



## FUTURE FRAMES: NEW TALENT SHOWCASES CREATIVITY

European Film Promotion selects 10 emerging filmmakers to watch

By ALISSA SIMON

For the second time, the Karlovy Vary Intl. Film Festival, in cooperation with European Film Promotion, serves as a venue where the next generation of students and recent graduates of European film schools can put their short works on display. Following a highly successful inaugural year that saw some of the participating filmmakers go on to play at big North American festivals — and in one case even garner an Oscar nomination — the 2016 selected directors and their films will be introduced to the public, press and industry during an event running July 4 and 5 and culminating with a masterclass taught by Belgian helmer Felix van Groeningen. SundanceTV and Nespresso are

partners of Future Frames. Swiss helmer Julia Furer articulates the feelings of Future Frames participants: “I’m looking forward to getting an overview of what other film students from other countries have been working on, and also to get feedback about how they see my work. But mostly I’m curious to meet different filmmakers and producers from all over the world.”

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### AHMED ABDULLAHI

“Francis”

Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts, Sweden

Somalia-born Abdullahi came to Sweden in 1992 and grew up in the northern Swedish town of Umeå. His diploma drama “Francis” was shortlisted for the Foreign Student Academy Award and he directed a feature documentary, “I Am Dublin” (2015) that was co-written and co-directed with David Aronowitsch. “The movies I want to make are ones that reflect our society, whether set in the present or the past,” he says. “I want to show perspective and voices that aren’t usually heard.” Abdullahi is writing the script for his first feature. “It is about a man from Nigeria who dreams about starting the first Michelin Guide-listed restaurant in Lagos, a dream that takes him all the way to Sweden.”

### REBECCA FIGENSCHAU

“Elephant Skin”

Westerdals Oslo ACT, Norway

Figenschau’s diploma drama, “Elephant Skin,” was selected for competition at Norway’s Haugesund Festival and nabbed an acting prize at the 2016 Norwegian Student Film Festival. Her earlier work consists of three shorts: 2016’s “Hvite Firkanter,” and “Daim” and “Aorta” in 2012. She was selected as one of 10 screenwriters for the national script development program Visible Differences, and is now developing her first feature. “What I love about film, is that it can make us see human beings and human behavior in new perspectives, and deepen our understanding of each other,” she says. “I feel like my whole being is full of stories and images. I want to share them, and use them to try and figure things out.”

### JULIA FURER

“Julian”

Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Switzerland

Furer is about to enter a masters program in documentary filmmaking program at the University of Arts in Zurich, Switzerland, and is currently in Morocco, researching her master’s project. “Julian,” her diploma project from Lucerne University, won multiple awards on the festival circuit. A dedicated documentary maker, Furer says: “Through travelling and learning all different kinds of languages, mentalities and religions, I have met a lot of interesting people who influenced me. Farmers, homeless people, businessmen and even people who couldn’t speak one word. They all influenced me as a human being and automatically my work as a filmmaker.”



**Rustic Romania**

Roxana Stroe's "A Night in Tokoriki" won a prize from the Generation 14plus jury in Berlin.

**East of the West Competition**

**Collector**  
Director: Alexei Krasovski  
Russia, 2016, international premiere

**The Days That Confused**  
Director: Triin Ruumet  
Estonia, 2016, international premiere

**Double**  
Director: Catrinel Danaia  
Romania, 2015, international premiere

**Home Sweet Home**  
Director: Faton Bajraktari  
Kosovo/Macedonia, 2016, international premiere

**House of Others**  
Director: Rusudan Glurjidze  
Georgia/Russia/Spain/Croatia, 2016, world premiere

**Houston, We Have a Problem!**  
Director: Ziga Virc  
Slovenia/Croatia/Germany/Czech Republic/Qatar, 2016, European premiere

**Kamper**  
Director: Lukasz Grzegorzek  
Poland, 2016, world premiere

**Kills on Wheels**  
Director: Attila Till  
Hungary, 2016, international premiere

**The Noonday Witch**  
Director: Jiri Sadek  
Czech Republic, 2016, international premiere

**The Spy and the Poet**  
Director: Toomas Hussar  
Estonia, 2016, world premiere

**Together for Ever**  
Director: Lina Luzyte  
Lithuania/Romania, 2016, world premiere

**Verge**  
Directors: Ayhan Salar & Erkan Tahhusoglu  
Turkey/Germany, 2016, world premiere

**TONGI GACINA**

"Tourism!"

Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb, Croatia

Documentary maker Gacina is quite versatile, having worked as a director, cinematographer, and camera assistant on numerous productions. "At the moment, my focus as a director is primarily on documentary film, because reality can always find a new way to surprise me" he says. "Reality is my starting point and permanent inspiration." He's also a firm believer in the work of nonprofit cine clubs and believes they play a critical role in the development of cinema, especially documentary filmmaking. Gacina plans to participate in the education programs of Cine Club Split and the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb, and to work with young people, as he pursues his dream of making documentaries.

**KLARA KOCHANSKA**

"Tenants"

Polish National Film School in Lodz, Poland

An anthropology graduate of Warsaw University, Kochanska is completing her final year in the Polish National Film School's directing program. Her shorts have won numerous prizes on the festival circuit and she has two feature projects coming up. She plans to shoot the low-budget, "unconventional and risky" film, "Via Carpatia," with her husband, filmmaker Kasper Bajon, and friends this summer. She says, "We want to shoot, using fiction and documentary methods, in seven days while traveling to the Macedonian border." She is also preparing her feature debut, "Cold Water" with Studio Kadr. She wants her film to play a provocative role: "I believe in cinema that makes us feel uncomfortable."

**MARIA LUZ OLIVARES CAPELLE**

"Forest of Echoes"

Film Academy Vienna (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna), Austria

Born in Argentina, Olivares Capelle studied film directing at the Escuela Nacional de Experimentación y Realización Cinematográfica in Buenos Aires before attending workshops and courses at the Vienna Film Academy, including Michael Haneke's film directing master class. This summer she will shoot her next short, an experimental documentary about gender, and is writing a feature. "I want to make films that invite [viewers] on an adventure of insecurity, that offer an insight into the invisible," she says. Her influences? "Jorge Luis Borges, Pina Bausch, Björk, the I Ching, Mircea Eliade, Michael Haneke, Kathrin Resetarits, Gunter Damisch, Abbas Kiarostami, Judith Butler, Julio Cortazar, and many others."

**CLEMENS PICHLER**

"Diorama"

University of Television and Film Munich, Germany

First inspired by the theater, Pichler worked as a stage technician and assistant director before studying directing at Munich's University of Television and Film. His experimental drama "Diorama" was shortlisted for the Nationalgalerie/German Film Academy's Förderpreis für Filmkunst in 2015. Pichler is developing his first feature and says he wants to make "strong, sad, sexy, surreal love dramas." His influences include Bach, Bataille, Brecht and Tom Tykwer. He hopes that the Future Frames program will put him in a better position to finance and realize his next project and allow him to meet "nice, interesting, creative people."

**DAVIT PIRTSKHALAVA**

"Father"

Artschool Royal District Theater, Georgia

Pirtskhalava obtained an M.A. in screenwriting from Tbilisi's Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Cinema State University and is currently studying playwriting. He

co-wrote screenplays for films by Tornike Bziava ("Wake-Man") and Levan Tutberidze ("Moirá," Georgia's 2015 foreign-language Oscar submission). Pirtskhalava's directing debut, "Father," claimed the international short kudo at the 2015 Locarno festival. He says, "I want to make films about family relationships. My influences are daily life in Georgia, and the needs and desires of ordinary people." After he completes his studies, he plans to shoot his next short project and develop a script for his own first feature.

**ROXANA STROE**

"A Night in Tokoriki," left

National University of Theatre & Film, Romania

Stroe recently received a M.A. in film directing from Bucharest's National University of Theatre and Film. Her short films, which present the tragi-comic in a slightly absurd manner, have collected numerous kudos, including a special prize from the Generation 14plus jury at the 2016 Berlinale for "A Night in Tokoriki." She has already started working on her next short, a French-Romanian co-production. Her influences? She notes, "It can be a painting, a poem, a photograph, or simply just a past or present event; everything we see and experience in life influences our art in some way, directly or indirectly."

**KAREN VÁZQUEZ GUADARRAMA**

"Flower of a Thousand Colors"

Kask & Conservatorium School of Arts Ghent, Belgium

Born in Mexico City, Vázquez Guadarrama is interested in playing with the borders of narrative and documentary. She says, "I would love to mix both genres and go somewhere, write a script and use non-actors who live in that community to play the roles in their own environment." She is developing a feature documentary in the mining camp in Bolivia where "Flower of a Thousand Colors" is set. "It will be a poetic portrait of the community, told from the perspective of different characters in the mining community, with more emphasis on the mysticism of the place and their culture," she says. **✎**