

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE MEDICI TEAM, SPEAKERS AND GUESTS

Tamara Tatishvili – MEDICI Head of Training

Training manager and strategy adviser Tamara Tatishvili has been working in the audiovisual sector since 2002. In 2004, Tamara co-founded the "Independent Filmmakers' Association – South Caucasus" (IFA-SC) and became its executive director. Through the educational and promotional activities of IFA-SC, she built an extensive regional and international network of film professionals. In 2008 and 2009, Tamara was based in London and worked for BOP Consulting, overseeing research, strategy, planning and evaluation for culture, media, digital industries and innovation. From 2010 to 2013, she was the director of the Georgian National Film Center (GNFC). During and after this position, she was the Georgian representative in the European Cinema Support Fund – EURIMAGES – as well as the Georgian representative in the European Film Promotion (EFP). Since 2014, Tamara has been involved in various international film activities, combining several professional roles. She works as a mentor for the international training SOFA – School of Film Advancement; as a festival programmer for Bridges East of West Film Days at BOZAR and as strategy manager for EWA (European Women's Audiovisual Network).

Petri Kemppinen – Consultant, MEDICI Moderator

Petri is an independent film and TV consultant, working internationally with financing and development, policies and training. He has been the creative adviser of Aurora Studios in Helsinki since 2020, participating in building the company's profile and strategy in production and distribution, and will start as its CEO in summer 2021.

Petri has had a background in culture journalism and publishing before he started his film and television career at YLE in the mid-1990s and later served at The Finnish Film Foundation (2005 – 2013) and as the CEO of Nordisk Film & TV Fond (2013 – 2019).

From 2006 to 2013 he was a member of the Eurimages Board of Management. He has also initiated workshops such as Nordic Genre Boost and Nordic Distribution Boost, worked for training organisations like EAVE and has been a board member at the Swedish Film Institute since November 2019.

Themba Bhebhe – Film Industry Programmer, Diversity & Inclusion European Film Market, Berlinale

After having worked for almost a decade in international film sales, Themba is now in charge of the Diversity & Inclusion Initiative of the European Film Market (Berlinale). His work comprises curating and programming a series of events dealing with the market relevance of diversity and inclusion across the EFM's industry platforms. He creates awareness and visibility of D&I for all programmes, actions and promotions of the Berlinale's different entities. Since 2019, Themba has also been the coordinator in charge of implementing new outreach strategies for the NATIVE Indigenous Cinema Stand and the NATIVE Fellows Programme at the EFM. At the 2019 Durban FilmMart, Themba spearheaded Engage @ DFM, a series of curated think tank conversations on the pertinent, challenging and multifaceted questions facing the African film industry.

Themba is one of the founding members of the Programmers of Colour Collective (POC2) that aims at creating a conversation around and working towards a more diverse and inclusive programming pool at international film festivals through research, awareness events, networking, profile raising, mentoring and shadowing.

Arben Zharku – Director of the Kosovo Cinematography Center

Arben is an EAVE graduate producer and actor from Kosovo. Currently he serves as the director of the Kosovo Cinematography Center, the main public film fund and film institution in Kosovo, where he previously also served as the board's president.

Prior to the work with the film fund, Arben directed the SKENA UP Festival for 11 years and managed Qendra Multimedia, one of the most active cultural organisations in Pristina. As the director of the Kosovo Cinematography Center, he is involved in enabling various film productions and building an infrastructure for expanding film production within and with Kosovo. He is a member of the European Film Academy and of the Board of Directors of the European Film Promotion.

Matthijs Wouter Knol – CEO and Director of the European Film Academy

Since 2021, Matthijs Wouter Knol has been at the helm of this historical institution founded in 1989 by Ingmar Bergman, Federico Fellini, Claude Chabrol, István Szabó, Wim Wenders and many other European filmmakers. As CEO and director of the EFA, Matthijs is responsible for all the programming of future activities of the Academy, including brand new audience development and film education projects. The annual European Film Awards are the main event taking place under the aegis of the Academy.

Matthijs has a background as a creative and associate producer in over 30 documentary films in Amsterdam. He worked for IDFA's sales and co-production markets and founded the IDFAcademy programme and its annual Summer School (2007). For 12 years he was part of the senior Berlinale team, first as head of programming of Berlinale Talents (2008 – 2014), then as director of the European Film Market (2014 – 2020).

Kristina Trapp – CEO of the EAVE Training

Kristina Trapp has worked in the international film industry for 20 years, among others at the German regional film fund MFG–Filmförderung Baden–Württemberg, for ARTE, heading the Film Commission Strasbourg, and with the European training programme “Atelier Ludwigsburg Paris”. She joined EAVE in 2004 as programme manager. In 2007, she became deputy CEO and was appointed CEO in 2009.

Kristina has been closely working with several European festivals and production companies in her career. She was part of the documentary commission of the French regional fund Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, she is a member of the European Film Academy and jury member at various co-production markets. She is part of the selection committee of the South Asian Film Financing Forum. She was co-director and board member of ATC, is a board member of EWA Network and a member of the advisory board of the CEE Animation Workshop.

Tobias Pausinger – Head of Acquisitions and Development, The Match Factory

Tobias was trained in international film production and financing in Ludwigsburg, Los Angeles and Rome and holds an MBA of the Technical University of Munich. From 2002 till 2009, he was responsible for the acquisition for international sales at Bavaria Film International and The Match Factory.

Since then, Tobias has continuously advised various film festivals and industry initiatives on content and strategy issues. In 2011, together with Jacobine van der Vloed and others, he co-founded the Art:Film initiative to enhance and nurture highly artistic cinema and visual arts. Furthermore, Tobias lectures at various training initiatives throughout Europe and is a member of the European Film Academy. From 2017 to 2019, Tobias acted as a government adviser for the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media of Germany (BKM) in the Department of International Affairs and Film Economics and served as the German delegate on the Board of Management at Eurimages.

Giorgos Karnavas – Producer & Founder, Heretic

Giorgos studied political sciences at the University of Athens and finance at the Hellenic Management Association while taking courses on scriptwriting. In 1998, he joined Stefi Productions and was the General Manager and Head of Events from 2007 to 2012. During this time, he founded the Synch Festival (European Electronic Music Festival) and promoted shows by artists such as Pet Shop Boys, Antony and the Johnsons, Nine Inch Nails and Róisín Murphy.

Giorgos Karnavas entered film production in 2010 and is a member of ACE, alumni of Inside Pictures, and a member of the European and Greek Film Academies. He was a “Producer on the Move” in 2013. He joined forces with Konstantinos Kontovrakis in order to establish Heretic.

In 2018 he was awarded the Prix Eurimages for best producers at the European Academy Awards.

Ioanna Stais – Head of Sales and Acquisitions, Heretic Outreach

Ioanna joined forces with Greek production company Heretic in 2014 to launch the international sales department of the company, the first international sales agency to be based in south-eastern Europe. As the manager of the department, she oversees international acquisitions and all rights sales worldwide. Previous employers include Wide Management and the Festival of Cannes.

Sonja Heinen – Managing Director of European Film Promotion

Sonja is the Managing Director of EFP, a pan-European network dedicated to the promotion of European movies worldwide.

As head of the Berlinale Co-Production Market for twelve years and project manager of the Berlin-based World Cinema Fund (2003 – 2016), she was a driving force behind the international co-production and funding of films from developing countries. Before joining the Berlinale, she worked as a producer and project coordinator for Gemini Film and International West in Cologne. She started out at the Filmstiftung NRW in Düsseldorf, where she became the assistant to Executive Director Dieter Kosslick and responsible for international contacts, organising the Co-Production Meetings and developing the International Co-Production Market Cologne.

Roberto Olla – Executive Director of the Council of Europe’s Film Fund EURIMAGES

Roberto is 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, he was a researcher in media law, worked for the MEDIA Programme of the European Union and was a legal adviser on audiovisual matters to the European Commission in Brussels. He contributes his specialised expertise in film production to many European training initiatives in the audiovisual sector.

Emilia Roig – Executive Director of the Center for Intersectional Justice (CIJ)

Emilia is the author of the book WHY WE MATTER. DAS ENDE DER UNTERDRÜCKUNG and the founder and executive director of the Center for Intersectional Justice (CIJ), a Berlin-based organisation combatting intersecting forms of inequality and discrimination in Europe.

She is a faculty member of the Social Justice Study Abroad Program of the DePaul University of Chicago and has taught graduate and post-graduate courses on Intersectionality Theory, Postcolonial Studies, Critical Race Theory and International and European Law.

From 2007 to 2010, she worked extensively on human rights issues at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Tanzania and Uganda, at the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Cambodia, and at Amnesty International in Germany.

Joshua Kwesi Aikins – Senior Research Scientist "Advocating for Inclusion", Vielfalt entscheidet – Diversity in Leadership, Citizens for Europe

Joshua accompanies research and consulting projects with a human rights-based, racism-critical approach and, in addition to his methodological skills, contributes his knowledge in the field of open-source solutions to the innovative handling of scientific challenges.

His conceptual and theoretical analyses, as well as the application of innovative methods, ensure the quality of research from a discrimination-critical perspective. Joshua develops various focus groups, simulation games and expert supported formats for the qualitative recording of discrimination dynamics and empowerment strategies in the cultural sector.

Starting from his two years as the coordinator of a parallel report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), he designed several methodological foundations and accompanied the implementation of the collection of anti-discrimination and equality data. He was a co-worker on the study with the title "Vielfalt im Film", the most comprehensive intersectional study on discrimination, diversity and inclusion in the German film industry.

Anna Serner – CEO of the Swedish Film Institute

Anna’s position at the Swedish Film Institute is distinguished by her work for gender equality. She was a driving force behind several initiatives, such as "50/50 by 2020" at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival and the "50/50 by 2020 – Global Reach" seminar at the 2017 Cannes Film Market. In 2018 – with support from the Cannes Film Festival – the Swedish Film Institute arranged "Take Two: Next moves for #MeToo". With a total of five ministers of culture from different countries attending, the event marked a meaningful shift at an international level for equality in the film industry. Anna Serner appeared as a panellist and keynote speaker at several international film festivals, including Gothenburg, Cannes, Berlin, Toronto and EFA (European Film Awards), as well as the World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg (2018) and The Big Screen Symposium in Auckland, NZ (2018).