

Europe, 30th of March 2020

PRESS RELEASE

First Cut Lab opens calls for four summer workshops and announces second session of First Cut+

It's trying times for our industry, but the First Cut Lab team is determined to keep supporting filmmakers with the editing of their fiction feature films. From today, we are calling for projects for 4 workshops to take place this summer: during **Karlovy Vary IFF** and **New Horizons IFF**, a second edition in partnership with **RE-ACT**, as well as a brand-new workshop for features from the **Balkans**.

Headed by **Matthieu Darras**, together with editor consultant **Benjamin Mirguet**, editorial advisor **Wim Vanacker** and program manager **Maartje Alders**, First Cut Lab provides at least **10 new slots** for filmmakers and their rough cuts, after 7 feature films were already workshopped in Trieste and in Vilnius earlier this year.

We are **now accepting applications** for the following **summer workshops**:

First Cut Lab KARLOVY VARY

The **second edition of First Cut Lab Karlovy Vary** is scheduled from July 7th to 11th 2020. Three films will be selected, with one slot for a **CEE** project, one for a **Czech or Slovak** project, and again also one for a project from the **Middle East**.

Hugo Rosak, Head of Industry of KVIFF Eastern Promises, explains: "*For some time now, we have been looking at ways to support film projects in the fragile stage nearing completion as this is when they still deserve to get some invaluable insights from industry experts. Both First Cut Lab and First Cut+ programmes offer this opportunity and we as a festival are happy to offer our established infrastructure. It's a win-win.*"

Romanian first feature *And They May Still Be Alive Today* by Tudor Cristian Jurgiu participated in First Cut Lab Karlovy Vary last year and went on to join in First Cut+ in Trieste this January.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 1st of May.

First Cut Lab BALKANS

The **first edition of First Cut Lab Balkans** is scheduled to take place in the Kosovo capital Pristina. Three films from **Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and North Macedonia**, will take part. The workshop is made in cooperation with the Kosovo Cinematography Center, North Macedonia Film Agency, Albanian National Center of Cinematography and Film Centre of Montenegro.

Last year an edition of First Cut Lab already took place in Pristina, exclusively for Kosovan films supported by Kosovo Cinematography Center of which first feature *Andromeda Galaxy* by More Raça went on to win the Glocal in Progress prize at the San Sebastian IFF.

Arben Zharku, Director of Kosovo Cinematography Center, comments this new regional partnership: *“Convinced of the success of last year's workshop and believing that this experience will further strengthen our industry, we have expanded our cooperation with neighboring countries with which we have excellent cooperation history.”*

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 15th of May. *Workshop dates to be confirmed.*

First Cut Lab RE-ACT

RE-ACT (Regional Audiovisual Cooperation and Training), the well-known initiative of the Croatian Audiovisual Centre, Friuli Venezia Giulia Audiovisual Fund, Slovenian Film Centre and Film Center Serbia will again host a First Cut Lab to support its regional talents and films.

The first edition of First Cut Lab RE-ACT took place last November 2019. Four films were workshopped in Ljubljana, including Serbian second feature *The Users* by Ivan Ikić and the Croatian first feature *The Staffroom* by Sonja Tarokić that went on to participate in First Cut+ Trieste. The workshop now returns to take place in Serbia.

Alessandro Groppero, Head of International Relations at FVG Audiovisual Fund, adds: *“We are very happy to continue the collaboration with First Cut Lab as we know how important and precious professional advice and support can be during the editing phase. On top of this, under these surreal and dramatic circumstances we are all facing, we are very keen to react promptly and offer new opportunities to our regional professionals and their films”*

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 15th of May. *Workshop dates to be confirmed.*

First Cut Lab POLAND

In July, First Cut Lab will return to Poland with the support of long-term partner Polish Film Institute for the sixth time. The workshop, that will cater for two to three Polish projects, will this edition take place within the frame of the industry event **Polish Days** at **New Horizons IFF in Wroclaw** from July 24th to 27th 2020.

Weronika Czołnowska, Head of Industry comments: *“Hosting First Cut Lab is a natural step towards the expansion of our Polish Days industry event, the biggest industry event in Poland, so I am extremely happy to start this cooperation. First Cut Lab shares our goals and objectives therefore we consider it as a perfect partner for our program.”*

Marcin Pieńkowski, the Artistic Director of New Horizons IFF, adds: *“I am very happy that First Cut Lab will be a part of this year's New Horizons IFF. The First Cut Lab formula is brilliantly refined and unique - I am convinced that participation in these workshops will help Polish filmmakers in making the right editing choices.”*

Last years' workshop included *The Getaway King* by Mateusz Rakowicz which took part in First Cut+ Trieste.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 27th of May.

First Cut+ Karlovy Vary

After the first edition last January at When East Meets West of our new program for boosting the **competitiveness and marketability** of feature films, the summer session of First Cut+ will invite another 8 projects to join the 2020 portfolio.

This time the participants will be invited to have **3 days of consultations** on promotion followed by a **Works-in-progress session** as part of the KVIFF Eastern Promises Industry Days. There is no open call for participation, eligible projects are First Cut Lab alumni as well as projects that previously participated in MEDIA supported partners Less Is More and MIDPOINT Feature Launch.

We will of course take care in the organization of all these workshops about the current global health crisis and consider all the necessary steps to keep all participants and collaborators safe. In case there is any change, we will share updates via our website and Facebook, as well as directly with everyone concerned.

Twenty of our First Cut Lab alumni projects are slated to premiere this year. We are keeping our fingers and toes crossed for their premiere spots & encounters with audiences, despite the circumstances. **Sending everyone love and support!**