

TATINOC FILMS

FIRSTCUT+

KARLOVY VARY 2023

8 FILMS-IN PROGRESS

AT KVIFF EASTERN PROMISES
INDUSTRY DAYS



KVIFF
Eastern Promises
2023

Now in its 8th edition since 2020, First Cut+ is a program initiated by Tatino Films that operates twice a year, working in close cooperation with two dynamic and well-established film industry platforms: **Trieste's When East Meets West** and **Karlovy Vary IFF's Eastern Promises**.

Each year a **portfolio of 16 feature films** is promoted: 8 films during the winter session at Trieste's When East Meets West, and 8 films during the summer session at Karlovy Vary IFF's Eastern Promises Industry Days.

Participating projects benefit from **lectures and individual mentoring consultations on promotion, marketing, PR & press, festivals, and sales strategy** from various film industry consultants.



AN ENRICHED POOL OF MARKETING CONSULTANTS

The program is managed by producer **Natalia Libet** who welcomes returning advisors: **Catalin Cristutiu** (editor), **Katarzyna Siniarska** (New Europe Films Sales), **Joanna Solecka** (Alphapanda), **Ninon Benezet & Alexandre Bourg** (Nice Guys Agency) and **Christina Pelekani** (Endorphin Film) and **Wendy Mitchell**.

This July, we also enrich our program with a session "**Helping your Film to the International Market: Editing, PR, and Marketing Before You Launch**" accessible for the KVIFF's Industry accredited guests. In this session, we explore the vital aspects of preparing a film for the international market. We will focus onto significance of editing, PR, and marketing strategies in maximizing the film's potential.

Our panelists **Catalin Cristutiu**, multi-awarded Romanian editor, Wolf Consultants' PR and Marketing expert **Laurin Dietrich**, and **Matthieu Darras**, CEO of Tatino Films & co-founder of First Cut Lab, will discuss practical strategies to ensure a film connects with global audiences.

This edition's schedule in Karlovy Vary on **July 4** includes:

11:00-12:30 **Public talk** "Helping your Film to the International Market: Editing, PR, and Marketing Before You Launch"

13:00-15:00 **Showcase of 8 projects** at work-in-progress stage



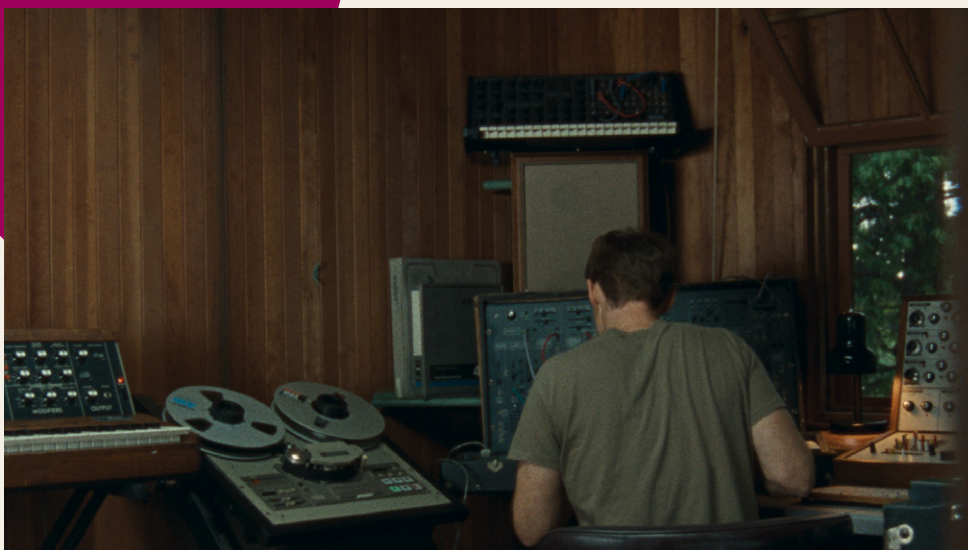
INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRST CUT+ KARLOVY VARY 2023 LINE-UP

While remaining committed to **Central & Eastern European films**, First Cut+ **opens up to the world** with projects from Canada, Brazil, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Belgium. In cooperation with Projeto Paradiso, we continue our endeavor of spotlighting the breadth of talents coming up from Brazil, this time with an exciting debut feature by George Walker Torres – “The Woman Who Cries”. Unexpectedly, we have another project from Brasil this time -- Pasargada, a debut by Dira Paes. Moreover, in this selection of 8 projects, there are 6 debuts!



THE LINE-UP OF 8 FILMS

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ALLEN SUNSHINE - Debut

Director **Harley Chamandy**
Producers **Chantal Chamandy, Laurent Allaire**
Countries **Canada, USA**

"Allen Sunshine" tells the story of a former music mogul who retreats to an isolated lake-side home to grieve his famous wife's suicide. He copes by composing ambient-electronic music and by nurturing an unexpected friendship with two young boys whom he meets on the lake fishing. Throughout the course of his stages of grief, Allen encounters characters that remind him of what he's lost and forgotten, and what he hopes to gain and reconcile.



ERA - Debut

Director **Parta Kelmendi**
Producers **Aferdita Saracini Kelmendi, Marija Dimitrova**
Countries **Kosovo, North Macedonia**

Kosovo, 1990: After a series of unfortunate events, Era and her family are forced to move from Pristina to the village of her grandmother. She will need to leave behind her friends, her boyfriend, her life as she knows it and at the same time to comply with the village's rules. As she tries to adapt to the new reality, the dynamics in her life change, redefining her relationship with her parents, her youth, her future. Things change when she meets Fatos, whose job is to help people escape the country illegally. For Era, he seems like a way out, but is he? What she really wants is to fight for her own voice.



FAMILY THERAPY

Director **Sonja Prosenc**
Producers **Rok Sečen**
Countries **Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, Norway, Serbia**

When a young stranger enters a seemingly perfect family, the idyllic bubble they had been living in bursts, and the chaos of the outside world infiltrates their lives, revealing their flaws, deepest fears, and dreams.

THE GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS - Debut

Director **Morgan Knibbe**
Producers **Frank Hoeve and Armi Rae Cacanindin**
Countries **the Netherlands, the Philippines, Belgium**

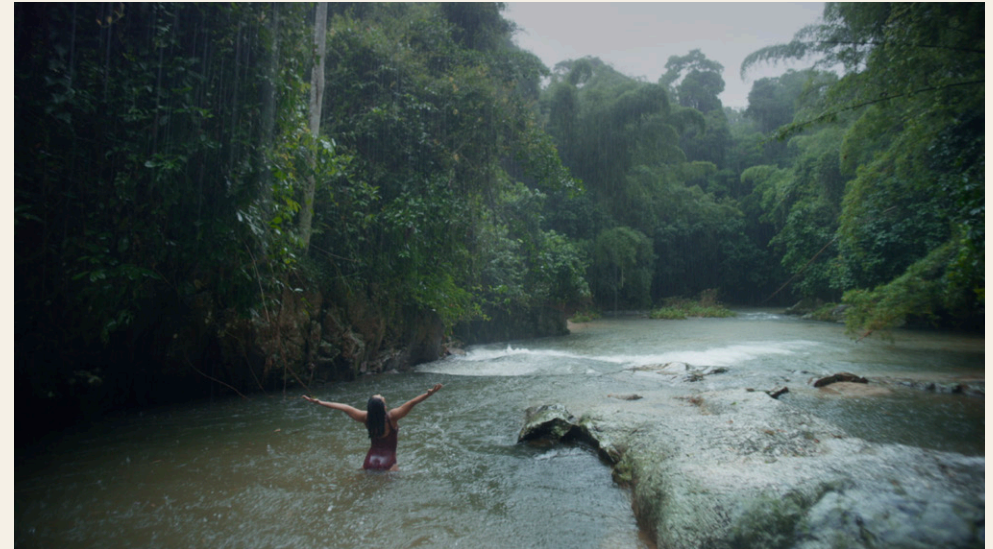
In the stormy slums of bustling Manila, eleven-year-old street urchin, Ginto, dreams of escaping his scavenger life to become a gangster, while grappling with his blossoming sexuality. Meanwhile, Dutch tourist Michael's world crumbles when he discovers he's been deceived by his online Filipino girlfriend, leading him into the underbelly of the city's red light district, where desire meets sinister demand. As their paths converge, Western wealth and postcolonial poverty collide, creating a brutal and cinematically stunning venture into the garden of earthly delights.



I DO NOT LOVE YOU ANYMORE

Director **Zdeněk Jirský**
Producer **Jordi Niubó**
Countries **Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania**

Marek (13) films socially themed videos, making him an outsider among classmates. At home, his mother's new acquaintance disrupts their idyllic relationship. In the most sensitive phase of life, Tereza (12) enters his path. Despite their social differences, they develop a liking for each other. Teenage games spiral out of control with a simulated kidnapping, culminating in a runaway from home. They board a train heading farthest. After a series of small adventures, they get lost in a labyrinth of endless freedom. The attraction of desperation turns into the taste of loneliness and fear of the unknown, and emotional outbursts begin to drown in the loss of illusions.



PASÁRGADA - Debut

Director **Dira Paes**
Producers **Eliane Ferreira; Dira Paes; Pablo Baião**
Country **Brazil**

During her secret mission in the middle of the tropical forest, Irene (50), a lonely ornithologist, feels the effects that the full exuberance of this place provokes on her body and mind. When the true purpose of her mission is revealed, it brings to the surface the ambiguity between her desires and her duty in the face of the illegal trafficking of wild birds that threatens that paradise. She starts to question her new sanctuary that may also be her own abyss.



RAW MATERIAL - Debut

Director **Martin Boross**
Producers **Gábor Osváth, Dániel Mayer**
Country **Hungary**

A young film director, Tamás is invited to a village to lead a summer art workshop for kids. He quickly discovers that the village is overrun with corruption and exploitation. He starts an investigation into the abusive mayor and exposes him by shooting a documentary, but his good intentions threaten everyone involved. The mayor finds out about Tamás' new mission, the locals turn against each other, and what began as an easygoing summer adventure results in disaster. Martin Boross' feature debut is a critical reflection on the filmmakers' responsibility and harmful activism in an all-too-familiar microcosm of oppression.



THE WOMAN WHO CRIES - Debut

Director **George Walker Torres**
Producer **Antonio Junior**
Countries **Brazil, Venezuela**

Miguel, a 7-year-old boy, lives with three generations of estranged women in an old house. Among them his mother who, adrift with the trauma of her divorce, distances herself from the boy. Miguel takes refuge in Carmen, an enigmatic Venezuelan immigrant who works as a maid for his Brazilian family. Carmen becomes an ambiguous mother figure for the boy and develops an intimate and unusual bond with him by triggering his inner world and introducing him to a universe in which the real and the imaginary intertwine.

THE FIRST CUT+ TRT AWARD

Thanks to the sponsorship of TRT, Turkish public broadcaster, the **€5,000** cash prize First Cut+ TRT Award aims at further supporting and highlighting one project. It will be decided upon by a jury consisting of **Esra Demirkiran** of TRT, **Francesca Tiberi** of True Colors and **Marge Liiske** of BE & Industry Tallinn @POFF. The award will be given during KVIFF Eastern Promises Industry Days' Award Ceremony on July 4 at 20:30.

FIRST CUT+ ALUMNI FILMS

Amongst the **56 feature films** that have participated in First Cut+ in the first 3 years of the program, alumni films include:

Listen, Ana Rocha de Sousa (Lion of the Future, Venice 2020)

Immaculat, Monica Stan & George Chiper-Lillemark (Lion of the Future, Venice 2021)

107 Mothers, Peter Kerekes (Grand Prix, Les Arcs 2021)

A Piece of Sky, Michael Koch (Silver Bear Special Mention, Berlinale 2022)

The Maiden, Graham Foy (Cinema of The Future Award, Venice 2022)

Charcoal, Carolina Markowicz (Toronto Platform 2022)

Sea Sparkle, Domien Huyghe (Crystal Bear Special Mention, Berlinale Generation Kplus 2023)

Levante, Lillah Halla (FIPRESCI Award, Cannes 2023).

ORGANIZERS



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CONTACTS

Natalia Libet natalia.libet@firstcutlab.eu / +380675022199

Matthieu Darras matthieu.darras@firstcutlab.eu