how innovation can create space for new ways of working and inspire new creative processes but also its implications for training, organisational development and business models. This engaging discussion will be hosted by industry strategist Tamara Tatishvili and serves as an inspirational prelude to various professional activities planned during WEMW 2025.

17:00 – 18:00
Sala Zodiaco

Marketing for Movies from Development **Stage to Release**

Talk

by Boris Pugnet (Space Odyssey)

in collaboration with [First Cut+](#)

A quick overview on how marketing can help producers and distributors from an early development stage (sometimes even before the script is written) to the release of the movie, to convince financial partners and the audience.

17:00 – 19:00
Sala Imperatore

Last Stop Trieste Screenings

Works in Progress

for sales, distributors & festivals only

Becoming Roosi

My Dad's Lessons

18:00 – 19:30

DAE Confidential

Networking

Chats with wine about documentary film

financing and distribution across the world

in collaboration with the Documentary Association of Europe with Themba Bhebhe, Zeshawn Ali,

Thanos Stavropoulos, Patrizia Mancini

18:00 – 19:30
Sala Tergeste

First Cut+ Screenings

Works in Progress

for sales, distributors & festivals only

WHEN EAST MEETS WEST programme



Sunday January 19

18:30 – 19:00
Sala Zodiaco

Producing Amidst Economic Downturn and War: How Do We Turn Challenges into Opportunities?

Talk

by Kateryna Vyshnevskya
in collaboration with Cold Open Inspirational Lab & MIDPOINT Institute

Kateryna Vyshnevskya, a UK-based Ukrainian producer, hard on the heels of receiving the Honorary Producer Award at Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event, shares her journey producing *Those Who Stayed*, *Moloch* and *Citizens at War*. By overcoming adversity (including filming during the war) and setting up innovative funding strategies, she offers hope and practical insights on how to get things made when the world is falling apart.

20:00 – 21:00
Library

Opening Cocktail
hosted by **Catalan Films**

Networking

Monday January 20

09:30 – 13:00
Sala Tergeste

WEMW 2025 Opening & Co-Production Forum Pitching Session

Pitching

11:00 – 11:30
Library

Coffee Break
co-hosted by Cinecucine

Networking

13:00 – 14:30
Library & Savoia restaurant

Networking Lunch
co-hosted by **Apulia Film Commission**

Networking

The actions to promote and enhance the Puglia brand and the internationalization of Puglia producers within the WEMW initiative are carried out using resources from the POC Puglia 2014/2020 - Axis VI - Action 6.7., intervention "Promuovere il Cinema 2024"

14:30 – 15:00
Sala Zodiaco

Uprooted: An American Perspective on Docuseries
by Avril Speaks (azUspeak Productions)
Presented by Global Media Makers

Talk

Avril Speaks draws from her experience directing and producing the acclaimed series *Uprooted* to explore what makes a great docuseries. She shares key lessons on the pitfalls to avoid, strategies for connecting with audiences—particularly from a U.S. perspective—and her take on the future of the format. With practical examples, this session offers an inspiring and grounded perspective for those interested in navigating the evolving world of docseries storytelling.

WHEN EAST MEETS WEST programme



Monday January 20

15:00 – 16:00
Library

CIRCLE Networking Ring
in collaboration with
CIRCLE Women Doc Accelerator

Networking

15:00 – 18:00
Sala Tergeste

**Co-Production Forum & First Cut+
one-to-one meetings**

Matchmaking

15:00 – 18:15
Sala Imperatore

Last Stop Trieste Screenings
for sales, distributors & festivals only
Home Is Where the Films Are
Divia
Electing Ms Santa

Works in Progress

15:30 – 16:00
Sala Zodiaco

Spotlight IDM Film Commission Südtirol
with Luisa Giuliani and Renate Renzi
(IDM Film Commission Südtirol - Alto Adige)

Talk

The IDM Film Commission South Tyrol invites you to an interactive and stimulating meeting to discover the funding opportunities and initiatives available. Through a quiz, we will present our fund e new project: MASO - Short Film Training Programme. This will be an opportunity to discover, in a concise yet effective way, the main activities that define our work.

16:30 – 17:30
Sala Zodiaco

MIDPOINT Shorts Showcase
Short film projects developed within
MIDPOINT Shorts 2024-2025
in collaboration with MIDPOINT Institute

Pitching

17:00 – 18:00
Library

**Inclusive Co-Productions:
A Roadmap from Development to Release**
in conversation with
Gema Juárez Allen (Gema Films, Argentina),
Karen Harnisch (Film Forge, Canada),
Jennifer Sabbah (Big Sister Production, France),
Amil Shivji (Kijiweni Productions, Tanzania)
Moderated by Tamara Dawit (Gobez Media, Canada)
in collaboration with EAVE Impact Think Tank

Talk

This panel will explore strategies for embedding inclusivity into every stage of the co-production process, from pre-development to release. Drawing on insights from the 2025 EAVE Think Tank, this session provides a practical framework for fostering collaboration and creating ethical co-productions.



Monday January 20

18:00 – 18:30
Sala Zodiaco

Anybody Playing Video Games Here?

Talk

by Thierry Baujard (SpielFabrique) and Mafalda Duarte (Telescope Games) in collaboration with Film x Games Inspirational Lab & SpielFabrique

A short overview of the video Games sector and the opportunities of collaboration within the European independent Games sector (www.spielfabrique.eu). A case study on how to strategically develop games and animation projects within Telescope production company in Potsdam.

18:00 – 19:30

DAE Confidential

Networking

Chats with wine about documentary film financing and distribution across the world in collaboration with Documentary Association of Europe with Carmen Vicencio, Tereza Bóna Keilová, Anne-Laure Negrin

19:30 – 20:00
Library

CIRCLE, ReACT & Italian-Baltic Co-Development Award Ceremony WEMW Green Lottery & Inspirational Gifts

Awards

20:00 – 21:00
Library

A Taste of Cinema: Italian Film Commission Wine Journey co-hosted by the **Italian Film Commissions**

Networking

Tuesday January 21

09:00 – 10:30
Library

Breakfast with CIRCLE | Ethics of Filmmaking: Practices Swept Under the Rug

Networking

with Masa Neskovic (film director & intimacy coordination graduate) and Marija Zidar (documentary filmmaker & researcher) in collaboration with CIRCLE Women Doc Accelerator

In conversation with Masa Neskovic (film director and intimacy coordination graduate) and Marija Zidar (documentary filmmaker & researcher) on changing standards in working with performers and protagonists.



Tuesday January 21

10:00 – 10:30
Sala Zodiaco

How to Share Earth with AI Robots?

Talk

by Maciej Żemojcin (VeriSearch.ai)

in collaboration with

Amazing Intelligence Inspirational Lab & ACE Producers

As Artificial Intelligence becomes integral to our lives, how do we ensure harmonious coexistence with humans? Aligning AI with human values is key, but defining these values is complex. Can machines truly grasp human emotions? Should AI be team members? How will AI's rise influence storytelling and creativity in the film industry? Sharing Earth with AI is both a challenge, shaping our future profoundly.

10:00 – 13:00
Sala Tergeste
Sala San Giusto

Co-Production Forum,
Last Stop Trieste & MIDPOINT Shorts
one-to-one meetings

Matchmaking

10:30 - 13:00
Teatro Miela

This Is IT Screenings

Works in Progress

for sales, distributors & festivals only

11:00 – 12:00
Sala Zodiaco

East & West 2025 | Spotlight on Benelux

Talk

in conversation with

Carole Kremer (Film Fund Luxembourg),

Katrien Maes (Flanders Audiovisual Fund),

Emmanuel Roland (Centre du Cinéma et de l'Audiovisuel de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles),

Ilse Ronteltap (Netherlands Film Fund)

Moderated by Tamara Tatishvili

in cooperation with MEDICI - The Film Funding Journey (organised by FOCAL)

11:00 – 12:00
Library

CIRCLE Networking Ring

Networking

in collaboration with CIRCLE Women

Doc Accelerator

12:00 – 13:00
Sala Zodiaco

East & West 2025 | Spotlight on Baltics

Talk

in conversation with

Dita Rietuma (National Film Centre of Latvia),

Edith Sepp (Estonian Film Institute),

Laimonas Ubavičius (Lithuanian Film Center)

Moderated by Tamara Tatishvili

in cooperation with MEDICI - The Film Funding Journey (organised by FOCAL)

WHEN EAST MEETS WEST programme



Tuesday January 21

13:00 – 14:30

Library & Savoia restaurant

Networking Lunch

co-hosted by

2025 East & West Spotlight Countries

Networking

14:30 – 15:30

Sala Zodiaco

Embracing for Change and Innovation. Towards a Better and Stronger Level Playing Field in the EU AV Landscape

with Niels Alberg (Publikum), Jakob Isak Nielsen (Associate Professor Aarhus University Denmark), Danna Stern (In Transit Productions)

by Creative Europe MEDIA Desks Belgium Flanders, Belgium Wallonia-Brussels, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia.

Talk

Key insights from CresCine report on seven selected small ecosystems as well as six large markets in Europe in particular, will frame the current state of play when it comes to feature film, long form-drama, and AV storytelling. What options do small EU ecosystems have to stay competitive considering the challenges related to domestic and international audiences? As regards to the TV content – how do we focus more on retaining loyal viewers? How the Publikum project can help in understanding and create new audiences?

15:00 – 16:00

Library

Meet the Circle Delegation

Networking

15:00 – 18:00

Sala Tergeste

Co-Production Forum & This Is IT one-to-one meetings

Matchmaking

16:00 – 16:45

Sala Zodiaco

Money for Movies: Equity Financing and Raising Capital

with Mollye Asher and Alix Madigan

Moderated by Caroline Libresco

Presented by Global Media Makers

Talk

Equity financing is a common practice used by independent filmmakers in the U.S. Piquing interest of investors and engaging them as partners requires research, skill, practice and luck! Through their diverse experiences, U.S. producers Mollye Asher, Alix Madigan, and Caroline Libresco provide a 360° view of the equity financing model. Their insight will enlighten those embarking on their next fundraising journey.



Tuesday January 21

17:00 - 18:00
Sala Zodiaco

Pop Up Film Residency Dialogues: A Creative Community

Talk

with Leila Basma (Filmmaker & Pop Up Film Residency alumna), Anna Ciennik (Script Consultant & Screenwriter), Matthieu Darras (Pop Up Film Residency Founder), Antonia Girardi (Pop Up Film Residency Managing Director), Ada Solomon (Producer & Pop Up Film Residency Host) in collaboration with Pop Up Film Residency

Launched at WEMW in 2019, the Pop Up Film Residency is celebrating its 100th residency in January 2025. This is the perfect opportunity to come together in Trieste, and to exchange with members of our growing community (filmmakers, mentors, hosts, etc.) on what has been accomplished and what's ahead - exploring the diverse creative journeys taken by films to come into life. Through its tailor-made residency programs, the Pop Up Film Residency supports filmmakers, and their projects, at various stages of development.

18:00 – 18:30
Library

Going with the Flow

Talk

by Matiss Kaža (Dream Well Studio)
in collaboration with Anima Spirit Inspirational Lab & CEE Animation Workshop

Producer Matiss Kaža will give a presentation on the incredible success story of Latvian/French/Belgian low-budget animation Flow by Gints Zilbalodis, from its conception to distribution and marketing strategies which led the film to receive more than 50 international awards, including the European Film Award and Golden Globe for Best Animated Film.

18:00 – 19:30

DAE Confidential

Networking

Chats with wine about documentary film financing and distribution across the world in collaboration with Documentary Association of Europe with Gaia Furrer, Sarah Dawson, Thomas Rosso, Jessica Kiang

19:30 – 20:00
Library

WEMW Award Ceremony

Awards

20:00 – 21:00
Library

Closing Cocktail

Networking

co-hosted by **Creative Europe MEDIA Desks Belgium Flanders, Belgium Wallonia-Brussels, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia.**



Tuesday January 21

22:30 – 02:00
LOFT

Closing Party

co-hosted by **WEMW & Trieste Film Festival**

Dancing & Singing

Wednesday January 22

12:30 – 13:00

Sala Zodiaco

The Market of Genre Film

Explained in Two Moves

by Céline Dornier (Logical Pictures)

in collaboration with Genre Rules Inspirational Lab &

Fantastic Film Forum of the Trieste Science+Fiction Festival

Talk

Genre films often need to rest more on the market than on public financing. But what are really the options? How can genre films get financed? Céline Dornier, VP of Financing and Acquisitions at Logical Pictures, will provide an insider's look at the genre film industry by comparing two specific examples: The Innocents by Eskil Vogt and Night of the hunted by Franck Khalfoun.

13:00 – 14:30

Library

Inspirational Networking Lunch

co-hosted by **IDM Film Commission Südtirol**

for Inspirational Labs participants only

Networking