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### **SOFA 2021: Virtual Study Trip to Vilnius**

SOFA – School of Film Advancement's class of 2020/2021 will hold its third and final workshop virtually in Vilnius. Via well-proven online conference tools, SOFA has put together an effective and busy digital experience for the participants and renowned international experts. The workshop will take place from October 18-22 and focus on individual ways of financing the participants' projects. SOFA has prepared a wide range of lectures, keynotes and "one-on-one" meetings fitted to the participant's individual needs.

Nikolaj Nikitin, SOFA Director: "Unfortunately, the pandemic situation doesn't allow us all to gather in beautiful Lithuania. That we nevertheless will virtually profit from the Lithuanian spirit and atmosphere is due to the strong commitment of the Lithuanian Film Center and its director Laimonas Ubavičius. We are very grateful for their support – as well as our main partner Federal Foreign Office of Germany and Creative Europe MEDIA programme - and are looking forward to an eventful, instructive and fruitful week."

The ten participants with nine projects of the 2020/2021 edition who will work on financing their projects with a selected group of experts are Victoria Aleksanyan (Armenia), Elkjana Gjipali (Albania), Stefanie Gödicke (Germany), Rufat Hasanov (Azerbaijan), Leonid Kalitenya (Belarus), Jasna Pintarič (Slovenia), Janka Pozsonyi (Hungary), Philipp Maurice Raube (Germany), Willy Rollé (Germany/France) and Rita Stanelytė (Lithuania).

After the experience of having already successfully conducted four digital workshops, the SOFA team has constantly adapted and further developed the curriculum. At the nick-named "eVilnius" workshop, the participants will be supported by a lead-team of excellent experts: Dagmar Forelle (expert in sponsoring, Berlin), Renaud Redien-Collot (Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Léonard de Vinci Business School, Paris), Kęstutis Drazdauskas (producer and SOFA alumnus, Vilnius), Katriel Schory (veteran film producer and experienced head of film fund, Tel Aviv) and Berenika Partum (SOFA and ARTUM Foundation, Poland/Germany).

In addition to lectures, meetings and talks, all participants will join a special shared online experience. In cooperation with Little Cinema (Brooklyn/USA), Serbia's leading producer and SOFA Vilnius 2018 alumnus Miroslav Mogorović, SOFA Vilnius host Kęstutis Drazdauskas and international sales agent Tijana Konstantinović will present and discuss their latest film "As far as I Can Walk" by Stefan Arsenijević, winner of the prestigious Crystal Globe at Karlovy Vary Film Festival 2021.

The "eVilnius" workshop completes the programme of the SOFA 2020/2021 class. For any news about the further developments of the participants and their projects, please follow us on social media.

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**SOFA – School of Film Advancement** is a programme of workshops aimed at strengthening national film industries and the European cinematic landscape and kick-starting projects in the realm of cinema. SOFA helps its participants advance their ideas into concrete projects, opening new avenues for application for financing programmes and final implementation. SOFA's focus on cultural managers and film entrepreneurs rather than producers and directors has made it a unique international film/AV programme.

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