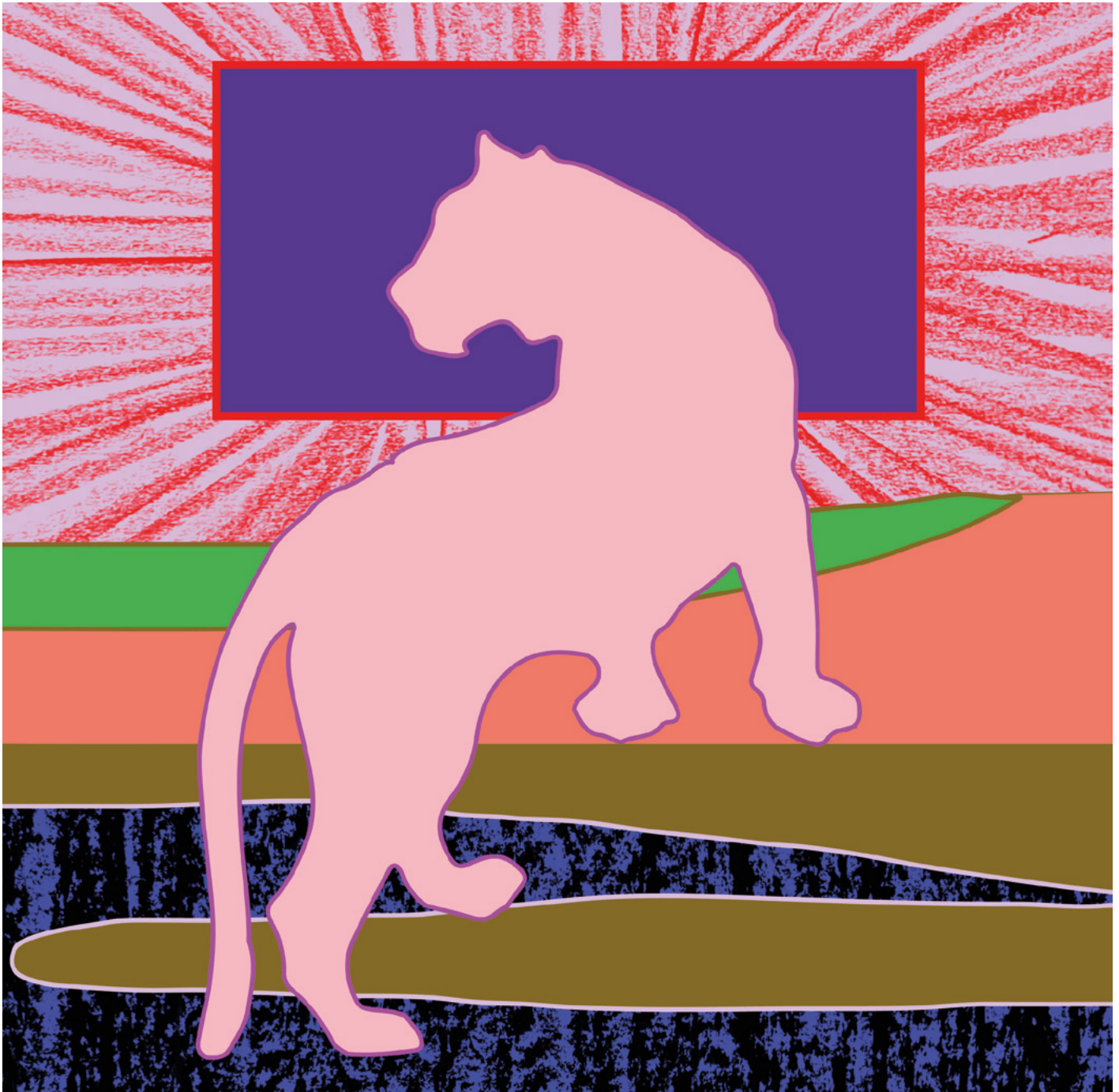


PRO GUIDE 31/1 - 5/2 2025



54th INTERNATIONAL 
FILM FESTIVAL
30/1 - 9/2 2025 ROTTERDAM



IFFR

- 1 de Doelen & de Doelen Studios
Schouwburgplein
- 2 Pathé Schouwburgplein
Schouwburgplein 101
- 3 Theater Rotterdam
Schouwburgplein 25
- 4 Cinerama Filmtheater
Westblaak 18
- 5 Oude Luxor Theater
Kruiskade 10
- 6 KINO
Gouvernestraat 129-133
- 7 LantarenVenster
Otto Reuchlinweg 996
- 8 Nieuwe Luxor Theater
Posthumalaan 1
- 9 Pathé de Kuip
Cor Kieboomplein 501
- 10 Podium Islemunda
Herenwaard 17

Art Directions

- 11 WORM & WORM UBIK
Boomgaardsstraat 69-71
- 12 V2_Lab for the Unstable Media
Eendrachtsstraat 10
- 13 Rotterdam Central Station Hall
Stationsplein
- 14 Central Library Rotterdam
Hoogstraat 110
- 15 Brutus
Keileweg 10-18
- 16 Katoenhuis
Keilestraat 9c

Hospitality Locations

- 17 de Doelen
Kruisplein 40
- 18 Bas Bakt
Hartmanstraat 22a
- 19 Café Floor
Schouwburgplein 28
- 20 Cinerama
Westblaak 18
- 21 Katoenhuis
Keilestraat 9c
- 22 Kaapse Kaap (Fenix Food Factory)
Nico koomanskade 1025
- 23 Kaapse Maria
Mauritsweg 52
- 24 Kaapse Will'ns
Nieuwe binnenweg: 111-a 02
- 25 LantarenVenster
Otto Reuchlinweg 996
- 26 NIKO's by Kino
Gouvernestraat 129-133
- 27 O'Pazzo Schouwburgplein
Karel Doormanstraat 34
- 28 Oude Luxor Theater
Kruiskade 10
- 29 Nieuwe Luxor Theater
Posthumalaan 1
- 30 Podium Islemunda
Herenwaard 17
- 31 SUE
Karel Doormanstraat 372-374
- 32 Theater Rotterdam
Schouwburgplein 25

DISCOUNTS

Looking to grab a bite before the screening or have a post-film chat over a Rotterdamse borrel (a typical meet-up with drinks and snacks)? Need a handy place to meet relatives or friends that are also attending IFFR?

Head to one of our specially selected hospitality partners. At these locations, you'll receive a special discount upon showing your badge, or there might be a unique IFFR offer on the menu.

First of all and closest to it all is the IFFR Festivalheart at de Doelen. Please check it out!

de Doelen

- 10% discount on food at One for the Road stands
- 20% on drinks at Festival Heart Willem Burger Foyer at Kaapse, Ketelbinkie and Cley bars and during Opening and Closing party also at Loopuyt bar.
- 5% discount at de Doelen Studio 1

Further discounts:

Bas Bakt

- 10% off the whole menu

Café Floor

- 15% of coffee, tea and pastries from opening until noon (12.00)

Cinerama

- 15% off standard drinks (coffee, tea, soft drinks, wine and beer)

Daily Fresh at WORM

- 15% off for all meals, while stock lasts

Katoenhuis

- Free coffee or tea if you bring your own cup

Kaapse Kaap (Fenix Food Factory)

- 10% discount on the Kaapse Tijger

Kaapse Will'ns

- 10% discount on the Kaapse Tijger

Kaapse Maria

- 10% discount on the Kaapse Tijger
- 10% discount on the sandwiches during lunch, including a free Kaapse Yuzu (alcohol free) or Tijger
- Kaapse Maria Dinner Deal for €32.50: Enjoy three different small dishes served simultaneously, accompanied by fresh bread. Two of the dishes will always include vegetables, while for the third dish, you can choose between meat, fish, or a vegetarian option.

LantarenVenster

- 15% discount on Lunch (11.00-16.00) on: sandwich Ras el hangout hummus, pomegranate, sweet and sour shallots, aceto vinaigrette
- 15% discount on Diner (17.00-21.00 | Fri & Sat till 21.30) on: risotto, mushrooms, truffle, pecan nuts

NIKO's by Kino

- 20% off burgers and sides (no drinks) when using the code IFFRKINO2025.

O'Pazzo Schouwburgplein

- Theater Menu
Antipasto + Piatto Principale + Dolce €35
Antipasto + Piatto Principale €27,50

Oude and in Nieuwe Luxor

- 10% discount on drinks in café Dox in Nieuwe Luxor en in Oude Luxor
- 15% discount on food in café Dox in Nieuwe Luxor

Podium Islemunda

- Free coffee or tea if you bring your own cup

SUE

- 15% discount

Theater Rotterdam

- 20% off drinks during Club IFFR in the Kaapse foyer bar, Kaapse bar in the Kleine Zaal, the Loopuyt bar

Pro Guide

Your complete guide to the IFFR Pro Days 2025, taking place during the 54th International Film Festival Rotterdam.

- 7 Welcome to IFFR Pro 2025
- 8 Guide to IFFR Pro 2025
- 10 David Pope and Bianca Balbuena discuss 25 Years of Rotterdam Lab
- 14 Mouly Surya on the IFFR 2025 closing film This City Is a Battlefield
- 16 Premieres and prizes for IFFR supported films 2024–2025
- 18 IFFR Pro Hub
- 22 Pulling Focus: NL 2025
- 24 Talks
- 26 Hubert Bals Fund at IFFR 2025
- 28 Cheers! Pro drinks, awards and networking at IFFR 2025
- 30 What is IFFR Pro?



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Main partners



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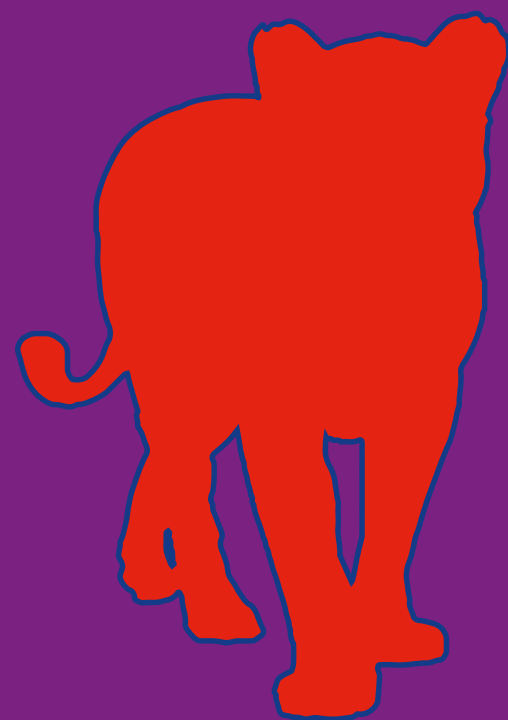
This Pro Guide is a publication of International Film Festival Rotterdam, marking the IFFR Pro Days from Friday 31 January to Wednesday 5 February 2025 during the 54th International Film Festival Rotterdam.

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Partners of IFFR Pro 2025





WELCOME TO IFFR PRO 2025

Dear filmmaker, producer, programmer, funder, industry delegate and everyone else in our global film community that we're so proud to welcome and bring together in Rotterdam for another enlightening and productive edition of IFFR,

If you're arriving feeling a little concerned about the direction the world is heading, then you're not the only one. I certainly won't pretend that we have all the answers here, but, in my first year as Head of IFFR Pro, I can assure you that we have something to say about it.

Across everything we're doing this edition, we're making sure we grapple with the big questions – in all the same ways the IFFR film programme does. Through an extensive lineup of incisive industry discussions and the vital mentorship and support we offer to filmmakers in the Pro Hub, to the bolstered lineup of urgent storytelling we're featuring in CineMart and Darkroom, we're making sure to provide a relevant, and supportive platform, to the film community.

For the first time, we're hosting an entire day programme focussing on the Netherlands, in Pulling Focus: NL 2025. We're celebrating and shining a light on Dutch talent, as filmmakers, actors, technicians and co-producers, before we explore what kind of future artificial intelligence might bring for the film industry.

Above all this edition we'd like to remind you of our role as an essential gathering place. Our producers' workshop Rotterdam Lab celebrates its 25th year of bringing producers together from all over the world, launching countless talents who have left their mark on the film industry. The Lab returns once again, wrapped around with the Indaba, Thuthuka, Script Circle and BLX workshops.

This edition we have a full schedule of daily networking receptions that make IFFR a vital place to connect with the international industry and our supporting partners who host these convivial but essential moments to connect and do business together. If, over the years in Rotterdam, you bumped into me on one of those nights in the Hotel Central then you'll know I'll be making sure we continue to honour Rotterdam's spirit of cool and casual. You can find those late-night encounters in the newly minted Tiger Lounge, first floor of 'de Doelen' to the left of the escalator from 22.00 during the Pro Days.

Whether this is your first edition at IFFR or you're a seasoned veteran, we invite you to get lost in our programme and make the most of everything IFFR Pro has to offer. Find meaning, connection, and enjoy it.

Marten Rabarts

Head of IFFR Pro



Guide to IFFR Pro 2025

We're delighted you're joining us in Rotterdam for IFFR 2025! Here's everything you need to know for your festival stay, including picking up your accreditation, ticket reservations, your schedule, and other practical details.

Arriving in Rotterdam

If you're arriving by plane, the fastest way from Schiphol Airport to Rotterdam is the NS Intercity Direct train, taking just 26 minutes. The station is located directly below the terminal. Take the Intercity Direct trains, listed on departure boards, run nonstop to Rotterdam, sometimes continuing to Breda or Brussels. Make sure to buy your Intercity Direct supplement in addition to the NS ticket.

Getting to 'de Doelen'

The festival's heart is located at 'de Doelen'. During the festival you can enter via the Willem Burger Zaal entrance on Kruisplein 40 which is less than a five-minute walk from Rotterdam Centraal train station.

If you joined us last year, note that this year the entrance is different. Many of the IFFR locations in 'de Doelen' are located differently to last year, including the Accreditation Desk and the Pro Hub.

Picking up your accreditation

Once you arrive in Rotterdam, you can collect your accreditation at 'de Doelen'. The Accreditation Desk is located on the third floor and is open at the following times:

- Thu 30 Jan – Tue 4 Feb: 10.00 – 19.00
- Wed 5 – Thu 6 Feb: 10.00 – 18.00
- Fri 7 – Sat 8 Feb: by appointment only



De Idylle by Aaron Rookus

Booking tickets

Accredited guests can now order tickets for the full IFFR 2025 programme (excluding IFFR Festival Specials, with some exceptions) when logged into the IFFR website. Find more about press and industry screenings, and the online video library, [here](#). Should you encounter any difficulties, there is a ticket chat support button on the bottom right corner of [IFFR.com](#), or you can send a message to service@IFFR.com.

Video Library and Pro (P&I) screenings

Depending on rightsholder permission, films from the IFFR 2025 programme will be available to watch online for accredited guests via their regular film pages on IFFR.com. The online video library will be available during and after the festival until February 18. Access is given under strict confidentiality.

P&I screenings of the IFFR 2025 Tiger and Big Screen competition titles, as well as selected Bright Future and Harbour titles, will be organised in festival theatres in Rotterdam.

Find out more about press and industry screening [here](#).



Youth (Spring) by Wang Bing

Last-minute queues

We will be running last-minute queues at screenings, so if you are unable to secure a ticket from the allocation made for badge-holders, there is still a good likelihood that you will be able to access screenings with your badge via the last-minute queue outside the screening room at the venue of the scheduled screening.

Personal schedule

Find your schedule for Q&A's, screenings, interviews, meetings and other events in your IFFR account, updated daily, [here](#). Please make sure to check your schedule regularly in case of any changes. For Q&A related questions you can reach out to q-a@IFFR.com.

IFFR Pro Connect

See who's who at the festival via our [IFFR Pro Connect online directory](#). Log in with your IFFR account to see more details.

IFFR Pro newsletter

Accredited guests receive a daily email update of festival news, stories, tips and more to the email address associated with their account. Stay tuned! If after the first day of the festival you notice you are not receiving them, make sure to check your spam, then get in touch with the team.

Accessibility

As part of our ongoing commitment to delivering an inclusive festival experience, we have combined all accessibility information on one page. Visit our [accessibility page](#) for more info.

Code of Conduct

IFFR attaches great value to respect and safety. IFFR does not tolerate violence or harassment in any form towards staff, contractors, volunteers, visitors at the festival. More information about our Code of Conduct can be found [here](#).

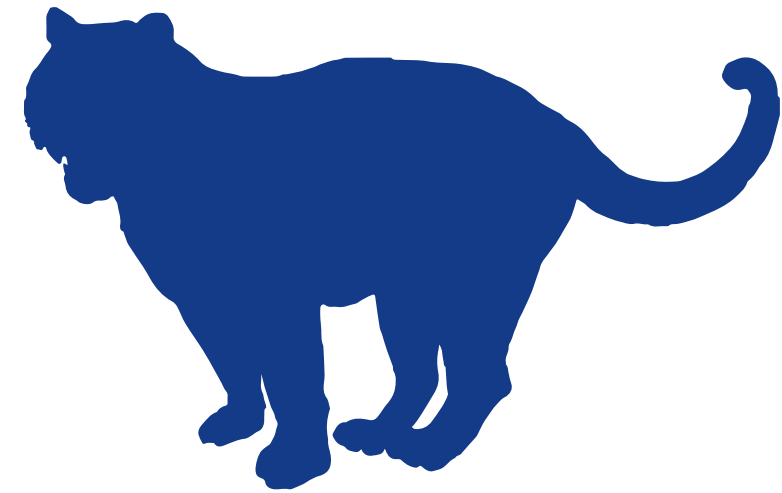
Contact us

- If you have any questions related to your stay, please contact the guest team at guest@IFFR.com.
- For ticketing matters, contact service@IFFR.com.
- Contact the Pro Hub at prohub@IFFR.com.

**On behalf of everyone at IFFR,
we wish you a wonderful festival!**

David Pope and Bianca Balbuena discuss

25 YEARS OF ROTTERDAM LAB



On the eve of the 25th Rotterdam Lab, advisers/mentors David Pope and Bianca Balbuena talk to IFFR Pro about the training workshop's ongoing importance for fledgling producers embarking on their new career.

Over the past 25 years, Rotterdam Lab has taken on revered status as a seriously effective training workshop for international producers at the start of their career, offering them not only the means to build their network, but also to guide them through the nuts and bolts of their chosen trade over the course of five very intense days.

UK creative producer, screenwriter and script consultant David Pope and Filipino producer Bianca Balbuena perform key mentoring and advisory roles within Rotterdam Lab, having attended as Labbies (the affectionate term applied to attendees) themselves in the past.

"I was wearing a hyphenate hat," remembers Pope of his first Lab experience back in 2008. He was there both to soak up trade intel as well as promote his credentials as a screenwriter/producer/director. A little later he was invited back to oversee some of the Q&As before his role grew into that of core advisor and moderator.

When Balbuena was cutting her teeth as a fledgling producer, she was recommended for Lab attendance by fellow Filipino producer Arleen Cuevas and then-IFFR programmer Gertjan Zuilhof from the Netherlands. "I was just starting out [in 2013] and I didn't have a proper company at that time – it was right before my Berlinale Talents and Talents Tokyo participation," she recalls. "According to producer Lorna Tee, she remembers me in Rotterdam Lab as this bright-eyed

enthusiastic, aggressively-curious emerging producer who kept asking questions."

For Pope, the Lab offers an active opportunity for participants "to build confidence, strategies and relationships to further navigate the international industry." Many of the new producers (most of whom are sponsored by one of the 45 or so partner organisations) are there with a project to develop and promote, while others will be there to take in as much info as possible – although a qualifying criterion is that they will have had experience at the production coal-face.

■ You also get to meet successful industry professionals and programmers who are participating in the festival, so make sure you do your research on the people you want to meet before the event."

"So it's valid to come with an open mind and absorb all of the information and experience and relationships that are there," Pope stresses. "It's also valid to be finding a route for a particular project, but often what participants actually find themselves doing is being open a lot more to experiences and possibilities beyond the project."



Balbuena concurs, while offering up some practical advice. "For me, the main benefit of the programme is being in the same pro-active space with a big number of like-minded producers and having the opportunity to collaborate on things in the future and learn from each other. As an attendee, you should have the basics – business cards, elevator pitch of yourself and your projects, certain project art cards, a notepad (whether manual or electronic) to jot down endless knowledge exchanged within the period. You also get to meet successful industry professionals and programmers who are participating in the festival, so make sure you do your research on the people you want to meet before the event."

"It launched my career and it was my first introduction to international co-production and global cinema," she adds. "I learned a lot about the industry when I participated, from the basics of what a sales agent does to the more complicated financial plans per country and legal matters. It opened my eyes that there is a bigger industry out there than what we know locally. I also met a lot of participants that I am working with now."

Indeed, Balbuena attends IFFR 2025 with the closing film *This City Is A Battlefield*, which she co-produced with Indonesia. She has ongoing relationships with other labs and markets such as EAVE Ties That Bind,



Bianca Balbuena

Berlinale Short Form Station, Talents Tokyo, Locarno Open Doors and, of course, CineMart. “I love sharing what I know,” she underlines her commitment to the industry sector she has chosen.

Pope further emphasises a core focus of the Lab, that of community, especially within a profession that can be, at times, somewhat isolating. “Bringing everybody together is really important in lots of different ways. There are the business relationships and there are also the cultural relationships. What’s very interesting is how 75 producers from all over the world recognise the differences in the way they work and what they do, and they also recognise the commonality of what they’re doing,” he says.

“So we would have US producers who are engaging with understanding European co-production, and we will have European producers engaging with countries where there is no state funding or co-production mechanism and hearing how people do things there,” he continues. “So the Lab is a little bit like an ambush of tigers. We’re bringing all these solitary animals together and they’re kind of co-existing and learning from each other.”

“Opportunities are going to come from more [engagement with] experienced people in the industry,” he adds. “But I also strongly believe that it’s among peers very often where opportunities come from. So expanding the pool of possible collaborators to develop those relationships I think is very useful.”

“Everyone’s very shy at first but you can see in their eyes that they are willing to learn and take in all the learnings,” producer Balbuena observes. “Participants start to mingle, huddle in groups, form friendships and the environment becomes warm. The different topics discussed during the programme also broaden your perspective on cinema. In the end, everyone feels like they are a part of the big Rotterdam family and are excited to go home and put their learnings into practice.”

This is as true for the organisers as it is for the Labbies. “The community exchange and the knowledge exchange are really, really important. And I think people are re-invigorated and re-inspired, and I get that as well from doing it, from being there every year,” says Pope.

During the pandemic, IFFR Pro stepped up to the plate and delivered a high-level professional Lab, albeit one that was presented online. It was testament to everybody’s stoicism and professionalism that the business of guidance, mentorship, learning and exchange could continue even in the most trying of circumstances and across all global time zones.

But there is no substitute for *in situ* attendance during which all other local, domestic or family concerns can be temporarily put on hold. “At Rotterdam Lab, you are solely focused on being there and being present and focusing exclusively on that activity, as opposed to being

■ We’re bringing all these solitary animals together and they’re kind of co-existing and learning from each other.”

at home where you have to do childcare or oversee all these things in your immediate working environment,” says Pope of the return to normal face-to-face Lab practice. “Here, you can dedicate your time to the activity at hand. And that brings huge benefits. Just things like breaking bread together, and just making the experience more human.”

Every edition of Rotterdam Lab is fundamentally different, determined by new personnel, new stories and new experiences, and shaped by the changing dynamics within the global independent sector. But there are common topics that will always emerge.

“These are basically driven by the value chain, from inception, development, pitching and packaging, financing, pre-production, production, post-production, sales and distribution, and exhibition,” says Pope. “That’s the value chain along which the producer is a consistent force. So topics will be drawn to address current issues that are most prescient at that particular time. The commonality is that there are always things which should be discussed: collaboration, communication, cooperation, and some of the practical elements of putting finance plans together. Story development is essential. That doesn’t change.

Then there’s the overall human aspects of production. Highlighting those skills is very important.”

So, how do Balbuena and Pope personally assess the upcoming IFFR Pro, which celebrates its 25th edition in 2025?

“I am looking forward to discovering the new voices of global cinema, the new trends of the industry, the emerging enthusiastic producers who remind me of myself back then,” Balbuena responds. “I am looking forward to the new films introduced in IFFR and the new projects presented at CineMart.”

For Pope, returning to Rotterdam again will be like a family reunion. “I think it’s a very special place. It’s a privilege to do this in the Lab because it’s a space that I think is always valued by participants, and it really does help the diversity of storytelling and cinema to have places like this. So I am looking forward to meeting a lot of new producers who I haven’t met before, and seeing my community expand, as well as everybody else’s.”



David Pope

“I’m portraying a shared history”:

MOULY SURYA ON THE IFFR 2025 CLOSING FILM THIS CITY IS A BATTLEFIELD

“I think a lot of what is happening in the world right now traces back to World War II” says Mouly Surya, the Indonesian filmmaker behind the IFFR 2025 closing film *This City Is a Battlefield*, explaining one of the many reasons why this period in Southeast Asian history demands our attention. Her 1946-set historical thriller follows Indonesia’s struggle for independence from Dutch colonial rule, marrying bloody action spectacle with seductive romance, jazz and rich period settings that tell a glaringly relevant story of the impact of war on ordinary people.

Surya’s previous film was the Netflix title *Trigger Warning* (2024) starring Jessica Alba. “I learned from America how to push myself and how not to censor myself.” Instead of worrying that they didn’t have the budget for particular scenes, she found ways to be creative. “Let’s try it. What’s the worst thing that can happen?”

“I don’t want to be known as just a female director”

That the film takes a close look at fragile masculinity also marks a departure for Surya, who across her previous work became synonymous with strong female characters. “I don’t want to be known as just a female director. It’s kind of annoying”, as she explains how she’d like to shrug off this label. “A male director wouldn’t be acknowledged as a male director.” Instead she wants to indulge in the craft and set-out to make something akin to a Hollywood classic fused with local textures – “I love the art of filmmaking.”

She drew on her family history and the immediate relatives who lived through this period in Indonesia’s history to find her own perspective on the time. “It was a lot of trying to dig up memories” recalling how her uncle and father as fluent Dutch speakers would drop words into their

sentences. “We didn’t know what any of it meant. That was how I actually made progress writing this movie.”

“I think the development fund definitely pushes a script forward”

It’s one of the ways in which she approaches Indonesia’s colonial rule with a delicate complexity that looks into its deep cultural effects. For this she knew she wanted to work with a Dutch co-producer to offer creative input. Rotterdam’s Volya Films came onboard the project, and the film was supported on several occasions by IFFR’s Hubert Bals Fund – an important vote of confidence along the film’s development.

“It’s very hard to make a script because you don’t know which way is forward and which way is back”, she reflects on receiving Hubert Bals Fund Development Support. “I think the development fund definitely pushes a script forward.” It helped to fund research costs and translators, and later, with funds to support the film’s production and post-production offered by the Hubert Bals Fund in collaboration with the Netherlands Film Fund, meant they could hire professional actors from the Netherlands for the Dutch roles.

“It feels like half of the DNA of the film is in the Netherlands”

Apart from a few nerves about whether she got those bits of Dutch nuance perfectly correct, she’s thrilled to screen it at the festival’s closing night. “It feels like half of the DNA of the film is in the Netherlands. I’m portraying a shared history as well, and I hope I did that justice.”

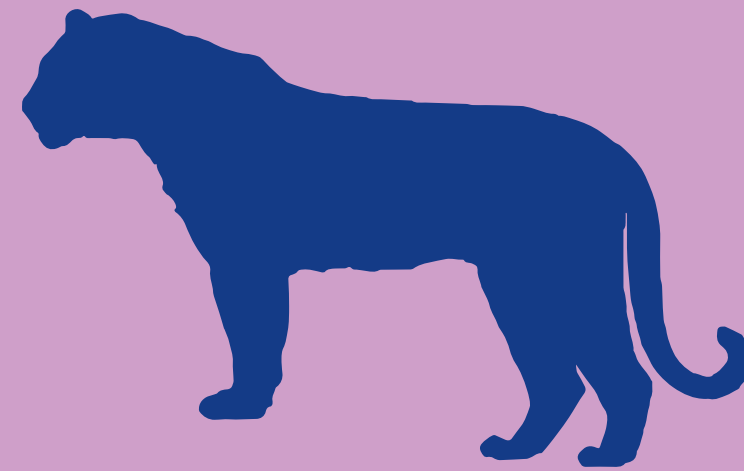
In December 2024, the Netherlands and Indonesia officially signed a co-production treaty. The NL-IND Co-Production Treaty provides filmmakers with opportunities to produce films that create cultural and economic value in both the Netherlands and Indonesia.

The past, present, and future of Indonesia are explored at IFFR through urgent documentaries, razor-sharp fiction films, and a Focus programme centred around visual artist and filmmaker Timoteus Anggawan Kusno. Find out more [here](#).



Premieres and prizes for IFFR supported films 2024–2025

We are proud to present a list of finished films and immersive media that were presented at CineMart, Darkroom or BoostNL in previous editions, or were supported by one of the schemes of the Hubert Bals Fund. A number have their world premiere or screen at IFFR 2025, next to those that screened at prestigious festivals across the world in 2024.



All We Imagine as Light

Payal Kapadia

Produced by petit chaos, Chalk & Cheese, BALDR Film, Les films fauves (France, India, Netherlands, Luxembourg)
World premiere at Cannes 2024
(Official Competition) – Grand Prix
HBF Development 2019
CineMart Project 2020
NFF+HBF 2022, HBF+EU: Minority Co-production 2023

Baby

Marcelo Caetano

Produced by Cup Filmes, Plateau Produções, Still Moving, Circe Films Bv, Kaap Holland Film, Desbun Filmes (Brazil, France, Netherlands)
World premiere at Cannes 2024 (Critics' Week) –
Louis Roederer Foundation Award of Revelation
HBF Development 2017, BoostNL 2020, NFF+HBF 2020

Carissa

Jason Jacobs and Devon Delmar

Produced by Na Aap Productions (South Africa)
World premiere at Venice 2024 (Orizzonti)
CineMart Project 2022

De Idylle

Aaron Rookus

Produced by Studio Ruba, Polar Bear, Allfilm (Netherlands, Belgium, Estonia)
World premiere at IFFR 2025 (Big Screen Competition)
CineMart Project 2020
Darkroom 2024

This City Is a Battlefield

Mouly Surya

Produced by Cinesurya, Starvision, Kanninga Pictures, Giraffe Pictures, Volya Films, Shasha & Co. Production, DUOfilm AS, Purin Pictures, Epicmedia, Qun Films, Kongchak Pictures Ltd. (Indonesia, Singapore, Netherlands, France, Norway, Philippines, Cambodia)
World premiere at IFFR 2025 (Limelight - Closing Film)
HBF Development 2019, NFF+HBF 2021

Disco Afrika: A Malagasy Story

Luck Razanajaona

Produced by We Film, Africamadavibe Production, NiKo Film, Caméléon Productions, Free Women Films (France, Madagascar, Germany, Mauritius, South Africa, Qatar)
European premiere at Berlinale 2024 (Generation 14+)
CineMart Project 2018
Darkroom 2023

Duchampiana

Lilian Hess

Produced by Tchikiboum, mYndstorm productions (France, Germany)
Had its world premiere at Venice 2024 (Immersive)
CineMart Project 2022
Darkroom 2024

Holy Electricity

Tato Kotetishvili

Produced by Zango Studio, Nushi Film, GOGO Film, The Film Kitchen, Arrebato Films (Georgia, Netherlands)
World premiere at Locarno 2024 (Cineasti del Presente) – Golden Leopard and Junior Jury Award
HBF Development 2019, HBF+EU: Post-production 2023
Darkroom 2023

To a Land Unknown

Mahdi Fleifel

Produced by Inside Out Films, Nakba FilmWorks, Salaud Morisset, Homemade Films, Studio Ruba (United Kingdom, Palestine, France, Greece, Netherlands)
World premiere at Cannes 2024 (Directors' Fortnight)
HBF Development 2016, NFF+HBF 2021

Mongrel

Wei Liang Chiang & You Qiao Yin

Produced by E&W Films, Deuxième Ligne Films, Le petit jardin (France, Taiwan, Singapore)
World premiere at Cannes 2024 (Directors' Fortnight) – Special Award Caméra d'Or
HBF Development 2020, HBF+EU: Minority Co-production 2020
Darkroom 2024

Monólogo colectivo

Jessica Sarah Rinland

Produced by Trapecio Cine (Argentina)
World premiere at Locarno 2024 (Cineasti del Presente)
Will be screened at IFFR 2025 (Harbour)
HBF Development 2020

Mr. K

Tallulah H. Schwab

Produced by Lemming Film, A Private View, Take 1, The Film Kitchen (Netherlands, Belgium, Norway)
World premiere at TIFF 2024 (Platform Competition)
BoostNL 2019

Pepe

Nelson Carlos de Los Santos Arias

Produced by Monte y Culebra, Pandora Filmproduktion, 4 A 4 Productions, Joe Vision Production CC (Dominican Republic, Germany, France, Namibia)
World premiere at Berlinale 2024 (Official Competition) – Silver Bear for Best Director
HBF Development 2019

Pierce

Neticia Low

Produced by Protocol, Elysium Ciné, Flash Forward Entertainment, Harine Films, Fixafilm (Singapore, Taiwan, Poland)
World premiere at Karlovy Vary 2024 (Crystal Globe Competition) – Best Director Award
HBF+EU: Minority Co-production 2021

Pooja, Sir

Deepak Rauniyar

Produced by Aadi Films, Baasuri Films, Tannhauser Gate (Nepal, US, Norway)
World premiere at Venice 2024 (Orizzonti)
HBF Development 2017
CineMart Project 2017

Sleep with your Eyes Open

Nele Wohlatz

Produced by CinemaScópio, Blinker Filmproduktion, Ruda Cine (Brazil, Taiwan, Argentina, Germany)
World premiere at Berlinale 2024 (Encounters)
HBF Development 2017
CineMart Project 2021

Stranger Eyes

Yeo Siew Hua

Produced by Akanga Film Asia, Volos Films, Films de Force Majeure, Cinema Inutile (Singapore, Taiwan, France, US)
World premiere at Venice 2024 (Official Competition)
CineMart Project 2019

The Stranger

Zhengfan Yang

Produced by Burn the Film, BALDR Film, Norsk Filmproduksjon, Les Films de l'Après-Midi (USA/China, Netherlands, Norway, France)
World premiere at Karlovy Vary 2024 (Proxima Competition) – Grand Prix
HBF Development 2017, BoostNL 2018, HBF+EU: Minority Co-production 2019

Viet and Nam

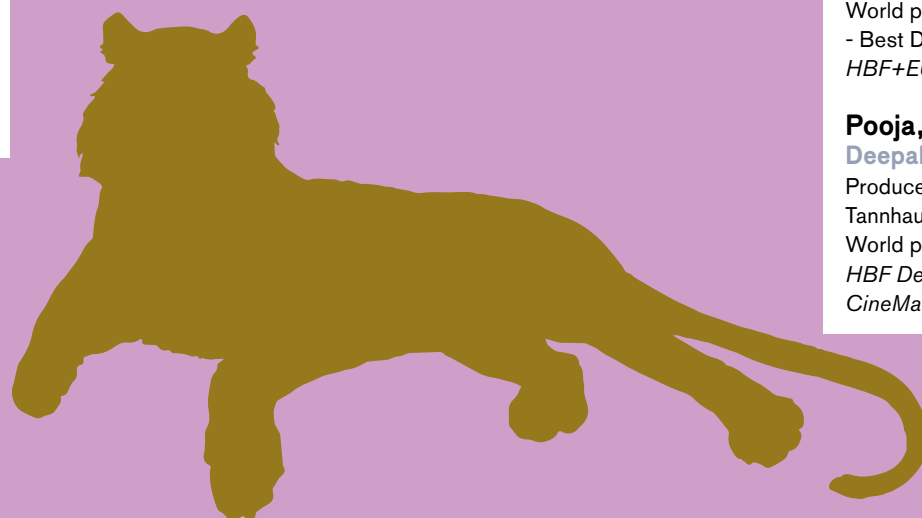
Truong Minh Quý

Produced by Epicmedia Productions, E&W Films, Deuxième Ligne Films, An Original Picture, Scarlet Visions Gmbh, Lagi Limited, Volos Films, Cinema Inutile (Vietnam, Philippines, Singapore, France, Netherlands, Italy, Germany, US)
World premiere at Cannes 2024 (Un Certain Regard)
HBF Development 2020
CineMart Project 2021
NFF+HBF 2022

Youth: Trilogy

Wang Bing

Produced by Chinese Shadows (Hong Kong), House on Fire (France), Gladys Glover (France), CS Production (France), Les Films Fauves (Luxembourg), Volya Films (Netherlands) (France, China, Netherlands, Luxembourg)
Youth (Hard Times) had its world premiere at Locarno 2024 (Concorso Internazionale) – Special Mention and Fipresci Award
Youth (Homecoming) had its world premiere at Venice 2024 (Official Competition)
HBF Development 2014, NFF+HBF 2019



IFFR PRO HVB

The Pro Hub presents IFFR Pro's industry programme for IFFR 2025, welcoming industry guests and filmmakers to join panels, workshops and mentor sessions – creating a meeting place and networking environment for the whole filmmaking and professional community at the festival.

The Pro Hub is located on the fourth floor of 'de Doelen.' All the Dialogues are located in 'de Doelen' Studio 8 and are freely accessible to accredited badge-holders, except where mentioned otherwise. Access Studio 8 from the outside entrance on Karel Doormanstraat.

Pro Dialogues

As filmmakers worldwide confront growing challenges to their creative, political, and financial freedoms amidst a climate of repression, historical erasure, and threats to free expression, IFFR Pro presents its programme of incisive industry discussions discussing these issues.

All the Dialogues are located in 'de Doelen' Studio 8 and are freely accessible to accredited badge-holders, except for the Tiger Talk: Cinema and the Rise of Authoritarianism on 3 February which requires pre-booking.



All We Imagine as Light by Payal Kapadia

Saturday 1 February

11.00: The Ethics and Aesthetics of AI

From machine sentence to images of unknown provenance, AI is full of potential ethical pitfalls and transparency potholes. We speak to artists imagining the near future of humanity's new toy and discovering its potential uses in art and film.

15.00: Festivals as Gatekeepers and Tastemakers – Who Holds the Keys?

IFFR's annual debate where programmers, curators and filmmakers come together to think about the role of festivals in today's industry. This year it will focus on the role of festivals as gatekeepers or tastemakers and whether their position is waning, as certain distributors and platforms make decisions to either withhold their titles or leverage them for more prominent positions.

15.30: Representing Voices and Experiences of Displacement in Film Feestzaal, 'de Doelen', reservation required

Cate Blanchett and IFFR's Hubert Bals Fund formally launch the Displacement Film Fund at IFFR 2025, with this panel featuring UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Blanchett, Koji Yanai, Waad Al-Kateab, Jonas Rasmussen and Head of HBF, Tamara Tatishvili, moderated by Uzma Hasan. They will discuss the scheme's origins, aims and the urgency of its focus. Read more in the HBF section.



Five Golden Flowers by Wang Jiayi

Sunday 2 February

11.00: Co-production Beyond Western Europe with CNC and the HBF

Co-hosted by IFFR's Hubert Bals Fund (HBF), this panel brings together insights from the CNC – Aide au Cinéma du Monde, another renowned funding mechanism, along with the creatives behind films supported by both institutions – including the filmmaker and producers behind *All We Imagine As Light*.

15.00: The State of Queer Film

How to best give a platform to films that explore queer life, legacy and the alternately threatened and liberated body amidst systems of repression, historical amnesia and existential threats to free expression and representation?

18.30: Editing for a Global Audience

The Netherlands Association of Cinema Editors and TEMPO Federation of Film Editors Associations are teaming up for the first time to host an international film editor's event at IFFR. Join film editors from around the world discussing their experiences shaping stories for a diverse, global audience.

Monday 3 February

11.00: Cinema and the Rise of Authoritarianism 'de Doelen' Van Cappellen Zaal, reservation required

Presented in collaboration with the International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk, a panel of filmmakers including Mohammad Rasoulof, Albertina Carri, Pier Giorgio Bellocchio, and Firat Yücel, consider how we can continue to work under conditions of repression – and how doing so is a poignant act of resilience.

14.30: Global Film Europe – Rethinking Competitiveness, Identity and Power

Competitiveness is the word of the day among EU policymakers, but the market-centric understanding of its relevance to film is limited. This panel explores how film professionals can support an expanded understanding of competitiveness, emphasising cultural diversity and artistic experimentation.

16.00: Rethinking Co-productions: Strategies for a More Inclusive Industry

EAVE and International Media Support join the Hubert Bals Fund to share practical solutions to open doors to fair funding opportunities, adapt to today's challenges, and forge partnerships that fuel creative and commercial success. Attendees will gain real, practical insights with clear steps to create more compelling, impact films, and new connections to expand their networks and resources.



The Rock Speaks by Amy Louise Wilson and Francois Knoetze

Tuesday 4 February

9.30 – 18.00: Pulling Focus: NL 2025 Willem Burger Zaal, 'de Doelen'

On Tuesday 4 February, IFFR Pro is pulling Dutch filmmaking talent into focus by hosting a day-long programme on the impact of Dutch cinematic creativity across the globe. Sessions will feature a conversation between Ena Sendjarević (Take Me Somewhere Nice, Sweet Dreams) and award-winning Dutch actress Renée Soutendijk, as well an investigation into Dutch international co-production hosted together with ACE Producers. The afternoon sessions are dedicated to artificial intelligence.

11.00 – 12.30: Reality Check: Art Directions Beyond the Black Box and White Cube

A focused discussion on Art Directions beyond traditional spaces, addressing key themes in commissioning, curating, and distributing immersive and audiovisual works. This session brings together professionals to explore sustainable pathways for presenting and circulating innovative art forms. This is a closed session but you can register interest via the Pro Hub.

Wednesday 5 February

11.00: Access Is Power – Disability Inclusion Transforms Film Industry Culture

This panel gathers film professionals, industry leaders, and festival organisers to discuss accessibility, equity, and inclusion for Disabled and neurodivergent professionals. Topics include working conditions, career advancement, on-screen representation, and authentic storytelling, with a focus on dismantling barriers and fostering a more inclusive, accessible film industry globally.

15.00: The Spirit of Bandung

As part of the IFFR 2025 programme Focus: Through Cinema We Shall Rise!, this panel brings the 'Spirit of Bandung' into contemporary and practical focus, thinking about exchanges and collaborations within the film industries of the 'Global South' and beyond. It will look at strategies within national industries, pan-Asian and Afro-Asian co-productions and distribution, the festival circuit and related funding schemes as well as possible alternative and future ways of dissemination of film.



Alex Boden (by Robert Viglasky)



Soft Leaves by Miwako Van Weyenberg



Clash by Jiang Jia-chen

Meet the Experts

Join IFFR Pro’s team of veteran industry insiders for a new daily programme aimed at giving emerging film professionals practical insights and vital targeted knowledge. Places are highly limited – subscribe [here](#) in advance to secure your spot.

Mastering the Art of Festival Networking with Bonnie Williams

Friday 31 January, 16.00

Marketing, Publicity, and Strategies for Independent Films with Kathleen McInnis

Saturday 1 February, 14.30

Opening Your Film Right – Why the First Twenty Minutes of Your Screenplay Matter with Claire Dobbin

Sunday 2 February, 17.00

Streamers – Broadening Your Scope with Wendy Bernfeld

Monday 3 February, 15.00

Producing for Streamers with Alex Boden

Monday 3 February, 17.00

Producing with Minimal Financial Support with Bianca Balbuena

Tuesday 4 February, 14.30

Knowing Your Audience – Enhancing Creativity Through Awareness and Development with Rikke Flodin

Tuesday 4 February, 18.00

Pro Encounters

The Pro Encounters are casual networking round tables designed to help filmmakers connect with industry experts and key festival programmers. These constructive sessions offer a great chance to expand your network, share ideas, and discuss any questions or challenges with experienced professionals in a relaxed and supportive setting.

All the session on this page take place in the Pro Hub, fourth floor of ‘de Doelen’. In order to attend the Encounters, please RSVP at the following [link](#).

Pro Encounters with the Hubert Bals Fund

Meet HBF representatives to explore funding opportunities for filmmakers from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and parts of Eastern Europe.

Friday 31 Jan: 14.00 – 15.00 | Sunday 2 Feb: 14.00 – 15.00 |
Wednesday 5 Feb: 12.00 – 13.00

Pro Encounter for Short & Mid-length Filmmakers

2025-selected filmmakers connect with short film programmers to discuss opportunities and gain insights.

Saturday 1 Feb: 10.30 – 12.00

Pro Encounter for Feature Filmmakers

2025-selected filmmakers network with global film programmers, boosting their industry connections.

Saturday 1 Feb: 16.30 – 18.00

Pro Encounter with ACE Producers

An informative session with ACE Producers, a renowned European network supporting independent producers through executive education, entrepreneurial guidance, and collaboration. Gain insights into their resources for tackling industry challenges and fostering innovation.

Monday 3 Feb: 14.00 – 15.00

Pro Encounter: Panorama of the XR scene in the Netherlands

IFFR hosts an XR networking event at ‘de Doelen’, connecting immersive media creators and producers from France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. Featuring pitches from Dutch cultural organisations and a focused roundtable, the session explores collaborative opportunities and challenges in presenting immersive VR works across Benelux.

Tuesday 4 Feb, 15.00 – 16.30, ‘de Doelen’, Studio 8

Pro Encounter with Volumetric Video Capture

4DR Studios, pioneers in volumetric video technology, will showcase how this cutting-edge medium enhances storytelling and production in the film industry, using real-world examples. Discover its potential to transform creative projects.

Wednesday 5 Feb: 14.30 – 15.15

Pitch Out!

IFFR Pro gives filmmakers the unique opportunity to pitch to decision makers and professionals from the film industry and to receive constructive feedback on the style of the pitch and the viability of the project. Advance sign-up is essential. [Go to Pitch Out!](#)

Prep Your Pitch Workshops

Learn to create a compelling pitch for your film in intimate group sessions with coaches Marjorie Bendeck and Anna Ciennik. Receive personalised guidance to elevate your project’s presentation.

Session 1: Sunday 2 February, 11.00 – 13.00
Session 2: Monday 3 February, 11.00 – 13.00

Pitch Out! – Pitch Your Project

Pitch your project to funds, producers, sales agents, and festivals. Gain feedback and advice to improve its viability and promotion in a supportive setting.

Session 1: Tuesday 4 February, 11.00 – 12.30
Session 2: Tuesday 4 February, 16.00 – 17.30

PULLING FOCUS: NL 2025

**Tuesday 4 February, 9.30 – 17.45,
Willem Burger Zaal, 'de Doelen'**

IFFR Pro is pulling Dutch filmmaking talent into focus with a day dedicated to exploring the global influence of Dutch cinematic creativity. Join us also to uncover the innovations and tools being offered up by some of the leading developers and filmmaking uses of artificial Intelligence.

Dutch talent in Focus

The programme opens with a conversation between director Ena Sendijarević (*Take Me Somewhere Nice*, *Sweet Dreams*) and legendary actress Renée Soutendijk (Paul Verhoeven's *Spetters* and *The 4th Man*, Luca Guadagnino's *Suspiria*, Sendijarević's *Sweet Dreams*) moderated by Artistic Director of the Locarno Film festival, Giona Nazzaro.

This will be followed by a panel session comprised of mini case-studies of recent Dutch co-production successes that have been selected in the past year for Sundance, Cannes, Venice and Locarno, Moderated by Jacobine van der Vloed of ACE Producers, the panel will include Stienette Bosklopper from Circe Films, Erik Glijnis from Lemming Film, Denis Vaslin of Volya Films, and Ineke Smits from GoGoFilm.

What does an AI future look like for filmmakers?

In the afternoon, we'll explore some of the AI tools and opportunities which are already re-shaping the future of film. Software developers, filmmaking practitioners and experts in the field will unfold and debate this fast-moving new technology.

Join us to celebrate, explore, and push the boundaries of Dutch filmmaking on both national and international stages!

Programme outline

Opening Session: Giona Nazzaro in conversation with Ena Sendijarević and Renée Soutendijk

9.45 – 11.00

The day begins with a moderated dialogue between two renowned Dutch filmmaking talents: director Ena Sendijarević (*Take Me Somewhere Nice*, *Sweet Dreams*) and the multi-award-winning acting legend Renée Soutendijk. Giona Nazzaro, Artistic Director of Locarno Film Festival where *Sweet Dreams* had its world premiere in 2022 and Soutendijk won the Golden Leopard for best actress, will moderate.

Probably the Best Co-Producers in the World?

11.30 – 12.45

The panel will feature a lineup of experienced co-producers from the Netherlands discussing their recent successes, each of them having walked a red carpet with these films in Sundance, Cannes, Venice and Locarno 2024. Erik Glijnis (*Sebastian* by Mikko Makela), Denis Vaslin (*Youth: Trilogy* by Wang Bing, IFFR 2025), and Ineke Smits (*Holy Electricity* by Tato Kotetishvili, IFFR 2025).

Taming the Tiger: Harnessing AI for Film

14.15 – 15.45

Moderated by Sten Christian Saluveer of Cannes Next and Wonsun Shin of Hanmac Culture Group, the discussion will feature a keynote presentation from esteemed AI strategist Matthew Blakemore: CEO of AI Caramba! And 'AI and New Tech Expert' at VRT. Blakemore has earned over 20+ awards for his AI-generated films, including 'Best Futurist Filmmaker' at Cannes and 'Best AI Film Director' in New York. IFFR Tiger Shorts Competition producers Anna Giralt Gris & Jorge Caballero will discuss how AI was used in the creation of their film *The Rock Speaks*. Joshua Dedman from Olsberg SPI will share his in-depth knowledge of the ever evolving AI field in Europe and beyond.

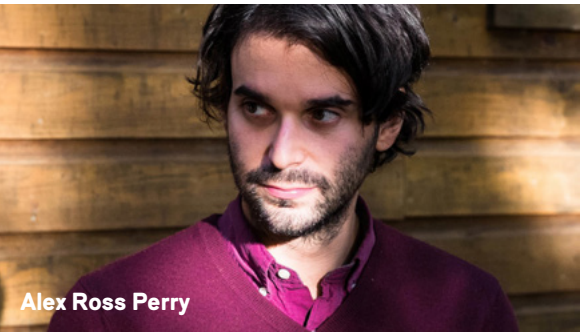
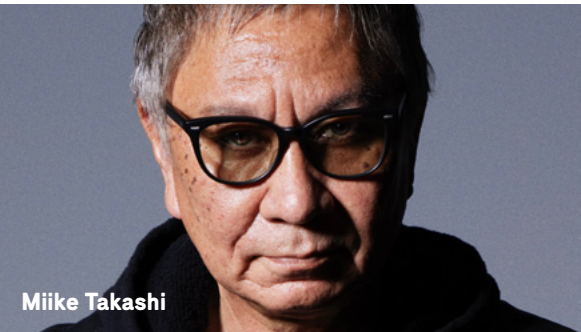
Cutting Through the Noise: What AI Can Bring to Your Project

16.15 – 17.45

Saluveer and Shin will moderate roundtable discussions with Sami Arpa from Swiss tech company Largo AI who will deliver AI evaluations of projects from CineMart 2025 filmmakers on the potential of AI to deepen their understanding of their film, its packaging and market potential. The discussion will feature, from the Philippines Carl Joseph Papa, director of Rotoscope animation film *Sentinel*, alongside producer Geo Lomuntad. Joining them will be Rioghnach Ni Ghrioghair, director of cannibal genre film *MEAT*, together with producer Deirdre Levins from Ireland.



Sweet Dreams by Ena Sendijarević



This year, IFFR's Talks programme reflects the festival's commitment to offering fresh perspectives on the world of film – and far beyond. Big Talks feature dialogues between world-renowned minds from diverse disciplines, exploring compelling topics and bringing together their unique vantage points. Tiger Talks offer concise explorations of film-related themes, addressing relevant issues like feminism, colonialism and cinema's socio-political role.



Big Talk: Alex Ross Perry & Peter Strickland

IFFR Talks

Alex Ross Perry (*Videoheaven*, *Pavements*, IFFR 2025) and Peter Strickland (*Berberian Sound Studio*, IFFR 2013, *The Duke of Burgundy*, IFFR 2015) are two of the most uncompromising artists working in independent cinema today, this is a special opportunity to hear them in-conversation with one another.

Thu 6-2 17:00 de Doelen WBZ

Big Talk: Cate Blanchett & Guy Maddin

IFFR Talks

Following a special screening of the political satire *Rumours*, Cate Blanchett and Guy Maddin, will come together for an expansive dialogue about their creative collaboration on that film, the role of film festivals, the enduring power of the short film form and other wildly divergent topics

Sat 1-2 18:30 Oude Luxor

Big Talk: Cheryl Dunye & Albertina Carri

IFFR Talks

Renowned for their daring explorations of unconventional narratives and complex identities at the intersections of personal and collective memory, legendary filmmakers Albertina Carri and Cheryl Dunye will reflect on their experiences creating spaces for underrepresented voices on the big screen with boldness and sensitivity.

Tue 4-2 20:00 de Doelen WBZ

Big Talk: Costa Gavras & Sungji Oh

IFFR Talks

Costa-Gavras, filmmaking icon of activist cinema and president of the Cinémathèque Française and Sungji Oh, distinguished curator at the Korean Film Archive (KOFA) and managing director of the Werner Herzog Foundation discuss the challenges of developing a new vision for archival practices.

Sun 2-2 14:30 de Doelen WBZ

Big Talk: Miike Takashi & Saka Misako

IFFR Talks

With a career spanning three decades and a director of over 100 feature films, Miike Takashi is one of Japan's most prolific and acclaimed filmmakers and shaper of Japanese contemporary cinema, he'll share his philosophy on the art and craft of filmmaking across genres.

Wed 5-2 20:00 de Doelen WBZ

Big Talk: Steffen Haars & Joseph Kahn

IFFR Talks

Dive into the varied oeuvres and unlikely career paths of filmmakers Joseph Kahn (*Ick*, IFFR 2025) and Steffen Haars (*Get Away*, IFFR 2025, *Krazy House*, IFFR 2024). Both filmmakers push the boundaries of mainstream genre filmmaking, dragging it into strange and dark territories.

Thu 6-2 20:00 de Doelen WBZ

Big Talk: Victoria Pedretti & Hanna van Vliet

IFFR Talks

Known for their re-defining portrayals of complex female characters, contemporary icons Victoria Pedretti and Hanna van Vliet come together on the IFFR stage to discuss their craft and roles, ranging from mainstream commercial success in film and TV to award-nominated stage performances.

Sun 2-2 20:00 de Doelen WBZ

Bloodlines + Live Talk with Amie Siegel

Art Directions: films, IFFR Talks

After the screening of her film *Bloodlines*, that reveals the connections between art, people and property, calling attention to inherited wealth, ownership, and the lasting legacies of societal structures, Amie Siegel will discuss her artistic practice and approach to working variously with film, video, photography, sculpture, painting and installation.

Sun 2-2 17:45 LantarenVenster 3

Robby Müller Award: Lol Crawley

IFFR Talks

British cinematographer and recipient of the sixth Robby Müller Award, Lol Crawley BSC (*The Brutalist*, IFFR 2025 and *The Childhood of a Leader*, IFFR 2015) will be in conversation with Peter Bradshaw to discuss his cinematic approach, his inspirations and some of the work from his extensive oeuvre.

Sat 1-2 14:00 de Doelen WBZ

RTM Talk x Rotterdam Writers' Room: All Good Things Come in Threes

RTM, IFFR Talks

Together with screenwriter and director Peter Hoogendoorn we deepdive into the making of the black and white drama-comedy *Drie dagen vis* (IFFR 2025). Three seems to be the magic number! A collaboration between IFFR and Rotterdam Writers' Room.

Fri 31-1 16:15 LantarenVenster 4

RTM Talk: Expanding Frames - Filmmaking as Research

RTM, IFFR Talks

The filmmaking practices of Ine Lamers and Sam Koopman bear several similarities. Both are working with documentary and fiction formats, using the camera as a research tool to explore relationships between people and landscapes. Whereas Lamers takes an observational approach, Koopman becomes a protagonist in the narrative.

Fri 31-1 12:45 LantarenVenster 6

RTM Talk: Imagine The City Otherwise

RTM, IFFR Talks

As Rotterdam makers confront the city's rapid urban development and gentrification, they share what it means to not only document what is disappearing but to imagine a collective, alternative city.

Fri 31-1 15:00 LantarenVenster 5

Tiger Talk: Cinema and the Rise of Authoritarianism

IFFR Talks

Presented in collaboration with the International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk, a panel of filmmakers including Mohammad Rasoulof, Albertina Carri, Pier Giorgio Bellocchio, and Firat Yücel, consider how we can continue to work under conditions of repression – and how doing so is a poignant act of resilience.

Mon 3-2 11:00 de Doelen Van Cappellen Zaal

Tiger Talk: Depicting Nightlife

IFFR Talks

Local Rotterdam nightlife legend Ted Langenbach joins IFFR 2025 filmmakers Patrick Muroi (*Rave*) and Studio VRij (*Show Me the Light*) to discuss their experiences of translating nightlife cultures, from raves to silent discos, to the screen and beyond.

Sat 1-2 20:30 de Doelen Studio 8

Tiger Talk: Futurisms

IFFR Talks

On the occasion of the world premiere of his latest feature, multi-disciplinary artist Omar Rodríguez-López, also known as co-founder of prog-rock phenomenon *The Mars Volta*, discusses the art of transcending genres and formats, reflects on the role of music in his creative process, and the influences which have shaped his futuristic vision.

Sun 2-2 17:00 de Doelen WBZ

Tiger Talk: Hold Video in Your Hands

IFFR Talks, Focus: Hold Video in Your Hands

The coming of VHS forever changed the way we engage with film. Each bringing reflections from their own experiences with the home video, these guests will discuss VHS as a way to form communities and its influence on politics, daily life and culture.

Tue 4-2 18:00 de Doelen Van Cappellen Zaal

Tiger Talk: Jessica Sarah Rinland & Sophie Berrebi

IFFR Talks, Art Directions: installations

Drawing on her recent works *Extramission: The Capture of Glowing Eyes* and *Monólogo colectivo*, Jessica Sarah Rinland comes together with writer and art historian Sophie Berrebi to talk about archives, collections, the reliability of visual documents and the circulation of documentary images in contemporary art.

Sat 1-2 18:30 de Doelen Studio 8

Tiger Talk: Matthew Lax & Timoteus Anggawan Kusno

IFFR Talks, Focus: Timoteus Anggawan Kusno, Focus: Matthew Lax

The works of artists Timoteus Anggawan Kusno and Matthew Lax (IFFR 2025 Artists in Focus) open up spaces for unseen and unheard stories, join them for a conversation about their respective practices, repurposing archival footage and the interplay between history and fiction.

Mon 3-2 18:30 de Doelen Van Cappellen Zaal

Tiger Talk: Rules of the Game

IFFR Talks

Joined by IFFR 2025 filmmakers, real-time media artist and curator Vincent Moulinet moderates a discussion about the intersections of gaming and filmmaking cultures: how do their works highlight the paradoxes of logic, autonomy and emotional engagement by blurring the boundaries between film, gaming and choreography.

Mon 3-2 17:00 de Doelen Van Cappellen Zaal

Tiger Talk: Sergii Masloboishchykov and the Evolution of Ukraine Through His Cinema

IFFR Talks, Focus: Sergii Masloboishchykov

Thirty years since he was the first Ukrainian director to appear in competition at IFFR Sergii Masloboishchykov returns with a 13-film retrospective, and a talk about his filmmaking career and his unique perspective on the equally complex cultural and political landscape of his country.

Sun 2-2 13:00 de Doelen Studio 8

Tiger Talk: The History of Pre-revolutionary Iranian Cinema

IFFR Talks, Cinema Regained

Before the Iranian New Wave, there was the popular cinema of the 40s, 50s and 60s, IFFR favourite Saeed Nouri (*Tehran, An Unfinished History*, 2025) will share rare excerpts from this extraordinary chapter in the history of world cinema. A unique opportunity to enter a world of wonder!

Sun 2-2 10:00 de Doelen Van Cappellen Zaal

HUBERT BALS FUND AT IFFR 2025

As we welcome you to another edition of IFFR, we invite you to explore how the Hubert Bals Fund remains true to its mission of representing cinema in all its forms, discovering and supporting new talent, and reminding us of the power of human solidarity.

Five titles supported by the Hubert Bals Fund, for development, production and post-production, feature in the official IFFR 2025 selection. As well as *This City Is a Battlefield*, which has its world premiere as the IFFR 2025 closing film, all the titles have found immense recognition and applause at major international festivals, which made 2024 a milestone year for the Hubert Bals Fund.

We're thrilled to present an exceptional lineup of HBF-supported projects throughout IFFR and IFFR Pro. From four projects in CineMart and three in Darkroom, as well as many more alumni filmmakers whose careers continue to advance, we're standing firmly behind filmmakers who push boundaries, experiment and voice vital truths.

For the first time and thanks to a private donor, the Hubert Bals Fund is granting a €10,000 cash award to one of the participants of the IFFR Pro Darkroom programme. This award focuses on empowering filmmakers who come from politically challenging contexts or whose work addresses themes such as freedom of expression, displacement, human rights and/or underrepresented communities.

The Fund is active in the festival's industry activities during the IFFR Pro Days, offering advice and informal guidance to filmmaking talent in the festival selection through networking roundtables, panels and workshops, as well as providing emerging producers in the Rotterdam Lab big picture perspective of industry transformation and challenges met by public funds internationally.

As well as the Representing Voices and Experiences of Displacement in Film panel (see across), join our two Hubert Bals Fund Pro Dialogues on the HBF Days on 2 and 3 February – read more on the Pro Hub pages.

- Co-production Beyond Western Europe, 2 February, 11.00
- Rethinking Co-productions – Strategies for a More Inclusive Industry, 3 February, 16.00

Rotterdam is a space for connection, collaboration, and celebration – something we're proud to foster. So, find us, chat with us, and let's come together to champion the filmmakers who dare to speak, challenge and inspire. Let's keep building a future where storytelling can shape a better world.

Tamara Tatishvili
Head of the Hubert Bals Fund



Panelists from left to right: Waad Al-Kateab (credit: Sharbel Kanoun), Cate Blanchett (credit: Renato Campora), Koji Yanai (credit: Chiyoe Sugita), Tamara Tatishvili (credit: Elene Mikaberidze) and Jonas Rasmussen (credit: Andreas Omvik)



Holy Electricity by Tato Kotetishvili

Cate Blanchett and the Hubert Bals Fund launch the Displacement Film Fund

Cate Blanchett, actor, producer and global Goodwill Ambassador for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, together with the IFFR's Hubert Bals Fund announced the Displacement Film Fund – a new short film grant scheme which will champion and fund the work of displaced filmmakers, or filmmakers with a proven track record in creating authentic storytelling on the experiences of displaced people.

The pilot scheme, which will offer five individual production grants of €100,000, is announced with support from Master Mind, Uniqlo, Droom en Daad, the Tamer Family Foundation and Amahoro Coalition as Founding Partners, the HBF as Management Partner and UNHCR as Strategic Partner.

Blanchett will appear on the panel Representing Voices and Experiences of Displacement in Film during IFFR 2025 on Saturday 1 February at 15.30 with Koji Yanai, Waad Al-Kateab, Jonas Rasmussen and Head of the HBF, Tamara Tatishvili, moderated by Uzma Hasan, to discuss the scheme's origins, aims and the urgency of its focus. Open to industry and press badge-holders with pre-booking required [here](#).

**Read more about the Hubert Bals Fund
at IFFR 2025 [here](#).**

Founding Partners				
Master Mind	LifeWear	UNIQLO	droom en daad	The Tamer Family Foundation
				AMAHORO COALITION
Management Partner		Strategic Partner		
Hubert Bals Fund		UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency		

CHEERS!

Pro drinks, awards and networking at IFFR 2025

Pro Hub & Student Delegates Welcome Drinks – Co-hosted by the Netherlands Film Fund

Friday 31 January, 18.00 – 20.00
'de Doelen', Feestzaal



Korean Dream The Nama-jinheung Mixtape by Lee Taewoong

IFFR Pro Drinks:

IFFR Pro Drinks: Celebrating 25 Years of Rotterdam Lab

Saturday 1 February, 18.00 – 19.30
'de Doelen', Feestzaal

IFFR Pro Drinks: Hosted by the Netherlands Film Commission

Sunday 2 February, 18.00 – 19.30
'de Doelen', Feestzaal

IFFR Pro Drinks: Hosted by the Embassy of India

Monday 3 February, 18.00 – 19.30
'de Doelen', Feestzaal

IFFR Pro Drinks: Hosted by the Netherlands Film Fund

Tuesday 4 February, 18.00 – 19.30
'de Doelen', Feestzaal

IFFR Pro Awards

Wednesday 5 February, 17.30 – 19.00
'de Doelen', Willem Burger Foyer

Tiger Short Awards Ceremony

Monday 3 February, 21.00, WORM



Primeira pessoa do plural by Sandro Aguilar

IFFR Pro Party

Tuesday 4 February, 21.30 – 1.00
BIRD

The Tiger Lounge

Late-night drinks with IFFR Pro every night from Friday 31
to Tuesday 4 Feb

22.00 – 01.00, Van der Mandele Zaal, 'de Doelen'

Filmmakers' Party

Sunday 2 February, 22.00 – 02.00
160K Arcade, Schiekade 201, 3013 BR Rotterdam



IFFR 2025 Awards Ceremony

Friday 7 February 18.00 – 19.00
Willem Burger Zaal 'de Doelen'

What is IFFR Pro?

Through the Pro Hub, co-production market CineMart, and talent development programmes, including Rotterdam Lab, IFFR Pro and the Hubert Bals Fund present a full and revitalised Pro Days programme at IFFR 2025.

Pro Hub

The Pro Hub welcomes industry guests and filmmakers to join panels, workshops and mentor sessions – providing a meeting place and networking environment for the whole filmmaking and professional community at the festival.

The Pro Hub offers a broad programme of Pro Dialogue panels, Pro Encounters networking sessions with Festival programmers and Industry decision makers, customised one-on-one meetings with the team of mentors, and expert training sessions. Through these activities, the Pro Hub facilitates valuable connections among filmmakers in the IFFR selection and the Industry attending CineMart.

It provides the First Rights List, showcasing titles from the IFFR 2025 programme that are looking for an international sales agent.

CineMart

CineMart kicks off the year with its trademark informal and productive atmosphere, presenting a highly curated lineup of remarkable projects from every corner of the world, each looking for international financial and creative partners. Project teams will have the opportunity to present delegates with their stories and personally share the urgency and creative vision that drives them.

Darkroom

IFFR Pro's Darkroom offers a platform for the international industry to see exclusive previews of recently or nearly completed films and immersive media projects seeking completion or gap funding, sales agents and festivals. After two successful editions, Darkroom is expanding to present for the first time twelve projects during CineMart – ten feature fiction and two immersive projects – all supported by the Hubert Bals Fund, formerly presented at CineMart or with a Rotterdam Lab alumni attached.

All projects will receive expert consultancy and have the chance to present their work to an exclusive audience of international sales agents, festival programmers, and buyers on Monday afternoon February 3 during Darkroom Spotlight.

Talent Development

IFFR's talent initiatives for 2025 include the Rotterdam Lab, which for its 25 anniversary will bring together more than 70 emerging producers from around the world for an intensive five-day programme. Among them, 5 participants selected through an open call. The Creative Producer Indaba will host 15 producers from or working with the African continent, following their participation in the Atlas workshops at the Marrakech International Film Festival in December 2024. Four Dutch feature film projects participate in a three day tailor-made development Script Circle workshop, in the framework of Pulling Focus: NL 2025.

Hubert Bals Fund

IFFR's film fund, the Hubert Bals Fund, remains true to its mission of representing cinema in all its forms, discovering and supporting new talent, and reminding us of the power of human solidarity. During IFFR 2025, you can find HBF across an exceptional lineup of projects, as well as in industry events and panels – from the five films featured in the festival's various programming sections, to four CineMart and three Darkroom projects, and many alumni throughout the programmes.



IFFR Pro Awards

The IFFR Pro Awards will recognise projects from the CineMart and Darkroom selections and will be presented on the evening of Wednesday 5 February 2025, including four new awards this edition for Darkroom projects:

- The PJLF Arts Fund offers the new *Outward Gaze Prize*, worth €10,000 to an outstanding Darkroom project.
- Amsterdam-based Filmmore, a leading full-service post-production, editing and visual effects facility, offers a new *Filmmore Work-in-progress Post-production Award* (€5,000) alongside their award for a CineMart project.
- *4DR Studios Award for Best Immersive Project in Darkroom* consists of a volumetric video studio package for a selected work-in-progress, alongside their award for a CineMart project.
- Thanks to a private donor, the Hubert Bals Fund is granting for the first time the *HBF Empowerment Award*, worth €10,000, to a Darkroom project to empower filmmakers who come from politically challenging contexts or whose work addresses themes such as freedom of expression, displacement, human rights and/or underrepresented communities.

IFFR Pro is grateful to all its award partners who continue to make the following prizes possible through their generosity:

- *Eurimages New Lab Awards*, consisting of an Innovation Award for CineMart projects in development (€20,000) and an Outreach Award for Darkroom work-in-progress projects (€30,000).
- *4DR Studios Award for Best Immersive Project in CineMart*, which consists of a volumetric video studio package.
- *Filmmore Post-production Award* (€7,500) to be used for visual effects & post-production for a CineMart project.
- *ArteKino International Award* (€6,000), providing support for financial development.
- *VIPO Award* (€3,000) for projects with budgets where the award can make the most impact.

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