

# Black Nights Stars

2020

November 21 - 27  
Industry@Tallinn  
& Baltic Event



**Black Nights Stars** is designed to support young actors from the Baltic Sea region, to make their next steps into the international arena by connecting them to key international film professionals, such as casting directors, casting agents, producers and the press and acquire various practical skills needed in their future international careers.

The five-day online event, highlights the emerging talent of eight young actors and actresses, all selected by an international jury of experts, based on their first feature films and TV roles. The program consists of masterclasses, workshops and networking events with international casting professionals from Europe and the USA and focuses on the future of casting and auditioning online, presenting oneself at industry and media events, how to make your best Self Video and about Intimacy in Front of the Camera. For directors and producers, we will discuss what casting directors can do for a project, securing cast and how to get the right actors. Local actors will also be invited to meet with the international casting professionals.

The Black Nights Stars actors' program is presented by Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event during the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival and is supported by the European Regional Development Fund via Enterprise Estonia and the Creative Industries' Development Centre Creative Gate.

**Claudia Landsberger**  
Head of Black Nights Stars Program

*'It was a tremendously gratifying experience to serve on the BLACK NIGHT STARS Jury to select stellar talent from the Baltics. Though all unique, they share an amazing presence, an unexpected force, mystery, soulful beauty, fierce intensity, intricate sensuality, and deepness which feels unique to their countries and still universal in their sincerity. It is of great value to the film industry to discover these marvellous and fresh artists who will shine, not just in their country, but internationally. To bring them to the film industry's attention so they can further enrich our experience as audiences and bring us closer together is a treasure.'*

**Lina Todd**, Lina Todd Casting Agency, New York

*'Black Nights Stars is a wonderful way to celebrate local and regional talent with the international market. It was a pleasure last year to be part of the panel and work directly with the actors – even signing one star to my agency!'*

**Robin Hudson**, Olivia Bell Management, London, UK

*I was amazed by how thoughtfully the Black Nights Stars Program was created and how professionally it was fulfilled. I am happy that I had a chance to meet the Black Nights Stars, to learn from great speakers in the masterclasses, panel discussions or workshops, and to share ideas with amazing and inspiring people from all around the world. Thank You so much for this gift. Highly recommended.*

**Kristina Kolytė**, Edita's Casting JSC, Vilnius, Lithuania

# INTERNATIONAL JURY BLACK NIGHTS STARS 2020

## Lina Todd Casting director

has worked internationally as a casting director for three decades on studio and independent films, in the US, Europe, and China. Discovering new emerging talent from around the globe and giving them a platform to shine is what she loves most about her job. In addition to her casting work, she created the Breakthrough Performers Program at HIFF in collaboration with Rajendra Roy (Chief Curator of film at MOMA) and partnered with Variety's 10 Actors to Watch to showcase actors such as Jessica Chastain, Alicia Vikander, Adam Driver, Alexander Skarsgard, and Emma Stone. She served on the jury for European Film Promotions prestigious initiative Shooting Stars, and has participated with this program for two decades. She has also worked as a consultant for Berlinale, Munich FF, and The Prague International FF as a celebrity strategist. Films she cast include Peter Weir's „The Way Back“, „Nicholas Nickleby“ (Douglas McGrath), „Little Man Tate“ (Jodie Foster), „Surveillance“ (Jennifer Lynch), „A Good Day to Die Hard“ (John Moore), „You Can Count on Me“ (Kenneth Lonergan), „Crazy Alien“ (Hao Ning) to name a few. She is currently casting the renowned artist and filmmaker Shirin Neshat's new film „Land of Dreams“, starring Matt Dillon, Minnie Driver, and Isabella Rossellini. She does private and group workshops on Acting for Film. She is a member of the Casting Society of America.



**'It was a tremendously gratifying experience to serve on the BLACK NIGHT STARS Jury to select stellar talent from the Baltics. Though all unique, they share an amazing presence, an unexpected force, mystery, soulful beauty, fierce intensity, intricate sensuality, and deepness which feels unique to their countries and still universal in their sincerity. It is of great value to the film industry to discover these marvellous and fresh artists who will shine, not just in their country, but internationally. To bring them to the film industry's attention so they can further enrich our experience as audiences and bring us closer together is a treasure'.**

## Magdalena Szwarcbart Casting director

is a casting director based in Warsaw. She studied at the University of Poznań and Film School in Łódź. Since 1984, she has acted as Assistant Director and Casting Director on films directed by the best Polish and international directors (Andrzej Wajda, Krzysztof Zanussi, Władysław Pasikowski, Wojtek Smarzowski and Costa Gavras, Michell Piccoli, Volker Schlöndorff, and Steven Spielberg). Her recent credits include „Cold Winter“ (dir. Paweł Pawlikowski) and „Gareth Jones“ (dir. Agnieszka Holland), „Never gonna snow again“ (dir. Małgorzata Szumowska), „Wanda my wunder“ (dir. Florian Gallenberger). She also cast the best Polish TV series „Teacher“ for Canal+, as well as „In Treatment“ and „The Pact“ for HBO, „Der Überläufer“ (dir. Florian Gallenberger) and „Kod genetyczny“ (dir. Adrian Panek)



She is a member of the International Casting Directors Network, the Polish Film Academy, and the European Film Academy.

## Nancy Bishop, CSA, Casting director

is an American born Emmy-nominated casting director working internationally with active offices in both London and Prague. She is the former Head and founder of the CSA board of directors, European Branch. She has been retained as a casting director by dozens of major producers and directors. Recent highlights of her career include the upcoming „The Liberator“ (Jeb Stuart, Netflix, A&E), „The Romanoffs“ (Mathew Wiener, Amazon), „Whiskey Cavalier“ (ABC/Warner Bros), „Knightfall“ (A&E), „Lore Season 2“ (Gale Ann Hurd, Sean Croucher, Amazon).

Notable past credits include working with Brad Bird on „Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol“, Bong Joon Ho on „Snowpiercer“, and Guillermo Del Toro on the original „Hellboy“. She was Emmy nominated for „Anne Frank, The Whole Story“. Beginning as a theatre director in Chicago, she moved to Prague shortly after the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia. Appointed as artistic director of an English language theatre company, she began to help US and European producers and directors with location casting requests, which later developed into international casting and opened a London office. Expanding on this she started to give seminars on the process and demands of casting and auditioning for actors in the internet era. Now having taught classes from Rio de Janeiro to Moscow, she has written two books on auditioning, the most recent published by Bloomsbury: „Auditioning for Film and TV.“ She is also the founder of the Acting for Film Program at the Prague Film School. She also is a member of BAFTA, The Television Academy, CDG (The Casting Directors Guild of Great Britain), ICDN, International Casting Directors Network, and the European Film Academy.



## Päaru Oja Actor

trained at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. He is a member of the Estonian Drama Theatre, and was honored as Best Actor at the Estonian Theatre Awards in 2015. His leading roles on the big screen include MIHKEL by Ari Alexander Ergis Magnússon, for which Päaru received nominations as Actor of the Year at the Icelandic EDDA Awards as well as Best Actor at the Estonian Film and TV Awards in 2019 for the series THE TRAP. Päaru recently completed filming on the series COLD COURAGE, and has the lead role in Veiko Õunpuu's upcoming THE LAST ONES, Estonia's Academy Awards entry this year.



## Michael Rosser Contributing Editor, Screen International

has spent more than 15 years covering film and television, from writing in-depth industry features and breaking news stories to interviewing A-list Hollywood stars. Working for IMDb, Screen International and Broadcast magazine, he has covered every major film festival as well as the Oscars, Emmys and BAFTAs, interviewing everyone from Quentin Tarantino and Martin Scorsese to Denzel Washington, Danny Boyle, Edgar Wright and even Steven Spielberg. Michael also regularly moderates panels and Q&As with highlights including on-stage appearances with Ron Howard, George Miller and a memorable LSFAccelerate Script to Screen session with Bridge of Spies writer Matt Charman.





**BLACK NIGHTS  
STARS  
2020**

# Aaron Hilmer

Germany



## Aaron Hilmer

Aaron Hilmer (Germany) has played a recurring role in the well-known youth series Die Pfefferkörner (2013-14) and has had his most important roles to date with Frederick Lau in the comedy "Schrotten!" by Max Zähle, as a shy young man in Lars Monday's "Einsamkeit und Sex und Mitleid" and as Cyrill in the modern Cyrano de Bergerac film adaptation of "Das Schönste Mädchen Der Welt" / "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World" by Aron Lehmann. He can currently be seen in the Netflix series "The Last Word" by Aron Lehmann and in the ZDF neo thriller series "Sloborn" by Christian Alvar, Adolfo Kolmerer. In 2018 he received the Günter Rohrbach Film Prize for "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World". In 2019 he was awarded the Bunte New Faces Award as the best young actor and in 2020 he was the new star at the German Film Ball.

## Languages

German, English

## Contact

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reinecke@schlag-agentur.de  
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# Antoni Sałaj

Poland



## Antoni Sałaj

has successfully played parts in Dywizjon 303 „Historia Prawdziwa“ by Denis Delić, and „Legiony“ by Dariusz Gajewski.

His language skills, Antoni speaks fluently English and French, had an overtone in productions such as „Breaking The Band Season I: Guns'n'roses“ by Zoran Trajkovic; „7 Godzin W Pociagu“ by Miguel Velez.

Worth mentioning is his work as Skirgaila – the polish king's brother in the very successful epic series „Korona Królów“. During his acting journey, he has also met with Oscar-nominated direction Bartosz Konopka in Netflix Original series „The Woods“.

## Languages

Polish, English, French

## Contact

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info@coolkeyplay.pl  
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# Hanna Ardéhn

Sweden



## Hanna Ardéhn

grew up in the northern suburbs of Stockholm, Sweden and at a young age she became interested in movies and acting.

She is best known for her role as Maja Norberg in the first Swedish Netflix original series „Quicksand“, which premiered in 2019. Ardéhn has appeared in TV productions Nio med JO, Dubbelliv, and 30 Degrees in February, an SVT series created by Anders Weidemann as well as the short film „Lidingöligan“, which won the short story film award and in the feature films „Krigarnas Ö“ and „07X – Lika Barn Leka Bäst“, both by Emil Jonsvik.

In 2019 she received Best actress award for TV series “Quicksand” at Kristallen, the official Swedish Television Awards.

## Languages

Swedish, English

## Contact

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# Henessi Schmidt

Estonia



## Henessi Schmidt

has played in several theatre plays and TV dramas. Her recent works include the theatre play „Tallinnville“ by Helen Reikor and she played the lead role in „Romeo and Juliet“ by Aare Toikka.

In her 1st feature film „Talve“ by Ergo Kuld (Kassikuld, Taska Film, Apollo Film Productions), she played the lead role as Maie.

In the previous years, she played in theatre plays such as Ilusad Inimesed by Piret Jaaks „Pariisitar“ and „Dekameron“ both by Aare Toikka.

She played also in several short films such as „The Rave“ by Johannes Magnus Aule and „Augusta ehk Paradiisi Poliitika“ by Liina Siib.

## Languages:

Estonian, English, French, Russian

## Contact:

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+ 372 533 599 63

# Reimo Sagor

Estonia



## Reimo Sagor

has worked in numerous film, TV and on stage productions including films also presented at PÖFF: „Nullpunkt“, „Must alpinist“ and „Päevad, mis ajasid segadusse“.

His performance as the young struggling single father in Liina Trishkina-Vanhatalo's „Take It or Leave It“ introduced him to mainstream audiences in Estonia as well as to a wider global audience. The film was Estonia's foreign-language Oscar submission on its release year in 2018.

Reimo's recent works include Martti Helde's feature „Scandinavian Silence“ that premiered at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (and received Europa Labels Prize).

Recently he was seen in the international spy thriller „Hamilton“ starring alongside Jakob Oftebro and Katia Winter. Currently, Reimo is working on Ove Musting's feature „Kalev“ and the TV-series „With One Eye Open“, a Swedish contemporary action thriller set in 1996.

## Languages

Estonian, English, German, Russian

## Contact

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# Simonas Mozūra

Lithuania



## Simonas Mozūra

trained at East 15 Acting School in London and is a member of Vilnius Actor Studio. He was training to become a professional athlete, specializing in a long jump, but arts stole his passion when he began his career with a role in a stage play „Fight Club“ in Lithuanian State Youth Theatre. He moved to the United Kingdom to study acting program that involved writing and directing, consequently, he was one of the founders of two theatre companies in the UK.

Simonas landed his first feature film roles soon after graduation including Romas Zabarauskas' „The Lawyer“, which was released earlier in 2020. He also worked with Richard Clemmow on BBC Radio 4 radio drama „I'm A Slave“.

Soon he will be coming back as one of the leads in the third season of popular Lithuanian TV crime drama „Cursed II“.

## Languages

English, Lithuanian, Russian

## Contact

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# Vika Sobol

Russia



## Vika Sobol

started playing in a theatre collective when she was 8 and has continued her studies at New School of cinema in Saint Petersburg and also attended music school to learn "baroque singing". Vika attended the masterclasses of Anton Adasinsky at Theatre Derevo and Andriy Zholdak.

She played at re-known Moscow experimental Electrotheatre-Stanislavsky and in a lot of street performances of independent theatres.

Vika feature debut as a lead actress was in Andrey Natotsinsky movie „Katja“.

## Languages

Russian, English

## Contact

Georg Georgi

Das Imperium Talent Agency (D.I.T.A.) Berlin Torstrasse 129, 10119  
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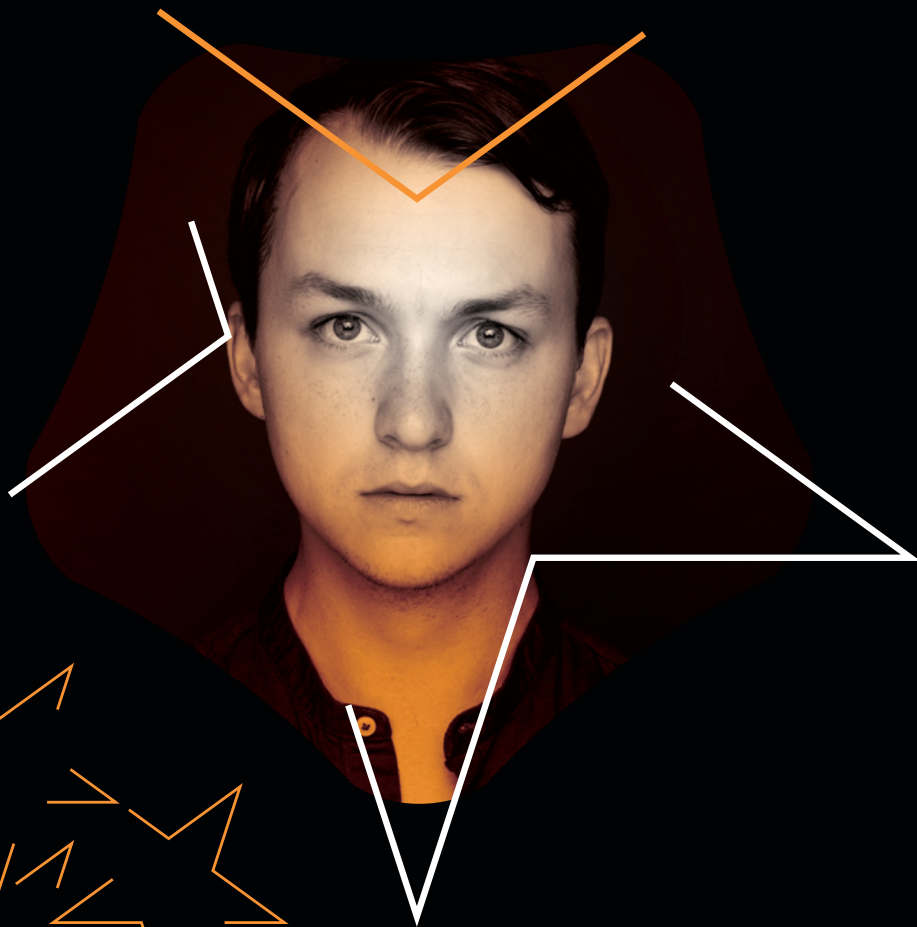
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# Vladislav Kulygin

Russia



## Vladislav Kulygin

has dreamed to be on the stage or act on the screen since being a child. After he finished school, he enrolled at the Higher Theatre School by Mikhael Schepkin. During his student years, he gained some experience playing in „The Tempest“ by W. Shakespeare and in „Jester“ based on Til Ulenspiegel’s story. Recently, he played a part in the film called „New Wonder“ directed by Alexandra Strelyanaya.

## Languages

Russian, English

## Contact

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# INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

## Aisha Bywaters Casting director

started working in casting in 2007. Aisha worked for Shaheen Baig for 6 years, assisting Shaheen on numerous projects including „The Impossible“, „Starred Up“, „Black Mirror“ and „Peaky Blinders“. In 2015, she set up her own company, her credits as a casting director include „Cyberbully“ (starring Maisie Williams), „The Watchmen“ (starring Stephen Graham) and „Enterprise“ (written by and starring Kayode Ewumi) for TV. Her film credits include „Dirty God“ and „The Last Tree“ (which both premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2019). For her work on „The Last Tree“ she was nominated for a British Independent Film Award for Best Casting alongside Shaheen Baig. Her upcoming projects include Channel 4 comedy „Lady Parts“ written and directed by Nida Manzoor and feature film „County Lines“ (which premiered at the 2019 London Film Festival and will be in cinemas in 2020). In September 2020, Aisha was named one of Screen International's UK & Ireland Stars of Tomorrow.



## Tusse Lande Casting director

has over 30 years' experience as a Casting Director in film and television. She was instrumental in the casting of Noomi Rapace in „The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo“, as well as casting the additional films in the series – „The Girl Who Played with Fire“ and „The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest“. She is a veteran of the European film market, bringing key knowledge and experience to projects such as „The Paradise Suite“, „Skyfall“, „Baby-Call“, „The Spy, Quick“, „Love Me“, „Maria Wern“, and „Wallander“. Lately, she has got a lot of recognition for her work on the popular Swedish TV Series: "Caliphate" and "Love Me". She is a member of the European Film Academy and the International Casting Directors Network.

www.kompanilande.com  
Instagram account: @landetusse



## Raakel Huikuri Casting agent

is a Talent Agent who has a background in both casting and acting, having trained in London. She heads the Nordic branch of The Lisa Richards Agency – Lisa Richards Nordic. Raakel started acting at a very young age which led to a love of film, television & theatre. Later Raakel discovered casting and worked as a freelance casting director for several years before moving across to work as an agent. The Lisa Richards Agency now have offices in Dublin, London and Helsinki, where Raakel is based.



## Georg Georgi Casting agent/ Casting director/ producer

was born and raised behind the wall in Jena/GDR. After his career as a professional dancer in classic & contemporary dance ended, he started working on his lifetime mission – working with talent. In 1995, he co-founded M4 Models & M4 Management GmbH. In 2000, it was re-named DAS IMPE-RIUM talent agency Berlin, which now represents more than 160 rising talents from more than 30 countries & 2 international directors.

In 2015, he founded TRYANGLE INSPIRATION PICTURES GmbH in Berlin with his partner John Robinson (lead in Gus Van Sant's ELEPHANT & LORDS OF DOGTOWN), putting together packages with an extensive international network of independent producers, writers, and social media content specialists. In 2020, he started WHAT'S UP IN YOUR GARAGE. With this vehicle, he will empower and inspire artists and powerful ideas through a DIY development-producing-distributing structure for international series or movie formats. He is a partner of the new branded web series format SPÄTILIFE, for which he partnered up with Eike Schulz (writer of VICTORIA), Lorenzo Musiu (director & producer), and Elisa Amalia Bausch (Ex-Strategist & Analyst from Vice Magazine). The quartet shot a pilot for the series in September 2020, which was completely financed by brands. In 2020, together with Nadine Juntke he also founded a special casting agency GRETEL & HENSEL – to inspire casts for international art-house movies and series projects.

He is the father to two daughters and lives in Berlin, and is part of a permaculture land project in the South of Portugal.



## Robin Hudson Casting agent

is an agent at leading London based talent agency Olivia Bell Management, based in Soho – the traditional heart of the UK film industry. They represent a wide range of clients across film, television and theatre.

As well as having a list of UK based actors, the company is also a specialist in representing actors overseas; has successfully booked clients throughout the world, ranging from Europe all the way to North America, including films like Martin Scorsese's "Wolf Of Wall Street" and Danny Boyle's "T2: Trainspotting". Robin started his career at London Management as an agents assistant, then moving onto a period working in casting, firstly with Gail Stevens on "28 Days Later" for Danny Boyle. He later worked for Jina Jay, on films like "Munich" (dir. Steven Spielberg), "Kingdom of Heaven" (dir. Ridley Scott) & "The Last King Of Scotland" (dir. Kevin MacDonal). Next he worked as a European casting director for the Academy nominated director Terrence Malick, travelling to various countries to cast the lead girl in "To The Wonder" (eventually played by Olga Kurylenko), which shaped much of what was to follow in his career. Since working at Olivia Bell Management from 2012, Robin has carefully built a list that is highly respected in the UK and in Europe, and with a strong interest in the European film scene, he is also a member of the European Film Academy.

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## Julija Šatkauskaitė Talent agent

is an actress and talent agent born in Vilnius, Lithuania. She finished a master degree in acting at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre in 2014. From then on she has acted in numerous theatre performances and several film and TV series. She has been working with legendary Lithuanian theatre director E. Nekrošius in many of his last productions. Currently, Julija works as an actress at the Vilnius city theatre "Meno ir Mokslo Laboratorija" and theatre "Meno Fortas". She is also acting in several upcoming Lithuanian feature films productions.

Julija started working as a talent agent in 2018, when she joined the Baltic Actors Agency. Before her the Baltic Actors Agency mostly worked with the Russian speaking cinema market. Julija was the first person to start exploring the possibilities of promoting and representing actors for English speaking cinema productions. Currently Julija is representing over 20 exceptional actors from Lithuania and considering the possibility to represent talent from the whole Baltic region. Julija has represented actors for such productions as "6 Underground" by Michael Bay, "Thin Ice" by Jóhann Ávar Grímsson and Søren Stærmoose, "Caliphate" by Goran Kapetanovic, "Spy Wars" with Damian Lewis, and "Ghost Bus Tours" by Ben Wilson.



## Piotr Bartuszek Casting director

is a casting director based in Warsaw. He studied Art History at Warsaw University. After various life experiences, he has devoted his professional life to cinema. He has worked with directors such as Claire Denis ("High Life"), Francois Girard ("The Song of Names"), Michael Glawogger ("Contact High") (Aleksandr Sokurov ("Faust"), Emily Atef ("Wunchkinder"), Tomasz Wasilewski ("United States of Love"), Jan p. Matuszynski („Król"), and Anna Jadowska ("Dzikié róże"). He considers himself a bit old-fashioned. He doesn't like compromises, and believes in real talent and hard work. He is an enthusiast of 1930s and 40s cinema, especially the actresses of the Golden Age. His hobbies include, going to museums, travel, gardening, and sometimes spontaneous dance. Piotr is a Board Member of the International Casting Director Network and European Film Academy.



## Simone Bär Casting director

Straight after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1990 Simone Bär founded the "CastingStudio". Her longtime experience as an assistant director was only one of the reasons she decided to take up casting professionally. The extensive database Simone Bär set up allows fast and intensive research for all German and many European actors. Simone Bär is regarded as one of the most renowned and multi award winning Casting Director. From her Berlin based casting-agency (<https://www.castingstudio.de/>) she has worked on numerous national and international productions. Amongst others, Simone is known for her work on "Undine" (Christian Petzold), "The Turncoat" (Florian Gallenberger), "Babylon Berlin" (Henk Handloegten, Tom Tykwer, Achim von Borries), "Charlie's Angels" (Elizabeth Banks) "The Grand Budapest Hotel" (Wes Anderson) "The Aftermath" (James Kent) "Frantz" (Francois Ozon) "Inglourious Basterds" (Quentin Tarantino), "Land of Mine" (Martin Zandvliet) "Good Bye Lenin!" (Wolfgang Becker) and many more. She received the "German Casting Award" the OFTA Film Award for "Inglourious Basterds", the EDA Award "The Grand Budapest Hotel", the Golden Umbrella TV Award Casting in 2017 for "Babylon Berlin" and the "Grimme Preis" in 2018 for her work on Netflix series "Dark"



## Kristina Kolytė Casting director

is a Lithuanian casting director, who has worked on local and international productions for the past 14 years. She is a member of the International Casting Directors Network, ICDN, and the European Film Academy. There have been many projects she has enjoyed and appreciated working on. Her most recent projects include "The Castle" (dir. Lina Lužytė), "Young Wallander" (dir. Ole Endersen and Jens Jonsson), "The Truth will out 2" (dir. Kristian Petri and Camilla Ström Henriksen).

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## Rebecca Van Unen CSA | ICDN | DCS

Is an award-winning Dutch casting director who works both nationally and internationally from offices in Amsterdam and Antwerp. Rebecca started off in casting back in 1999 and has worked on a diverse mix of critically acclaimed projects both nationally and internationally with credits that include MY QUEEN KARO by Dorothee van den Berghe, WINTER IN WARTIME by Martin Koolhoven, WOLF by Jim Taihuttu, LAYLA M by Mijke de Jong, FENIX by Shariff Korver and GANGSTA by Adil el Arbi and Bilal Fallah.

Recent projects include Matthijs van Heijningen's FORGOTTEN BATTLE, QUO VADIS AIDA (nominated Golden Lion best film Venice film festival) by Jamila Zbanic, THE EAST INDIES by Jim Taihuttu and DO NOT HESITATE directed by Shariff Korver. In 2015 she won the Subtitle Fest Angela Award for outstanding achievement in casting.

Rebecca is a member of the Casting Society of America (CSA), International Casting Directors Network (ICDN) and founding member of the Dutch Casting Society (DCS).



## Monika Janas Casting agent

is a owner of Coolkeyplay talent agency; film producer. A graduate with an MA in Finance and Banking from the Warsaw School of Economics and from the French Institute of Management. In 1993 she made inroads into the film industry as the executive producer of recurring educational programs for Polish Television. Later she dealt with the promotion of artistic projects, and in 2002 she began to represent actors. In 2007, she founded her own company, now recognized as one of the most prestigious agencies in the Polish film market. Coolkeyplay cares about the international careers of represented artists, and contributes to their artistic and media images. Recently it has become involved in film production. The first film she co-produced, "(nie)znajomi" by Tadeusz Sliwa, was released in the autumn of 2019.





## Dr. Julia Effertz Intimacy Coordinator

is an award-winning actress, screenwriter, and Germany's first trained Intimacy Coordinator. Julia was trained by leading UK intimacy coordinators Ita O'Brien and David Thackeray, whose work includes acclaimed productions „Sex Education“ (Netflix), „Watchmen“ (HBO), „Gentleman Jack“ (BBC), „I may destroy you“ (HBO), and „Normal People“ (Hulu). Additionally, Julia has trained in Intimacy Coordination Best Practices in the USA with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators (IDC) as well as Theatrical Intimacy Education (TIE).

Following her acting training in Paris and London, and a PhD in Comparative Literature in Oxford, Julia worked in UK theatre and was nominated for the prestigious Off West End Award as Best Lead Actress in 2011.

As a screenwriter, Julia has received nominations at the 2018 Funny Women Awards, and the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2019. As Germany's first (and currently only) intimacy coordinator, Julia has most recently worked for DFFB Berlin, HFF Munich, Kess Films, and X-Filme Creative Pool / Magenta TV. She is an advocate for establishing best practice standards in the European film and television industry when working with nudity, simulated sexual, and intimate content in front of the camera.

## Ivo Felt Producer and Sound Designer

co-founded the production company Allfilm in 1995. Currently Ivo is focusing more on producing but has created sound design for more than 50 feature and documentary films in the past.

Ivo's productions include Zaza Urushadze's „Tangerines“, nominated for the Academy Award and Golden Globe as well as Klaus Härö's „The Fencer“, nominated for Golden Globe.

Ivo's latest feature film „Truth and Justice“, directed by Tanel Toom broke all box office records locally, won a Sattellite Award and was shortlisted for an Academy Award.



## Jonathan Kesselman Director

launched his career writing and directing „The Hebrew Hammer“ in 2003 to international acclaim with its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival and was later released in the US by Strand Releasing in conjunction with Comedy Central and Paramount Home Video. „The Hebrew Hammer“ was voted among the top holiday movies by the New York Times, Vanity Fair, Boston Globe and Time Magazine. Jonathan's second feature film „Jimmy Vestwood: Amerikan Hero“ starring Maz Jobrani and John Heard, had its world premiere at the 2014 Austin Film Festival, where it won the Comedy Vanguard award as well as the Audience Award. Jonathan wrote and directed second Unit for Oscar-winning director Ang Lee on the film, „Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk“. Recently he was the Showrunner for „Gander“, a fact-based comedy starring a.o Russell Peters, Lewis Black, Jay Mohr, Rachel Dratch, Oscar Nunez, and Bonnie McFarlane. Jonathan has been a screenwriter for: Fox, Paramount, Nickelodeon, Disney, Disney XD, Sony, Blue Sky Animation, MTV, Comedy Central studios, the Irish Film Board, and WWE (yes, it's fake). Jonathan also works as a commercial director with such clients as Nintendo, Renault, Red Mango, Canon, Irish Rail, DDB RX, American Media Inc., and the Mr. Olympia contest.



## Dr. David Zitzlsperger Directing founder of Denkungsart GmbH

is directing founder of Denkungsart GmbH, a German software as a service (SaaS) provider specializing in the needs of film and media professionals. Based on the software Prestage [www.prestage.io](http://www.prestage.io), a SaaS to find, manage and book crew, cast, locations and props, Denkungsart licenses systems to major production companies and film commissions (for example [www.bbf.de](http://www.bbf.de), [www.film-pool-casting.de](http://www.film-pool-casting.de), [www.constantin-casting.com](http://www.constantin-casting.com), <https://locationbase.ufa.de> ...).

Additionally, Denkungsart runs the casting and selection system „Castupload“ that is used by leading European casting-directors and production companies (for professional actors [www.castupload.com](http://www.castupload.com) and for casting-directors [www.pro.castupload.com](http://www.pro.castupload.com)). It is free to register and use for professional actors seeking access to European film.

## Bonnie Williams Pitch & Public Speaking Coach

is a Pitch & Public Speaking Coach for industry professionals. She specializes in supporting non-native English speakers in finding their own voice and speaking with impact.

Bonnie coaches and advises on pitching, presenting and interview techniques for filmmakers, producers and actors, writers and creatives, heads of industry, moderators, experts, etc. She is a senior TEDx speaker coach. A returning consultant at IDFA Forum and IFFR across various platforms including RotterdamLab, BoostNL, VR Pro, & IFFR ProHub. Recent experience: 2020 CEE Animation forum, B2B Docs, FilmmarketHub UKOnlinePitchbox 2020, VondelCS, VersFilmFestival.



## Ronald Pelin Actor

is a professional screen and theatre actor, born and raised in Tallinn, Estonia. He studied at the Russian Theatre of Estonia in Tallinn and the Moscow Art Theatre School, where he received the Annual Prize of Ivan M. Moskvina-Tarkhanov – the Golden Rapiere. Together with Viktor Ryzhakov he founded a new theatre company – The 9th Studio of Moscow Art Theatre «Julyensemble».

Pelin performed in many Moscow theatres and toured with the performances of the company across Russia, and internationally.

He was seen in several television and film projects in Russia: „Zaytcev+1“ (2011) by Maksim Pezhemskiy; the docuseries „GRU: Mysteries of Intelligence Service“ (2011) by Sergey Ivanov. In 2018, he studied at The Lee Strasberg Institute in Los Angeles focusing on Method and Screen Acting.

In the Summer of 2019, he came to Tallinn for Christopher Nolan's feature „Tenet“ (2020) for an episodic part of Freeport Staff employee.

He played the lead in Industry Film School short film „The Ticket“ (2020), directed by Sergey Tsapenkov, and was the principle actor in Baltic Film and Media School short film „Come Out Sinner“ (2020). His projects in production are „Erik Stoneheart“ (2021) by Ilmar Raag, and „Kalev“ (2021) by Ove Musting.



# US PANELISTS

## Joseph Middleton

has cast some of Hollywood's most popular films, including "Mr. & Mrs. Smith", "Twilight: New Moon," "The Bourne Supremacy," "Legally Blonde" and "American Pie," for which he won the 2000 Artios award for best comedy casting. He was also nominated for Tom Ford's directorial debut, "A Single Man", which earned Colin Firth an Academy Award nomination.

Mr. Middleton was the president of his own company, Middleton Casting, Inc. for 15 years and served on the board for the Casting Society of America. From 2010 through 2019, he served as Executive Vice President of Casting for Paramount Pictures, where he oversaw the casting of the studios film, animated and television projects. Some of his recent credits, since leaving Paramount are Doug Liman's "Lock-down" and Gabrielle Cowperthwaite's "ISS"



## Billy Hopkins

casts film, television and theatre. The first film he cast was DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN and the most recent is the upcoming THE UNITED STATES VS. BILLIE HOLIDAY. He received the Robert Altman Award for MUDBOUND. Recent television work includes P-VALLEY and WHEN THEY SEE US for which he received the Emmy Award.

## Alice Whitley

is a NY-based talent agent at ICM Partners. In addition to her own roster of clients who work in theater, film and television, she covers theatrical opportunities for ICM's client list.



## Avy Kaufman

is a casting director based in New York City and a proud mother of two sons. She has worked with directors Ang Lee, Robert Redford, Steven Spielberg, Jodie Foster, Ridley Scott, Luca Guadagnino, Wong Kar Wai, Cary Joji Fukunaga and many other respected directors on such acclaimed films and television shows such as "Life of Pi", "Lincoln", "Prometheus", "Shame", "Brokeback Mountain", "Capote", "The Sixth Sense", "Dancer in the Dark" and "American Gangster", "Maniac", "The Night Of", "The Alienist" and "Succession"



In 2005, Avy was honored as Casting Director of the year at the Hollywood Film Festival and, in 2013, received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Subtitle Film Festival in Ireland. She was awarded an Emmy for her work on the pilot of Showtime's "Damages" and has received Emmy nominations for the HBO series "Empire Falls", "The Night Of" and "The Looming Tower".

In 2018 Avy was nominated for a British Independent Film Awards for "American Animals" and is this year's recipient of the Robert Altman Award for "Suspiria" at the Independent Spirit Awards. She's also received several Artios awards from her CSA colleagues.

Avy is featured in Helena Lumme's book Great Women of Film and was recently honored with a place on Variety's 2018 New York Women's Impact List for her excellence in the field of film and television casting.

## Cynthia Campos-Greenberg

is a native Californian currently celebrating her 40th anniversary of working in Hollywood as a representative of talent.

Having been an agent for 15 years, representing actors Ms. Campos-Greenberg had the opportunity to represent wonderful actors at the beginnings of their careers (Johnny Depp, Denis Leary, Sherilyn Fenn, Max Perlich, Famke Janssen among others) and at the end of their lives (Ben Johnson, Gilbert Roland and Sherman Hemsley). It was a job that she loves to this day. Her love of the arts and theater as well as film and television and her love of performers, entertainers both actors and below-the-line was a prerequisite to working as a manager.

Since leaving the auspices of The William Morris Agency in the mid 90s Ms. Campos-Greenberg has been managing artists for 20 years and during that time has cultivated an amazing group of great performers from the United States and Europe.



# TIMETABLE

## Saturday, 21 November

**14.00 - 15.30** Black Nighths Stars Get Together

## Monday, 23 November

**10:00 - 13:00** One-on-one speed-dating session for Estonian professional actors with international agents and casting experts (with pre-registration)

- Kristina Kolytė, casting director at Editos Casting, Lithuania
- Magdalena Swarczbart, casting director at Magdalena Swarczbart, Poland
- Nancy Bishop, casting director at Nancy Bishop Casting, USA
- Piotr Bartuszek of Piotr Bartuszek Casting, Poland
- Raakel Huikuri, casting agent at Lisa Richards Agency / LR Nordic, Finland
- Robin Hudson, talent agent at Olivia Bell Management, UK and more to be announced
- Georg Georgi, talent agent and casting director, Das Imperium/ Gretel & Hensel, Germany
- Julija Satkauskaitė, casting agent at Baltic Actors Agency, Lithuania
- Monika Janas, casting agent at Coolkeyplay Talent Agency, Poland
- Rebecca van Unen, casting director, Oi Mundo Casting, The Netherlands

By appointment only, contact: Elo-Liis Parmas [eloliis@gmail.com](mailto:eloliis@gmail.com)

**14.00 - 16.00** „How to present yourself in online one-on-one meetings with casting agents, casting directors and the press, part 2“ with Bonnie Williams, a professional speaking and performance coach at Speaking with impact with Bonnie Williams, Netherlands.

Closed event.

**18.00 - 19.30** Black Nights Stars Get Together

Closed event.

## Tuesday, 24 November

**10.00 - 13.00** Black Nights Stars online one-on-one meetings with talent agents and casting directors

Closed event.

**14.00 - 16.00** Industry Talk with i.e. Georg Georgi of GRETEL & HENSEL casting agency & Das Imperium talent agency Berlin, David Zitzlsperger of Online platform Castupload, casting director Piotr Bartuszek of Piotr Bartuszek Casting (“Wild Roses”, “High Life”), Simone Bär of Simone Bär Casting („Babylon Berlin”, “Charlie’s Angels”, “The Grand Budapest Hotel”, “Inglourious Basterds”) and others Please NO cutting in titles: Bartsuzek and Inglorious basterds.

**19.00 - 20.30** Panel discussion with a panel of US casting agents, casting directors, and talent managers about the way US auditions work and how casting directors find European actors. Moderated by casting director Lina Todd of Lina Todd Casting, USA, “The Way Back” (Peter Weir); “Little Man Tate” (Jodie Foster); “A Good Day to Die Hard” (John Moore), “Crazy Alien” (Hao Ning) with casting director Joseph Middleton (“Mr. & Mrs. Smith”, “Twilight: New Moon”, “The Bourne Supremacy”, “Legally Blonde”, “The Single Man”), casting director Billy Hopkins “Desperately Seeking Susan”, “The United States vs. Billie Holiday”, “Mudbound”), casting director Avy Kaufman (“Life of Pi”, “Lincoln”, “Prometheus”, “Shame”, “Brokeback Mountain”, “Capote”, “The Sixth Sense”, “Dancer in the Dark”), and NY-based talent agent Alice Whitley, a representative of talent in Hollywood Cynthia Campos-Greenberg.



## Wednesday, 25 November

**10:00 - 12:00** Workshop with casting director Tusse Lande of casting agency Kompani Lande, Sweden known for her work on “Skyfall” (2012), “Specter” (2015) and “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” (2009): How to promote yourself in a competitive market and focusing how to present yourself in the best way with practical guidance how to make an “About Me Video”.

**14.00 - 15.30** Masterclass for actors: „What makes a good casting? How will we work the coming time and what to be expected for actors“ with casting agents Robin Hudson, Olivia Blell Management, UK; Raakel Huikuri, Lisa Richards Agency / LR Nordic, Finland; Nancy Bishop, Nancy Bishop Casting Czech Republic/US; Magdalena Swarcz bart, Magdalena Swarcz bart, Poland; Piotr Bartuszek, Piotr Bartuszek Casting Poland; Kristina Kolyte Editos Casting, Lithuania; talent agent and casting director Georg Georgi Das Imperium / Gretel & Hensel. Q & A for the public

## Thursday, 26 November

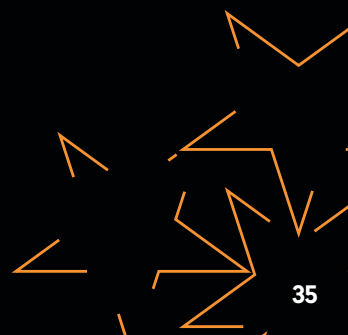
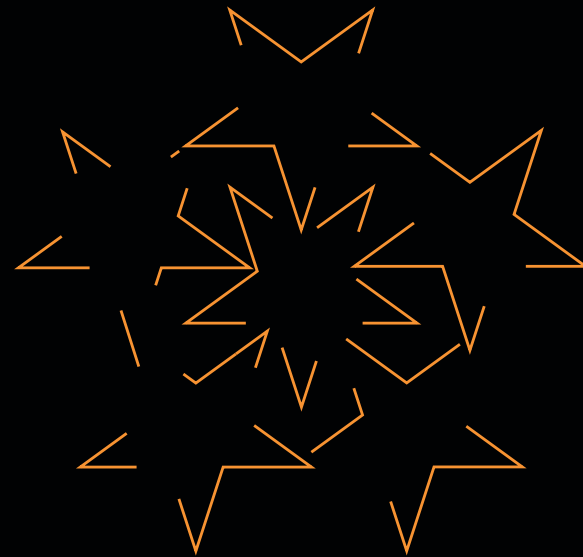
**14:30 - 16:00** Panel discussion: What casting directors can do for your project, securing cast and how to get the right actors for your project with casting directors Magdalena Swarcz bart, Magdalena Swarcz bart, Poland; Georg Georgi, Das Imperium / Gretel & Hensel, Germany; Nancy Bishop, Nancy Bishop Casting; Kristina Kolyte, Editos Casting and Piotr Bartuszek, Piotr Bartuszek Casting ; director and writer Jonathan Kesselman (“The Hebrew Hammer”) and producer Ivo Felt, Allfilm, Estonia, The Academy Award and Golden Globe nominated „Tangerines“ (2013), The Golden Globe nominated „The Fencer“ (2015) and „Seenelkäik“ (2012) For producers and directors.

**17:00 - 19:00** DEADLINE Talk with Tom Grater and the Tallinn Black Nights Stars.

Q & A for the public

## Friday, 27 November

**11:00 - 12:30** Webinar by Julia Effertz, Intimacy Coordinator, ‘Intimacy in front of the camera’. The focus of the online presentation will be on introducing participants to the topic, to the problems and challenges when dealing with intimate scenes, the role of the intimacy coordinator during production, as well as Best Practice recommendations and tools for industry professionals when working with intimacy in front of the camera.



# Thank you partners!

The event is inspired by the European Shooting Stars programme organised by European Film Promotion since 1998. European Shooting Stars takes place annually at the Berlin International Film Festival and introduces the ten best up-and-coming acting talents from throughout Europe to industry, press and public.



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**Claudia Landsberger,**  
Head of Black Nights Stars Program

**Elo-Liis Parma**  
Program coordinator Black Nights Stars Program