

connecting cottbus project line-up: at least one thing is certain in 2020 - creativity continues to bloom in the eastern european film industry

connecting cottbus, the East-West co-production market taking place in November during FilmFestival Cottbus, presents its selection of **13 projects in development** and **6 works in progress** for this year's online edition.

From 4-6 November 2020, the 22nd edition of **connecting cottbus (coco)** will take place online, presenting exciting feature film projects to a select audience of co-producers, sales agents and other potential partners. This year, **13 cocoPITCH** and **6 cocoWIP** projects from 13 countries in broader Eastern Europe will be pitched. All projects compete for a variety of awards. Their producers and directors will take part in in-depth feedback sessions with industry experts in the cocoLAB, while all industry participants can join online networking events and a framework programme focusing on current production topics.

Despite all collective hardships at the festival circuit this year, we are proud of the coco alumni projects released in 2020: besides *SERVANTS* (Slovakia/Ireland/Czech Republic/Romania) by Ivan Ostrochovský, which competed at Berlinale Encounters in February, Ivan Tverdovskiy's *CONFERENCE* (Russia/Estonia/Italy/UK) premiered at Venice Days. *THE CAMPAIGN* (Romania) by Marian Crisan will premiere in Moscow in October, while Piotr Domalewski's *I NEVER CRY* (Poland/Ireland) will be part of the New Directors Competition at upcoming San Sebastian.

This year's **cocoPITCH** selection covers a variety of stories and characters, from accidental millionaires to greedy aunts and sad mathematicians. Once again the majority of protagonists are strong-willed women. Topics include home displacement, immigration and workers' rights, corruption and sensationalist journalism, as well as a little-known practice called Catholic divorce. Debut feature projects are set alongside new work by award-winning filmmakers like Roman Bondarchuk, Robert Budina and Svetla Tsotsorkova, who received the Special Pitch Award FilmFestival Cottbus 2019 to present *FORTUNE TELLER*. Pre-selected by coco at partnering events were *SEP & ANA* by Paul Cioran, winner of the Transilvania Pitch Stop - coco Award at TIFF 2020, and *VACUUM* by Yelizaveta Smith, which took the Midpoint - coco Award (Midpoint Feature Launch) at Karlovy Vary Eastern Promises 2020.

The line-up of **cocoWIP** is equally diverse in terms of genre, ranging from dark comedy and savvy coming-of-age to vibrant historical epos. We are pleased to present two coco alumni projects: *SISTER* (WT; North Macedonia/Kosovo/Montenegro/France) by Dina Duma and *STOP-ZEMLIA* (WT; Ukraine) by Kateryna Gornostai.

This year, **connecting cottbus** takes place entirely online on **4-6 November 2020**.

Producers, sales agents, commissioning editors and other industry representatives active in East-West European co-production can apply to attend without a project by 7 October 2020.

Selected cocoPITCH Projects 2020

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC | Croatia, Serbia | dir: Vanja Juranić |
prod: Damir Terešak, Nikolina Vučetić Zečević | Maxima Film / Biberche Productions

FLOOD | Slovak Republic | dir: Martin Gonda |
prod: Katarína Krnáčová, Tomáš Gič | Silverart

Special Pitch Award FilmFestival Cottbus

FORTUNE TELLER | Bulgaria | dir: Svetla Tsotsorkova |
prod: Svetoslav Ovcharov | Omega films

HONEY BUNNY | Croatia | dir: Igor Jelinović |
prod: Rea Rajčić | Eclectica

KIRIL'S LUCK | Bulgaria | dir: Milena Andonova |
prod: Katya Trichkova, Rali Ralchev | Contrast Films

NORWEGIAN DREAM | Norway, Poland | dir: Leiv Igor Devold |
prod: Håvard Wettland Gossé, Bartek Glinski | Spætt Film / Impakt Film

PARADE | Lithuania | dir: Titas Laucius |
prod: Klementina Remeikaite | afterschool production

Transilvania Pitch Stop - coco Award

SEP & ANA | Romania | dir: Paul Cioran |
prod: Claudiu Mitcu | We are Basca

SWAPS | North Macedonia | dir: Gjorche Stavreski |
prod: Gjorche Stavreski, Ivana Shekutovska | Fragment Film

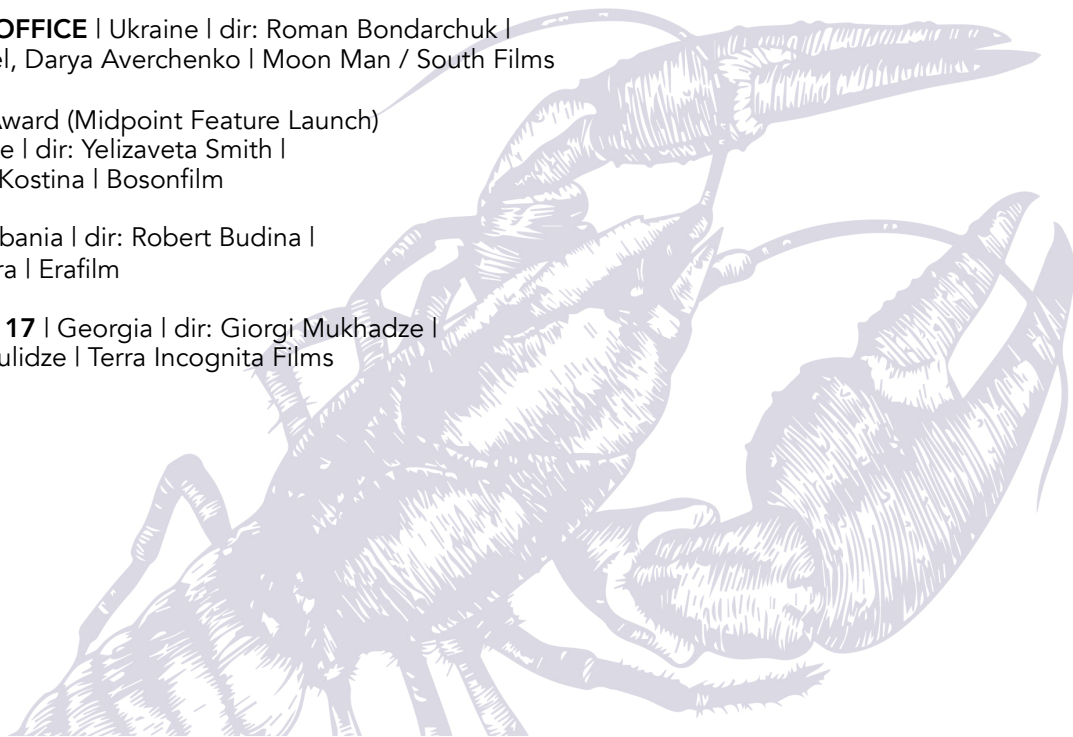
THE EDITORIAL OFFICE | Ukraine | dir: Roman Bondarchuk |
prod: Darya Bassel, Darya Averchenko | Moon Man / South Films

Midpoint - coco Award (Midpoint Feature Launch)

VACUUM | Ukraine | dir: Yelizaveta Smith |
prod: Aleksandra Kostina | Bosonfilm

WATERDROP | Albania | dir: Robert Budina |
prod: Sabina Kodra | Erafilm

WHEN YOU ARE 17 | Georgia | dir: Giorgi Mukhadze |
prod: Nato Sikharulidze | Terra Incognita Films



Selected cocoWIP Projects 2020

EVICTION | Hungary | dir: Máté Fazekas |
prod: Gábor Osváth, Péter Fülöp | Filmfabriq / FP Films

FIRE! | Russia | dir: Maria Ignatenko |
prod: Egor Odintsov, Konstantin Fam, Ekaterina Mikhailova | Ark Pictures

SISTER (WT) | North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, France | dir: Dina Duma |
prod: Marija Dimitrova, Liridon Cahan, Biljana Vusovic, Guillaume De Seille |
List Production / Added Value Films / Videa Production / Arizona Productions

STAND BY ME | Russia | dir: Tamara Dondurey |
prod: Katia Filippova | Pan-Atlantic Studio

STOP-ZEMLIA (WT) | Ukraine | dir: Kateryna Gornostai |
prod: Vitaliy Sheremetiev, Vika Khomenko, Natalia Libet, Olha Beskhnelytsina |
Esse Production House

SUPERMARKET | Montenegro, Serbia | dir: Nemanja Becanovic |
prod: Milena Charan, Jelena Angelovski | VHS / Tri Osmine

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