



FILMFEST MÜNCHEN

Under embargo until Tuesday 7 April, 10am (Munich time)

Munich, Tuesday 7 April 2026

TATINO launches First Cut+ Munich 2026, in partnership with Munich International Film Festival

Launched in 2020 by TATINO, First Cut+ is a program designed to **support emerging filmmakers in maximizing the visibility and impact of their feature films on the international market**. Building on the foundation of the First Cut Lab experience, First Cut+ provides participants with **tailored expertise in marketing, distribution, audience engagement, festival positioning, and sales strategies**.

TATINO is proud to launch in 2026 First Cut+ Munich, in partnership with Munich International Film Festival, one of Europe's leading summertime film festivals. The program will select **6 work-in-progress films** — drawn from alumni of TATINO's flagship initiatives including First Cut Lab, Full Circle Lab, and Pop Up Film Residency — and will bring them together at the **Industry Days, the industry forum of the festival**. There, filmmakers will benefit from **One-to-Ones, B2B networking, and work-in-progress screenings, guided by an international pool of seasoned film professionals and marketing experts**.

*"We are truly excited to collaborate with the Industry section of the Munich International Film Festival — a **partnership that brings together creative producing and real industry momentum at exactly the right moment**. First Cut+ will arrive in Munich with six carefully selected works-in-progress, at a stage where promotion, marketing, and positioning become absolutely crucial, as these films are about to be picked up by festivals and by distributors and discovered by the audiences. Bringing together filmmakers, consultants, and industry experts in this context will create a powerful space for exchange, visibility, and strategic thinking, and we **strongly believe our collaboration will give these projects the best possible conditions to move forward internationally**."*

— Natalia Libet
Head of First Cut+

*"The Munich International Film Festival has long been a key address for German film professionals. **As the number-one platform for German filmmaking, we're the go-to resource for anyone seeking access to the German film industry**. Our CineCoPro initiatives make the festival a prime location for international co-productions; we've also partnered with the University of Television and Film Munich (HFF), the Kirch Foundation, and TATINO to build a sustainable mentoring*

program, Munich Film Up!, which serves as a launchpad for German and international talent. Now we're thrilled to be working with TATINO to bring a further initiative to Munich. First Cut+ will make our industry platform even more international by connecting outstanding global filmmakers with experts from Germany and abroad, as always amid the casual Munich ambience for which our festival is known."

— **Christoph Gröner & Julia Weigl**
Artistic Directors of Munich International Film Festival

The program is managed by producer **Natalia Libet**, who welcomes returning advisors: **Cătălin Cristuțiu** (editor), **Christina Pelekani** (Marketing & Distribution Consultant - Endorphin Agency), **Boris Pugnet** (Marketing Consultant), **Katarzyna Siniarska** (Head of Sales - New Europe Film Sales), **Joanna Solecka** (Film Marketing Strategist & Awards Consultant - Alphapanda).

The lectures online are conducted by **Michael Arnon** (PR Expert - Wolf Consultants) **Wendy Mitchell** (Film and Entertainment Journalist, Film Festival Consultant), and **Katarzyna Siniarska** (Head of Sales - New Europe Film Sales). The onsite master talk will be given by marketing specialist **Joanna Solecka** (Alphapanda).

Creative teams of the 6 selected projects will arrive on Monday June, 29. They will attend the marketing master talk at the Industry Days, and take part in a curated networking event, organized both by the festival and First Cut+. The showcase of selected projects will take place the next day, on Tuesday June, 30 followed by networking and one-to-one meetings.

First Cut+ alumni films

Amongst the **96 feature films** that have participated in **First Cut+** in the first 4 years of the program, alumni films include:

WHITE LIES by **Alba Zari**
(Special Mention and 3 Distribution Awards at Festival dei Popoli 2025)

EXPLANATION TO EVERYTHING by **Gábor Reisz**
(Orizzonti Award for Best Film, Venice Film Festival 2023)

SEA SPARKLE by **Domien Huyghe**
(Crystal Bear Special Mention, Berlinale Generation Kplus 2023)

CHARCOAL by **Carolina Markowicz**
(Toronto Platform 2022)

THE MAIDEN by **Graham Foy**
(Cinema of The Future Award, Venice 2022)

A PIECE OF SKY by **Michael Koch**
(Silver Bear Special Mention, Berlinale 2022)

107 MOTHERS by **Peter Kerekes**
(Grand Prix, Les Arcs 2021)

IMMACULATE by **Monica Stan & George Chiper-Lillemark**
(Lion of the Future, Venice 2021)

LISTEN by **Ana Rocha de Sousa**
(Lion of the Future, Venice 2020)

About TATINO

First Cut+ is part of **TATINO**'s broader ecosystem, which annually delivers labs and residencies for over 300 filmmakers annually from 50 countries through flagship programs including First Cut Lab, Full Circle Lab, and Pop Up Film Residency. Its global partnership with Netflix Grow Creative spans 30 programs worldwide.

More information on [TATINO](#).

About Munich International Film Festival

The Munich International Film Festival (**FILMFEST MÜNCHEN**) is the number-one platform for German filmmaking and a key venue for discovering what's new in international cinema. At the festival's Industry Days, German and international filmmakers, producers, and experts from the industry gather each year to share their ideas.

In a variety of panel discussions, talks, and workshops, the Industry Days address current developments in the film and television industry and explore what the future may hold. Additionally, the CineCoPro Conference brings together German producers and producers from a different region each time. The Industry Beer Garden offers a casual setting for networking, finding inspiration, and forging new collaborations. In 2026, the Industry Days will be held during the Munich International Film Festival from June 26 to July 5. For more information, see [FILMFEST MÜNCHEN](#).

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