

INDUSTRY DAY

12 April 2025

Evropska kuća
Ugao Knez Mihailove i Zmaj Jovine
11000 Beograd

The Austrian Film Festival will be held from April 11 to 13 in Belgrade (Cineplexx Ušće), Niš (Cineplexx Stop Shop), and Novi Sad (Cineplexx Promenada). Screenings will commence simultaneously in all three cities at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. This year's theme, "Mirrors of Reality," delves into questions of identity and self-perception, incorporating a feminist perspective. Snezana van Houwelingen, a film producer and the selector for this edition, has curated six contemporary Austrian films, many of which will premiere in Serbia. These films challenge conventions and shed light on personal and collective struggles. The festival's special guest, renowned Austrian director Jessica Hausner, will inaugurate the event.

10:00-10:00 | registration

10:30-12:00 | panel discussion **Jessica Hausner and Women Directors from Serbia: Mirrors of Reality and the Female Voice in Auteur Cinema**

Participants: Jessica Hausner, Andrijana Stojković, Mina Đukić i Maša Nešković.
Moderator: Bojan Vuletić

12:00-12:45 | brunch

13:00-14:30 | panel discussion **Between Reality and Possibilities: Navigating the Path to European Co-Productions and A Festivals**

Participants: Johannes Schubert, Dragana Jovović i Stefan Ivančić.
Moderator: Snežana van Houwelingen

10:30-12:00



13:00-14:30



REGISTRATION MANDATORY:

The discussions are in English without translation.

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Jessica Hausner and Women Directors from Serbia: Mirrors of Reality and the Female Voice in Auteur Cinema

As part of the Austrian Film Festival Mirrors of Reality, this panel brings together women filmmakers whose works examine how reality shapes cinema, and how cinema, in turn, reflects and reshapes reality. The special guest is Jessica Hausner, one of the most prominent contemporary Austrian directors, known for her distinctive auteur style and feminist perspective. Joining her are Serbian directors Andrijana Stojković, Mina Đukić, and Maša Nešković, who will engage in a conversation about creative freedom, thematic choices, institutional barriers, and one of the key challenges faced by many women filmmakers in Serbia: the long gaps between their first and second films. Why is continuity in filmmaking still a privilege? What does the struggle for equality look like from within the profession itself? In an open and personal dialogue, the directors will share their experiences, dilemmas, and strategies for survival and growth in the auteur film landscape.

The discussion is moderated by filmmaker [Bojan Vuletić](#).

Note: This panel highlights the perspectives of women directors not to generalize, but to recognize and give space to voices that have long been underrepresented in cinema

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Between Reality and Possibilities: Navigating the Path to European Co-Productions and A Festivals

For many authors and producers in Serbia, accessing European funding and premiering at A-list festivals like Berlin, Cannes, or Locarno can seem like a distant and uncertain goal. What does this process entail in practice? What are the initial steps toward successful co-productions? What factors determine a film's selection for these prestigious festivals? This panel delves into the collaborative opportunities between Serbia and Austria—two film industries that, despite sharing thematic and production similarities, have seldom engaged in joint projects. We will explore various cooperation models, institutional support mechanisms, and examine how A-list festivals currently perceive films from small and medium-sized film industries, along with their expectations from filmmakers in these regions. Additionally, we'll discuss how festivals influence visibility, career trajectories, and access to funding. What does the journey from script to major international selection look like from a producer's perspective? Johannes Schubert, Austrian producer and collaborator of Jessica Hausner, Dragana Jovović, one of the leading Serbian producers, and Stefan Ivančić, producer and selector of the Locarno Festival, talk about their experiences, obstacles and strategies.

The panel is moderated by the festival's selector and producer [Snežana van Houwelingen](#).

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Austrijski filmski festival 2025

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MIRRORS OF REALITY



Jessica Hausner

born in Vienna in 1972, is an Austrian film director and screenwriter. She studied directing at the Vienna Film Academy. Her short film "Flora" (1995) was awarded "Leopard of Tomorrow" at the International Film Festival in Locarno. In 1999, she founded the production company coop99 together with Barbara Albert, Antonina Svoboda and Martin Gschlacht. Her first feature film, *Lovely Rita* (2001), was presented in the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival. Hausner returned to Cannes with the psychological thriller *Hotel* (2004). In 2009, the drama "Lourdes" was released, which the audience in Belgrade will have the opportunity to watch. This film tells the story of a woman suffering from multiple sclerosis who suddenly experiences healing at the pilgrimage site of Lourdes. The film celebrated its world premiere in competitive competition at the Venice International Film Festival and was awarded the FIPRESCI award. In "Amour Fou" (2014), Hausner explored the life of German writer Heinrich von Kleist, with the film being screened in the Un Certain Regard series at Cannes. The audience at Cineplexx Ušće will also have the opportunity to see the film "Little Joe" (2019) that delves into the tale of a genetically modified plant designed to induce happiness through its scent, featuring Emily Beecham, who earned the Best Actress award at Cannes for her performance. Hausner's films are distinguished by their deliberate narrative gaps and a focus on female protagonists who, through their ambitions and concealed desires, risk alienating themselves from their social surroundings.

Johannes Schubert

born and raised in Vienna, studied Producing at the National Film and Television School (NFTS) near London and the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF near Berlin. He gained several years of professional experience at the BBC, ITV Studios, and the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF). Johannes has worked on various productions in the fields of fiction, documentary, and animation. The films produced have been showcased at renowned festivals, released internationally, and awarded numerous prizes, including the Student Academy Award, the Grimme Award of the Student Jury, the German Documentary Film Award, and a nomination for the European Film Award. In 2019, Johannes was named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 list. He participated in the EAVE Producers Workshop and was selected in 2022 as Producer on the Move for the Cannes Film Festival. Since 2023, he has been part of ACE Producers. The Austrian is one of the producers of the new Jessica Hausner film, *CLUB ZERO*, which celebrated its world premiere in Competition at the Cannes Film Festival 2023. Johannes Schubert is a member of the Austrian, German, and European Film Academies.

Snezana van Houwelingen

is a film production graduate from the Academy of Arts in Belgrade and has further honed her expertise through renowned programs such as EAVE (2011), EAVE Plus (2021), and ACE (2024). Her recent production credits include *Mother Mara* (Sarajevo Film Festival, 2024), *A Good Wife* by Mirjana Karanović (Sundance, 2016), *Darkling* (Serbia's Oscar entry, 2022), *Bad Blood – Ancestral Sin* (sold to Netflix, 2021), and *Occupied Cinema* (IFFR, 2019). She has also found success in television, producing acclaimed series such as *Morning Changes Everything* (2018) and *Bad Blood* (2021). Her latest production, *Operation Sabre* (2024), distributed by Beta Film, was awarded the Special Interpretation Award for Cast at Canneseries and Best TV Show at the Serial Killer Festival. Snežana teaches Film and TV Production at the Faculty of Media and Communications in Belgrade. She is a member of the European Film Academy (EFA) and an active mentor within the European Women's Audiovisual Network (EWA), where she supports emerging female filmmakers.

Bojan Vuletić

graduated in film and TV directing at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade. He obtained his doctorate at the same Faculty. His first feature film "Practical Guide to Belgrade with Singing and Crying" was premiered in the competition program East of the West at the festival in Karlovy Vary. He won many national and international awards. His film "Requiem for Mrs. J." had its world premiere at the Berlin Festival in 2017 in the Panorama Special program. He won several awards at national and international festivals, was nominated for several EFA awards, as well as for an OSCAR award. He is the creator of the popular TV series "Family", which won three Hearts of Sarajevo in 2021. Screenwriter and director of the series "The Fall", and as a co-screenwriter he collaborated on the series "Children of Evil". As a co-screenwriter, he wrote the screenplays for the feature films: "Strahinja", "Irina", "Love and other crimes" and the omnibus "Lost-Found". He is a member of the Association of Film Directors of Serbia, the European Film Academy and is employed as an associate professor at the Faculty of Media and Communications in Belgrade.

Andrijana Stojković

(b. 1976) 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; 3 feature documentaries and 1 feature fiction. Her films were awarded at numerous prestigious international film festivals like IDFA, HotDocs FF, Rotterdam IFF, FidMarseille, Raindance FF, Sofia IFF, Havana IFF, Krakow FF etc. She founded film production company All Inclusive Films in 2009. One of the founders of Association for Education in Audiovisual Culture "Filmkultura". Andrijana is an Associate professor at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade.

Mina Đukić

directed the multiple award-winning film *DISOBEDIENT* (2014), which, after its world premiere at the Sundance festival and the European premiere at the Rotterdam festival, won 10 awards at over 15 international festivals. In its review, the prestigious Screen magazine called the film "wonderful" and "a lush lyrical story", and especially praised the strong emotions and photography. In addition, Mina has produced the films *TILVA ROŠ* (2010 / Locarno IFF, Sarajevo FF) by Nikola Ležaić, *KAMEN U RUCI* (2017 / Tampere, ACID) by Stefan Ivančić and the short documentary *YUGO, A SHORT AUTOBIOGRAPHY* (2010), which she is also the director of, within the Kiselomete Film House, which she founded. She co-produced the films *THE NEEDLE UNDER PRAGUE* (2016, Sarajevo FF) by Ivan Marinović and *FREEDOM OR DEATH* (2018) by Vladimir Blaževski. She was a co-writer on the short film "Good Enough Panelling" (2013). During 2021, she directed 6 episodes of the series "Mom and Dad are Playing War 2". The series won the Heart of Sarajevo for Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Actor and Actress, and Best Debutant. He is the screenwriter of one story of the "Visit" series called "Požar", and the director of another story called "Plen". For the direction of the story "Prey" she received the award for the best direction of the mini-series at the "Directors of the Region" festival. She directed a number of music videos, some of which were awarded at various festivals. She was born in Sombor in 1982. She lived in Kula until 2001, after which she moved to Belgrade, where she lives now. She graduated from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts, and works as a guest lecturer on the course "DIGITAL FILMMAKING" at the SAE INSTITUTE in Belgrade.

Maša Nešković

graduated in film and television directing at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts and received her doctorate at the Department of Multimedia Arts, University of Arts in Belgrade. She directed short feature films, short and medium length documentaries and the feature film "Asymmetry", which were screened and awarded at international film festivals. In her artistic and professional work, she directed the full-length feature series "My Father's Killers" (season 5), "The Well" (season 1) and "Besa" (season 2), the documentary series "Outside 4 Walls" for VICE television, several music videos, two humanitarian and health campaigns, a pilot for a feature-animated children's series and 3 seasons of a television show program. She has recently been certified as an intimacy coordinator. As a director, she participated in the EAVE, Sarajevo Talent Campus programs, as well as the Circle Women Doc Accelerator and Circle Fiction Orbit workshops. She is currently developing her first feature-length documentary film, "Kafka in Belgrade", as well as her second feature film, "Following the Dots in the Fog".

Dragana Jovović

is a producer active in the field of artistic and experimental films. She produced the feature films "The Load" (2018) by Ognjen Glavonić, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, and "Wind Talk to Me" (2025) by Stefan Đorđević, which premiered at the Rotterdam Film Festival in the Tiger competition selection. She is also the producer of the documentary films *Landscapes of Resistance* (Rotterdam 2021) by Marta Popivoda and *Deep Two* (Berlinale 2016) by Ognjen Glavonić. She graduated in French language and literature at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade and completed an interdisciplinary master's degree in Cultural Management and Cultural Policy in the Balkans at the University of Arts in Belgrade, in cooperation with the University of Lyon 2 in Lyon, France. She is an alumna of the workshop EAVE (2019), Jihlava Emerging Producers (2022), Producers on the Move (2024), and currently participates in the workshop EAVE - Ties That Bind for cooperation between European and Asian producers with the project Let's Forget the Ocean. She is a member of the European Film Academy, ACE and EWA network. Stefan Ivančić is a film director, producer and selector from Belgrade. He completed his undergraduate and master's studies in Film Directing at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts. His short films were screened at a large number of domestic and international festivals, including Cannes, San Sebastian, Rotterdam, FID Marseille, Visions du Réel - Nyon and others. Stefan is the producer of the feature films "The Load" (2018) by Ognjen Glavonić, which premiered at the Cannes Festival, and "Wind, Talk to Me" (2025) by Stefan Đorđević, which had its premiere in the competition program of the Festival in Rotterdam. He is the co-producer of the films "Little Trouble Girls" (Urška Đukić, 2025), "The Melting of Rulers" (Ivan Salatić, 2025), "My Swiss Army" (Luka Popadić, 2024), "Have you seen this woman?" (Dušan Zorić and Matija Gluščević, 2022), "Laurel Elegy" (Dušan Kasalica, 2021) and "Ti imaš noć" (Ivan Salatić, 2018). Stefan works as a selector for the film festival in Locarno and for the Author's Film Festival in Belgrade, and teaches at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade. He is a member of the Film Artists Association of Serbia (UFUS) and the European Film Academy (EFA).

austrijski kulturni forum^{beg}

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