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**Press release**

18 UK producers selected for European Co-Production Weekender in Leeds

Creative Europe Desk UK has selected 18 producers to take part in a two day lab that will see international industry experts taking them through the basics of putting a co-production together, from treaties and conventions to legal agreements and sources of finance. Two thirds of the group are female and half are based outside of London in the UK’s nations and regions.

Cross-border collaboration is becoming increasingly important for Creative Europe as evidenced through the [recent results](http://www.creativeeuropeuk.eu/news/three-uk-companies-awarded-single-project-development-funding-0) of the Single Project development scheme, where 97% of the projects selected were international co-productions. However, the recent report published by the BFI Commission for UK Independent Film highlighted major concerns in relation to the drop in the number of official international co-productions and recommended that the conditions for co-production in the UK to be strengthened.

The lab will be held in Leeds on 14 and 15 September and is being organised by the BFI’s Creative Europe Desk UK in partnership with Screen Yorkshire and EAVE.

Speakers include EAVE’s Head of Studies **Lise Lense-Møller** and producers **Bertrand Faivre** (The Bureau) and **Bruno Wagner** (coop99 Filmproduktion) who will provide a case of recent Cannes award winner LITTLE JOE, a co-production directed by Jessica Hausner and backed by the BFI.

Also sharing their experience in putting together co-productions with European partners will be producers **Christine Alderson** (THIS BEAUTIFUL FANTASTIC), **Samm Haillay** (ISLAND OF HUNGRY GHOSTS) and **Sean Wheelan** from Swedish co-producers Filmgate Films.

**Christopher Halliday** from the BFI’s Certification Unit which runs the British qualification process for co-productions in order to access UK’s screen sector tax reliefs**, Hugo Heppell**, Head of Investments at Screen Yorkshire, and **Katie Ellen**, Senior Manager, International at the BFI will also be sharing information as part of the speaker line-up.

**Agnieszka Moody**, Director of Creative Europe Desk UK said:

*“We are thrilled to be bringing this event to Leeds and to see such a strong appetite for international collaboration from an exciting crop of UK producers. This workshop is a very practical way of responding to a real need from the sector as only a few producers can be selected or have the opportunity to enrol on Creative Europe-supported training programmes, such as ACE Producers, EAVE or Inside Pictures. We are aiming to broaden opportunity for up-and-coming UK producers and to give them the confidence to co-produce, both as originators of ideas with international potential and as minority partners who will help others achieve their projects. We want to help the collaborative creative links between the UK and the rest of Europe endure the turbulence of Brexit, to give UK producers the tools necessary to engage with their European counterparts and to demonstrate the UK’s commitment to co-production.”*

**The full list of producers taking part in the 2019 European Co-Production Weekender are:**

* Anna Griffin – Griffin Pictures
* Diarmid Scrimshaw – Inflammable Films
* Hannah Stevenson – Wingarm
* Irune Gurtubai – Caravan Cinema
* Jacqueline Davies – Primitive Film
* Jack Tarling – Shudder Films
* Jessie Mangum – Thought Experiment
* Kamilla Hodøl – Elation Pictures
* Kate Byers – Early Day Films
* Margaret Milner – Split Second Films
* Oliver Kassman – Escape Plan
* Patrick Michael Campbell – Nakba FilmWorks
* Paula Vaccaro – Pinball London
* Pietro Greppi – Lunapark Pictures
* Rebecca Mark-Lawson – Tyke Films
* Rupert Lloyd – Noor Pictures
* Wendy Griffin – Selkie Productions
* Zadoc Nava – Gholam Films

A list of participant biographies can be found on the Creative Europe Desk UK website: [www.creativeeuropeuk.eu/news/european-co-production-weekender-cohort-announced](http://www.creativeeuropeuk.eu/news/european-co-production-weekender-cohort-announced)

**Notes to Editors**

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**About Creative Europe**

Creative Europe is the European Union's programme to support the cultural, creative and audiovisual sectors. From 2014-2020, the EU is investing €1.46 billion in the creative industries through one unified programme, Creative Europe, which replaces the two previous Culture and MEDIA programmes. Creative Europe supports European projects with the potential to travel and find audiences beyond their national borders. Launched in 2014, Creative Europe brings together a Culture sub-programme, which provides funding for the cultural and creative sectors to collaborate across borders, and a MEDIA sub-programme, which invests in cinema, television, new media and games. Match funding is required by participating organisations. Creative Europe currently covers 41 countries including all EU Member States plus 13 non-EU countries.

**About Creative Europe Desk UK**

In each country that takes part in Creative Europe, there is an information and promotion office which supports potential and current stakeholders with their applications. The team members of Creative Europe Desk UK are based across the UK, in London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. Creative Europe Desk UK is led in the UK by the British Film Institute and British Council, in partnership with Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Welsh Government, and with support from the UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the European Commission.