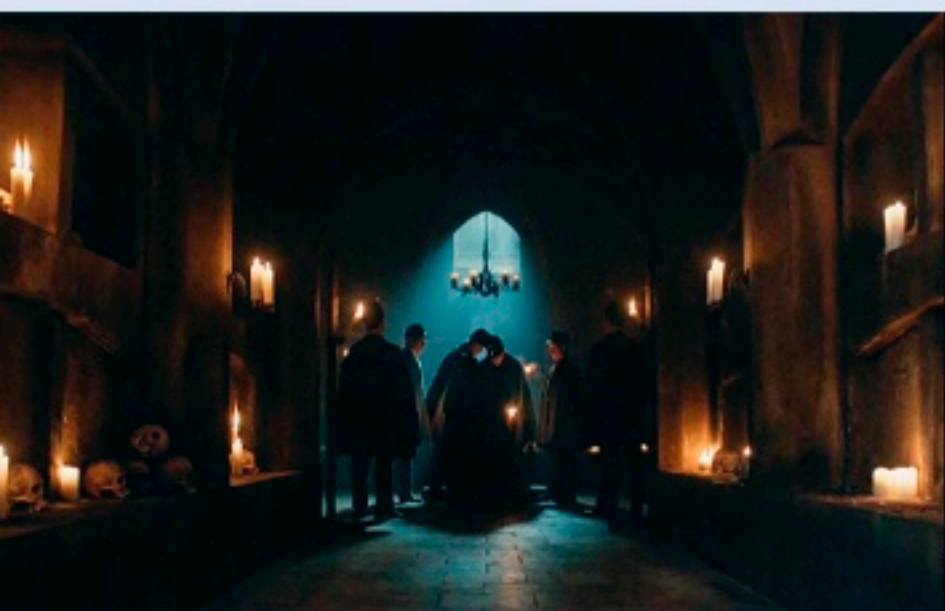


A photograph of two men standing outdoors in front of a chain-link fence. In the background, rows of white stadium seating are visible. The man on the left is wearing a black t-shirt, black shorts, white socks, and grey sneakers. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue polo shirt, dark shorts, sunglasses, and a watch. A large white diagonal banner with blue text is overlaid across the image.

IMACCOCOMENTS #21



The Imago website presents this month the remarkable tale of Xiaosu Han AAC (Xax) and Andreas Thalhammer AAC who together use their synchronized perspectives to transform contemporary film production through their creative partnership. The creative partnership between Xax and Andreas started with basic home video production and short films before they developed into international production visual artists through their shared artistic vision.

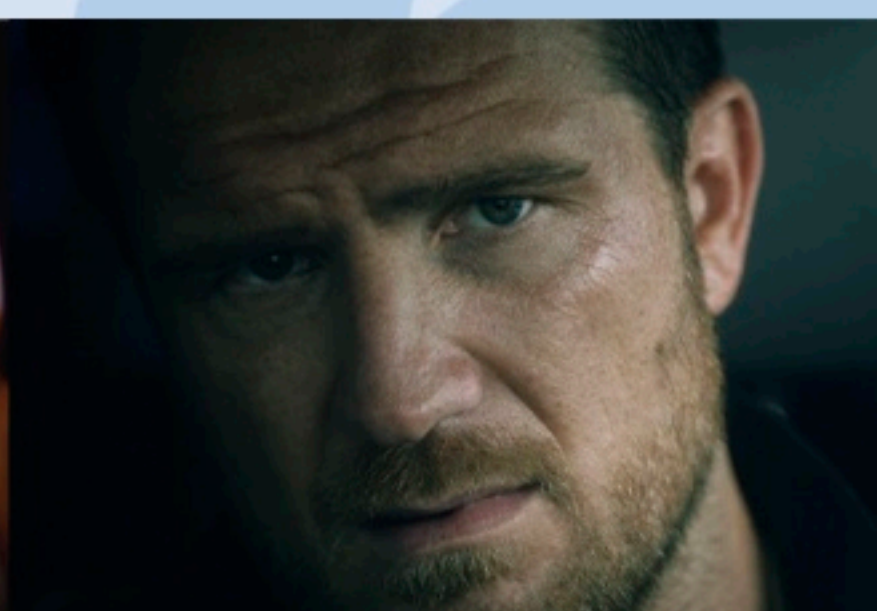
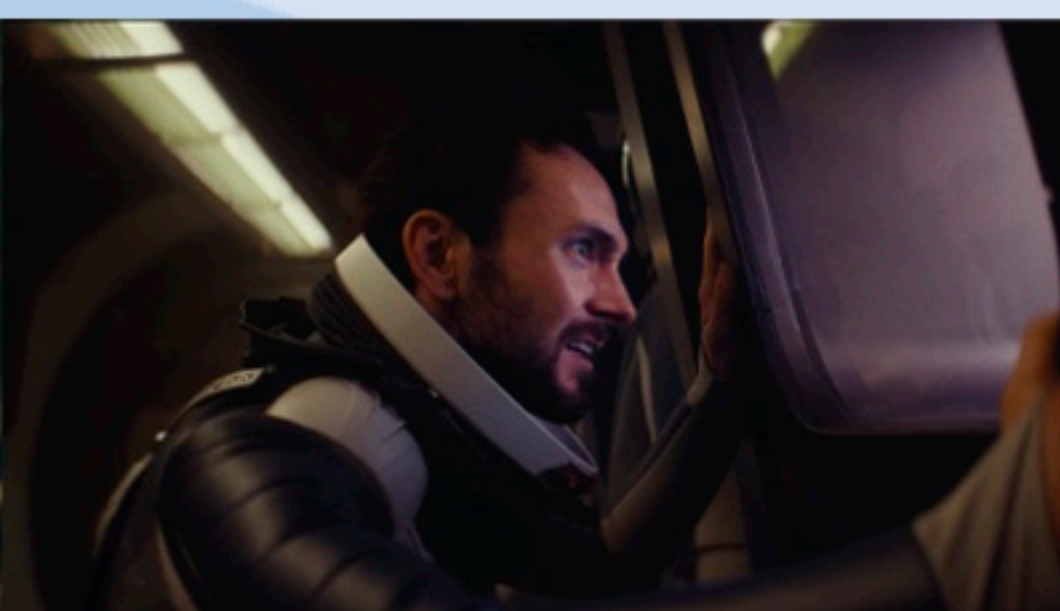
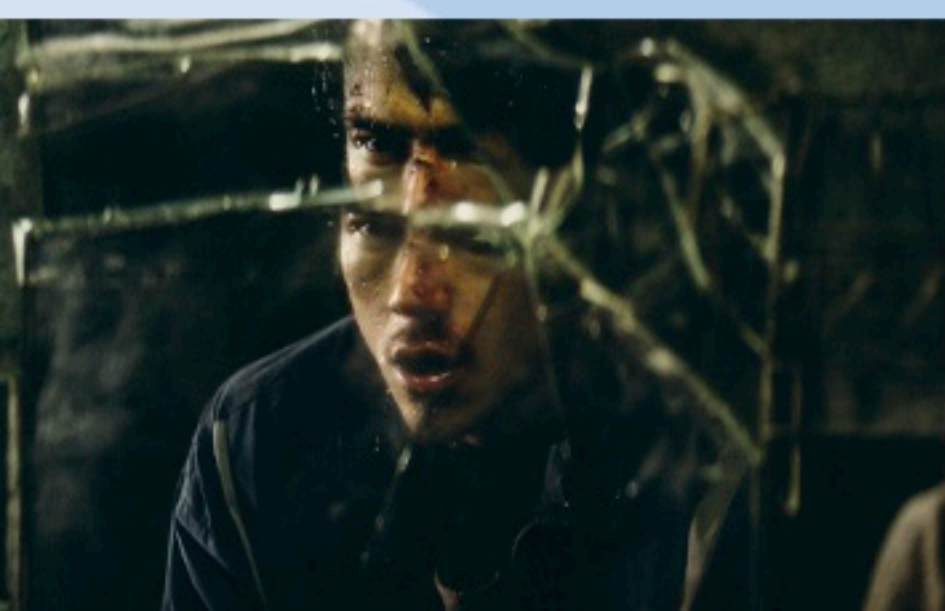
XIAOSU "XAX" HAN & ANDREAS THALHAMMER AAC

Through their dedication to indie filmmaking they developed their skills during the digital transformation of the industry.

The duo now works across different genres and time periods and international locations with their distinctive filmmaking style.

Their meticulous preparation combined with storytelling sensitivity enables them to bring life to various projects which include black-and-white Chinese art films and extensive international TV shows that span multiple countries.

Their collaborative approach combined with their practical use of technology and their storytelling-first philosophy creates the foundation for their work and their partnership. The complete article about their work appears on imago.org today.



NICE MEET ING YOU

THIS WEEK I'M HERE

MY FA VORI TES

Xiaosu Han AAC (Xax) and Andreas Thalhammer AAC have established themselves as leading cinematographers who use their expertise to transform visual storytelling in the film industry.

Their filmmaking journey started with independent projects which evolved into international work as they developed a flexible approach that unites preparation with innovative techniques.

Their ability to customize visual elements according to story requirements makes them stand out as they work on Viennese period dramas and sci-fi thrillers. The directors' vision receives life through our work according to Xax and Andreas who repeat this principle for every production they undertake.

Xax and Andreas maintain their creative edge through their methodical planning approach and their perfect teamwork which enables them to introduce new ideas while maintaining absolute reliability throughout production.

Xiaosu Han and Andreas Thalhammer currently work on multiple projects which span different creative directions. The duo maintains their creative growth through their ongoing work on television shows and feature films and their initial attempt at writing an original screenplay. After dozens of projects together, their collaborative storytelling journey has only started while they maintain a forward-thinking perspective.

Xax and Andreas draw their visual storytelling inspiration from various influential works which include:

Fight Club, David Fincher (1999): A benchmark of visual precision and dark, layered narratives.

Hero, Zhang Yimou (2002): A stunning display of vibrant cinematography that perfectly supports storytelling.

1917, Roger Deakins (2019): An example of how visuals can serve the story without overshadowing it.

Their aesthetic changes with each new project but they maintain that storytelling remains the core focus because they seek to enhance the narrative through visual elements.

SOCIETIES NEWS



AEC at the MANAKI Festival

This year, the Spanish Society of Cinematographers (AEC) brings good news from the Manaki Brothers Festival, which took place from September 20 to 26.

Lara Vilanova, Vice President of AEC, served as a member of the Jury for the Documentary section.

Additionally, our member Mauro Herce, AEC was awarded the Bronze Camera

300 in the Official Section of the Manaki Festival for the cinematography of the film. Sirât, directed by Oliver Laxe. Since its premiere at the latest edition of the Cannes Film Festival, where it received the Jury Prize, the film has been a box office success in both Spain and France. It will be the film representing Spain at the Oscars.



AEC at the San Sebastian International Film Festival

We would like to highlight the strong presence of AEC at the San Sebastian Festival, with 26 films selected across all sections.

The film Los Domingos directed by Alauda Ruiz de Azúa and lensed by Bet Rourich AEC was awarded the Golden Shell. Congratulations!

AEC Microsalón Spain

We will be celebrating the eighth edition of the AEC Microsalón, the International Cinematography Forum, on December 12 and 13, 2025, in Madrid, at the facilities of La Nave.

As every year, we expect the most important companies from the Spanish and international audiovisual sectors, and we will offer a program of talks and conferences with prestigious guests.

The AEC Microsalon is a privileged space to learn, share, and build bridges with the audiovisual industry.

For more information, contact us at:
gerencia@cineaec.com



SOCIETIES NEWS



A New Era in Cinematography: FUJIFILM GFX ETERNA 55

The Cinematographers' Association of Turkey (GYD) & Fujifilm hosted on September 30th the launch event of Fujifilm's medium-format cinema camera, **GFX ETERNA 55**, developed specifically for the motion picture industry.

The event welcomed around 70 attendees, bringing together members of GYD along with leading cinematographers, post-production professionals, and industry representatives.

Participants had the opportunity to explore the latest innovations in cinema technology.



Following the reception, the session — moderated by our member **Doğan Sarıgüzel (GYD)** — featured a special screening of the **GFX ETERNA 55** commercial film, directed by **Ahmet Sesigürgil (GYD)**.

After the screening, Sesigürgil shared detailed insights into the filming process and his creative experience with the camera, answering questions from the audience. The discussion provided a first-hand look at the camera's performance under professional production conditions.



In the later part of the event, participants had the chance to take a closer look at the GFX ETERNA 55 and test its features. During the technical presentation, Fujifilm specialists shared in-depth information about the camera's innovative sensor design, color reproduction technology, and ergonomic structure.

SOCIETIES NEWS



The AIC, Italian Society of Cinematographers is proud to announce that...

Maurizio Calvesi, AIC, after winning the Golden Globe, will receive the **Golden Exposure Award** for his work on **L'abbaglio (2025)**, directed by **Roberto Andò**.

This distinguished award, dedicated to the memory of the legendary cinematographer Gianni Di Venanzo, honors excellence in Italian cinematography. The awards ceremony will take place, October 11th, in Teramo, Di Venanzo's hometown.

The AIC congratulates Maurizio Calvesi on this important achievement and celebrates his continued impact on the art of cinematography.



The AFC 3rd EDITION AWARDS - Registration Extended



The **AFC – French Society of Cinematographers** has extended the registration period for the 3rd edition of its Awards until **19 October**.

The AFC Awards will recognize excellence in cinematography in the following four categories:

- Best cinematography for a feature film (theatrical or platform)
- Best cinematography for an episode of a series or mini-series, TV movie
- Best cinematography for a feature-length documentary
- Best cinematography for a first or second feature film

The awards ceremony will take place on a special evening on **February 3, 2026**.

For more Information, detailed rules, registration and film submission

[CLICK HERE](#)

WHAT'S GOING ON

IMAGO Mentorship Program 2025



IMAGO is proud to launch the **IMAGO Mentorship Program (IMP)**, an initiative by **Denis Lenoir, AFC, ASC, ASK** and **Lara Vilanova Sentís, AEC**, connecting young cinematographers with established professionals from different IMAGO Member Societies.

Over one year, mentors and mentees will engage in regular virtual exchanges to foster artistic growth, confidence, and international collaboration. Each society is invited to nominate one or two mentors and mentees-promoting diversity and gender balance-by December 15th, 2025.

More information will soon be shared with Member Societies.

IMAGO warmly encourages all members to take part in this inspiring new initiative.

STAY TUNED!

AMC WEEK - October 18 - 25th, Mexico City



ASOCIACIÓN MEXICANA
DE CINEFOTOGRAFÍA

AMC Week Returns with More to Explore!

The second edition of AMC Week brings together workshops, masterclasses, and for the first time, an exhibitor fair.

With new venues and expanded activities, it offers something for every filmmaker and photographer, from free talks to sessions with top cinematographers.

Our President Mustapha Barat & our Board Member Steven Fieberg will be present at the event.

CLICK HERE

To get more info & access the **FULL AGENDA**

CINELENSES DAY - October 25th, Madrid



CineLenses Day 2025 Moves to a Bigger Venue

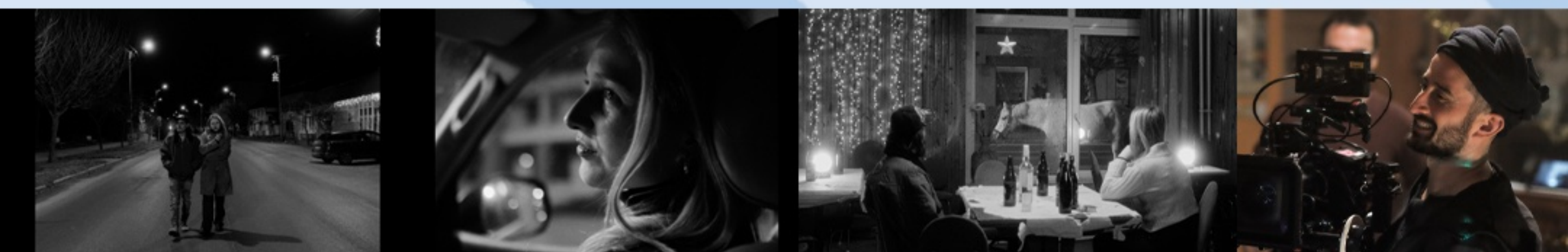
This year's CineLenses Day builds on last year's successful format, bringing together leading manufacturers, vendors, and rental houses.

The goal is to provide a dynamic environment for industry professionals, including camera operators, focus pullers, camera assistants, directors of photography, and filmmakers, to connect, discuss, and test the latest developments in the industry.

Learn more about CineLenses Day 2025 by **CLICKING HERE**

FILM RELEASES

"MINDEN CSILLAG"/ STARS OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE - Csaba Bántó, HCA



"This project was nothing similar to anything that I did before.

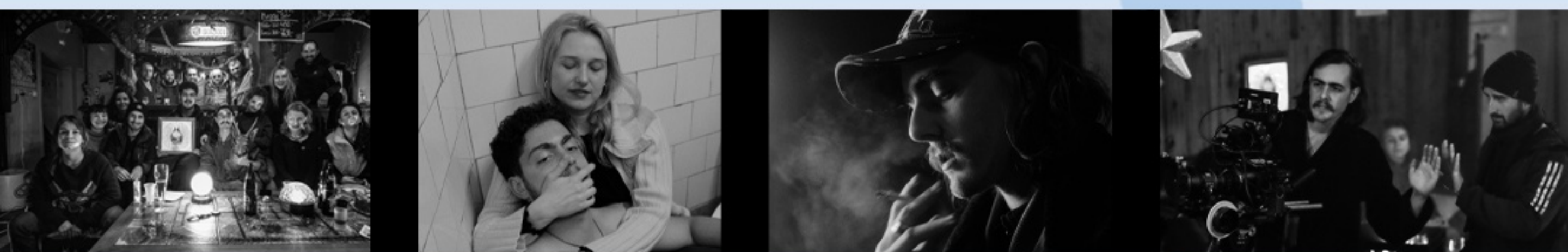
We started this with multiple improvisative sessions together with the actors. Through these plays, the narrative and the characters started to gain shape and form.

This was the point where I got involved even more. It was a very releasing workflow.

The cinematic concept formed together with the story. We were heading mostly linearly, and tried to shape the form of photography to the mood and action of the scenes.

The black and white came as a possibility, due to the low budget form of the movie, but eventually it became the style of it. The movie is being released in the cinemas on november the **6th 2025, in Budapest.**"

Csaba Bántó, HCA



[CLICK HERE](#) to [WATCH THE TRAILER](#)

"ANNA" - Gino Sgreva, AIC



"We worked hard during the preparation to create a harmony and unity of vision for Anna's script, also using references to movies, photographs, and paintings to best characterize the story of this extraordinary woman, Anna Magnani. We shot with a Sony Venice camera and Cooke S4 lenses, in a 2.39:1 format".

Gino Sgreva, AIC

"**Anna**," directed by and starring Monica Guerritore as Anna Magnani, will premiere on **October 20th** at the **Rome Film Fest**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to [WATCH THE TRAILER](#)

COMMITTEE NEWS &

IMAGO BALKAN CONFERENCE 2025 - REPORT

The traditional **IMAGO Balkan Conference** was held for the 14th time during the **MANAKI BROTHERS International Film Festival** on September 23rd at Pionerski Dom in Bitola, North Macedonia. The Balkan Conference was established by former IMAGO President Nigel Walters, BSC, to foster connection and exchange among Balkan cinematographers.

This year's conference had 19 participants who live and work in eight different Balkan countries.



The conference was opened by **Bojana Andric, SAS, IMAGO Co-Vice President**, who welcomed participants and invited them to share news and updates from their countries.

The main focus of **the first part of the conference** was the topic of working conditions, as participants, for several years in a row, have witnessed many different and difficult practices in their countries. Each country has its own typical working conditions, written or unwritten, mostly around 72 hours per week, six days per week, which is above national law in most countries. Union representation is weak or lacking in many countries, and even where present, it offers limited support to cinematographers.

During the 2024 Balkan Conference, participants drafted the **Manaki Manifesto** to be shared with national societies, which, after signing, would start a dialogue about improving working conditions.



In the **second part** of the conference, **Astrid Heubrandtner, AAC** and **IMAGO Working Conditions Committee** member, exclusively shared with participants a first glimpse of the initial draft of the extensive **IMAGO WCC Survey Results Study, "BEHIND THE LENS"**, which will soon be published and presented in the EU Parliament.

The results show trends across Europe and were collected during 2024. All participants agreed that it would be very important for the final published study to be shared with all national societies and, if possible, translated into national languages.

rd cinematographers' creative and economic rights in an AI-driven production environment. This intervention reflects the Authorship Committee's ongoing commitment to shaping future-proof authorship and copyright frameworks for the film industry.

In the third part of the conference, as part of IMAGO's participation in the international discussion on AI in cinematography, Dr. Cristina Busch, IP lawyer and member of the IMAGO Authorship Committee, contributed with a presentation titled "AI and the Future of Filmmaking – Exploring AI's Impact on Creativity, Ownership and Fair Remuneration."

Her talk addressed the pressing need for a coherent policy response to the legal uncertainties introduced by AI-assisted creation in cinematography.

The presentation examined the legal implications of AI-generated and AI-assisted content, focusing on authorship attribution, copyright protection, and fair remuneration. Dr. Busch outlined the current shortcomings in intellectual property law for works involving both human and machine contributions. She emphasized the need for clear legal definitions and coordinated European policy to safeguard cinematographers' creative and economic rights in an AI-driven production environment. This intervention reflects the Authorship Committee's ongoing commitment to shaping future-proof authorship and copyright frameworks for the film industry.



After a 40-minute presentation and Q&A, the main question arose - whether cinematographers will even need to discuss working conditions if AI replaces their jobs.

To quote Dr. Busch: "Intellectual property rights are undergoing significant changes. If copyright protection is being considered for AI-generated works, then it's even more critical to ensure that cinematographers - whose creative input defines the visual language of cinema - are properly recognized and protected. This isn't just about legal rights; it's about preserving the human essence and artistic soul of cinema."

The final part of the conference was dedicated to a discussion about the Manaki Manifesto text and its signing by the national societies.



IMAGO BALKAN CONFERENCE 2025
PARTICIPANTS:

- Meryem Yuvuz GYD
- Mehmet Aksin GYD
- Zeynep Seçil GYD
- Panos Salapatas GSC
- Djordje Arambasic SAS
- Milica Drakulic SAS
- Bojan Rakic SAS
- Aleksandar Jakonic SAS
- Bojana Andric SAS
- Dragoljub Nikolovski MSC
- Atanas Velkovski DFRM N.Macedonia
- Boj Nuvak ZFS
- Marko Brdar ZFS
- Blerim Gjinovci KSC
- Alen Alilovic ASBH
- Pavel Kardalevski student N.Macedonia
- Astrid Heubrandtner AAC
- John Aduloju CSN, IMAGO Board member and director Mitko Panov, N.Macedonia

ALL THE PHOTOS BY Haein Shim, Manaki official photographer



MANAKI MANIFESTO

To Our Fellow Cinema and TV Community of the Balkan Countries,

We, the cinematographer's associations of the Balkan countries, unite in solidarity to address a critical issue affecting our industry: the prolonged and often excessive working hours endured by our members. It is with great concern and determination that we raise our voices against this practice, which we deem unacceptable and detrimental to the well-being of our colleagues and the quality of our work.

Across the Balkans, cinematographers, camera operators, lighting technicians, and all those involved in the production of cinema and television face relentless schedules, often working well beyond reasonable limits. The demanding nature of our craft should not serve as justification for the exploitation of our time and energy. Long hours not only compromise our physical health and mental well-being but also impair our creative abilities, leading to diminished artistic output and substandard productions.

As representatives of our respective associations, we declare our unwavering commitment to advocating for fair and humane working conditions for all workers in our industry. We firmly believe that every individual involved in the creation of film and television deserves to work in an environment that respects their rights, values their contributions, and prioritizes their safety and welfare above all else.

Furthermore, we recognize the power of solidarity in effecting meaningful change. By joining forces across borders, we strengthen our collective voice and amplify our impact. We stand in solidarity with our fellow cinematographers and set workers throughout the Balkans, affirming our shared struggle and determination to create a better, more equitable future for all.

Therefore, we call upon producers, directors, and stakeholders within the industry to acknowledge the importance of this issue and to work collaboratively with us to implement policies that ensure reasonable working hours, adequate rest periods, and fair compensation for overtime. We urge governments and regulatory bodies to enforce existing labor laws and to enact new measures where necessary to protect the rights and well-being of workers in the film and television sector.

In solidarity and determination,
[Signatories of the Balkan Cinematographer's Associations]

SPONSORS NEWS

Welcome to Our New Sponsorship Partners

We are delighted to welcome three new sponsors to the IMAGO community:

FUJIFILM

ROBE®

SIGMA

Their support represents a strong commitment to the art and craft of cinematography, and we are truly grateful to have them join us on our mission to strengthen and connect the global community of image makers.

With the partnership of Fuji, Robe & SIGMA, IMAGO continues to grow as a platform for collaboration, dialogue, and innovation in cinematography.

Welcome aboard & we look forward to a meaningful & creative journey together!