

The logo for IFS (Internationale Filmschule Köln) features the letters 'ifs' in a bold, red, lowercase sans-serif font. The letters are enclosed within a grey, stylized frame that resembles a film strip or a camera's viewfinder.

internationale  
filmschule köln

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a person in a white uniform and hat, seen from behind, painting a green wall. The person is holding a brush and is in the process of painting large white letters on the wall. The wall is a vibrant green color, and the person's shadow is cast on the wall. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, textured object, possibly a piece of wood or a sculpture, which is also covered in green paint. The overall scene suggests a process of artistic creation or restoration.

**Master's Program Serial Storytelling**

Writers' Guide – Alumni 2015 & 2017

## **>> Imprint**

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# About

The ifs' »MA Serial Storytelling« is Europe's first Master's Program focusing on collaborative writing for series. Since 2013, this program guides young professionals in exploring, conquering, and expanding forms and methods of serial narration for TV and digital platforms. Accompanied by renowned series creators, script consultants, and media scholars, hand-picked aspiring series writers analyze the secrets behind the success of popular series, sharpen their screenwriting skills, and develop their own innovative concepts.

Series dramaturgy, character development, and collaborative writing processes – such as variants of the North American »Writers' Room« – are at the center of their practical work. In addition to the exploration of narrative and media-theoretical aspects, the program conveys an understanding of transnational markets and new media platforms, supporting the students in exploring innovative narrative forms, work structures, and distribution channels.

Since 2015, the MA Serial Storytelling also includes a German track, providing applicants with the opportunity to focus their written projects either on international or German language series markets. The MA Serial Storytelling is supported by powerful partners such as RTL, ZDF, SKY Deutschland, Série Series, and the Film Festival Cologne.

Guest lecturers include James Manos (**Sopranos, Dexter**), Lisa Albert (**Mad Men**), Jane Espenson (**Game Of Thrones, Battlestar Gallactica**), Frank Spotnitz (**X-Files, The Man In The High Castle**), Hagai Levi (**The Affair, In Treatment**), Ingolf Gamburg (**Borgen**), Jeppe Gjervig Gram (**Borgen, Follow The Money**), Matthew Graham (**Life On Mars**), John Yorke (**Life On Mars, Into The Woods**), Morgan Gendel (**The 100**), Anna LeVine Winger and Jörg Winger (**Deutschland 83 & 86**), Annette Hess (**Ku'damm 56 & 59**), Michael Gantenberg (**Unter Verdacht, Nikola**), Janna Nandzik (**About:Kate**), Peter Nadermann (**The Killing, The Bridge**), Phil Parker, Thomas Schlesinger, Nicola Lusuardi, Alison Norrington, Pilar Alessandra, and many more.

**Degree:** Master of Arts (M.A.)  
**Duration:** 2 years  
**Language:** Seminars: English / Projects: English or German  
**Start:** every other year

# MA Serial Storytelling 2013-2017

## Class A 2013-2015



f.l.t.r.: David Gruber, Mats Frey, Juliana Lima Dehne, Peter Furrer, Krisi Olivero, Elina Gakou-Gomba, Jude Akwetey, Corinne Le Hong

*Photo: Uljana Thaetner*

## Class B 2015-2017



f.l.t.r.: Daniel Chaves Gómez, Marina Bendocchi Alves, Eric Bitencourt, Ugne Pikutyte, Nadine Schweigardt, Fernando Alvarez, Yaël Brunnert, Paula Bateman, Javiera Risco, Ana Khatchikian, Lilly Bogenberger, Eric List, Cédric Kieffer, Julian Brink

*Photo: Stefan Behrens*



# Jude Akwetey

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Jude Akwetey is an artist who studied at the National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI) in Ghana, where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Animation. He moved to Germany to pursue the MA Serial Storytelling program at the ifs and was later awarded the full scholarship by the »Förderverein der ifs«, which was based on academic excellence in the first semester. Storytelling is his passion and he always strives to tell stories through his giftings in the arts which includes music. He recently started studying Game Design at the Akademie Deutsche Pop. He currently resides in Düsseldorf and is working towards establishing an animation studio of his own, where he can create animated series. At the moment, he works as a freelance graphic artist and animator.

**>> I am seeking to explore the possibilities of telling untold African folktales through Animation and Games.**

## In Development

### Dzolali

(Webseries, Animated Adventure, 760 x 10', Creator/Writer/Director/Animator)

# 05

## Graduation Project

### CYBER COMA

Sci-Fi Animation (6 x 30')



An angry, bitter 14 year old gamer is trapped with other gamers in a massive multiplayer online role play game where she is forced to fight for her life in order to return to her body, but discovers the unexpected: boundless love that transforms her.



# Fernando Alvarez

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Fernando Alvarez is a Colombian TV director. He has worked with the Colombian Ministry of Communications on projects about Colombian heritage, science, and culture like »Expreso Colombia«, a serial format of documentary clips that celebrate and show the different cultural manifestations within the country. Internationally, he has developed new media projects at Andalusia's University in Spain and at the Deutsche Welle in Germany.

**>> Due to my work for TV and through different formats, especially documentary and educational video, I have been able to coordinate and collaborate on every stage of an audio-visual production. For me, the most exciting is developing the narrative elements for stories telling real characters. I am very passionate, creative, I listen, I know how to translate what an audience wants, and I am Taurus, a reliable star sign. Also, I love cake, series and dancing ... did I say I love cake?**



06

## Graduation Project

### LUCYFERA

Drama (10 x 45')

A political journalist becomes a drag queen at night to uncover the criminal background of a candidate for mayor, but ends up discovering the truth about himself, his real father and his criminal family bringing to him a legacy of a secret mafia life.



# Paula Bateman

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Paula is a Colombian screenwriter and editor with a B.A. in Audiovisual Media with an emphasis on Film from Politécni-co Grancolombiano and an M.A. in Serial Storytelling from ifs Cologne. She worked at the Colombian production company Esparta Films S.A.S. as a video and film editor in advertising and short film productions, including several projects with Coca Cola, Adidas, L’Oreal and Mondelez. She is currently employed at Sony Pictures Television Latinamerica, where she works as a content analyst for all Latinamerican and US-Hispanic produc-tions. She is developing a film script for a Colombian-Spanish co-production and also working on a drama series, a novel and the concept for a Japanese manga-styled graphic novel series.

» *I am interested in being part of the new wave of Latiname-rican narratives, by bringing together what I learned abroad from American and European techniques and models and our own lo-cal, very particular way of storytelling.*

## 07

### Graduation Project

#### PLAY ON

Musical Drama (13 x 45')



When Camilla applies for a singing waitress job at Play On, the pizzeria where members of the staff are artists, she is convinced everyone there will be as amazed by her voice, as the people in her life have always been. But when Vicky, the restaurant’s owner, tells her talent isn’t enough, she agrees to take a job as the kitchen’s general dogsbody to acquire the qualities she lacks.



# Marina Bendocchi Alves

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Marina Bendocchi Alves, originally from Brazil, was born and raised in Munich. After digging into Theatre Studies and getting a Bachelor's degree out of it, she wrote and directed a socio-critical theatre play named »Shitty Shitty Plem Plem«, which was performed at the Pasinger Fabrik in Munich and is now being distributed by Zuckerhut Theaterverlag. Marina recently developed a drama series about the first great woman in history, female pharaoh Hatshepsut, with producer Uwe Kersken (ZDF Enterprises: G5 Fiction). She is also part of the Writers' Room »Norderfall«, a Thriller Mini Series in development with UFA Fiction. Furthermore, the pilot script of her series »Give me that Becky« was selected among the semifinalists of the ISA top rated screenplay competition Table Read My Screenplay (Chicago 2017).

» I love to get my butt in the chair and write. Also creating characters I fall in love with and then doing terrible things to them. My mood improves drastically every time I come up with the perfect plot twist for my story. I specifically love writing dramas about societal issues and strong female characters. I write in English, German and Portuguese.

## In Development

**Sun Queen: Hatshepsut – The Princess Who Would Be King**  
(Series, Historical Drama with Fantasy Elements, 8 x 45', Writer)  
Creators: Uwe Kersken, Marina Bendocchi Alves  
Production: ZDF Enterprises GmbH: G5 fiction

## Norderfall

(Series, Thriller/Drama, 6 x 45', Co-Writer)  
Creators: Michael Gantenberg, Marina Bendocchi Alves, Cédric Kieffer, Lilly Bogenberger, Carolin Schröter, Nadine Schweigardt  
Production: UFA Fiction



08

## Graduation Project

### GIVE ME THAT BECKY

Scienc Fiction Drama (8 x 45')

In an attempt to preserve her image, an aging model decides to train the set of clones created of her as a publicity stunt, each with their own agenda.



# Eric Bitencourt

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Eric is a Brazilian-Portuguese screenwriter based in Berlin. He worked as a documentary producer with Jorge Furtado (Silver Berlin Bear and Emmy winner) and Maria Ramos (Golden Leopard) and found his passion in transforming reality and history into fiction narratives. Eric combines his studies of film with his background in psychology to find outstanding drama in the ordinary, bringing his own voice into television writing.

» *I am curious about character-driven dramas, true stories and LGBT topics in innovative narratives.*

## 09

### Graduation Project

#### LORDS OF DISGUISE

Period Biographical Drama (10 x 50')



In early 19th century young Richard Burton goes back to England looking for a place where he belongs and to restore his family's name in the British High Society. But his ideals and inherited enemies get in the way. He joins the British army in order to explore India, find home and stay as far as possible from Britain.



# Lilly Bogenberger

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Lilly Bogenberger, born in 92, is a German screenwriter. Even before graduating from the Serial Storytelling program, Bogenberger started writing for the TV series »Der Lehrer« (»The Teacher«). She now works as a screenwriter for German television. She writes for two film series and has several feature-length films and television series in development.

» I used to like nothing better than to tell bedtime stories to my little brother. Add to that my passion for series – so what should I have done other than start writing scripts? Now I live the lucky life of someone who comes up with stories every day. Only now I hope that people do not fall asleep.



10

## Graduation Project

### IN EINER TOUR

Drama (10 x 50)

To save his record store, aging rock musician Joachim agrees to accompany a young rock band on a tour through Germany as their manager. But his reluctance turns out to be his least problem: the band's musicians are in the midst of the chaos of growing up and each has their own issues to deal with. Will Joachim be able to weld the musicians together into a serious band?



# Julian Brink

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Julian was born in 1988 in Freiburg im Breisgau. After his high school graduation he took part in numerous poetry slams before he started studying »Creative Writing and Cultural Journalism« in Hildesheim. He worked as a comedian with performances from Cologne to Berlin, until he found his calling writing for film, TV and computer games. He graduated from the MA Serial Storytelling in 2017, where he was recipient of a scholarship from the »Friends of the ifs internationale filmschule köln Society«.

» I am curious about the universe, the future, the weird sounds my neighbors dog makes, depression.

## Completed Project

### Adventure Club of Europe – Chronik

(Transmedia Storyworld, Fictionalized History, Writer)

Creator: Mack Media

Project Management: Jörg Ihle

Production: Mack Media

## In Development

### Die Legenden von Andor – Die Winterburg

(Game/App, Fantasy, Co-Writer)

Creator: Michael Menzel

Writer: Jörg Ihle

Production: United Soft Media, Klunk Games

### Lioncourt Rocks

(Movie, Buddy Action/Comedy, 90-100', Writer)

### Zwei Stunden Tageslicht

(Mini Series, Drama, 4 x 30', Creator/Writer)

# 11

## Graduation Project

### DIE TULAKI CHRONIKEN

Scienc Fiction Drama (10 x 60')



A fleet of settlers is on its way to a new home outside our solar system. Their plan collapses as the interstellar adventurers find themselves in conflict with hostile natives and scheming members of the fleet assert their claims to the newly acquired territories.



# Yaël Brunnert

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Yaël has always had a passion for writing. After her MA in Performance Research (Bristol), her passion and her thirst to improve her writing only intensified. Her second MA at Bath Spa in Scriptwriting followed. The moment when her short film was screened made her realise how satisfying it is to move an audience. But Yaël still felt there was more to learn. She began her third MA at the ifs where she gained more writing experience in serial storytelling. Here she developed her own drama serial: »Saving Sara«. After completing her MA in Serial Storytelling at the ifs, she started studying screenwriting for German series at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg.

» I am curious about how people cope with extreme situations and I enjoy exploring the human psyche in my writing. Moreover, I want to move the audience with my writing, make them laugh, cry and hopefully also think.

## In Preproduction

### Bauch Beine Flo

(Series, Dramey, 18 x 25', Writer)

Creators: Marlene Evamaria Meyer, Yaël Brunnert

Production: Marlene Evamaria Meyer

The pilot will be shot in August 2018.

## In Development

### Awakening

(Animated Short, Drama, Writer)

Creator: Nina Prange

### Familie auf Umwegen

(Series, Drama, 8 x 40', Creator/Writer)



# 12

## Graduation Project

### SAVING SARA

Drama (8 x 50')

»Saving Sara« is a serialized drama about an aspiring chef, who had lost her way, but overcame her anorexia. Feeling ready to fully focus on her goal of having a Michelin Star restaurant and of touching her customers with her dishes, Sara is forced to understand that she needs to learn to love herself first.



# Daniel Chaves Gómez

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Daniel is a screenwriter and director from Costa Rica. He worked as a freelancer for several years on the production of shorts films, commercials, music videos, and feature films. He co-founded a production company where he worked as a director for commercials and corporate videos. Daniel directed his first feature film in 2014, and is now living in Germany where he works developing series projects for European and Latin-American audiences.

» *I want to continue exploring new genres and new formats. The projects I am currently developing are primarily serialized comedies, but I also have a couple others cooking in the back-burner: a one-hour drama/thriller (series) and an animated sci-fi adventure (feature). I'm interested in meeting and learning from new people, I'm interested in the experience of bringing my voice to an existing show, and I'm intrigued by the prospect of writing for video games.*

## In Development

### The Good Wi-Fi

(TV Series, Comedy, 13 x 25', Creator/Writer)

Production: Fiction Park

### Pseudonautas

(TV Series, Comedy/Drama, 8 x 30', Co-Creator/Showrunner)

Creators: Daniel Chaves Gómez, Alejandro Guerrero

Production: Flick Media México

# 13

## Graduation Project

### BEFORE YOU CAN SAY KNIFE

Thriller (8 x 60')



The man was found dead the day after Rashida vanished – his identity as enigmatic as his death. Tina is determined to unravel the dead man's mystery, while Lawrence is just desperate to find his missing wife. Together they go in search of the truth, unaware of the killer who is now searching for them.

*Currently optioned by Network Movie*



# Mats Frey

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Mats Frey was born in the year 1986 somewhere on a mountain top in the snowy Swiss Alps. 2007–09 he worked as an assistant director for Condor Films in Zurich. After earning his BA in Film at the Zurich School of Arts in 2011 he worked as a freelance director for commercials. In 2013 he co-founded a consultant and production agency for visualizations and now works as a writer and director. In June 2015 he earned his MA in Serial Storytelling at the ifs internationale filmschule köln. Since then he has been working as a freelance screenwriter for TV shows and feature films. He also writes and directs commercials.

**>> I am interested in** further exploring my skills for comedy writing. Be it for TV shows, stand-ups or late-night programs. Also I'm looking for ways to extend my working field to Germany, and maybe into the English speaking markets. So if you look for a voice that's energetic, border-line political incorrect, sometimes cringy, but never forgets about the value of empathy for even the most pathetic characters – you've come to the right place.

## Completed Projects

### Tatort – Zwei Leben

(TV Movie, Crime, 90', Writer)

Production: Turnus Film, SRF, ARD, ORF

### Der Bestatter – Seasons 5 and 7

(Series, Crime/Comedy, 6 x 60', Writer)

Production: SRF (Season 7 in 2019)

### Für Umme

(Webseries, Comedy, 11 x 10', Writer)

Production: Kater Film



# 14

## Graduation Project

**MBA – MEN BEFORE ADULTHOOD**

Comedy (12 x 30')

Three young men and one girl from around the world come together as total strangers to do an MBA in New York. But all of them are not really in for the academic title. After becoming a gang of close friends, they look for avoidance of responsibilities and the procrastination of their adult life together. But aren't they just procrastinating life itself?



# Peter Furrer

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BA in film studies from Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz. MA in Serial Storytelling from ifs internationale filmschule köln (Cologne). Employment at ZDF Digital Writers' Room in Mainz (2017-2018). Collaborations with H&V Entertainment, funk, gemini film. Co-writer of the multi-cam sitcom »Zum Goldenen Lama« with Helena Hofmann, Andrej Sorin for Filmakademie BaWü (2018).

» I am curious about an answer to this question that doesn't sound completely pretentious. But right now, I'm interested in how technology changes us humans for better or worse, from small annoyances like constant smartphone notifications to shifting relationship dynamics to big ideas like transhumanism. Be it through the lens of comedy, genre, or drama. We can't stop progress anyway, so why not look at what's happening right in front of us and tell honest stories about it?

## Completed Project

### Zum Goldenen Lama

(Series, Multicamera Sitcom / filmed in front of a live audience, 26', Co-Writer)

Creators: Helena Hofmann, Andrej Sorin, Peter Furrer

Production: Filmakademie Ludwigsburg

# 15

## Graduation Project

### 404 NOT FOUND

Comedy (8 x 30')



Jonah, a 27 year old know-it-all, is admitted to a rehab facility for people with internet addiction. Against his will, without the constant distractions of the digital realm in front of him, Jonah slowly learns how to live in the »real« world.

*In my desk drawer waiting for the right moment/person.*



# Elina Gakou-Gomba

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Elina Gakou-Gomba was born and raised in Paris. After getting her MA in Serial Storytelling at the ifs internationale filmschule köln (Cologne), she's been working with directors (Armel Hostiou, Marc Collin, Marion Cros, Edmond Carrère, Jean Boiron-Lajous, Camille Authouart) in shaping their feature films and shorts projects. She also collaborates with other screenwriters on innovative series – namely with Steve Hudson for Network Movie, and Benoit Valère for Telfrance. Elina writes in English as well as in French. Represented by Lise Arif Agency.

**>> I'm into setting up bridges between arthouse and mainstream, between women who fight and men who cry – and doing it no other way than collaboratively.**

## In Postproduction

### Le Choc du Futur

(Feature Film, Drama, Co-Writer)

Creator/Director: Marc Collin

Production: Nebo Production (France)

## In Development

### State of the Union

(Series, Political Drama, 8 x 60', Co-Creator/Co-Writer)

Creators: Elina Gakou Gomba, Steve Hudson

Production: Network Movie (Germany)

### Cœur Noir (Black Heart)

(Series, Crime Procedural, 8 x 52', Co-Creator/Co-Writer)

Creators: Benoit Valère, Elina Gakou Gomba

Production: 3x7 (Telfrance Group)

Broadcaster: TF1 (France)

### Belle Ville

(Feature Film, Drama, Co-Writer)

Creator/Director: Armel Hostiou

Production: Bocalupo Films (France)



16

## Graduation Project

### POSITIVE

Dramedy (8 x 60')

Present time. Three pretty cool HIV-positive folks deal with their family, love and sex lives. It's not the end of the world – but on some days it does feel like it.



# David Gruber

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After his studies of literature and linguistics at the university of Cologne, David graduated in the first edition of the MA in Serial Storytelling at the ifs. Since then he has worked as a freelance copywriter, journalist and collaborated as a screenwriter with some of his fellow students on the dramedy series »Hail Helene« which is being funded by the Film- und Medienstiftung NRW. He currently works as a storyliner for the production company filmpool in Cologne and is writing his first novel.

**>> I am currently exploring** how the internet changes the way we love each other: How we meet, kiss, fuck, fall in and out of love, start a relationship and break up again. This takes shape in a web series called »Show me your genitals«. If that pushes any of your buttons and you're a writer, producer or commissioning editor, feel free to text me.

## Completed Project

### Team 13 (AT)

(Mini TV Series, Drama, 5 x 45', Co-Writer)

Production: filmpool entertainment GmbH

## In Development

### Show Me Your Genitals

(Short Format Series, YouTube Soap, 8 x 5', Creator)

Hail Helene (TV Series, Dramedy, 8 x 30', Co-Creator)

Creators: Corinne Le Hong, Eduardo Pavez Goye, David Gruber, Krisi Olivero

Production: Corso Film

# 17

## Graduation Project

### AUF ASCHE

Period Drama (8 x 45')

Germany in 1945: WWII has ended. It is the beginning of a new era. Ella Dorn strives to rebuild her family's department store by becoming a ruthless dealer on the black market in Munich.

*Currently in development as a novel*





# Ana Khatchikian

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Originally from Argentina, Ana spent her formative years in Tokyo and Paris. She obtained a degree in Film, specializing in documentary film making. In addition, she worked as a photography editor for a local newspaper in Buenos Aires, while also studying printmaking. Ana discovered that in serialized writing she is able to merge her varied experiences in visual arts, writing, and music, giving free rein to her irreverent sense of humor. In Germany, she worked as a writer for Superpolypsycholum (2016) for Funk. At the moment she is working as a freelance writer in Berlin.

*>> I am curious about exploring children’s animation shows and their ability to bend and transform the material world into a fantastic realm where anything is possible. Children are a big audience which is ignored by most writers. Being able to fuse pedagogical elements with characteristics of fantastic writing is the best way to capitalize the knowledge we want to pass on to future generations.*

## In Development

### Marble Town Tales

(Series, Animated Adventure / Fantasy, 20 x 10’, Creator/Writer)



18

## Graduation Project

### SHADOW PARK

Comedy / Horror / Fantasy (8 x 50’)

A Russian family which lives in Siberia has just inherited a Disney-like amusement park in sunny California, only to find the gates of hell ajar, waiting for their arrival.



# Cédric Kieffer

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Born in Luxembourg in 1992, Cédric received a Bachelor's degree in »Time-based Media« at the HS Mainz and a Master's degree in Serial Storytelling at the ifs internationale filmschule köln. Several internships gave him an insight into Broadcasting (BCE Europe), Editing (Montage Plus), Directing (»Club der roten Bänder« / »The Red Band Society«, Bantry Bay), and film producing (Kontrastfilm). Cédric writes and develops commercial and series, including projects for UFA Fiction, Saxonia Media and Warner Bros. Television.

*» I am curious about changing and challenging the series and film landscape – in Germany and abroad. What we need are strong characters, intriguing premises, artistic visions and the guts to dare the new. And if you want to get there, collaboration with new and trained writers is the right way to go.*

## Completed Project

**Freddie** (Short Film, Drama, 7', Writer)

Creators: Nilton Martins, Andy Bausch

Production: FrameArt Media

## In Development

**Blutschuld** (Series, Thriller/Drama, 6 x 50', Co-Writer)

Co-Writers: Viktoria So Hee Alz, Kim Zimmermann

Creator: Michael Gantenberg

Production: Saxonia Media

**Die Lappalie** (TV Movie, Drama, 90', Writer)

Production: Handwritten Pictures

**Norderfall** (Series, Thriller/Drama, 6 x 45', Co-Writer)

Creators: Michael Gantenberg, Marina Bendocchi Alves, Cédric Kieffer, Lilly Bogenberger, Carolin Schröter, Nadine Schweigardt

Production: UFA Fiction

**Gehstock Gladiators** (TV Movie, Comedy, 90', Writer)

Production: Handwritten Pictures

# 19

## Graduation Project

### DER NACHTGIGER

Horror Dramedy (6 x 50')



A false ghost hunter must liberate a remote village in Lower Franconia from a genuine – and evil – spirit. For only if he faces the paranormal dangers, he can maintain his facade.

*Currently optioned by Warner Bros. International Television Production Germany*



# Corinne Le Hong

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Excellent East-West relations between Vietnam and Germany gave birth to Corinne. She worked as an assistant director on movies such as »Pina«, »Only Lovers Left Alive«, »A Most Wanted Man«, »Babylon Berlin«. In 2006 her radio play »Pippa« premiered at the Leipzig Book Fair. Her short movie »Grimm's Cuckoo« starring Devid Striesow and Petra Schmidt-Schaller premiered at Cannes in 2012. Corinne is founder and CEO of the media translation service Dubdolls (»Pope Francis – A Man Of His Word«, »In My Room«, »Proxima«, »High Life«, »Toni Erdmann«, »The Missing«, »Submergence«, »Neo Magazin Royale«, »Mocking Jay«).

**>> It has been an exciting trip** so far into the world of series. What thrills me most is the weaving of stories and collaborations across the globe without losing each collaborator's and story's local rooting. I hope this journey will continue!

## Completed Projects

**Discocalypse – Seasons 1 and 2** (Webseries, Zombie Teenie Horror Comedy, 10 x 10', Story Consultant S1, Co-Writer S2)  
Creator: Dirk Rosenlöcher | Production: Studio+

**Hermann Sox – Season 1** (Webseries, Dark Comedy, 5 x 1-3', Co-Writer, Director, Puppet Creator)

Creators: Corinne Le Hong, Eduardo Pavez Goye

Currently touring global webfests (Bilbao Seriesland, NZ Web-Fest, Die Serieale, Sicily WebFest)

## In Postproduction

**Felicia** (Short Film, Coming of Age, 20', Co-Writer)

Creator: Jade Li | Production: ifs

## In Development

**Die Verhandlerin** (TV Series, Drama, 8 x 45', Creator)

Production: Constantin TV GmbH

**Hail Helene** (TV Series, Dramedy, 8 x 30', Showrunner)

Creators: Corinne Le Hong, Eduardo Pavez Goye, David Gruber, Krisi Olivero | Production: Corso Film



20

## Graduation Project

### DOG

Drama (6 x 20')

The German butcher Bert Bruch lives the good life with his family, his sausage creations being a success story. Although, animal activists hate him for it. So does his teenage daughter Kay. When he suddenly dies, there is this dog which doesn't want to leave. And Kay starts to doubt how much of her father might be in this dog.  
*Development with Tony Rogers (co-creator of the Australian cult series »Wilfred«)*



# Juliana Lima Dehne

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Juliana Lima Dehne is a Brazilian-American award-winning screenwriter, producer and recipient of the German 2010 VGF-Stipendium. Writing/producing credits include: Brazilian children's TV series »Learning to Read through Cultural Roots« (Interalia) and award-winning web series pilot »Over Lunch« (Dehne Lima Film / ARRI). Juliana is currently developing exciting new series with all-in-production, Letterbox Filmproduktion, Real Film Berlin in conjunction with IDM Alto Adige, Red Arrow Studios, Studio-canal TV, ZDF Digital Medienproduktion, among others.

» I would like to keep exploring stories about the underdog, the underrepresented, about characters who not only, knowingly or unknowingly, fight for a better world, but for their own existence.

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### Graduation Project

#### THE QUEEN OF HEARTS

Political Period Drama (8 x 45')



When the Queen of Hearts decides to save Prussia from Napoleon's reign, not only will she go from a mere trophy-wife to Prussia's most powerful politician, but will have to learn to do so in the shadow of her male counterpart and under the scrutiny of her own kingdom.



# Eric List

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Being obsessed with DC comics from an early age, the transition to become a Visual Development Artist was natural for Eric List. Upon graduating, with a Bachelor's Degree in Illustration and Animation from Bauhaus University, he has worked in the field as a script supervisor/consultant, assistant director/editor and unit production manager for several animated/live action short films as well as serving as an apprentice at Walt Disney Animation Studios. He also worked as a freelance illustrator and script consultant.

»» *By the amount of research I put into my scripts, the FBI must already file me under »fraudulent marriage impostor/serial killer from WWI, with a dissociative identity disorder, trying to get away with murder.« It's kinda funny ... in a scary way.*

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## Graduation Project

### GREY GARDEN

Gothic Horror (13 x 45')

Three siblings must escape a haunted orphanage during the Great War to reunite with their father and banish their wicked stepmother.



# Krisi Olivero

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Krisi Olivero is a writer/producer from the US. She works in a variety of mediums from documentary feature to television to advertising, including projects with companies such as ABC, Discovery Channel, ESPN and the US Olympic Committee. Her home base is Denver, Colorado where she works with award winning teams and develops innovative advertising campaigns, while pursuing personal writing projects. Her feature length documentary, »I Will Dance«, premiered on US public television in spring of 2015.

» **Writing is about** having an escape, a way to face personal and social problems in a fashion that is cathartic for both writer and audience. Stories have the power to help us through some of the toughest experiences of our lives, and for that reason, they will always be invaluable. Writing is also the only socially acceptable way to remain insane.

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### Graduation Project

#### Believe

Fantasy Thriller (8 x 45')



Three siblings, with magical abilities, seek to uncover an alternative history of our planet in order to discover the key to saving the future of the independent human spirit, *magic*.



# Ugne Pikutyte

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Ugne is a screenwriter and filmmaker who created and worked on short fiction and documentary films, as well as promotional videos in Scotland, Romania, Denmark, and her home country Lithuania. After getting her MA in Serial Storytelling in Cologne, Ugne returned to Lithuania to work on a comedy series for Lithuanian television. She is currently developing a children's animation series as well as working on international film and series productions.

» *I am interested exploring the deepest corners of the human mind: that of my characters and my own. I enjoy writing in a collaborative environment and I want to work in writers' rooms across Europe.*



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## Graduation Project

### CRUMBLES

Drama (8 x 45')

A reserved Lithuanian woman moves to a small town in Scotland to secure a future for her teenage daughter, but when the local newspaper publishes an article that accuses her of witchcraft, she will have to expose the true culprit behind the incidents that have been pushing the town into decline.



# Javiera Risco

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Javiera Risco is a scriptwriter based in Santiago, Chile. Co-Founder of Typpo Creative Lab, a content factory developing material for animation in Latin America and Europe including series, trans media content and films. Apart from animation, Javi has a special interest in history and how it can turn into fiction. That is why she's collaborating as developer and scriptwriter for a Chilean live action series based on the only king the Mapuche tribe had in Chile, during the 1850's. ([www.typpo.cl](http://www.typpo.cl))

**>> One of my interests in creating this series is to build fiction out of real events. »Layers« is a series based in my own family's past related to the dictatorship as an attempt to portray the trauma most of the victims harbor until today and how it affects their future.**

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### Graduation Project

#### LAYERS

Family Drama / Mystery (8 x 50)

Chile, present day. After a family crisis Brigitte Bonnet must find the truth about her mother who disappeared during the dictatorship in 1973.

LAYERS



# Nadine Schweigardt

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Nadine studied »media. design & production« with focus on screenwriting/dramaturgy and film producing at the Hochschule Offenburg. In the course of her studies she created various short films in the roles of screenwriter, producer, and director. She completed her Bachelor's degree in 2015 with the comedy series »Enno Brede« before starting her Master's in Serial Storytelling at the ifs internationale filmschule köln. In 2017 she graduated from the MA program and started working as a writer. Currently, she is developing her first feature film for Odeon TV/ARD Degeto. Furthermore, she collaborates with other screenwriters developing the German thriller series »Norderfall« (UFA Fiction).

**>> I love creating** complex characters, bringing them to life, and telling their stories.

## In Development

### Opa hat die Schnauze voll

(Feature Film, Comedy, Writer)

Production: Odeon TV, ARD Degeto

### Norderfall

(Series, Thriller/Drama, 6 x 45', Co-Writer)

Creators: Michael Gantenberg, Marina Bendocchi Alves, Cédric Kieffer, Lilly Bogenberger, Carolin Schröter, Nadine Schweigardt

Production: UFA Fiction



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## Graduation Project

MÜTTER UND ANDERE KRIMINELLE

Black Comedy (8 x 45')

On the run from her criminal past, Christina meets two housewives looking to spice up their small town lives. As she seeks to establish a new existence in an idyllic rural setting, a deal with the two cocky women and her past keep leading her away from her resolutions right back into crime.

# Collaborative Projects

## Class A 2013-2015

### HAIL HERMANN



**Creators / Writers:**

Corinne Le Hong, Eduardo Pavez Goye, David Gruber, Krisi Olivero, Tara Sapru

**TV Series / Comedy**  
(10 x 5')

**Driving through the wall is smarter than around it.**

Hermann, hotheaded ex-teacher, now taxi-driver, helps his passengers with bizarre problems for a price. Will he win back his estranged daughter Michelle by paying for her wedding?

### THE WAITING AREA



**Creators / Writers:**

Jude Akwetey, Elina Gakou-Gomba, Peter Furrer, Mats Frey, Juliana Lima Dehne

**Webseries / Comedy**  
(9 x 4-5')

**Some people get lucky. Others get stuck at the airport's waiting area from hell.**

On his way to New York City for a big audition as substitute keyboard player, Marc finds himself stuck at Frankfurt airport due to a volcano eruption that has blocked all air traffic. As time passes, tension rises between impatient passengers and airline employees. Tempers flare as they all begin to get sick of each other until the first take off is finally announced with limited space. Except Marc isn't on the list! How far is he willing to go to make it to his dream audition?

### THE TH3RDS



**Creators / Writers:**

Jude Akwetey, Peter Furrer, Mats Frey, Elina Gakou-Gomba, David Gruber, Corinne Le Hong, Juliana Lima Dehne, Krisi Olivero

**TV Series / Sci-Fi Crime Drama**  
(9 x 45')

**The future of mankind lies in the hand of one woman, who is actually two.**

Leyla is a smart, troubled woman who leads a double life that is robbing her of stability and sanity. Her life gets worse when she discovers the existence of a third species on earth with a mission to take over, a mission she unwittingly becomes essential to.

# Collaborative Projects

## Class B 2015-2017

### SVENJUR TRIES TO GET A JOB

**Creators / Writers:**

Fernando Alvarez, Lilly Bogenberger, Julian Brink, Yaël Brunnert, Daniel Chaves Gómez, Cédric Kieffer, Carolin Schröter, Nadine Schweigardt

**Webseries / Comedy**

(8 x 3')

**Got a job for a real Viking?**

Svenjur the Viking tries to find a job in modern day Cologne. As he stumbles through job interviews and trial days, hilarity ensues. But even as a bloodthirsty warrior, Svenjur's bravery, toughness and honesty touch the lives of people around him.

### LOSING IT!

**Creators / Writers:**

Marina Bendocchi Alves, Eric Bitencourt, Ana Khatchikian, Eric List, Ugne Pikutyte, Javiera Risco

**Webseries / Romantic Comedy**

(7 x 3-5')

**Will Winnie find the Wiener?**

On her quest to losing her virginity, Winnie (18), a nerdy college student, unleashes her old imaginary friend from childhood: Princess Peach, a slutty version of the Super Mario character, pushes her to use Tinder for sex, only to find that what she is looking for is closer than she thinks.

### NORDERFALL

**Creators / Writers:**

Marina Bendocchi Alves, Lilly Bogenberger, Cédric Kieffer, Carolin Schröter, Nadine Schweigardt

**TV Series / Thriller/Drama**

(6 x 45')

**Between illusion and reality is only guilt ...**

On a tiny island in the North Sea, a group of former classmates meets to celebrate their 20th high school reunion. Soon they realize this isn't at an ordinary class meeting. They have become part of a perfidious revenge plan, which confronts them with a disastrous event from their schooldays: a murder.

### MANIFEST OF NOBODIES

**Creators / Writers:**

Fernando Alvarez, Paula Bateman, Eric Bitencourt, Julian Brink, Yaël Brunnert, Daniel Chaves Gómez, Ana Khatchikian, Eric List, Ugne Pikutyte, Javiera Risco

**TV Series / Period Biographical**

Drama (10 x 60')

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**The exceptional lives of a lost generation.**

Fame, sex, innovation, and excess were an art form in Paris in 1925. For a group of ex-patriot geniuses, it was a time and place for inspiration. They would forever change the way we view the world. Their names are instantly recognizable to this day, but in 1925 they were struggling to define who they were: Pablo Picasso, Gertrude Stein, Cole Porter, Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald, Luis Bunuel, and Ernest Hemingway. The real show is hidden behind their art.

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# Currently studying at ifs

## Class C 2017-2019

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**MARINA DA SILVA CARDOZO** was born and raised in south Brazil. Being a ballerina and part of choirs for most of her life, she has always had an interest in art. What started as a hobby turned into a job when, at 18, she started working professionally in film, as a screenwriter and assistant director. Marina's first job, a co-written script for a series pilot episode, was selected for the International Television Festival of Rio de Janeiro. Ever since, she has worked in projects such as Universo Z, a children TV series airing at Nickelodeon Latin America. After graduating as Bachelor of Journalism and a one-year period of studies in the cinema course of Universidade da Beira Interior, she worked as project coordinator at Margem Cinema Brasil film production company.

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**MATIJA DRAGOJEVIC** was born in Belgrade, Serbia in 1991. After graduating with a BA in psychology, he pursued his passion for storytelling in advertising. As a copywriter, he was most attracted to writing TV commercials and soon sneaked his way into directing them as well. Since 2015, he works as a script reader for the Screenwriters and Directors Lab programs at the Sundance Institute. His latest venture is coordinating the MatchBox Coproduction Lounge at the Oldenburg International Film Festival.

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**MICHAEL GRIESSLER** grew up in a small town in Lower Austria with his nose buried in Stephen King novels. He finished a BA Degree in Media Management at the University of Applied Sciences in St. Pölten and has worked as content manager, editor and copywriter. From a very young age, Michael spent every free minute writing stories. During his semester abroad in Dublin he discovered his true passion is screenwriting.

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**MICHEL KIWIC** is a socially trained and naturally cheerful Swiss citizen. Along his path from his first education as a primary school teacher to his last as a truck driver he achieved a Bachelor's degree in Visual Communication and worked as a video editor at the Swiss public broadcasting station for four years. His passion is invention. As part of the artist duo »Hoffnung+Kiwi« he creates social sculptures addressing issues of modern society, invents games combining electronic devices and real live action, and organizes and performs in improve shows (theater). He lives in an old post bus in a community with performers of a small traditional Swiss circus, aims to spread a positive attitude towards life, and will always remember his mother's basic principle: problems exist to solve them. So: thank you Mom!

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**HELENA LUCAS** was born in Saarbrücken, Germany in 1991. After her A-levels she studied psychology at the Saarland University from 2010-2012 and gained first film experiences while working on short films. 2012 she began her studies in film directing at the ifs internationale filmschule koeln, where she graduated in 2016. She currently works on her feature film debut »Double Game«.

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**LJUBICA LUKOVIC** comes from Belgrade, Serbia, where she got a dramaturgy degree from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in 2013. After graduating, she worked for film festivals and wrote comedy sketches and scripts for several TV programs. Her feature film script »How I learned to fly«, a coming of age story, is currently in pre-production. She spent the last year in Indonesia on a cultural ex-

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# Currently studying at ifs

## Class C 2017-2019

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change program, where she searched for herself even though she insisted she was definitely not on a soul searching quest. Valuable life experience was acquired, and Ljubica is now determined to focus on writing full time. She is currently doing additional re-writes on a variety show and on her feature script, occasionally working as a reader for Sundance script lab, and actively mourning the death of several beloved unproduced scripts.

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**MOTAZ MATAR** is an award-winning Palestinian film and TV director and screenwriter holding an MFA degree in Cinematic Arts. For four years he taught university-level film production and design. With his experience as an independent film and TV director, Motaz has gained knowledge in his field that led to recognition in several regional TV Channels and Film Festivals in the Middle East and throughout the world. In 2012 Motaz was awarded the Golden Award at the PromaxBDA Arabia for a television teaser he wrote and directed. In 2017 Motaz's first feature film »Slingshot« was officially selected in the Mediterranean film festival in Cannes and the Calcutta International film festival. Motaz's vision is to use his passion for storytelling to share meaningful human experiences.

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**JULY PAOLA RODRIGUEZ COTAME** – as an audiovisual developer and a graphic designer formed with a strong research-creation methodology – has learned about branding, interactive narratives, new production formats and their impact in Latin America. A knowledge that has led to the production of a screenplay and the pilot of an interactive web serial, the opportunity to work with different types of clients to create compelling brands in a foreign culture like India, and nourish her research and writing skills through traveling. Nowadays, she wants to follow her passion for storytelling for audiovisual and new media, in order to work on challenging projects with a strong social impact, circumscribed in the fields of humanities, arts, and technology.

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**ROMAA AISHWARYA SETHURAJU** is a creative producer from India. She has worked as an assistant director in feature films in Mumbai. She has toyed with writing ad films and short screenplays. She likes to travel far and wide, collecting stories and anecdotes. Roma is fascinated by the long form storytelling. When she is not staring at a blank screen, she is out living a life, periodically wondering if her computer misses her.

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**NATALIE THOMAS** was born in Northern California, USA. For the last 12 years, Natalie has been working as an actress in New York City. Her film highlights include »Everything's Gonna Be Pink«, directed by academy-nominated Roni Ezra, »Rover: Or Beyond Human«, directed by Tony Blahd, and »Month To Month«, directed by Wes Hopper. Past television credits include »Blindspot«, »Law and Order«, »Law and Order SVU« and »The Guiding Light«. As for theater, Natalie played the role of Lady Macbeth for one year in Punchdrunk's hit Broadway show, »Sleep No More«, and she worked with »The Wooster Group« as a performer and movement coach for three years. She is a member of An Films LLC with whom she has written, produced and starred in a number of films including »1901« and »Any Other Normal«. Natalie also taught in the acting department at Tisch School of the Arts, at New York University. (Website: [www.ntprofile.com](http://www.ntprofile.com))

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