

# MAKING EUROPEAN FILM & TELEVISION DRAMA

A collaborative research project  
exploring contemporary  
European film and television drama



**MeCETES** | Mediating Cultural  
Encounters through  
European Screens

OSTEND, SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 2014

## SUMMARY

This one-day event brings together industry professionals, policymakers and media analysts to discuss some of the key issues and trends affecting the film and television industries in Europe and particularly smaller European nations and regions. The morning session will focus on the challenges of writing television screen fiction for a pan-European audience, while the afternoon will consider some of the schemes and strategies designed to support film production and distribution in Europe. The programme combines presentations from industry professionals and media experts as well as panel discussions, in which audience members will be able to contribute their views to the debate.

## ABOUT MECETES

'Mediating Cultural Encounters through European Screens' (MeCETES) is a three-year collaborative research project between the University of York, University of Copenhagen and Vrije Universiteit Brussels with funding from Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA). It is founded on the premise that in modern societies cultural encounters are frequently mediated encounters. Our understanding of European diversity is achieved partly through encountering representations of Europeans from other nations on screen. But which European films and television drama actually travel well within Europe? How do they represent other European nations, cultures and identities? And how do audiences engage with such screen fictions? To answer such questions, the MeCETES project team will provide a European-wide overview of the funding, production, distribution, dissemination, reception and policy circumstances that enable European film and television dramas to be made and to circulate as well as detailed national case studies for the period 2005-2015.

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# PROGRAMME

09.00 – 09.30 REGISTRATION / COFFEE

09.30 – 10.00 OPENING REMARKS

Andrew Higson, University of York

10.00 – 11.00 PRODUCING CREATIVITY

## Writing television fiction for European audiences.

With the international success of recent television dramas such as *The Killing*, *The Spiral* and *Salamander*, production companies are increasingly targeting audiences across Europe rather than focusing solely on domestic viewers. Bringing together industry perspectives with research insights from the MeCETES project, this session will discuss the challenges of writing for a pan-European audience and how writers and directors can make their programmes appeal across borders.

### EUROPEAN TV DRAMA THAT TRAVELS (10 MINS)

Eva Novrup Redvall, Assistant Professor at the University of Copenhagen.

### EUROPEAN CO-PRODUCTION FOR THE SMALL SCREEN (20 MINS)

Ingolf Gabold, Executive Producer for Eyeworks and former Head of Drama for DR Fiction 1999-2012.

### CREATING CRIME DRAMA FOR EUROPEAN AUDIENCES: THE TEAM (30 MINS)

Conversation with Kathrine Windfeld, Conceptualising Director of the forthcoming police series *The Team*, and Tasia Leonie Abel, Vice-President ZDF Drama.

11.00 – 11.30 COFFEE BREAK

11.30 – 13.00 PANEL DISCUSSION:

## Writing television fiction for European audiences

Ingolf Gabold, Producer (*The Killing*, *Borgen*)

Kathrine Windfeld, Director (*The Team*, *The Bridge*)

Hans Herbots, Director (*The Treatment*, *Spiral*)

Malin-Sarah Gozin, Showrunner (*Clan*, *Connie and Clyde*)

Olivier Goris, net manager Eén (VRT)

Moderator: Ib Bondebjerg

13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH / NETWORKING

14.00 – 15.00 FINANCING CREATIVITY

## Supporting European film production

Even stories with the potential to appeal to audiences across Europe face the challenge of raising suitable production budget and finding adequate distribution. This is particularly the case in Europe's small nations and regions where access to finance is often most challenging. This session will assess some of the schemes and strategies designed to support film production and distribution in Europe's small nations and regions, from national and European funding, to international co-production deals.

### EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR FILM PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION (10 MINS)

Tim Raats, Postdoctoral Researcher at Vrije Universiteit Brussel

### SUPPORTING FILM PRODUCTION IN THE UK – A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE (25 MINS)

Hugo Heppell, Head of Production, Screen Yorkshire

### CO-PRODUCING FILMS WITH EUROPEAN PARTNERS (25 MINS)

Conversation with Rebecca O'Brien (Sixteen Films), Producer of *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*, *Looking for Eric* and *Jimmy's Hall*.

15.00 – 15.30 COFFEE BREAK

15.30 – 17.00 PANEL DISCUSSION

## Supporting European film production

Hugo Heppell, Screen Yorkshire, UK

Rebecca O'Brien, Sixteen Films

Emmanuel Joly (MEDIA, European Commission)

Petri Kempainen, Nordic Film and TV Fund, Norway

Helen Perquy, Caviar, Belgium

Jan De Clerq, Lumière, Belgium

Michaël Roskam

Moderator: Caroline Pauwels

17.00 – 17.30 CLOSING REMARKS

Andrew Higson, University of York

17.30 WINE AND FOOD RECEPTION

**ABEL, TASJA:** In 2008 Tasja was put in charge of the development, acquisition and coproduction of drama projects as manager of drama coproductions at ZDF Enterprises. Since early 2013 Abel, now as Vice President ZDFE.drama, has been responsible for the acquisition, coproduction, financing and international distribution of drama projects, as well as the establishment of long-term partnerships with production firms.

**GABOLD, INGOLF:** Ingolf has worked as program director at the Danish public broadcaster DR. Later on he was hired as head of drama of DR. He was the man behind successful series such as 'Den serbiske Dansker' (The Serbian Dane), 'Rejseholdet' (Unit One), 'Nikolaj og Julie' (Nikolaj and Julie), 'Krøniken' (Chronicle), 'Ørnen og Forbrydelsen' (The Eagle and the Crime). Ingolf recently quit his position as head of the dramatic fiction department at DR and is now working as a producer for the Danish branch of Eyeworks.

**HEPPEL, HUGO:** Screen Yorkshire's production team is headed by Hugo Heppell, who has more than 20 years of experience in the film and television industries. He is responsible for the production fund and all creative and business affairs related to its investments.

**HIGSON, ANDREW:** Andrew is an expert on contemporary UK film, the film industry, film policy and Film Europe. He is responsible for the overall management of the MeCETES project and budget.

**O'BRIEN, REBECCA:** Rebecca began her film career working at the Edinburgh Film Festival. Her producing debut was "Friendship's Death" written and directed by Peter Wollen. Her first film with Ken Loach was "Hidden Agenda" and since then they have made twelve feature films together. In 2002 they founded Sixteen Films. Apart from the Loach/Laverty films, Rebecca also produced the "Bean" movie for Working Title, "Princesa" for Parallax Pictures/ She has sat on various film industry boards including PACT, The UK Film Council and South West Screen. She is currently a member of the Film Industry Training Board, the British Screen Advisory Council and the Board of the European Film Academy.

**RAATS, TIM:** Tim specializes in Public Broadcasting policy and management issues, sustainability of independent television production, and challenges for financing TV fiction in small markets. He recently finished his PhD on the role and position of Public Service Media as hubs within a networked media environment.

**REDVALL, EVA NOVVRUP:** Eva is an expert on television drama production and screenwriting, she has just finished a project funded by the Danish Research Council on the production practices of Danish public service television drama series. Her book 'Writing and Producing Television Drama in Denmark - from The Kingdom to The Killing' has just been published by Palgrave.

**WINDFELD, KATHRINE:** Kathrine has directed several motion pictures such as "Hamilton - I Nationens Interesse" and "Flugten". She also filmed the Swedish Hanne-Vibeke Holst's Crown Princess Trilogy and directed several episodes of various television series including: "The Killing", "The Bridge", "Wallander" and "Rita". She is part of the Swedish Film Institute's mentor arrangement, and has participated in DR2's "Smagsdommerne".



# SPEAKERS



# PANELISTS

**DE CLERCQ, JAN:** Jan De Clercq is general manager of the Benelux production company and distributor Lumière. Lumière is one of the biggest buyers of Scandinavian TV drama and European feature films

**GORIS, OLIVIER:** Olivier Goris serves as the net manager of Eén, the largest channel of the Flemish Public Broadcaster VRT. He previously worked as Head of Programming at the production company Woestijnvis.

**GOZIN, MALIN-SARAH:** Malin-Sarah is a scriptwriter, known for the internationally acclaimed 'Clan' and the comedy series 'Connie&Clyde'. Before taking up a career as a writer she worked as creative producer and editor in chief of several human-interest programs such as 'De Beste Belg' and television series such as 'Anneliezen'.

**HERBOTS, HANS:** Hans Herbots studied film at the RITS in Brussels. Over the years he has built a strong reputation as a director of drama series and feature films with strong box office success. His latest feature film was 'The Treatment'.

**JOLY, EMMANUEL:** Emmanuel is the Policy Officer at the MEDIA department of the European Commission where he contributed to the regulatory requirements and publications on the audiovisual industry such as European Film in the Digital Era.

**KEMPPINEN, PETRI:** Petri Kempainen is Head of International Affairs and Development at The Finnish Film Foundation. Before joining the FFF in 2005 he was employed for nine years at YLE Finnish Broadcasting Company in various positions, from acquisition of children's programmes to executive producer of youth drama and on to head of youth department and finally commissioning editor at the digital channel YLE Teema.

**PERQUY, HELEN:** Helen Perquy started her career as a sales agent with Warner Bros. At the moment she works as a producer of film and television series for Caviar. She was producer of the acclaimed TV comedy hit Quiz me Quick (VRT).







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'Making European Film & Television Drama' is a conference organized by the MECETES consortium

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