

SELECTED PROJECTS/SCRIPTWRITERS:

***As a Matter of Sex* (Drama/comedy)**

A series written by María Sólrún

Marta (50), a teacher in Iceland, starts pimping callboys where prostitution is illegal, and everybody knows everybody.

María Sólrún from Iceland has an extensive resume as a director and writer for features and TV series. Her features, *Jargo and Adam*, premiered at the Berlinale. She studied screenwriting at the German Film and Television Academy. Her latest work as a director and writer was on the TV crime series *Tatort: Borowski und das hungrige Herz*.

***WILL* (Historical drama)**

A film written by Puk Grasten

In 1586 Denmark, a young William Shakespeare is cast out of his acting troupe for refusing to glorify God. Stranded at a crumbling Danish inn, he uses its residents to stage his very first play — a story so persuasive the town begins to mirror its deadly plot. As fiction becomes reality and reality becomes deadly; Shakespeare discovers his god-like power of storytelling. Based on newly uncovered historical documents, *WILL* explores the origins of Shakespeare — and the cost of storytelling.

Danish filmmaker **Puk Grasten** writes and directs vivid films about characters who challenge our collective perception of reality. Grasten is an alumna from NYU Tisch Grad Film (MFA). Her US feature film *37* (2016) won Best Director and Best Film by the Critics at the A-film festival Moscow International Film Festival. Her Danish feature *Den, Der Lever Stille* (*There's No Place Like Home*, 2023) has had a wide national theatrical release and been showcased at various international film festivals, including USA's oldest indie festival in Houston, where it won three main awards. Grasten is currently developing the script for *WILL* while in production of her first animated feature film called *Betty Balloon* (theatrical release 2026).

***The Boy From the Sea* (Fantasy)**

A film written by Johanna Pyykkö

Johanna Pyykkö is a Swedish-Finnish-Norwegian filmmaker. She has both written and directed for TV-series, as well as made the multi-awarded short *The Manila Lover*, which premiered in the Cannes Film Festival's Critics' Week (2019). Pyykkö holds a BA in directing from The Norwegian Film School along with a degree in screenwriting from the Alma Löv Script Academy. She newly directed and co-wrote *My Wonderful Stranger* (*Min fantastiske fremmede*), which received the "Arte Kino Award" at MIA Rome, and premiered at the Premiers Plans d'Angers and in the Dragon Award competition at the Göteborg Film Festival. *My Wonderful Stranger* had its theatrical release in Norway in 2024, receiving acclaim from the critics. The feature will be released in French theatres in July 2024.

***Birthright* (Horror/drama)**

A mini-series written by Jørgen Færøy Flasnes

Jørgen Færøy is a Norwegian screenwriter with experience from shorts, TV series and feature films. He has a bachelor's degree in screenwriting from The Norwegian Film School. In addition to *Birthright*, Færøy is currently working on two features, which have received development funding from the Norwegian Film Institute's NEO scheme. Another two features also recently received production funding from NFI. He co-wrote his first feature *My Wonderful Stranger* with Johanna Pyykkö.

***Find Me* (Psychological horror)**

A film written by Ninni Saajola

ADA's return to the youth home she grew up in forces her to confront the darkness living there — and the friend she abandoned to it...

Ninni Saajola is an experienced Finnish screenwriter and dramaturgist. She is also the Chair of the Screenwriters' Guild in Finland. Ninni has a bachelor's degree in Writing for Film & Television from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, USA, and a Master's Degree in Screenwriting from Tampere University in Finland. She has worked as an episode writer and story writer on multiple television shows in various genres. She has also written film, documentary and audio drama scripts. Her latest projects include writing episodes for the *Helsinki Syndrome* (*Helsinki-syndrooma*) series, and co-writing the in-development film *Chili Love*.

You Must Bleed (Psychological thriller)

A film written by Samir Arabzadeh, co-written by Viktor Lundin

Poyan and Shirin marry happily and Shirin bleeds on the wedding night according to tradition, but when Poyan finds virginity pills, their happiest day turns into a nightmare where Poyan is torn between family and love, between tradition and fact.

Samir Arabzadeh is an award-winning filmmaker born in Iran and raised in Sweden. He is moving seamlessly between live-action and animation, between fiction and documentary. He graduated with a degree in Film and Screen Production from Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia. Arabzadeh's most recent project, the documentary *Powernapper's Paradise*, had its international premiere at Hot Docs in Toronto, and went on to screen at more than 40 festivals. Arabzadeh is in late post-production of his first full length film *Tilt*.

The Earwig (Satire)

A film written by Sebastian Johansson Micci

As the summer invasion of the cultural elite and swarms of earwigs mingle on Gotland, disgraced artist Timbo undergoes a grotesque transformation, forcing his daughter Shanna to choose between her own future and the father she's always longed for.

Sebastian Johansson Micci is a director/writer from Sweden. He has bachelor's degree in film from HDK, Valand. His latest short *The Film Might Be White* was shortlisted for an European Film Award 2024. He is currently working on his debut feature *The Earwig* together with production company Grand Slam Film. The project has received development funding through SFI's Wilcard and Film Stockholm AB.

What is Love? (Drama/comedy)

A film written by Paula Vesala

Paula Vesala is a multifaceted artist with a career as a musician, actor, dramaturge and screenwriter from Finland. She started out studying music, then gained her bachelor's degree in dramaturgy from the Theatre Academy, University of Arts Helsinki, and her master's degree in playwriting from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. Vesala has recently worked as a screenwriter for the feature *Hamsters* (*Hamsterit*).

Aðstoð (Love/thriller)

A film written by Jónas Alfred Birkisson and Arnar Hugi Birkisson

In Iceland, Styrmir, a caretaker with mind-reading abilities, secretly forms a bond with a locked-in-syndrome patient, Lovisa, sparking an unusual love story that gets intertwined with mystery and psychological twists as police delve into his troubled past.

The Icelandic Birkisson brothers Jónas and Arnar have broad backgrounds. Jónas has a BA in acting, and has worked on films and television for Netflix, CBS, Paramount etc. alongside working as a writer and producer. Arnar has a diploma in screenwriting and cinematography, but is now working as a doctor in Denmark. Arnar has also worked in the Art dept. both for international films such as *Fast 8* and *Justice League*, as well as Icelandic films.

SELECTED PRODUCERS/STORY EDITORS:

Magnus Kristiansen is a Norwegian film producer who previously worked with media and tech startups in Silicon Valley for more than 6 years. He has managed marketing campaigns for clients like Disney, Sony Pictures and Adidas. Kristiansen now runs the production company 20/20 Pictures AS, and Snurrehus, a content production company. He holds an MFA from The Norwegian Film School as Producer. He has an MSc in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from UC Berkeley and BI Norwegian School of Management, and a BA in Film and Television Science from Lillehammer University College. He has produced three features, including the western/thriller *Swamp Lion*.

Carla Mantilla is an Ecuadorian producer based in Sweden, with an international background, strengthened by years in Mexico, London, Ecuador and Stockholm. She gained her master's degree in film & media - producer for film, TV & new media from Stockholm University of the Arts. She is currently employed by Filmlance International as a film and TV producer, with relevant experience from HBO Max Nordic, SVT and SF Studios.

Elena Tarashchanskaya is a multi-skilled film and TV professional, based in Finland and Poland. She studied journalism at Russian State University of Humanities, and worked, among other things, as creative producer, screenwriter, and story editor. Before moving to Finland in 2011, she worked at the Sony Pictures Television International branch in Moscow. She was the first immigrant screenwriter in Finland to create and develop a high-concept comedy series. The series *Mother in Paw* (*Ei Haukku haavaa tee*) was commissioned and released by Finland's largest streaming platform Elisa Viihde, and ran for two successful seasons.