



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

Press Release
Karlovy Vary IFF
June 10

KVIFF'S INDUSTRY DAYS EXPAND WITH NEW SMALL-SCREEN SHOWCASE AND ENHANCED CENTRAL EUROPEAN CO-PRODUCTION FOCUS

The 2025 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival's Industry Days programme, which will take place from Sunday, July 6 to Wednesday, July 9 – adding an additional full day of activities – will offer a lot of significant innovations, including a sharpened focus on Central European co-production opportunities in an updated showcase format of its KVIFF Eastern Promises platform. The extended programme broadens its scope with new presentations and events dedicated to the small-screen and series development. Supported by a new partnership with Central European Media Enterprises Ltd. (CME), an entertainment company and broadcaster, the festival introduces a Pop-Up Series Incubator featuring five original European series. The aim is to establish Karlovy Vary as a hub for co-productions and creative collaborations across diverse narrative forms.

"We believe that we have a unique opportunity to strengthen our position as the leading industry event dedicated to Central Europe, a region that also includes creative powerhouses like Poland, Germany or Austria, and deserves focused international attention. Our aim is to serve as a central hub for producers, filmmakers, broadcasters, and platforms from Central Europe, alongside global industry professionals who wish to engage closely with this vibrant region. Recognizing the growing crossover of storytelling across various mediums, our expanded Industry Days now have the capacity and vision to fully embrace this evolution," says Kryštof Mucha, the Executive Director of Karlovy Vary IFF.

Central Europe to Take Central Stage

The most significant innovation is a new format dedicated to showcasing film projects in the making – the previous Works in Progress pitches will be replaced by a more dynamic and CEE-focused **KVIFF Central Stage** showcase, a new initiative created by the KVIFF Film Industry Office in cooperation with selected national film institutes of eight Central



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European countries (Austria, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine). Thirteen fiction films by established filmmakers from these countries that are in late stages of development, in production or post-production. Instead of traditional pitches, the projects will be introduced through interactive talks, focusing on the filmmakers and co-production landscape in each of the participating countries.

“We chose this new format because it addresses a real gap in the Central European film landscape. There is significant support for emerging filmmakers across Eastern Europe, but mid-career filmmakers often lack the necessary spotlight and resources to secure financing, even though their projects are equally compelling,” says Hugo Rosák, the Head of KVIFF Industry Office.

The Central Stage showcase will take place on Tuesday, July 8, on the Industry Main Stage in the KVIFF Industry Hub in Kaiserbad. The 13 selected projects will be revealed by the KVIFF Industry Office later in June.

The projects participating in KVIFF Central Stage will be eligible for exclusive post-production benefits, thanks to a generous partnership with leading studios UPP and Soundsquare. Projects qualifying for the Czech Audiovisual Fund’s 35% incentive for digital production will receive an additional 15% direct discount from UPP and Soundsquare for comprehensive audio-visual post-production services. This unique offer, including administrative support, reflects the positive developments in the regional audiovisual sector, making top-tier post-production more accessible and attractive to filmmakers from the region.

The most promising films in development, selected by an international jury, will also be eligible for the 20,000 EUR Eurimages Co-Production Development Award.

Small Screen, Big Ambitions

Another pivotal development in this year's industry program is the strategic expansion beyond feature films to embrace small-screen content, made possible through a groundbreaking new partnership with Central European Media Enterprises Ltd (CME), a leading content creator and broadcaster in Central and Eastern Europe operating in six geographical segments: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Romania and Moldova,



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Slovakia, and Slovenia. It also operates Oneplay (formerly Voyo), its original subscription video on demand platform. This collaboration aims at transforming Karlovy Vary into a comprehensive hub for television and streaming series development, thanks to a dedicated event program consisting of showcases, panels workshops and talks by major small-screen players and experts that will take place on Tuesday, July 8 and Wednesday, July 9.

“With CME's backing, the festival can now fully realize its potential as a premier meeting place and showcase platform for small-screen content across Central and Eastern Europe. Rather than competing with existing specialised events, this initiative leverages KVIFF's unique strengths in fostering international connections and providing an ideal environment for presenting and developing television and streaming projects alongside traditional cinema,” says Hugo Rosák, the Head of KVIFF Industry Office.

“Television and streaming production in our region is undergoing a massive transformation – not only in content quality but also in creative ambitions. Partnering with KVIFF is a natural step for us. We want to inspire and also be inspired. Nova Group itself has undergone a significant transformation within CME – from the success of Voyo to the creation of the new Oneplay platform. It is precisely in places like Karlovy Vary where experiences can be exchanged between the worlds of so-called big screen and small screen, because today's creators are increasingly working across platforms. And where else should such an exchange happen than at one of the most important festivals in Central Europe? We believe that the connection between the film and television worlds can bring crucial momentum to the entire Central and Eastern European region,” says Daniel Grunt, CEO of Nova Group.

Pop Up Series Incubator

A vital part of this new small-screen focus is the Pop Up Series Incubator showcase (Tuesday, July 8), a brand new series development program designed to support European producers and scriptwriters by boosting their projects through hands-on development, expert mentorship and financial support. Presented and organised by Tatino Films, co-financed by the European Union and supported and hosted by La Région Grand Est, the city of Reims, and KVIFF, the 8-month-long program comes together in Karlovy Vary with a pitching session where the creative teams will present their series concepts to



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industry professionals and decision makers, followed by curated match-making sessions with professionals that look to finance or produce series.

“The impulse to create Pop Up Series Incubator comes from our observation and analysis of the rapid evolution of the European audiovisual landscape, as well as from the many exchanges we have had with Tatino programs alumni. Intellectual property (IP) has become the buzzword of the audiovisual industry. Most of the upcoming shows of streamers are adaptations of existing IPs - literary, audiovisual works or even true stories. The reason for that is simple: building an audience or generating attention from scratch is seen as way too risky and unlikely considering the financial implications of drama series production,” explains Matthieu Darras, CEO of Tatino Films.

“This ‘IP Adaptation Game’ is mostly reserved to big players, but Pop Up Series wants to create opportunities for audiovisual talents that are not necessarily in the orbit of international behemoths such as Banijay, Freemantle, or Mediawan, to adapt their own IP’s into compelling series projects. We believe that there’s room for more niche and/or innovative series that tap into under-explored IPs, thus contributing to offer fresh and meaningful stories to diverse audiences.”

The 5 selected projects that will be showcased in Karlovy Vary are:

Angelmaker (Romania)

Producer: Anda Ionescu, Tangaj Production

Writer: Cristina Grosan

Based on a true story of The Angel Makers of Nagyrév

Accompanied by screenwriters Leana Jalukse and Loïc Barrère

Erotic Lives Of The Superheroes (France)

Producer: Eric Dupont, Incognito Films

Based on La Vita Erotica Dei Superuomini, acclaimed Italian novel by Marco Mancassola

Accompanied by screenwriters Nadya Todorova, and Ruddy-Williams Kabuiku

The Night Of The Beguines (France)

Producer: Candice Zaccagnino, Eliane Antoinette

Writer: David Roux



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Based on *La Nuit des Béguines*, acclaimed French novel by Aline Kiner
Accompanied by screenwriter Yaelle Kayam

The Three Burials Of Irma (Greece)

Producer: Fenia Cossovitsa, BLONDE S.A.

Writer: Elina Psykou

Based on *Alfatriðe* (*O iatrodikastis*), a Greek novel by Vassilis Vassilikos

Accompanied by screenwriter Lemba de Miranda

Therapies (Lithuania)

Producer: Dagnė Vildžiūnaitė, Just a moment

Writer: Birutė Kapustinskaitė

Based on a play by Lithuanian writer Birutė Kapustinskaitė

Accompanied by screenwriters Fabrizio Muscia and Ruxandra Ghitescu

**Works in Development – Feature Launch & Focus Queer to Compete for Eurimages
Co-production Development Award**

One of the KVIFF Eastern Promises staples, the MIDPOINT Institute's [Works in Development](#) international script development program will showcase nine feature-length projects that are currently in development, and five additional projects developed within MIDPOINT – Focus Queer, a program supporting filmmakers exploring queer narratives, highlighting the importance of diversity and inclusion in contemporary storytelling.

The projects, now looking for co-production partners, will compete for the traditional 10,000 EUR Midpoint & KVIFF Development Award as well as the aforementioned Eurimages Co-production Development Award of 20,000 EUR.

You may find this year's selection of Works in Development – [Feature Launch here](#) and [Focus Queer here](#). The presentations will take place on Monday, July 7.



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Fresh Flight of KVIFF Talents

Now in its third edition, [KVIFF Talents](#) is a year-long program with the purpose of seeking out and supporting talented Czech and Slovak filmmakers and innovative audiovisual genres. The **Creative Pool** focuses on identifying innovative ideas for audiovisual works of any genre or format — from short films and series to podcasts or game concepts. The **Feature Pool**, on the other hand, is dedicated to supporting the development of original auteur-driven feature-length fiction films.

This year, nearly 200 submissions were received, making the selection process highly competitive. Six outstanding projects have been selected — three series and three feature films. They will receive development funding, mentorship from industry experts, and the opportunity to present their projects to potential producers, partners, and investors during the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. The creative teams will pitch their projects to potential production partners during a **dedicated KVIFF Talents showcase on Monday, July 7**.

Additional support includes the possibility of a residency in Karlovy Vary and other tailored forms of assistance.

The program is supported by the ČEZ Foundation. *"Supporting KVIFF Talents fits into our long-term philosophy of helping those who fight for a better world, whether in the area of caring for others, for their surroundings, for the environment, or for culture. The creative energy of young artists is incredible and their enthusiasm for the cause is authentic. Their new ideas and themes as well as methods of treatment propel Czech audiovisual creation forward, so we are glad that we can be there as a partner,"* said Michaela Ziková, director of the ČEZ Foundation.

KVIFF Talents 2025 – Selected projects:

Feature Pool:

Nameless (Czech Republic)

Feature debut combining live action and stop-motion animation

Animator & Director: Daria Kashcheeva

Producer: Lukáš Kokeš, Nutprodukce



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Spirit Moose (Czech Republic, Slovakia)

Feature film – thriller

Director: Tomáš Klein

Screenwriter: Barbora Námerová

Producer: Tomáš Michálek, Master Film

Burnout (Czech Republic)

Feature debut based on the novel by Petr Šesták

Writer & Director: Greta Stocklassa

Producer: Marek Novák, Xova Films

Creative Pool:

Mould (Czech Republic)

Animated series for both children and adults

Animator & Director: Phillip Kastner

Producer: Tereza Havlová

Lost Boys (Czech Republic)

Anime series

Writer & Director: Dužan Duong

Producers: AZN kru and Nutprodukce

Remake (Czech Republic)

Live-action musical series

Writer & Director: Kateřina Letáková

Producer: Daniel Bleha, Filmkolektiv

“Although the Czech scene is full of projects that draw on retro nostalgia, the creators of Remake have managed to bring a completely fresh perspective and an engaging theme. We look forward to seeing this project on Nova in the future,” says Michal Prokeš, Creative Producer at Oneplay, one of the KVIFF Talent program’s partners.

The media partner of KVIFF Talents is Forbes. *“At Forbes, we fundamentally believe in the ambitions and power of individuals to transcend their own shadow, and we support everyone who dares to take a step toward their big dreams. The connection with KVIFF*



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Talents seeking young film talents is thus completely logical for us, because we share the same DNA. We very much wish for Czech film to make a big impact far beyond our borders," says Zdravko Krstanov, editor-in-chief of Forbes.

In total, the KVIFF Eastern Promises platform will showcase no less than **38 projects** that, thanks to support from the festival and Industry partners (Barrandov Studio, Connecting Cottbus, ČEZ Foundation, Eurimages, IFF Rotterdam, Marché du Film, Midpoint Institute, Oneplay, Soundsquare, Tatino Films, UPP), can take home awards that can significantly help them advance their projects, including the Eurimages Co-production Development Award for projects in the development phase.

Proven Industry Events Anchor Expanded Program

In addition to these brand-new and established showcases, the extended **KVIFF Industry Days** (Sunday, July 6 to Wednesday, July 9) will offer its traditional mix of events, such as the inspirational Czech Film Industry Forum and International Industry Insights Forum, a series of swift sessions providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of things both locally and globally. The program also includes more in-depth workshops, panels and talks on the Workshop Stage, as well as the industry networking and meeting opportunities, all within the generous premises of Kaiserbad, the majestic building next to Grandhotel Pupp. The complete Industry Days schedule will be published later in June.

KVIFF Industry Days are supported by the PPF Foundation and powered by CME. The media partner is Deadline.

More about the KVIFF Industry Days mission, its Eastern Promises platform and other activities can be found [here](#).