



Berlinale
Series Market

Series Match: GERMANY & IBERO-AMERICA

Berlinale
Series Market
European Film Market
Berlinale Co-Production Market
Berlinale Talents

Film und Medien
Stiftung NRW

MBB
Medienboard
BerlinBrandenburg

MDM Mitteldeutsche
Medienförderung

Creative
Europe
MEDIA

Media Partner:

VARIETY

In partnership with:

IBER
SERIES & *plataforma*
IN
DUS
TRIA

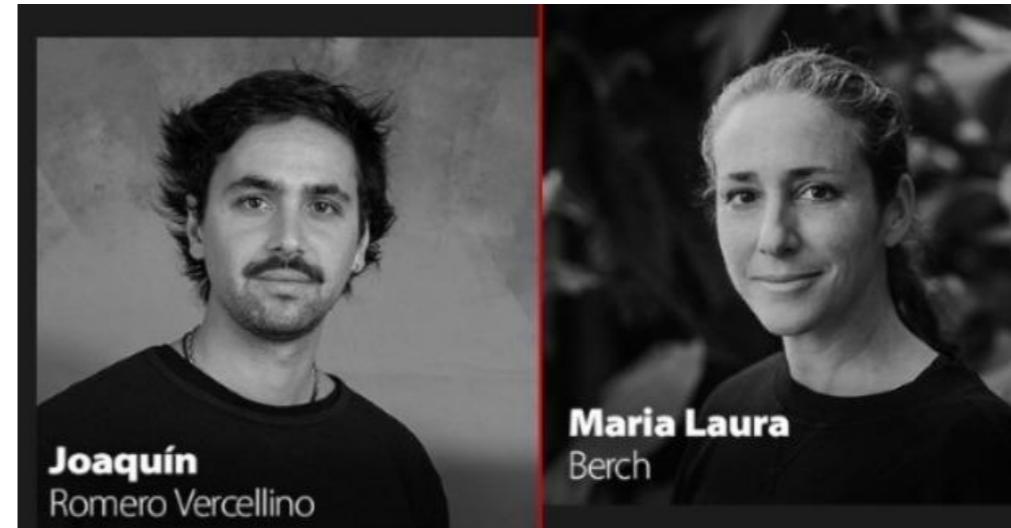
ABUSE (EL ABUSO)

Genres: Action, Political Thriller, Based on True Events

Format: 6x40'

Language: Spanish, English

Countries: Uruguay, Spain, USA



Creator: Mariana Stangelo

Producers: Damián L. Cattini, Mariana Stangelo, Juan Sola, Nacho Maubens, Joaquín Romero Vercellino, María Laura Berch

Production Companies: Federation, Ojo Films & Alterna Media

Participants: Joaquín Romero Vercellino, María Laura Berch

Synopsis:

El Abuso is a premium action-political thriller directed by Fernando Meirelles and César Charlone (City of God) and starring Enzo Vogrincic (Society of the Snow). Inspired by the true story recounted in "The Punta Carretas Escape," it dramatizes the 1971 escape of 111 Tupamaro political prisoners from a maximum-security prison in Montevideo. This audacious operation, unfolding beneath a peaceful neighborhood, irrevocably alters Uruguay's political trajectory amidst Latin America's slide into dictatorship. The series blends high-tension action with political suspense, human moments, and dark humor. Told through an ensemble cast of morally complex characters, it explores collective resistance, human connection, and the controversial legacy of armed struggle without passing judgment. Currently in active development with major talent attached, *El Abuso* leverages the creative leadership of showrunner César Charlone and director Fernando Meirelles, aiming to deliver a globally relevant, historically grounded drama.

Statement on the current stage of the project:

El Abuso is in active development with major creative and production elements already secured. The series features rising Latin American actor Enzo Vogrincic (Society of the Snow) and is led by César Charlone, showrunner of Netflix's 3% and Academy Award-nominated cinematographer of City of God. He is joined by Fernando Meirelles, multiple-time Academy Award-nominated director and founder of O2 Filmes. The production brings together an international consortium led by ALTERNA Media (Uruguay), with Federation Spain, Federation Studios (USA), and Ojo Films, combining strong regional expertise with global production reach. The project is shaping into a high-end, historically grounded action thriller with a defined creative vision and established leadership across writing, directing, and production. It is currently advancing script development and financing while engaging key partners to move toward full production.

ASSASSIN IN PARADISE (ASSASSINOS NO PARAÍSO)

Genres: Action, Comedy
Format: 8x30'
Language: German, English, Portuguese
Countries: Germany, Brazil, Spain

Creator: Bruno Bloch
Producer: Amadeu Alban
Production Company: Movioca
Participants: Amadeu Alban, Paula Taborda dos Guarany



Synopsis:

Hannah and Sebastian are two German assassins dispatched to the idyllic Brazilian town of Arraial d'Ajuda to kill a conman named Otto. Sebastian, already in an existential crisis after his mother's death, becomes convinced that religious symbols are warning them to stop killing, throwing their mission into disarray. Hannah proceeds alone, resulting in a chaotic confrontation where they ultimately kill Otto together. Believing their souls are damned, Sebastian sees a path to redemption during the town's lemanjá Festival and convinces Hannah to abandon their old life. The couple decides to stay and start anew, pursuing Hannah's dream of opening a restaurant. However, their fresh start is immediately complicated. They must navigate a profound cultural clash, win over the skeptical locals, and keep their deadly secret hidden from a police investigation—especially since the man they killed was a beloved community member. The central tension of the series becomes their internal and external struggle: can two professional killers truly leave their violent past behind in a paradise that is beginning to suspect them?

Statement on the current stage of the project:

Assassins in Paradise is in an advanced stage of development, with its high-concept creative package fully consolidated. The well-structured bible presents a unique "tropical noir" premise, blending the dark tension of series like *Barry* and *Ozark* with the vibrant, lush setting of Bahia. Key assets already developed include a complete pitch bible and a pilot episode script. These materials validate the project's unique tone, character dynamics, and the compelling visual and narrative contrast between the German protagonists and the Brazilian world. The project is ready to be presented to international partners.

Callback (Callback)



Genre: Drama

Format: 4x40'

Language: Catalan, Spanish, English

Countries: Spain

Creators: Joana Vilapuig, Mireia Vilapuig

Producer: Marta Baldó Sellent

Production companies: Funicular Films, Left Tackle Films

Participants: Joana Vilapuig, Mireia Vilapuig

Synopsis:

Fran, a thirty-year-old director, is on the verge of her dream: premiering her intimate, autofiction debut film at a major European festival. The film explores her fraught relationship with her father, with Roman (55), a once-acclaimed actor now seeking a comeback, both playing the father and serving as the film's producer. Reunited at the festival amidst the glamour, their initial camaraderie cracks, revealing a dark reality. Months of a toxic, abusive dynamic during production—fueled by Fran's inexperience and Roman's insecurity and aggression—surface in the tense festival atmosphere. An unexpected incident publicly exposes the workplace abuse, triggering a media firestorm and cancel-culture frenzy. Both become pawns in a scandal that threatens to cancel the premiere entirely. Roman must testify to defend himself, while Fran faces an impossible choice: deny her experience to save her film's moment in the spotlight, or speak her truth and risk destroying the career she has fought for years to build. The festival becomes a pressure cooker where art, trauma, and survival violently collide.

Statement on the current stage of the project:

Callback was developed by Funicular in collaboration with experienced creators, quickly integrating director Celia Giraldo to define its artistic vision. Early positioning includes ongoing discussions with key Spanish platforms (Movistar+, Filmin) due to its strong themes of power abuse, social media, and cancel culture, which also make it ideal for European co-production. The project, having secured ICEC development funding, currently has a dossier and treatment ready. Next steps involve completing the series bible, writing the pilot script, and preparing updated sales materials and English adaptations. Throughout this intensive creative phase, Funicular will continue negotiations with local platforms while actively seeking international co-producers and financiers.

Seven Women (A Casa das Sete Mulheres)

Genres: Drama

Format: 10x45'

Language: Portuguese

Countries: Brazil / Germany or Italy (TBD)

Creator: Angela Chaves

Producer: Tiago Mello

Production Company: Boutique Filmes

Participants: Mariana Coelho



Synopsis:

Seven Women is a new adaptation of a seminal Brazilian soap opera, reimagined as an epic historical drama. Set against the brutal backdrop of the Ragamuffin War, the series centers on Manoela, a young woman from a privileged urban background whose life is shattered by the conflict. Suddenly orphaned, she must rapidly shed her naivety to become the unlikely leader of Barra's Ranch. Her mission is to protect a community of six other women—her sisters, cousin, aunt, and the defiant bastard daughter Viriata—from the violence and privations of war. While the men are consumed by the fighting, these seven women are left to defend their home, forge their own rules, and redefine their identities, love, and family bonds in a society that offers them no place.

This series explores female resilience and leadership, drawing inspiration from prestige ranch sagas like *Yellowstone* and *1883*, while introducing a powerful new generation of characters to a globally beloved story.

Statement on the current stage of the project:

Seven Women has a financial structure that relies on a licensing model. We are in advance conversation with two potential partners: a SvoD platform that will acquire LATAM territories and a Portuguese TV broadcast. With these two deals we could reach 83% of the financing plan. However to move forward with these agreements we need a third partner that could fulfill the budget gap and confirm the project viability.

With this in mind, at EFM we are looking to connect with production companies from Italy and Germany that could be interested in an international coproduction and in bringing local funding and licensing besides artistic contribution.

As for development materials, we have: bible, pilot treatment and teaser.

Scorched Earth (Tierra Quemada)

Genres: Psychological Thriller, Noir

Format: 4x60'

Language: Spanish, German

Countries: Chile / Germany (TBD)

Creators: Paula del Fierro, Enrique Videla, Juan Ignacio Sabatini

Producers: Juan Pablo Sallato, Juan Ignacio Sabatini

Production Company: Villano

Participants: Juan Pablo Sallato, Juan Ignacio Sabatini



Synopsis:

Klara Vogel, a Berlin university student and photography enthusiast, begins to question the shadowy origins of her family's fortune, which is linked to a long history of German colonization in southern Chile. Her thesis research quickly descends into a personal obsession as she uncovers dark local legends surrounding the Vogel name: rumors of laborer deaths, violent indigenous displacement, and the infamous, unsolved Tierra Quemada Massacre. In Chile, her search leads to a mysterious, self-proclaimed cousin, Daniel, and her great-aunt Sofía Hoffman, the infamous "Nero Woman," who has been confined to a psychiatric asylum for decades after being convicted of burning her servants alive. Sofía fervently claims her innocence, insisting the horrific legend was fabricated to discredit her. The case takes a sinister turn when a local girl vanishes near a mythical lagoon and sightings of a demonic figure, the Repentant Devil, emerge. Klara becomes convinced the key to her family's true legacy—and to solving the present-day mysteries—is hopelessly entangled in Sofía's fractured psyche and the region's potent, haunting folklore. Scorched Earth is a rural noir where the violent sins of colonialism resurface, weaving a gripping tapestry of family drama and psychological thriller.

Statement on the current stage of the project:

Scorched Earth is in advanced early development. A pilot draft and a detailed series bible are complete, defining the show's tone, world, and character arcs. Extensive research into Chilean colonial history and local legends grounds the narrative. The team is now refining materials and actively seeking international partnerships. Participation in Series Match is strategic to integrate creative input and explore co-production opportunities with aligned broadcasters and platforms.

Driven Hunt – The Other Truth

Genres: Political Thriller, Historical Drama, Family Mystery

Format: 6x50'

Language: German, Spanish, English

Countries: Germany

Creator: Volker Führer

Producer: Alexander Keil

Production Company: SKP Entertainment GmbH

Participants: Alexander Keil



Synopsis:

Journalist Chris Helmer returns to her Austrian hometown for her grandmother's funeral and discovers the death was caused by arson. Her investigation uncovers a link to the 1945 Nazi massacre of Rechnitz and a missing film shot by her grandfather Rudolf. When two of her contacts are murdered, Chris realizes she is being hunted and flees across Europe and Argentina in search of answers. Teaming up with former CIA agent Barry McElhone, she learns the film contains explosive evidence threatening Ernesto Kallwitz-Sena, an Argentine presidential frontrunner backed by ORION, a global far-right network intent on rewriting history. Betrayals and assassination attempts push Chris deeper into her family's past, revealing she was adopted and that her biological mother Maria Velasquez—a journalist tortured under the dictatorship—was likely killed by Kallwitz-Sena's SS father. As ORION eliminates witnesses and fabricates AI-generated archives to manipulate historical truth, Chris and Barry race to survive and expose the conspiracy. Framed for a political assassination in Buenos Aires, they flee just as ORION releases an AI-manipulated version of the Rechnitz film. But the real analog footage still exists—and Chris understands the fight for her identity has become a global battle over the truth itself.

Statement on the current stage of the project:

Driven Hunt – The Other Truth is an advanced scripted series project currently in late development. The creative groundwork is firmly in place, with a complete series concept, a clearly structured six-episode arc, and a strong international focus in both story world and themes. Head writer and creator Volker Führer has already delivered outstanding screenplay drafts, available in German and English, which have sparked exceptionally strong and enthusiastic responses among professional readers. The scripts are praised for their narrative momentum, political urgency, and their ability to interweave historical trauma with a contemporary geopolitical thriller, combining personal investigation with global stakes. At this stage, the project's creative identity is clearly defined: a politically charged European series with international reach, rooted in real historical contexts while addressing highly relevant questions of memory, manipulation, and truth in the digital age. The tone, characters, and long arcs are fully developed, providing a solid foundation for meaningful creative and strategic partnerships. Driven Hunt – The Other Truth is now ready for curated matchmaking conversations with potential co-production partners, broadcasters, and platforms interested in ambitious, internationally oriented European series with strong authorship and cultural resonance.

The Runaway

Genres: A biographical prestige drama with strong prison and survival elements.

Format: 6x45'

Language: German, Portuguese, English

Countries: Germany, Brazil

Creator: Josef Rusnak

Producer: Alexander Keil

Production Company: SKP Entertainment GmbH

Participants: Alexander Keil



Synopsis:

In 1980s Cologne, Detlef rides the momentum of an up-and-coming heavy metal band, embracing a life without limits. He is funny, fearless, and impossible not to follow. Music, rebellion, and excess blur into a lifestyle where consequences feel optional. A cocaine arrest lands him in prison. Detlef refuses to play along. Instead of submitting, he turns escape into spectacle, humiliating the system. Freedom becomes performance, and Detlef becomes a legend. After two prison breaks in Europe, he flees with his family across the Atlantic, chasing a dream of absolute freedom in Rio de Janeiro. They barely survive the crossing on their small sailing boat, only to arrive in Brazil broke, indebted, and desperate. Still, Detlef is convinced he can hustle his way out of anything, one more time. When a cartel offers him a final job, he takes it and is arrested again. This time, there is no audience. Only one of the most brutal prison systems in South America. Inside, Detlef adapts. He learns the rules, understands the power structures, makes himself useful. He finds an ally and prepares one final escape. But when his companion is gravely injured during the attempt, Detlef is forced into a choice he has avoided his entire life.

Statement on the current stage of the project:

THE RUNAWAY is currently in active development. We have optioned the book rights to *Zur Hölle: Kohle, Knast & Rock'n Roll* by Detlef Kowalewski, which serves as the primary source material for the series. Based on the book and additional research, a full series concept has been developed, defining the narrative framework, tone, and character arcs across the limited series format. The project is conceived as a six-episode, character-driven prestige drama with international scope. The screenplays are in first draft, including a pilot and additional episode drafts, allowing for further creative refinement in collaboration with partners. The material is now at a stage where meaningful conversations with broadcasters, streamers, and co-production partners can take place, with openness to creative input and strategic alignment.

THE RUNAWAY is positioned for the next development phase, focusing on packaging, financing, and international partnerships.

Wetlands

Genres: Eco-Crime, Thriller

Format: 6x45'

Language: German, Portuguese, English

Countries: Germany, Brazil

Creator: Isabella Oliveira Parise Kröger

Producer: Eric Bouley

Production Company: UFA Fiction

Participants: Eric Bouley



Synopsis:

In the vast farmlands and deadly wetlands of Mato Grosso, Indigenous leaders are dying, including the Guarani-Kaiowá's revered shaman. Local detective Raony Carvalho Mendoça, accustomed to the region's power brokers, is shaken when activist Laura Muratti Yazbek arrives and pushes him to investigate the murders more deeply. Their uneasy alliance grows complicated when German human rights researcher Benedikt Schmidtbauer—secretly the son of a MOON executive—joins them while gathering evidence against the agrochemical giant. As farmers fall ill, a young couple is harmed by toxic pesticides, and a key witness disappears, the trio uncovers a deadly link between land conflicts in Brazil and corporate decisions made in Frankfurt after MOON's merger with seed producer Eagle. Raony learns Benedikt has concealed his identity, Laura and Benedikt fall in love, and the three are drawn into a dangerous struggle against agribusiness interests, political corruption, and paramilitary violence. United by the fight for truth but divided by personal loyalties, Raony, Laura, and Benedikt are pulled deeper into a conflict where exposing the truth could cost them their lives.

Statement on the current stage of the project:

Since we both have family ties to Latin America, we wanted to develop a series that reflects the real economic entanglement between Germany and Brazil. Very quickly, we became fascinated by scandals such as the Monsanto–Bayer merger and the links between Brazilian agribusiness and the German pharma and chemical industry, which create complex neo-colonial power dynamics. We are at a very early stage of development and are looking for a Brazilian partner who is interested in the same story and perspective. At its heart, WETLANDS is a thriller about a love triangle that mirrors a colonial past still present in today's corruption on both sides.

Like Fernando Meirelles „The Constant Gardener“, WETLANDS explores a deeply personal motive to investigate powerful corporations. It moves between a “true crime” world in rural Brazil (Mato Grosso) and the German corporate sphere (Frankfurt), adding a Brazilian twist while telling, at its core, a story of impossible love crushed by larger forces that have been fighting for influence over centuries. The love triangle and the investigation are organically rooted in both Brazil and Germany. The story unfolds within the tension between conflicting interests: German companies, Brazilian large landowners and smallholder farmers, and Indigenous peoples who suffer from the impacts of industrial agriculture, environmental damage, and rural violence.

Monika – Victory or Death

Genres: True Story, Politthriller Drama

Format: 6x50'

Language: German, Spanish

Countries: Germany, Chile & Bolivia

Creators: Robert Krause, Florian Puchert & Linda Brieda

Producer: Till Derenbach, Verónica Triana, María Elena Wood & Peter Lohner

Production Company: Zeitsprung Pictures, Dramax, María Wood Producciones & Fine Time Filmproduktion

Participants: María Elena Wood, Till Derenbach (Zeitsprung Pictures), Peter Lohner (Fine Time Filmproduktion)



Synopsis:

Inspired by a true story. In 1971 Hamburg, Monika Ertl assassinates Bolivian consul Roberto Quintanilla, responsible for the deaths of Che Guevara and Inti Peredo, the man she loved. The act turns Monika—daughter of former Nazi cameraman Hans Ertl—into one of the most wanted women in Germany, Latin America, and by the CIA. After World War II, the Ertl family fled to Bolivia, where Monika grew up idolizing her father while unaware of his work for Hitler and Rommel. Their social circle included Klaus Barbie, the “Butcher of Lyon,” welcomed in their home before Monika knew his past. As she accompanied her father on film expeditions, she witnessed the country’s poverty and inequality, which clashed with her family’s racist, closed world. Exposure to new ideas in Europe draws her into rebel movements and ultimately into a deep bond with Inti Peredo, Che’s successor. Back in La Paz, she sees state violence firsthand: an orphanage is bombed, a child she tries to save is killed, and Inti is tortured and murdered by Quintanilla. Monika breaks with her father, joins the guerrilla, and volunteers for the mission of revenge. Financed by Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, she travels to Hamburg under a false identity, kills Quintanilla, and goes underground, aiming next to bring Barbie to justice. Meanwhile, state investigator Bernd Scheller pursues her across continents—only to find his beliefs shaken by the woman he is hunting.

Statement on the current stage of the project:

MONIKA is an international 6x50' series based on the extraordinary true story of Monika Ertl, the young German woman who avenged the deaths of Che Guevara and his comrade Inti Peredo, becoming one of the most wanted women of the 1970s. The project includes a narrative concept, a full season treatment, a developed pitch document, and a creative package featuring visual design, editorial statement, and character development. The series is currently in an advanced stage of development, with a complete narrative structure, creative bible, character arcs, and episode overview. In addition, a signed agreement between Zeitsprung Pictures (Germany), Dramax (Colombia), and María Wood Producciones (Chile) establishes a formal co-production under a 50/25/25 scheme, ensuring industrial viability, creative commitments, and a bi-national/tri-national financing path.

The series blends political thriller, human drama, and historical resonance with a contemporary cinematic approach. The project brings together a production team from Germany and Latin America, along with attached writers Florian Puchert and Robert Krause. It is grounded in solid research, presentation-ready creative materials, and a story with proven global appeal, built around universal themes such as justice, memory, Nazi networks in South America, rebellion, love, and international pursuit.



Berlinale Series Market

**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO WELCOMING YOU
IN BERLIN**

15 – 18 Feb 2026

BERLINALE SERIES MARKET
phone +49 30 25920-635
seriesmarket@berlinale.de
berlinaleseriesmarket.com

- Industry Insights – The EFM Podcast
- [efmberlinale](https://www.facebook.com/efmberlinale)
- [efm_europeanfilmmarket](https://www.instagram.com/efm_europeanfilmmarket/)
- [efm_berlinale](https://www.x.com/efm_berlinale)
- [European Film Market](https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-film-market/)