

INTERNATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTION SUMMIT



PRESS RELEASE

French World Sales CHARADES will receive the Best International Innovation Distribution Award 2025 of the INTERNATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTION SUMMIT

Dear colleagues,

we're happy to announce that French world sales **CHARADES** and its co-founder and chairman Yohann Comte will receive the **Best International Innovation Distribution Award** at this year's **4th International Film Distribution Summit**. The award ceremony will take place in Hamburg on **Wednesday, October 1st 2025**.



Carole Baraton, Yohann Comte, Pierre Mazars founded **CHARADES** in January 2017, following successful tenures as respectively head and VPs of International Sales at Wild Bunch, Gaumont and StudioCanal.

In the years after its founding **CHARADES** has handled international sales on a wide range of acclaimed titles, including: **DIAMANTINO** by Gabriel Abrantes (Nespresso Grand Prize 2018),

N'Wave Studio's 3D animation **THE QUEEN'S CORGI, BELLE** by Mamoru Hosoda (Cannes Official Selection 2021), **AFTERSUN** by Charlotte Wells (2022 Critics' Week French Touch Prize and box-office success), **SANCTUARY** by Zachary Wigon starring Margaret Qualley, **SCRAPPER** by Charlotte Regan (2023 Sundance Grand Jury Prize), **DISCO BOY** by Giacomo Abbruzzese (Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution, 2023), **HOUNDS** by Kamal Lazraq (2023 Un Certain Regard Jury Prize), and **SORRY, BABY** by Eva Victor (2024 Sundance US Dramatic Competition). In 2024 **CHARADES** presented seven films at the Cannes Film Festival across various sections (Critics's Week, Directors' Fortnight, Un Certain Regard), including **ARMAND** by Halfdan Ullmann Tøndel, which was awarded the Caméra d'Or for best first feature.

This year Charades had five films – **VERMIGLIO**, **ARMAND**, **KNEECAP**, **FLOW** and **THE GLASSWORKER** – selected to compete in the Best International Feature Film Oscar® race. **FLOW** received the Oscar for Best Animated feature. Charades has also presented four films at this year's Cannes Film Festival, including **ALPHA** (In Competition) by Julia Ducournau, **CASE 137** (In Competition) by Dominik Moll, **URCHIN** (Un Certain Regard) by Harris Dickinson, and **THE MYSTERIOUS GAZE OF THE FLAMINGO** (Un Certain Regard) by Diego Céspedes.



The three founders of CHARADES, winner of this year's Best International Innovation Distribution Award 2025: Pierre Mazars (left), Carole Baraton (middle), Yohann Comte (right)

Yohann Comte is co-founder and chairman of **CHARADES**. Before founding the company in 2017 with partners from Wild Bunch, Studiocanal and Asuna, Yohann was Deputy Head of International Sales at Gaumont. At Charades Yohann coproduced **REVENGE** by Coralie Fargeat, **MIRAI** (Academy Award® nominee, 2019) by Mamoru Hosoda and **I LOST MY BODY** (Academy Award® nominee, 2020) by Jérémy Clapin. More recently, he has been associated with acclaimed titles such as **FLOW** by Gints Zilbalodis (winner of the Academy Award® for Best Animated Feature), **MEMOIR OF A SNAIL** by Adam Elliot (Cristal Award, Annecy 2024), **SORRY, BABY** by Eva Victor (Sundance US Dramatic Competition 2024), and **VERMIGLIO** by Maura Delpero (Italy's entry for the 2025 Academy Award® for Best International Feature Film)

The **Best International Innovation Distribution Award** is sponsored by **Gruvi, usheru** and **Comscore**. The winners in recent years were Elissa Federoff from US distributor NEON in 2022 and Enrique Costa, founder and CEO of Spanish ELASTICA FILMS in 2023 and Andrea Occhipinti, CEO of Italian distributor LUCKY RED.

The **IFDS** will take place from **September 30th to October 2nd 2025**. This year's **IFDS** will for the first time be held in Hamburg. Next to established programs like the innovative **Explorer Konferenz** and the international and national young talent initiatives **#ATELIER25** and **ENCOURAGE Film Talents** and **European Work in Progress (EWIP)** the event will become part of the **FILMFEST HAMBURG INDUSTRY DAYS**, overseen by Fabian Massah. The **IFDS** is sponsored by **Creative Europe MEDIA** and supported by **Filmfest Hamburg, MOIN Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein** and the **Filmförderungsanstalt**.

The **IFDS** will be supported furthermore by the industry event **European Work in Progress (EWIP)**, which will be held in Hamburg from **September 29th to October 1st 2025**.

Participants with Accreditation PLUS will have access to all Keynotes, Panels and networking events of the **INTERNATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTION SUMMIT**.

With its focus on film distribution the **INTERNATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTION SUMMIT (IFDS)** is a unique platform for international colleagues of the film industry. The **IFDS** offers dialogue and networking opportunities specifically for film distributors to analyze the massive changes occurring in the global culture industry. Many keynotes, panels, master classes and informal talks enable the development of new and concrete visions how film distribution can meaningfully contribute to the preservice of a vivid culture of democracy.

Representatives of many important European and international distributors, world sales and agencies develop trend-setting solutions at the **IFDS**, which convince mainly with their practicality. The **IFDS** differs from other industry events in its practice oriented exchange between colleagues who are directly involved in the day to day work of film distribution.

It is possible to get a joined accreditation for **IFDS** and **EWIP**. Participants of **IFDS** with Accreditation PLUS can furthermore attend screenings and industry events of **Filmfest Hamburg** depending on the availability of seats or tickets. For further info regarding the **Filmfest Hamburg** please visit their [website](#).

For further information and enquiries please contact the press agency mm filmpresse, Sylvia Mueller, Tel. 030 – 41 71 57 22, mueller@mm-filmpresse.de and Claudia Hegner, Tel. 03741 – 55 03 414, hegner@mm-filmpresse.de.

Best Regards
Sylvia Müller