



IMACON NEWS #26



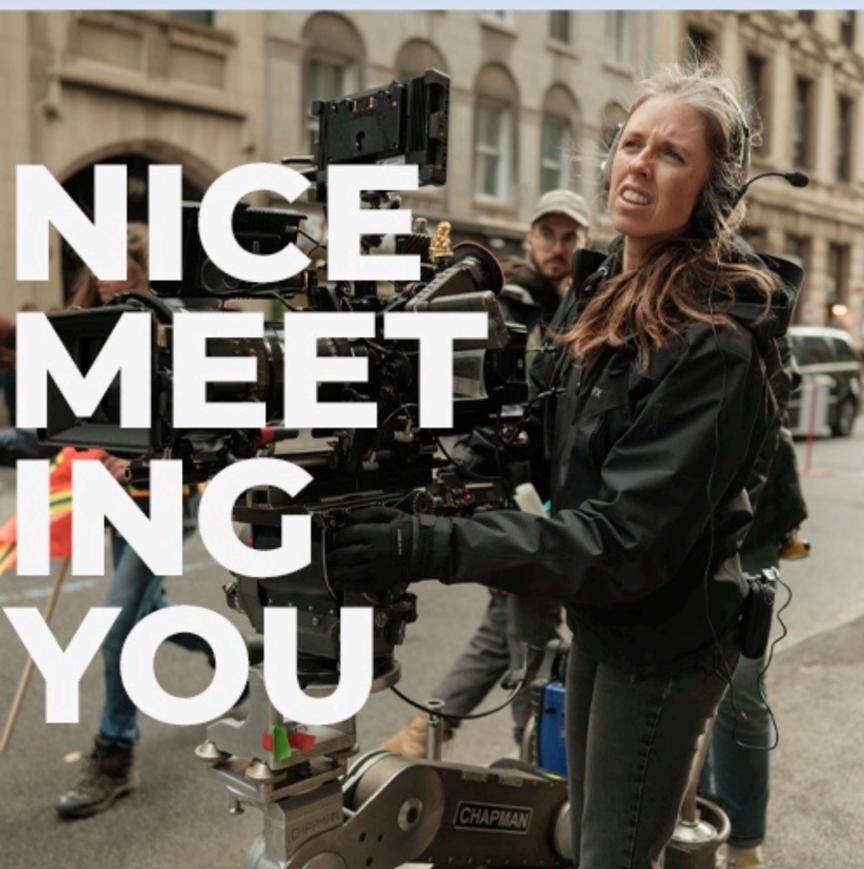
MARIE DAVIGNON CSC

This month on the Imago website, meet **Marie Davignon, CSC**, a Canadian cinematographer and director shaped by Québec's particular mix of ambition, restraint, and ingenuity where budgets often force you to be inventive. She believes Images should elevate the film, never upstage it, "It's the fine line I try to navigate."

I don't want to create images that distract the audience from the story by unjustified effects or overly loud choices". What stays with you in Davignon's story isn't a gear list or a signature look; it's a method of building images as a living system of choices.

Lens, camera, palette, movement, and post... until the film's language clicks into place. She calls that moment "magic," the instant when testing reveals the right combination and the story starts to breathe. Discover more by reading the full article at imago.org.





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Marie Davignon, CSC is a Canadian cinematographer and film director whose work moves between fiction and documentary. She had a triple nomination at CSC Awards in September 2025, she was nominated for “Best cinematography on a feature” for *Balestra* and *Miss Boots* and won for *Code 8 Part II* the Netflix sequel for “Best cinematography in a non-theatrical feature”. She also won “Best cinematography” at the WIFF festival in Vancouver for *Black Conflux*.



THIS
WEEK
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Davignon’s references are less about polish than about permission, proof that strong images can come from restraint and conviction. She points to *Dallas Buyers Club* as a turning point for understanding how far you can go with natural light and minimal resources, a lesson that supported her early low-budget work. And she cites *Punch-Drunk Love* for its choreography of camera and blocking, its controlled chaos, its emotional velocity, showing how movement and rhythm can carry story without ever feeling like a gimmick. *Sicario* is also an important reference, for the finesse of the craft of cinematography. **“I find that Deakins masters the convergence of the beauty and the real... and that is what I mean when I say I don’t want us to be there in a frame, I think he’s the master of that, subtle, elegant and yet beautiful. And this film is also directed masterfully.”**



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Right now, Davignon is building a mood board for a Québec series shooting this summer, returning to collaborate with a director she studied with. One of those full-circle partnerships that only happens when people grow together. She’s also teaching cinematography at university, with a focus on visibility and encouragement, especially for young women entering the field. Her stance on the present (and the noise around tools, monitors, and AI) is grounded: technology may change the workflow, but it doesn’t define the craft. **“I don’t think the tools define the cinematography,”** she says. What matters is taste, choices, and the discipline to keep the camera close to human truth close enough to “dance with the actors,” but never so loud that the image interrupts the story.

SOCIETIES NEWS

SAS

**SRPSKA
ASOCIJACIJA
SNIMATELJA**

Open Letter from Serbian Filmmakers

Dear Members of the International Film Community,

We are reaching out on behalf of the associations of directors, screenwriters, actors, animators, documentary filmmakers, and film artists of Serbia to inform you of the alarming situation facing cinema in our country.

The Serbian film industry is currently facing a coordinated campaign of statesponsored censorship. While Film Center Serbia continues to project a "business as usual" image internationally, the reality is a total freeze on funding calls designed to starve independent production.

Instead of supporting the industry, the Ministry of Culture exercises open hostility, publicly branding filmmakers as "anti-Serbian" and labeling cultural investment as "wasted" funds. Film Center Serbia has announced no public calls for more than 14 months, despite having funds allocated in their budget.

By not doing so, it is openly breaking Serbian law. Political interference, informal blacklists of filmmakers, and public attacks on artists have become systemic. Domestic projects have been excluded from accessing the public tax incentives, while previously approved cash rebate obligations to local and foreign investors remain unpaid.

Filmmakers vocally critical of the authorities are systematically denied access to public funding, regardless of their professional track record and international recognition. The leadership of film and cultural institutions has been handed to political appointees with no professional qualifications, whose primary function is to act as gatekeepers and censors.

These practices represent a serious violation of artistic freedom, transparency, and the rule of law. We call on the international film community and the European public funding institutions to be fully aware of the current conditions in Serbia and to raise their concern until lawful, transparent, and independent institutional film practices are restored.

We, Serbian filmmakers, urgently call on your solidarity and active support in defending artistic freedom and protecting the integrity of cinema in Serbia.

SAS, Serbian Society of Cinematographers

READ MORE by CLICKING IN THE LINKS BELOW:

[Serbian Filmmakers Call Out "State-Sponsored Censorship" in Open Letter](#)
(The Hollywood Reporter)

[Serbian film associations protest public funding withdrawal, "campaign of state-sponsored censorship"](#)
(Screen Daily)



AIC TECH 04 – TOTAL CONSOLE LED Revolution: Organizing the Set Light

The fourth edition of **AIC TECH** took place in Rome on February 24–25, 2026, exploring the evolving relationship between technology and art.

This new masterclass, dedicated to the LED Revolution, examined the latest generation of lighting consoles and how they have transformed the management of cinematic lighting on set, enabling what can be described as “total control.” The event was organized in collaboration with partners ETC Connect and Imagine Light.



The program followed two parallel tracks: the first focused on the practical use of LEDs, while the second explored the specific application of lighting consoles and the broader management of lighting on set.

Among the contributors were Daniele Massaccesi, AIC, Vincenzo Carpineta, AIC, Antonio Grambone, AIC, and Clarissa Cappellani, AIC.



Showcasing the cinematic highlights of 2025

The latest showreel of the **Belgian Society of Cinematographers (SBC)** brings together striking images crafted by our talented members.

This curated selection features moments from a wide range of films, television series and documentaries, shot across the world.

Skillfully edited by Kim Vandenberg, the showreel reflects the craft, vision and technical mastery of SBC cinematographers, and the shared passion that drives our profession.

Our sincere thanks go to the producers, directors, partners, film and economic funds, and to the many cast and crew members whose collaboration made these images possible. Their collective efforts continue to elevate the art of visual storytelling.

Here's to cinema, to collaboration, and to an inspiring 2026 ahead.

May it be bold, creative, and full of great images.

[**CLICK HERE TO WATCH**](#)

IAGA 2026 - VIENNA

ARRI **Godox** **NANLUX** **SONY**



“Jean-Marie Dreujou, Robert Alazraki and for the last day Thomas Favel represented the AFC at the very nicely organized 2026 IAGA in Vienna.

Over engaging and productive three days, the assembly addressed key topics for Imago future, including the unanimous approval of the AI text. The AFC actively contributed to discussions on the relationship between committees and the board. A working group was established to explore these interactions. The AFC suggested a constructive approach:

Committees seeking greater autonomy and financial flexibility could operate independently while maintaining a formal connection to Imago, potentially through sponsorship arrangements.

In addition, temporary project-based working groups will be organized, as a flexible and complementary way to support new initiatives and encourage collaboration across member societies.

This reflects the AFC commitment to strengthen collaboration within Imago, supporting existing committees, and fostering innovation and sustainable development across the federation.

We reiterate our sincere thanks to Astrid and the AAC organizing team, as well as our sponsors, Sony, Arri, Godox, Nanlux and the Vienna Film Commission.

Warm and friendly hugs, we will hopefully meet next year in BAR CE LONA.”

Robert, Jean-Marie and Thomas, AFC

“It is with immense joy and profound pride that we welcomed the news of the admission of our Ivorian association of cinematographers, RETECHCI, as a full member of the International Federation of Cinematographers, IMAGO. This recognition marks a major milestone for our association and celebrates years of collective commitment, rigorous work, and shared passion in service of cinematography and filmmaking.

Joining this federation, alongside associations and professionals whose talent, high standards, and vision we admire, is both an honor and a source of motivation. This membership reinforces our commitment to continue our efforts, encourage excellence, foster exchange, and actively contribute to the international recognition of the cinematographer profession, while championing Ivorian voices and expertise.

Participating in this IAGA in Vienna was special because it was the first time for my association, and I truly realized one thing: we all have a voice, regardless of background or gender, and we are listened to attentively. It's an inclusive federation and an organization that constantly strives to offer our sector much better conditions.”

Abdul Aziz DIALLO
Cinematographer, RETECHCI



"IAGA 2026 was an event that allowed us to come together in every possible way. The creation of a group capable of making balanced and impartial decisions regarding the management of IMAGO's committees is one of the most significant advances in the internal operations of our federation. At the same time, this gathering reaffirmed the importance of in-person interaction. Over these three days, with the beautiful city of Vienna as a backdrop and enjoying the hospitality of the AAC, we realized that we are all striving toward the same goal: within the greatest diversity and plurality, we all seek to highlight the work of the Director of Photography in the film industry."

Adriana Bernal, ADFC & IMAGO Vice President

"IAGA 2026 was organised against the gorgeous backdrop of the historical beauty of Vienna. As a first-timer attending the assembly, it was inspiring to witness the persistence and passion of all the participants coming together for a noble cause.

IAGA connected a very diverse collective of insightful artists: while the presence of ALL the Nordics and ALL the Baltics made me feel proud of my neighbours, I also got to meet dozens and dozens of new colleagues from all around the globe. It is invaluable to learn how other societies work for the benefit of their members and how IMAGO can extend that reach even further. As a cherry on top, the AAC celebrated its 50th anniversary, which gave us all a reason to bust out some moves. Congrats, Astrid and AAC, and thank you for hosting us!"

Jarmo Kiuru, FSC

"What a wonderful time we had at IAGA! Thank you to the entire organizing team, Marcela and Carolina, and especially Astrid and Kurt this time from AAC.

I'm so happy to see you all again in Vienna and to be part of this professional community. Learning from each of you always helps me grow.

More than ever, this community reminds us that together we can drive meaningful change across the global industry.

It's truly inspiring to be part of what is the only worldwide cinematic foundation, and to see the impact we can create when we come together.

Looking forward to seeing you again at the next IAGA! We're already working on it and are so grateful to everyone who has offered to help. You're all amazing. Next stop: BARCELONA ✨"

Lara Vilanova, AEC Vice President

"It was a wonderful three days in Vienna at the IAGA, filled with insightful presentations and meaningful discussions among colleagues from around the world. New friendships were formed, and there was a strong sense of shared purpose across the global cinematography community.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to contribute to a working group project that I believe will further strengthen connections between our member societies, committees, and board continuing to advance the craft we're all so passionate about.

A big thank you to the AAC for delivering such a successful IAGA.

And just to clarify while there may be no kangaroos in Austria, we've got plenty here in Australia 🐨🇺🇸"

Brent Crockett ACS National President

As a cinematographer, it is always a blessing to meet so many different colleagues in one place. Spending three days together gave us an amazing opportunity to focus on only one thing: our lovely film profession. Speaking about cinematography and listening to the valuable panels organized by our sponsors SONY, ARRI, and GODOX, as well as the AAC host and IMAGO, was a valuable experience.

On the other hand, as a VP, I had the huge responsibility of being there for everyone, listening to all perspectives, proposals, different opinions, and priorities. A special event for me was the handover of the D&I chair role to our newly elected co-chairs of the committee, Meryem Yavuz, GYD and Claire Pijman, NSC.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Vienna Film Commission for giving us the priceless opportunity to see the city through film-location glasses, and to thank our amazing host, AAC. Happy anniversary, AAC!

IMAGO co-VICE-PRESIDENT Bojana Andric, SAS





As the president of the CSC (Canadian Society of Cinematographers), I attended this year's summit as a voting member. It was an honour and a privilege to reunite with IMAGO after a brief absence. Rejoining IMAGO had been one of my goals since becoming president. I truly believe, as do the majority of our members, that being a part of this global community of cinematographers is essential to the health and well-being of our organization. My attendance last year at Brazil's IAGA as a guest solidified my belief and made me realize how meaningful and powerful it is to be a unified entity globally. The alliances and relationships that I was able to establish last year and reinforce this year were profound. This year's IAGA was inspiring and brought me many more connections. The sense of comradery, solidarity and mutual respect was uplifting. As with any large diverse group there were issues to resolve but the willingness to hear each other's collective voices and concerns truly came across.

Perhaps the most moving moment for me was when Djordje Arambasic, from Serbia, spoke about the dire situation in his country regarding government support for cultural endeavours. All the attending members expressed concern and asked how we could help. For me this underscored the meaning and purpose of IMAGO as a supportive and unified international cinematography community.

Zoe Dirse, CSC President

"From March 11 to 13, I took part in the IMAGO Annual General Assembly in Vienna, representing the AIC in my role as New President. Each year, this assembly brings together cinematographers' societies from many countries around the world. It is certainly an institutional meeting, but above all it is a human one: a place where colleagues gather who share the same passion for light, for images, and for cinema.

The days of the assembly move between reports, discussions and votes. We talk about mentorship programmes, the work of the committees and the future perspectives of the federation. But what remains most vivid are the exchanges between colleagues: conversations about sets, new technologies and the transformations of cinematic language. Each country brings a different way of understanding cinematography, and within these differences lies an extraordinary richness.

Returning from Vienna, I carry with me the feeling that IMAGO continues to be a precious place for encounter and dialogue, where exchanging ideas, sharing experiences and building bridges between cinematographic cultures remains essential. ✨"

Daniele Massaccesi, President AIC

"Meeting colleagues from so many different countries and gathering each year in a different corner of the world is always a special joy, and experiencing this once again in the magnificent city of Vienna made it even more memorable. The sense of unity that comes with being under the IMAGO umbrella continues to highlight the unique spirit of our profession. Alongside the warm hospitality of the Austrian Cinematographers Association, it was also a great honor to be part of their 50th anniversary celebrations. Seeing new countries join the IMAGO family and witnessing our community continue to grow is both inspiring and encouraging. My sincere thanks go to everyone who carried the responsibility of organizing this wonderful event, especially Astrid Heubrandtner and the entire team. As always, the discussions we share and the decisions we make for the good of IMAGO and our profession reaffirm my belief that this community will continue to grow stronger in the years to come."

Emre Koktas, GYD & IMAGO Board Member

The 2026 IMAGO IAGA in Vienna was a triumph of information, celebration, catching up with old friends and learning about new technology. Astrid and the AAC shared amazing hospitality - and their societies 50th birthday party with us! It was fantastic to be able to first hand check out the newest kit from Arri, Nanlux and Godox - and talk with the companies, and DOP's who use the gear direct. It was great to hear from the committees, and also get into detail with the epic 'Behind the Lens' report and get under the hood with what is happening within the legal landscape with the ever encroaching A.I. A highlight was the Vienna Film Commission taking us out on a 'Magical Mystery Tour' of Vienna - highlighting the history and locations both ancient and new - plus of course the fantastic hill top meal and wine 😊 All in all - a very enjoyable and worthwhile event!

Marc Swadel, NZSC

Celebrating 50 Years of the AAC

50 JAHRE AAC



PHOTOS: Bettina Frenzel

IMAGO congratulates the [Austrian Association of Cinematographers](#) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Over the past five decades, the AAC has contributed to supporting and representing cinematographers, as well as to the development of the craft at both national and international level. This milestone marks an important chapter in the association's history and its continued engagement within the professional community.

It was a pleasure to hold the IMAGO Annual General Assembly 2026 alongside this anniversary in Vienna, bringing together colleagues from across the international cinematography community in a shared moment of exchange and reflection.

The AAC remains a valued member of IMAGO, and its participation continues to contribute to the federation's activities.

We mark this occasion and look ahead to the years to come!

ALLES GUTE ZUM 50. JUBILÄUM!



PHOTOS: Bettina Frenzel

**CLICK HERE TO READ A MESSAGE
FROM Astrid Heubrandtner,
OUR HOST PRESIDENT!**



PHOTOS: Bettina Frenzel & Delegates

**¡NOS VEMOS A TODOS
EN BARCELONA EN 2027!**

SPONSOR NEWS



QUIKBEAM Quick & Compact

Quick and Compact. That's QuikBeam, the new QuikFamily addition.



200W tungsten equivalent in a 20W LED Power draw — 13°-60° Fresnel zoom for precise control.

Swappable QuikBrick batteries, built-in PoE for wired power/config up to 100m cable Length. Titan LED Engine powers rich colors.

Lightweight, versatile for film/broadcast sets and events.

That's the QuikBeam, if you want to learn more please have a look at our Website:

www.astera-led.com/quikbeam