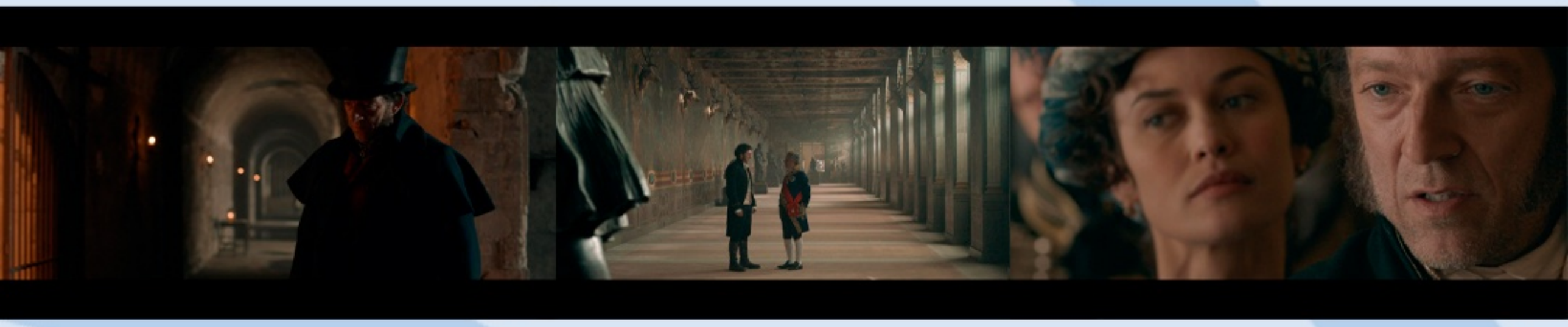
IMAGINE #347



This month, on the Imago website, explore the story of Manu Dacosse, SBC, a Belgian cinematographer whose path from a family holiday camcorder to some of the boldest European cinema of the last two decades is full of happy accidents and hard work.

The son of a bank employee and a primary school teacher, Manu caught the filmmaking bug as a teenager after watching Man Bites Dog.

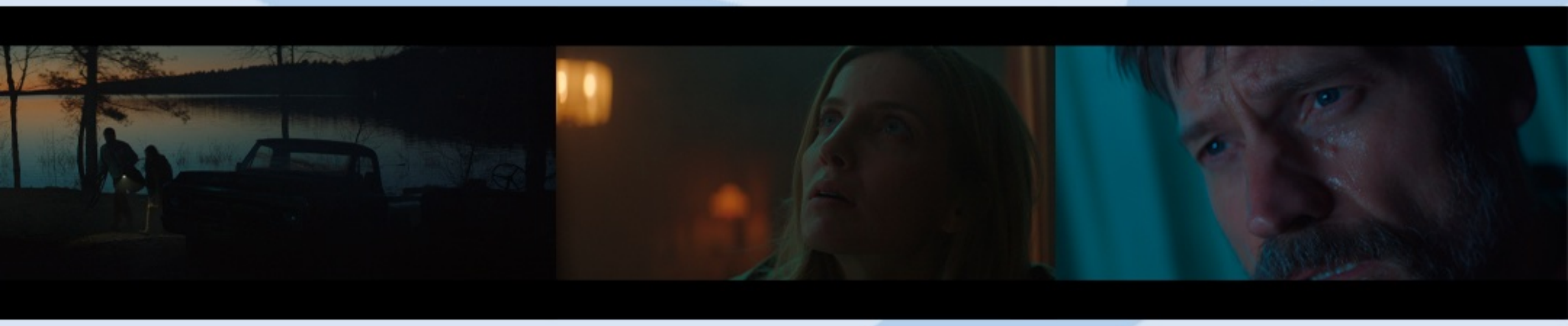
MANU DACOSSE SBC

He then went to film school wanting to make documentaries, and discovered there that light was his real passion. TV news, three years assisting on commercials in Lebanon and a stint on the pioneering Flying Cam helicopter came before his first feature.

From Amer with Hélène Cattet and Bruno Forzani to Fabrice Du Welz's Alleluia, Lucile Hadžihalilović's Evolution and François Ozon's black and white The Stranger, which earned him the Lumière award for best cinematography, his work keeps changing shape with each director.

What stays constant is a deep love of natural light, a habit of reading every location through its windows and a quiet, collaborative way of running a crew.

Manu believes a cinematographer serves the director's vision rather than a personal signature, and he takes real pleasure in lining up a shot, choosing the lens and finding where the light should fall. Discover more about his story and inspirations by reading the full article at imago.org.





Manu Dacosse, SBC is a Belgian cinematographer born in Uccle, working across Belgium, France and wider Europe on features ranging from stylised genre cinema to intimate drama.

He is known for his long collaborations with Hélène Cattet and Bruno Forzani, Fabrice Du Welz and François Ozon. His credits include Amer, The Strange Colour of Your Body's Tears, Alleluia, Evolution, By the Grace of God, The Emperor of Paris and The Stranger, and his work has been recognised with Magritte awards, a San Sebastián jury prize and a Lumière award.

For Manu, the job is as simple as it is endless: "I'm doing pictures for a movie. Sometimes I can make the sun, sometimes I can make a cloud."



Manu Dacosse has just wrapped a film about two children on the French coast who learn to whistle bird songs and turn that gift into a life of music and travel.

Now he is in the in between moment every cinematographer knows: three or four projects on the table, none fully greenlit, and a hunch that the next one will be French. He would love to shoot a great comedy one day, and he stays curious about new tools, often learning them from younger colleagues at the Belgian Society of Cinematographers.

His advice to anyone starting out comes from twenty years of experience: keep shooting, trust the directors you believe in, and stay close to them, because one day they will make their feature.

Manu's favorite films reach back to the moment cinema first grabbed him.



Emir Kusturica's Underground was one of the first films that left him stunned by how much was happening on screen. Mathieu Kassovitz's La Haine, in black and white, showed him that a French film could hit as hard as an American one. Terrence Malick's The Thin Red Line, which he has watched around ten times, combines everything he loves: clean, composed shots, free handheld moments with the villagers, and natural light throughout.

He also keeps a soft spot for the handheld work in Alejandro González Iñárritu's Biutiful. "There's so many good things in that movie," he says of Underground, a feeling that echoes in his own choice to never repeat himself.

WHAT'S GOING ON

IMAGO at EMIFF 2026

by our General Secretary, Alex Linden,FSF

The 15th Evolution Mallorca International Film Festival (EMIFF) took place in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, from 28 October to 4 November 2026.

Its fifth edition of the Cinematography Focus ran from 28 to 30 October.











"What an inspiring few days at the Evolution Mallorca International Film Festival and its Cinematography Focus (fifth edition)!

A wonderful opportunity to network and share conversations with talented cinematographers, notably Matthew Libatique and Valentina Caniglia, and to be inspired by so many visiting and local filmmakers.

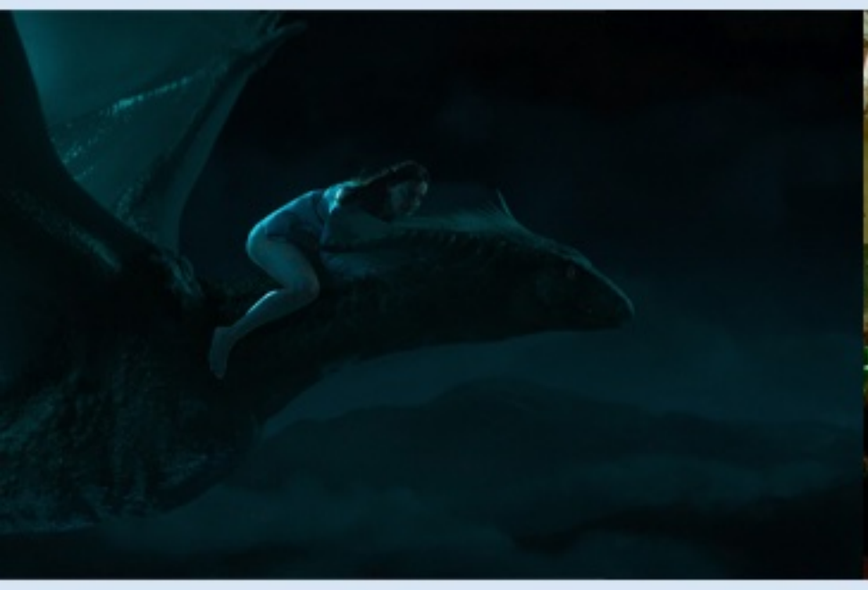
A big shout-out to Sandra Lipski, EMIFF Founder & Director, and Rainer Lipski, Co-Founder and Strategic Director of the Cinematography Focus, for such wonderfully organised and memorable days.

So much creative energy, great company and a shared love of cinema!

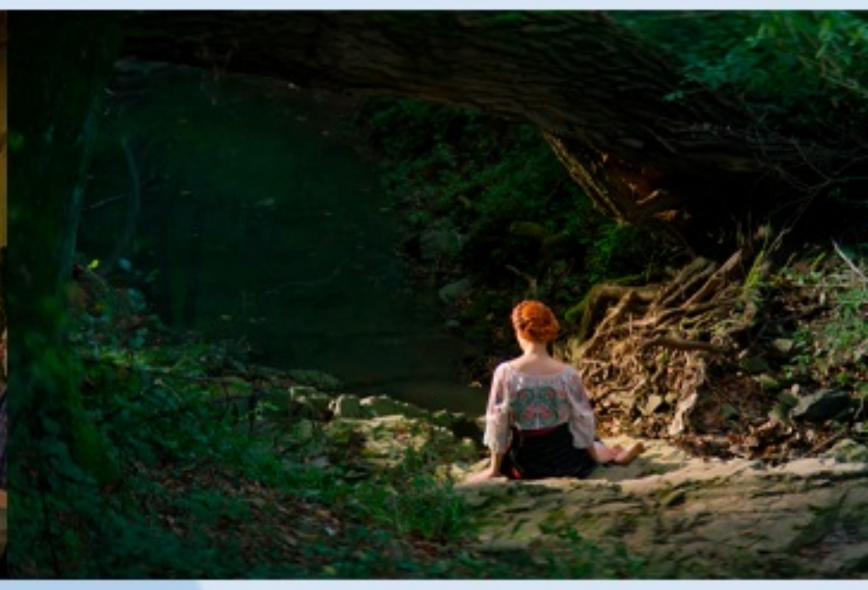
We should return in force for next year's festival, especially for the Cinematography Focus!"

FILM RELEASES

FROST - Djordje Arambasic, SAS - *Frost has recently premiered at Sitges International FF in competition. Directed by Pavle Vuckovic. Countries of production: Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, United Kingdom. Running time 114min*







SYNOPSIS: *Frost is a story about a rational and emotionally distant female police detective, Mirjana, who investigates the disappearance of a girl in a region famous for black magic and pagan heritage. Her investigation gradually becomes a journey into a mythical world.*



"We wanted to create a phantasmic world that is slightly altered from reality.

My approach was focused towards the choices of lensing, movements and lighting setups to further the dramatic structure through the visual elements.

During pre-production we used engine generated images for concept development and communication with departments and conducted extensive location scouting in rural areas across the country, aiming to stay within the production budget.

Creating a surreal mood for the certain scenes turned challenges into creative lighting solutions, and on occasion we used drone-mounted light for this purpose.

We strove for a deliberate and controlled placement of image reflections in the frame in environments where we wanted to emphasise how the search evolves into an obsession intertwining with introspective turns.

Filming in almost deserted and remote spots required minimal equipment and crew at the time. Sometimes it was necessary to work in locations that couldn't accommodate any sort of rigging in order to capture the location as it was when we felt we would benefit more visually from it.

Everything in the film was shot on location except for the rooms in a hotel which were built (in another abandoned hotel!) and, of course, Mirjana's flight in the studio.

Although we had a solid shooting list and blocked every shot, I wanted to keep a point-blank with the performers and control over every improvisation and for the reason I operated myself using Alexa mini coupled with Cooke 2x anamorphics. "

Djordje Arambasic, SAS

WATCH THE TRAILER CLICKING HERE

SOCIETIES NEWS

Hungarian Cinematographers Association

&

ZSIGMOND VILMOS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SZEGED

"Dear Colleagues,

I'm not sure how many of you know that we established an international CINEMATOGRAPHY film festival in Vilmos Zsigmond's hometown of Szeged, Hungary.



The festival is dedicated to cinematography, with awards given exclusively to cinematographers, and it has now been running for ten years.

Perhaps partly because of my friendship with Vilmos and the film we made together, I became the festival's artistic director.

The Hungarian Cinematographers Association (HCA) is its main supporting organisation.

The call for entries is now open for the 11th Vilmos Zsigmond International Film Festival (ZSIFF), which will take place in May 2027.

The festival accepts submissions in four categories: Feature Films, Short Films, Documentaries, Music Videos

We would be very grateful if you could share this announcement with your members and with anyone else in your professional networks who might be interested.

We would especially welcome submissions from cinematographers in your countries and would love to see your members represented at the festival!

Warm regards"

Gábor Szabó
President, Hungarian Cinematographers Association (HCA)

For More Information CLICK HERE

&

To Apply CLICK HERE

Asociación Española de Directoras y Directores de Fotografía

Technology, Innovation, Creativity and Cinematography come together in Madrid every year at MicroSalón AEC.



The ninth edition of the International Cinematography Forum, MicroSalón AEC, will take place in Madrid on

11 and 12 December 2026, at **La Nave Madrid**.

Organised by the Spanish Society of Cinematographers (AEC), the event is supported by Madrid City Council through its Madrid Film Office.

MicroSalón AEC has become an unmissable event for the audiovisual industry, bringing together cinematographers, technicians, leading industry companies (manufacturers, distributors and rental houses), film schools and professional associations.

Every year, participating companies showcase their latest products and services through their stands, the Lens Bar and an engaging programme of talks that consistently attracts great interest.





In addition, the AEC Board carefully curates a programme of conferences and panel discussions addressing a wide range of relevant topics, including working conditions, artificial intelligence, the prevention of harassment and abuse on film sets, as well as more artistic conversations with some of the great masters of cinematography.

MicroSalón AEC is also a meeting place for learning, sharing experiences and connecting with the wider cinematography community.

Another distinctive feature of MicroSalón AEC is its commitment to work-life balance and family-friendly initiatives, offering a dedicated children's area for children aged 4 to 12.

If you are attending, please come and say hello. We would love to introduce you to the Spanish cinematography community.

To attend the event, please register here: Registration form

We will be gradually publishing the event programme on our website:

https://www.cineaec.com/microsalon/edicion-2026/

For further information: secretaria@cineaec.com

We look forward to welcoming you to Madrid!

CineVerse Expo Roma 2026:

A Successful First Edition at Cinecittà

The first edition of CineVerse Expo Roma 2026, held on 16 and 17 October, came to a close on Saturday, 17 October, at Teatro 26, one of the newest and most modern soundstages at Cinecittà Studios.

Organised through a collaboration between AIC - Italian Association of Cinematographers and SCS, the event brought together industry professionals, companies, filmmakers, technicians, students and young cinema enthusiasts for two days dedicated to cinematography, production technologies and new perspectives in the audiovisual industry.



The event recorded more than 2,400 registrations, 2,000 accredited participants and 3,800 visits.

More than 60 brands were represented, alongside over 30 panel discussions exploring topics such as film, artificial intelligence, image ownership, gender and the future of cinema.

The strong presence of younger generations was particularly encouraging. Students and young cinema enthusiasts brought fresh energy to the event, actively participating in discussions and engaging with the technologies, visual languages and professional roles that shape today's film and audiovisual productions.

The programme offered a rich and varied experience across several dedicated spaces: the exhibition area; the Tech Rooms, hosting demonstrations and in-depth technical sessions; the AIC-IMAGO panels; and the Frame Bar.

Each provided opportunities for encounters, knowledge-sharing and networking, reinforcing the Expo's role as a platform for dialogue and collaboration within the cinematography and audiovisual communities.

AFC Micro Salon 2027

Save the Dates!

MICRO SALON AFC 2027

February 25-26

Parc Floral de Paris

The AFC Micro Salon returns to the Parc Floral de Paris on 25 and 26 February 2027, bringing together cinematographers, manufacturers, rental companies and audiovisual professionals for two days dedicated to the latest technologies, equipment and innovations in cinematography.

The event offers a meeting point for industry professionals to exchange ideas, discover new developments and strengthen connections within the cinematography community.

The programme will also include the second Student Lab, introducing younger generations to the wide range of careers in the film and audiovisual industries, with a focus on technical skills, social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

Estonian Society of Cinematographers .
Eesti Filmioperaatorite Liit

Frame Within a Frame: Developing a Cinematic Eye at FWF26

Frame Within a Frame (FWF), developed in partnership with Aalto University, supports emerging cinematographers through an immersive programme across Tallinn and Helsinki.

The 2026 edition will take place in Tallinn, Estonia, from 16–20 November.

It brings together the American Society of Cinematographers (ASC), the Estonian Society of Cinematographers (ESC), the IMAGO Technical Committee, ICLS, BFM, ARRI, Camera Nordic and Max Grip.

The 2026 Selected Talents

Eight emerging cinematographers have been selected: Aleksandra Neyman (Poland), Clara Borrell Vilanova (Spain), Csaba Szentgáli (Hungary), Jacob Wallner (Germany), Kristians Robalds (Latvia), Lee Kelomees (Estonia), María Belén Pellicano (Argentina) and Philip Lidbeck Leierer (Sweden).

Explore the full participant profiles CLICKING HERE





FWF26 features sessions led by renowned cinematographers, including Dan Laustsen ASC, DFF, Roberto Schaefer ASC, Julio Macat ASC, David Stump ASC BVK, Rauno Ronkainen FSC, Elen Lotman ESC, Nic Sadler and Philippe Ros AFC.

Key highlights on this year's agenda include:

One Battle After Another: Visual Craft with Michael Bauman ICLS: A hybrid case study examining lighting choices, visual language, and high-end production workflows.

In Close Up: Cinema and Visual Intimacy: A masterclass led by Julio Macat ASC exploring the delicate creative approaches required when filming actors in close-up.

Seeing Through Glass (Leitz Cine Lenses): An exclusive session with Dan Laustsen ASC, DFF, exploring 100 years of Leica heritage, lens evolution, and how character and testing shape the visual narrative on set.

Advanced Technical Labs: A specialized, hands-on workshop on “Lighting Programming” hosted by the IMAGO Technical Committee in collaboration with ICLS, BFM, ARRI, Camera Nordic, and Max Grip.

ESC Members at PÖFF

Elen Lotman ESC presents Road, Rock, and Resistance: Visual Philosophy in Dirt in Your Face, while Erik Põllumaa ESC joins Rauno Ronkainen FSC for a conversation about No Me Without You.

ESC members' films featured in the Black Nights Film Festival include No Me Without You, Mo Amor, Dirt in Your Face, Ice, Men and a Starling, Toomas Leius. Life on the Line, Amathia, Supporting Role and Eel.

FWF Sessions & Workshops

Explore the Talent Film Screening, Master Screening, Debunking LEDs, LEDs Panel Discussion and Lighting Workshop at Aalto.

Discover the full FWF26 programme CLICKING HERE

IMAGO Highlights Working Conditions at Czech Conference on Quality of Life and Creative Work

Representatives of IMAGO's Working Conditions Committee contributed to the third edition of the conference "*Quality of Life and Creative Work in the Audiovisual Industry*", held on 8 November 2026 in Prague.

The event brought together film professionals, associations and international guests to discuss fair remuneration, sustainable working practices and better working conditions.

Organised by the Czech Society of Cinematographers (AČK), the Association of Czech Film Editors (AFS) and the Association of Directors, Screenwriters and Dramaturges (ARAS), the conference focused on the relationship between the quality of audiovisual work and the quality of life of those who create it.



Photo credit: Richard Hodonický

IMAGO: From Research to Action

Casper Høyberg, Chair of the Danish Association of Cinematographers, and Dr. Cristina Busch, Legal Adviser to IMAGO's Working Conditions Committee, presented findings from IMAGO's Europe-wide study Behind the Lens. The research explores the impact of excessive working hours on camera crews' physical and mental health, as well as the gap between European regulations and industry realities.

They also introduced "Season 2", a new phase of IMAGO's initiative aimed at turning evidence into concrete action across Europe, leading towards a European conference in Brussels.

International Experience and Practical Solutions

Martijn Winkler from the Dutch Directors Guild presented the fairPACCT initiative, which develops tools for fair remuneration. Anna Kirst from the Austrian Association of Film Editors shared insights into employment conditions, contracts, working hours and support between projects in Austria.

Czech professional associations presented research, recommendations and practical tools for fair compensation. The programme also introduced CINEUNION, an initiative bringing together audiovisual workers to strengthen collective representation and improve working conditions.

Towards a More Sustainable Audiovisual Industry

The conference highlighted the importance of cooperation between professional associations at national and European levels. IMAGO's Behind the Lens study and "Season 2" demonstrate how research and international collaboration can drive systemic change.

The quality of audiovisual production cannot be separated from the health, well-being and working conditions of the people behind the camera.

Nordic Cine Forum Launches in Stockholm:

Uniting Over 60 Cinematographers Across the Region

STOCKHOLM – November 9, 2026

Marking the first time the region's cinematography societies - FSF (Sweden), FNF (Norway), FSC (Finland), and DFF (Denmark), as well as WIFT-tech collective have officially united under one banner, Camera Nordic successfully hosted the inaugural Nordic Cine Forum on Thursday, 5 November, bringing the Nordic cinematography community together like never before.

The event was hosted by industry-leading postproduction house Chimney Pot, putting the forum inside one of the Nordics' most influential and established post-production facilities.

Nordic Cine Forum brought together more than 60 cinematographers, camera assistants, colourists, and post-production specialists from all over the Nordic countries. The guest of honour for the day was renowned and award-winning cinematographer Sean Bobbitt, BSC, who joined to inspire and exchange experiences with the Nordic industry community.

A collaborative, community-first hub rather than a traditional trade show, the forum bridged technical innovation and artistic craft through hands-on equipment showcases, inspirational panel discussions, and regional networking.





Event Highlights:

- Exhibition Room: Attendees engaged with the latest camera, optical, lighting, and workflow technologies from over 10 leading global manufacturers.

- Industry Panels: Three core panel sessions took place on the lobby stage, exploring critical industry topics: The DP to Colourist Pipeline, Modern Leadership & Crew Well-Being, and Big Budget vs. Nordic Indie: Constraint, Creativity & Visual Identity (presented by WIFT-tech).

- The Societies Lounge: A dedicated, welcoming space where guests connected directly with representatives from FSF, FNF, FSC, and DFF to discuss industry initiatives, career entry points, and membership pathways.

'The Nordic Cine Forum was created to strengthen the cinematography community across the Nordic region and foster collaboration', said Jon Rudberg, Cinematographer and FSF President. 'Welcoming over 60 cinematographers and crew from across all the Nordic countries under one roof demonstrated the remarkable eagerness for a shared, inclusive community', Alejandra FC Zarazúa WIFT-tech founder.

The forum wrapped with an evening mixer over bubbly and drinks to celebrate the forum's success, giving attendees a relaxed space to connect with eachother, build new relationships and strengthen ties across the regional filmmaking community.

Camera Nordic is a leading supplier of professional cinematography equipment and technical support across the Nordic region, dedicated to empowering filmmakers with cutting-edge tools and community initiatives.

READ FULL ARTICLE HERE

COMMITTEE NEWS

IMAGO ITC IMAGO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE ART OF CINEMATOGRAPHY

Tallinn Black Night Film Festival (PÖFF) Estonia



Bridging Art, Engineering, and Craft: The IMAGO Technical Committee **and** the Evolution of master class programme:

Frame Within a Frame (FWF)

An article by Dhanushka Gunathilake (SLSC), Head of Discovery Campus and Project Manager of Frame within a Frame.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE

IMAGO