

# Business & Legal

## Moderator and speaker bios

### Panel 1: Keep on Keeping on – Inside Independent Production Companies from across Europe

#### Moderator: Bertrand Moullier - Consultant, NARVAL Media Ltd

Bertrand Moullier has been an independent consultant for the filmed entertainment sector since 2005, when he started NARVAL Media Ltd.



For the past 15 years, he has advised the International Federation of Film Producers Associations [FIAPF] on global trade and business issues in production financing, distribution models and regulatory frameworks affecting the growth of these sectors.

He is also a senior advisor of 10 years to the Independent Film & Television Alliance [IFTA] a global trade association comprising over 200 independent sales, production and distribution companies. Bertrand advises IFTA on trade and regulatory issues in the UK and European markets.

Other NARVAL Media clients have included the British Screen Advisory Council, the International Confederation of Societies of Authors Composers [CISAC], the French Ministry of Culture, Channel 4, the Danish Film Producers Association, the British Film Institute, the World Intellectual Property Organisation [WIPO] and the European Parliament.

Bertrand was educated in France, where he graduated with a Master in history from Paris La Sorbonne in 1985.

#### Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor - Producer, Joi Productions

Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor runs Joi Productions. In 2019, she produced the hit *Blue Story*, which became the top grossing film of its genre. In 2020, she was named a Screen International Star of Tomorrow and a BAFTA Breakthrough, as well as Joi Productions receiving a BFI Vision Award. At the end of 2021, she produced Aml Ameen's debut, *Boxing Day*, the first all-black Christmas film out of the UK.



More recently Joy has produced *Champion* for BBC and Netflix. In 2022 Ringside Studio acquired a stake in Joi Productions.

#### Anni Faurbye Fernandez - Founder/CEO/Producer, Nevis Productions

In 2001 Anni started her career in the film & TV industry as a media and entertainment lawyer. From 2007 to 2015 Anni worked at Yellow Bird as an executive producer and from 2012 to 2014 as CEO. Her credits include the Millennium Trilogy, *Wallander*, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *The Girl in the Spiders Web* and *Occupied*.



In 2014 Anni co-founded Good Company Films where she was CEO and producer. She initiated, developed and financed the Norwegian crime series *Wisting*, which was produced in co-production with Cinenord. In 2018 she joined Cinenord as producer and executive producer where she finalized the production of *Wisting* and produced the epic war drama *Atlantic Crossing* that won the international Emmy Award.

In 2020, Anni Faurbye Fernandez co-founded the independent production company NEVIS Productions with Moa Westeson and Cindy Hanson. Nevis Productions is based in Copenhagen and Stockholm and is backed by Nevision that has offices in London, Los Angeles, New York and recently Barcelona.

## Mariela Besuievsky - Producer/Partner, Tornasol Media



Born in Uruguay. She graduated from the EMAD, Municipal School of Dramatic Art ("Escuela Municipal de Artes Drámaticas") and studied film at the EICTV, International Film School founded by the Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba. Her first film as a producer was Pablo Dotta's debut feature film "El Dirigible", the first Uruguayan film to participate in the Cannes Film Festival's Critics Week, in 1994.

She is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), and the Academy of Cinematographic Arts and Sciences of Spain. She is in the Board of Directors of AECine (Asociación Estatal de Cine), a member of the Council of EPC (European Producers Club) and a member of FIPCA (Federación Iberoamericana de Productores Cinematográficos y Audiovisuales).

Mariela Besuievsky has taught at the EICTV in Cuba and is currently a tutor at the Executive Production Master at the ECAM (Escuela de Cine de Madrid) and at the Master in Audiovisual and Cinematographic Industry at the Carlos III University in Madrid. She was a mentor in the second edition of Audiovisual Women & Series Women organized by the EPI (Erich Pommer Institut).

In 2011 she was awarded the Eurimages Prize for Co-Production by the European Film Academy. In 2013, she was a member of the Jury of the Official Section at the 61st edition of the San Sebastián Film Festival. In September 2022, she was awarded the Lighthouse of Honor at the VI edition of the Santander Film Festival, an award given to the trajectory, talent, and creativity in the audiovisual sector.

Her film credits include over 160 films and series as Producer and Executive Producer, including "The Secret In Their Eyes", the film directed by Juan José Campanella that won the Oscar for the Best Foreign Language Film. "The Last Circus" (Silver Lion in Venice 2010) and "The Oxford Murders", by Alex de la Iglesia, "Tetro" by Francis Ford Coppola, and "The Man Who Killed Don Quixote" directed by Terry Gilliam, among others. In 2017, the miniseries "Four Seasons in Havana" won the Platino Award for Best Ibero-American Miniseries. From 2019 to 2021, she was the Executive Producer of the Documentary Miniseries "Carmel: Who Killed Maria Marta?" for Netflix.

She is currently in the development and pre-production stages of several feature films and series.

## Panel 2: Mix and Match – the Perils and Delights of Diversification

### Moderator: Chris Auty - CEO/Director, London Film School



Chris Auty started his career as a young film journalist before launching a start-up film distribution / art-house cinema business. In 1990 he became CEO of Jeremy Thomas' RPC, where he worked as a producer, and with him established Hanway Films, one of Europe's leading independent film finance / sales boutiques. From 2001-2009 he went on to build The Works, a film production and finance business that was quoted on the London stock exchange.

Chris has worked – as a producer and financier – with a wide range of directors including: Peter Greenaway, David Cronenberg, Bob Rafelson, Bernardo Bertolucci, Vincent Ward, Michael Winterbottom.

In 2012 Chris became Head of Producing at the UK's NFTS (National Film and Television School), where he also designed and started new MA programmes in business management for the creative industries, and in marketing and distribution.

In November 2023 Chris became CEO and Director of the London Film School – Britain's oldest conservatoire for filmmakers and legendary home to such alumni as Mike Leigh, Michael Mann, Ann Hui, and Oliver Hermanus.

## Anders Tangen - CEO/Producer, Viafilm Channels



Anders Tangen is one of Scandinavia's most prolific producers, with a career spanning more than 30 years of national and international successes, in both film and TV. Anders is a pioneer in producing content for the international streaming-market, and has show time and time again, that he possesses an infallible instinct for what audiences will like. Anders has previously produced massive hits like Lillyhammer, Home for Christmas, Magnus, One Night, Norsemen, Easy Peasy and Season 3 of what probably has been Scandinavia's biggest hitseries the last few years - EXIT. In the past year, he has created the company Viafilm Channels where he experiments within YouTube channels and other content on new social media. In addition to being a producer, he has also taught at the university for many years as an Associate Professor.

## Larry Bass - Founder/CEO, ShinAwil



Larry Bass has built ShinAwil into the production powerhouse behind the biggest smash hit TV shows in Ireland, since 1999. Now having added scripted drama to the ShinAwil production output, the slate includes shows in development with international co-producers and backed by Screen Ireland, RTE and various distributors/studios. 2020 seen delivery of the first TV Drama series, MISS SCARLET & THE DUKE for A&E International, which has aired on PBS Masterpiece in 2021. 2022 seen the delivery of THE CATCH for Channel 5 and in 2023, CLEAN SWEEP for RTE & Sundance Now, MARYLAND for ITV, this will be followed by DOLL FACTORY for Paramount +, THE FACELESS LADY, a VR genre series for Meta. Feature Film THE MIRACLE CLUB that premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, June '23 and in Ireland October '23. This September will see a new original crime drama, BORDERLINE for ZDF Germany/Roku USA, the six part series is set on the border and will be streaming on MGM+, Roku and ZDF. The forthcoming feature film CRY FROM THE SEA, starring Dominick Cooper, Sarah Gadon, Sarah Bolger & Aidan Quinn is in post-production.

Other past shows include: Dancing With The Stars, The Voice of Ireland, The Apprentice, Dragons' Den, MasterChef Ireland, Popstars and Home of the Year.

## Justin Pechberty - Producer/Distributor, Les Valseurs



Justin Pechberty co-founded the production and distribution company Les Valseurs with Damien Megherbi in 2013. Their more recent titles include the feature film Heartless by Nara Normande and Tião (Orizzonti Venice 2023), and the short films Aunque es de noche by Guillermo García Lopez (Cannes Official Competition 2023), Sideral by Carlos Segundo (Cannes Official Competition 2021, Oscars shortlisted 2023) and Nefta Football Club by Yves Piat (Oscar nominated 2020). In 2024 they launched the animation studio PULP and released their first animated TV Series, Samuel, which has racked up over 18 million views on Arte in just one month. Justin is also a member of the Oscars Academy.

## Panel 3: Raising Champions – the View from Corporate Financiers and Assorted Angels

### Kate Bennetts - Managing Director, Ringside Studios



Kate is the Managing Director of Ringside Studios, and it's investment arm, Ringside Media. Ringside Studios has recently produced the action thriller, 'Liaison' starring Vincent Cassell and Eva Green, for Apple TV+ and the TV film 'My Name is Leon' for the BBC. Under the Ringside Media arm, the group is in production on 'Queenie' for BBC and Disney, and 'Borderline' for ZDF.

Kate is an experienced TV financing executive, and prior to Ringside Studios she worked at Ingenious Media for 8 years overseeing the TV strategy. Whilst there, Kate worked across both complex project financing and co-production deals, as well as assessing and structuring venture capital investment deals. Notable projects Kate has helped finance and offered advisory services on are 'Marcella', 'White House Farm', 'Britannia' and 'Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell'. Prior to Ingenious Kate worked in investment management and is a qualified accountant.

## Tom Manwaring - Partner, Helion Partners

Tom has advised on over 50 deals in the TV production and content sectors across the last 20 years, many cross border, worth over £1bn in value. He has advised a number of leading scripted and nonscripted producers including Element Pictures, Eleven Film, Neal Street Productions, New Pictures, Lingo Pictures, Silverback Films, Raw TV and Love Productions.



Tom often provides comment in the UK's Broadcast and C21 magazines for his insights on M&A activity in the UK's TV production sector and speaks at industry events. Tom is ACA qualified and received a 1st in Economics from Bristol University.

## Caroline Percy - Senior Portfolio Manager, Channel 4 Growth Fund

Caroline Percy joined Channel 4's Indie Growth Fund in 2019 as a Senior Portfolio Manager. Her remit is to find companies for the fund to invest in, particularly those based in the Nations and Regions, Digital companies as well as companies with any form of diversity. She works with companies based in Bristol, London, Manchester, Glasgow, and Cardiff.



Caroline previously worked at Ingenious Media, investing in programmes such as Marcella, Whitehouse Farm and Clangers. Over her 20+ year career, she has worked at BBC as well as global distribution companies where she has acquired or licenced international rights to globally successful shows such as Strictly Come Dancing and Top Gear.



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