

# only writers in the building

INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' SHOWCASE

MIDPOINT  
INSTITUTE

 MUSEO  
NAZIONALE  
DEL CINEMA  
TORINO

**TFL**  
TorinoFilmLab

 BERLINALE  
SERIES  
MARKET



## An international showcase of promising European writers committed to careers in the TV series industry - in the frame of Berlinale Series Market 2024.

Only Writers In The Building is a must-attend event, which features remarkable scriptwriters from different countries and backgrounds with a specific focus on their personal and professional approach to writing.

It is co-hosted by Berlinale Series Market and designed by MIDPOINT Institute and TorinoFilmLab, two leading European organisations, specialised in audiovisual training and development, which play a key role in nourishing the film and TV series industry with new promising talents.

Moderated by pitch trainer Agathe Berman, the event aims at an audience of international producers, broadcasters, and financiers and ends with a networking moment to build connections and get inspired in a creative matchmaking environment.

Five out of eleven scriptwriters took part in the training programme by TorinoFilmLab SeriesLab Talents, while MIDPOINT Institute has selected six authors from the Writers' Room workshop, an international and diverse writers' room simulation under the supervision of established and successful European and US showrunners and writers.





[www.midpoint-institute.eu](http://www.midpoint-institute.eu)

## MIDPOINT Writers' Room The future of European series

This skills-development program is a non-project-based training open to writers and writing producers who wish to improve their series writing skills and learn how to work in a writers' room.

Launched in 2018, the objective of the program was not only to introduce professional training in plot and television writing skills, and practical information on the structures, tools, and mechanisms of these writing processes, but also to stimulate the local industries to start considering the serialized format as a very diverse storytelling option.

MIDPOINT Writers' Room offers practical simulations, a professional experience comparatively rare to be acquired elsewhere, that replicates the atmosphere of a writers' room, and is complemented by theoretical lectures. Essential is the engagement of skilled professionals in the roles of tutors, who bring their unique approach to the environment of the writers' room and the creative process in general.

### MIDPOINT Writers' Room 2023 Tutors:

- / Gabor Krigler (Hungary)
- / Maggie Murphy (USA)
- / Katrin Merkel (Germany)

**Meet the  
MIDPOINT Talents!**





**profiles**





**Tomas  
Bayo Encontra**

[tomasbayo1@gmail.com](mailto:tomasbayo1@gmail.com)

NATIONALITY  Spain  
BIRTH YEAR 1996  
WRITES IN Spanish, Catalan, English  
PREFERRED GENRES drama, thriller, dramedy

**MOTTO**

The worst story  
is the one that  
dies untold.

I grew up in a house built with stories. During my early summers, I'd hear my father hiding in his office, typing his new books. My mum was a publisher and helped other stories grow too.

When I decided to become a screenwriter, I guess no one was surprised. My father knew what it means to choose the lonely life of writing and, as a magician handing his wand, warned me: "Remember that stories have impact and that can be a big responsibility".

Since then, my career has led me to co-write with several directors, as I like seeing film as a collective art. I write about things I don't understand, that enrage me, with a bit of humor and a critical voice: family disputes, youth problems, politics. I envision my job as a chance to shake our crazy world, dreaming my stories will inspire others, just as my parents' inspired me for years.

**TRAINING**

- MIDPOINT Writers' Room 2023 (Czech Republic)
- Oxbelly Episodic Program 2023 (Greece)
- Ekran+ at Wajda School 2021 (Poland)
- ESCAC Film School, film degree 2014-2018 (Spain)

**RECENT PROJECTS**

**Easy Money**

MINISERIES (6 EPISODES)  
SPAIN, IN DEVELOPMENT

While Spain overcomes a deep economic crisis, eternal loser Marc Tramós is offered a chance to steal his new boss' (a corrupt politician) dirty money.

CREDIT: Creator and Writer (book adaptation)

**March 14th**

FEATURE FILM  
SPAIN, IN DEVELOPMENT

Two siblings face the last 24 hours before the trial of their parent's divorce, where they'll have to choose with whom they want to live from now on.

CREDIT: Co-Writer

**Laughing**

FEATURE FILM  
SPAIN, IN DEVELOPMENT

When its horse accidentally injures a kid, a small circus faces a controversy that jeopardizes its future and confronts the different family members.

CREDIT: Co-Writer

**MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE**



The silence of my bureau. It's a mess of post-its everywhere. The problem is juggling with multiple projects at the same time (good luck finding an empty space).

**MY FIRST MEMORY OF A (TV) SERIES**



"Skins". I secretly watched it as a kid, looking forward to becoming a teenager and do drugs, get someone pregnant and set a house on fire. I'm glad I finally saw sense.

**SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON**



"Fargo", because of its unique balance of black comedy, drama and thriller. Because it feels like a good long film. Because of its great actors.



"This Is Us", because of its optimistic approach to universal family conflicts. Because it is impossible to not love its main characters.





Aleksandra Chmielewska

ola@borko.pl

NATIONALITY  Poland  
BIRTH YEAR 1973  
WRITES IN Polish, English  
PREFERRED GENRES dramedy, supernatural, thriller

MOTTO

Make people feel rather than think.  
Confront your work with those whose taste and skills you trust, even (in particular) if it hurts your ego.

REWRITE. REVISE. REFINES.

WHY I WRITE

For me writing isn't a way to make money and I don't consider it a job, although I want to earn my living from it. I shudder to think how sentimental it sounds, but I want to spend my life doing things that matter. And I think stories matter. Good stories matter. If we handle them (they don't handle us), the world might be saved.

Emotions are my super-power. I see things through them. Looks also like I have a knack to tell stories through them. Pure entertainment will always be there. As a viewer, I never needed it. As a writer, I'm determined to work with a deep theme always present. That doesn't (have to) mean a realistic tone – I often search for ambivalence and some kind of lightness. And that's my mission: taking viewers on a bumpy ride to reach an emotional core of a vital issue.

TRAINING

- MIDPOINT Writers' Room 2023 (Czech Republic)
- Wajda School screenwriting course Script 2019-2020 (Poland)
- StoryLab.pro screenwriting course Premium Series 2019-2020 (Poland)
- Documentary and Feature Film Studios screenwriting course Script Factory 2017-2019 (Poland)

RECENT PROJECTS

Glitter

NETFLIX ORIGINAL DRAMA SERIES  
(1 SEASON, 10 EPISODES)  
POLAND, 2022

Three independent women prove that living one's own way is possible. Even if their disrespect to social norms gets them into serious trouble.

CREDIT: Head Writer and Creative Producer

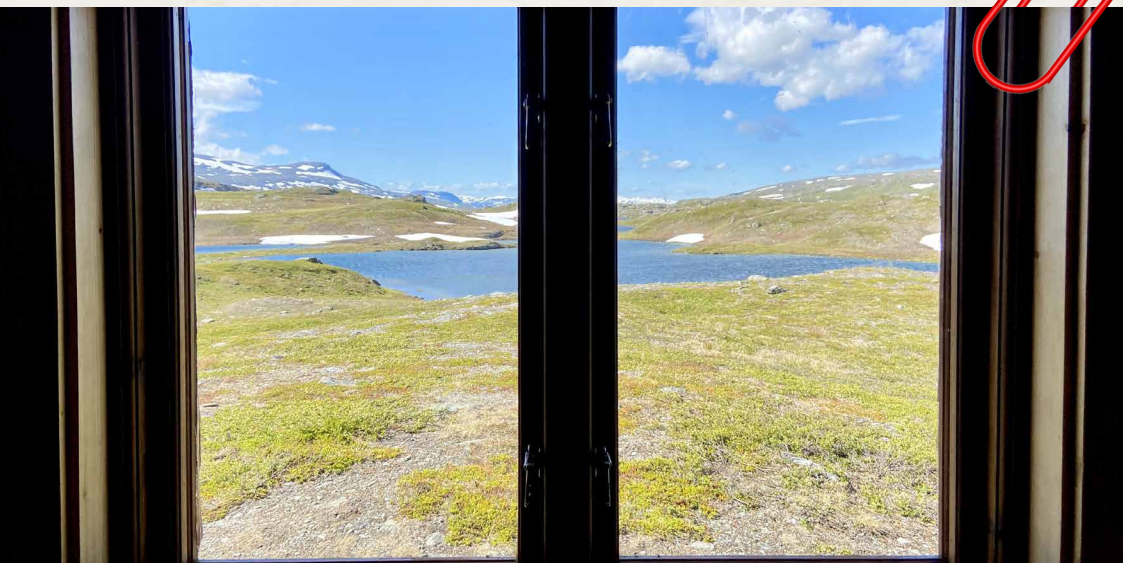
Cracow Monsters

NETFLIX ORIGINAL SUPERNATURAL SERIES  
(1 SEASON, 8 EPISODES)  
POLAND, 2022

When an analytical student discovers irrational forces around and inside herself, the world seems to fall apart. With other misfits, she tries to save it.

CREDIT: Story Editor

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



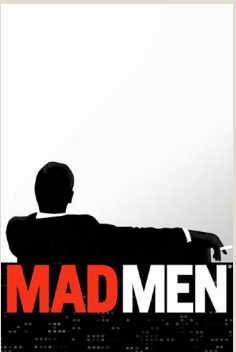
My favorite (ideal) writing place is: simple (even basic), with a space to look at, and problematic access to internet.

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A (TV) SERIES



"Arabela". I don't remember the story. I remember a feeling of awkwardness watching it. But I still have some characters in my head, and they make me smile. Quite an achievement.

SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



"Mad Men". Refinement, non-obviousness, emotional power, strong theme, twisted humour - all I need to admire, all I want to learn.



"Fleabag". A small show (production-wise) which became a big thing thanks to brilliant writing. I'd love to be around, even if it'd be only watching how others work on it.





Edgar Ortiz

edgar@ortizfilm.com

NATIONALITY  Costa Rica, CZ

BIRTH YEAR 1986

WRITES IN English, Spanish

PREFERRED GENRES drama, comedy

MOTTO

...but first, breakfast!

WHY I WRITE

I often find myself torn between hope and cynicism, grief and laughter. Writing is where I express this push-pull, exploring it even when it's uncomfortable. This struggle is unresolvable, but that's why I write: to witness how characters deal with their contradictions. After all, good storytelling invites us to recognize ourselves in others.

I think that the answer to "Why do you write?" has to be a form of confession, otherwise you haven't answered it honestly. So, here's my confession: I write to feel less alone. My aim is to strike a chord with the audience, to see and understand each other through the characters and their conflicts, and if I've done my job well, to find a moment to laugh at ourselves too.

TRAINING

- MIDPOINT Writer's Room 2023 (Czech Republic)
- FAMU B.A in Film editing 2018 (Czech Republic)
- FAMU M.A in Film directing 2016 (Czech Republic)
- University of Costa Rica BSc Mechanical Engineering 2008 (Costa Rica)

RECENT PROJECTS

Scanning History

DOCUMENTARY SERIES (1 SEASON, 6 EPISODES)

CZECH REPUBLIC, UNITED STATES, GERMANY, AUSTRALIA, 2024/2025

Explore how modern tech reveals our past, from grand empires to ancestral lives, uncovering new chapters of the human story.

CREDIT: Writer/Director

Illuminated

FEATURE (WESTERN)

GERMANY, IN DEVELOPMENT

As a strange illness terrorizes the town of Providence, the arrival of a healer threatens the town's very existence.

CREDIT: Co-Screenwriter

Munro

FEATURE (DRAMA/ROMANCE)

CZECH REPUBLIC, IN DEVELOPMENT

At the height of the cold war, a down on his luck New York animator must travel to communist Czechoslovakia to make his dream cartoon.

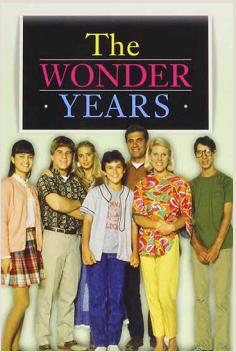
CREDIT: Screenwriter

MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



On a window seat on a train, although I don't do it often. The rushing landscape always helps generate ideas.

MY FIRST MEMORY OF A (TV) SERIES



"The Wonder Years". I kept pulling on the thread and this is the farthest I got. I used to watch this with my parents and my sisters when we were kids. The TV antenna had to be angled just right.

SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



"Mad Men". A brilliant cast of characters, the show has incredible emotional range, funny, melancholic, and full of heartbreak. There's no better place to scrutinize the present than in the past.



"The Wire". When the writing comes first, when honesty beats spectacle, and you root yourself in reality, you get perfection.





## Nuutti Sihvonen

[nuuttisihvonen@gmail.com](mailto:nuuttisihvonen@gmail.com)

NATIONALITY  Finland

BIRTH YEAR 1996

WRITES IN English, Finnish

PREFERRED GENRES coming-of-age, mystery, thriller

### MOTTO

The rest is  
still  
unwritten.

### WHY I WRITE

I always knew that I wanted to work a creative job, but it took a while for me to figure out what that job would be. As a child, I taught myself how to draw. As a preteen, I picked up the guitar, in high school, the camera. But none of those things held my attention very long because I never understood what exactly I was trying to accomplish with them. It wasn't until I wrote my first scenes that I realized what I'd been looking for: a way to bring all of those elements together.

That's what writing is to me: taking different elements and using them to create something new. Moments and images become scenes; memories and dreams become stories. In this way, I think writing is how I try to make sense of the world we live in and the life I've chosen to lead in it. My hope that my writing can help other people have that same experience: that maybe through the lens of a story, the world might make a little more sense to them, too.

### TRAINING

- BA in Film & TV, Metropolia University of Applied Arts (Finland)
- MIDPOINT Writers' Room 2023 (Czech Republic)

### RECENT PROJECTS

#### *Unreleased thriller series*

FINLAND, IN PRODUCTION

CREDIT: Screenwriter (3 episodes)

#### *Codename: Annika*

FINLAND, 2023

Finnish art crime investigator Emma Haka infiltrates a Stockholm art auction in an undercover mission that turns out to be more dangerous than expected and digs deep into her own secrets - her undercover role is based on a real person.

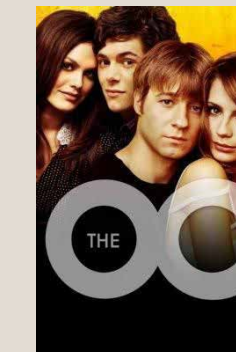
CREDIT: Script Assistant

### MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



At my kitchen desk, with a full pot of coffee and a pantry full of snacks at arms' reach.

### MY FIRST MEMORY OF A (TV) SERIES



"The O.C." I used to watch it religiously on the 10-inch TV in my room - but I'd have to stay vigilant, because my parents would never approve of the amount of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll in that show.

### SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



"Gilmore Girls". It broke every single rule of TV writing in order to focus on the only thing that really matters: character.



"Yellowjackets". It's a perfect blend of high-octane, high-concept thriller and high-stakes drama - and unabashedly committed to the glorious 90s aesthetics of its flashbacks.





## Gabija Siurbyte

[gabija@dansu.eu](mailto:gabija@dansu.eu)

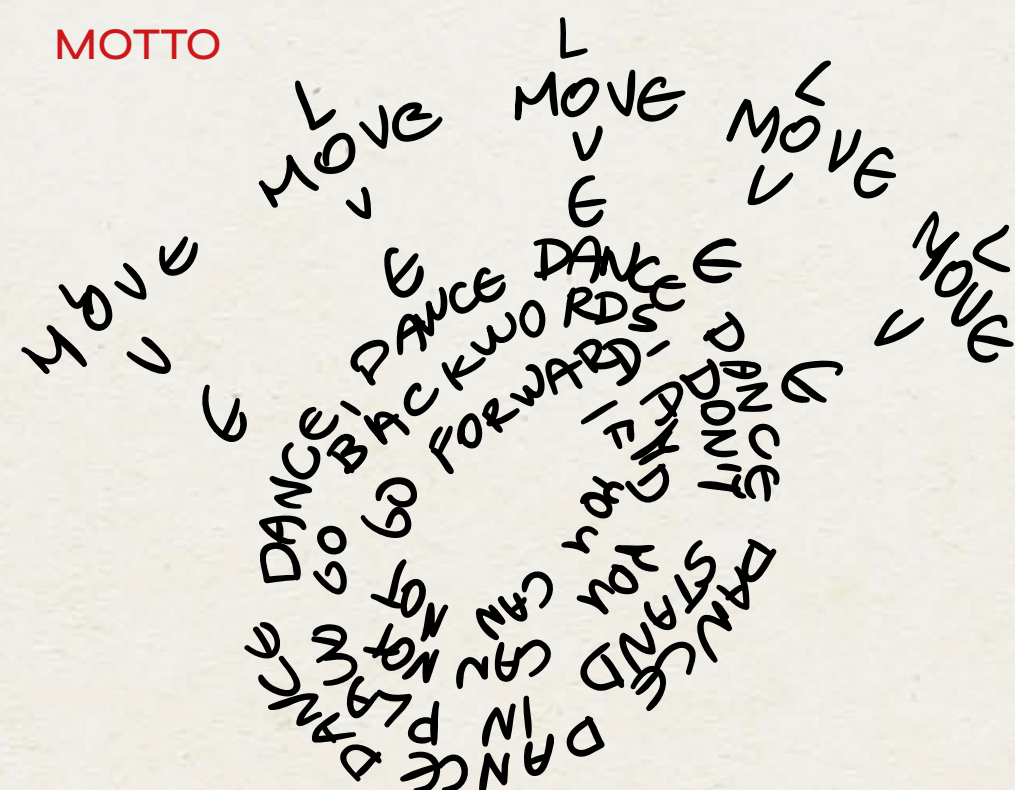
NATIONALITY  Lithuania

BIRTH YEAR 1982

WRITES IN Lithuanian, English, Russian

PREFERRED GENRES dramedy, crime fiction, magic realism

### MOTTO



### WHY I WRITE

“I’m twelve, and my sister, only nine, seeks refuge in my bed. Beyond the closed door, voices rise in a storm. My sister nestles beneath the blanket. Straining, I try to decipher the muffled arguments of our parents, but the words elude me. My sister’s slight frame trembles beneath the shared cover, her tears dampening my nightgown.

I join her under the safety of the blanket. Her heart races. There, in our cocoon, I begin telling stories—of faraway lands and families. Stories of hope. I learn to craft endings that leave my sister yearning for more every night. We both find comfort. The room becomes a sanctuary, our own world of tales and dreams.”

This is my motivation and my professional story and my super power.

### TRAINING

- MIDPOINT Writers’ Room 2023 (Czech Republic)
- MIDPOINT Intensive Lithuania 2019 (Lithuania)
- Lithuania Music and Theatre Academy, acting, 2006 - 2010 (Lithuania)

### RECENT PROJECTS

#### Troll Farm

SERIES (1 SEASON, 5 EPISODES)

LITHUANIA, 2023

After being wrongly fired, a corporate diva Ana struggles to clear out her name, while slowly embracing the dark side of revenge and becoming the monster she’s fighting.

CREDIT: Showrunner

#### Fuck the Hague Convention

LIMITED SERIES (1 SEASON, 6 EPISODES)

LITHUANIA, SWEDEN, 2025

This story is about two families from different countries who stop at nothing to gain custody of a little girl.

CREDIT: Showrunner

#### I Am Fine, Thanks

FEATURE FILM

LITHUANIA, 2022

Successful neuroscientist is hiding her psychological problems as she tries to hold onto her perfect image.

CREDIT: Co-Writer

### MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



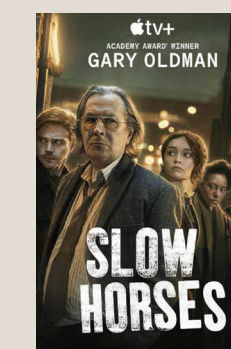
I would love to say it is the photo with the sea... But telling you the truth - the more boring and uninspiring - the better...

### MY FIRST MEMORY OF A (TV) SERIES



“Isaura: Slave Girl“. Lithuanian streets were empty when this Brazilian TV series was shown. I fell in love with storytelling that can attract crowds and keep them wanting more.

### SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON

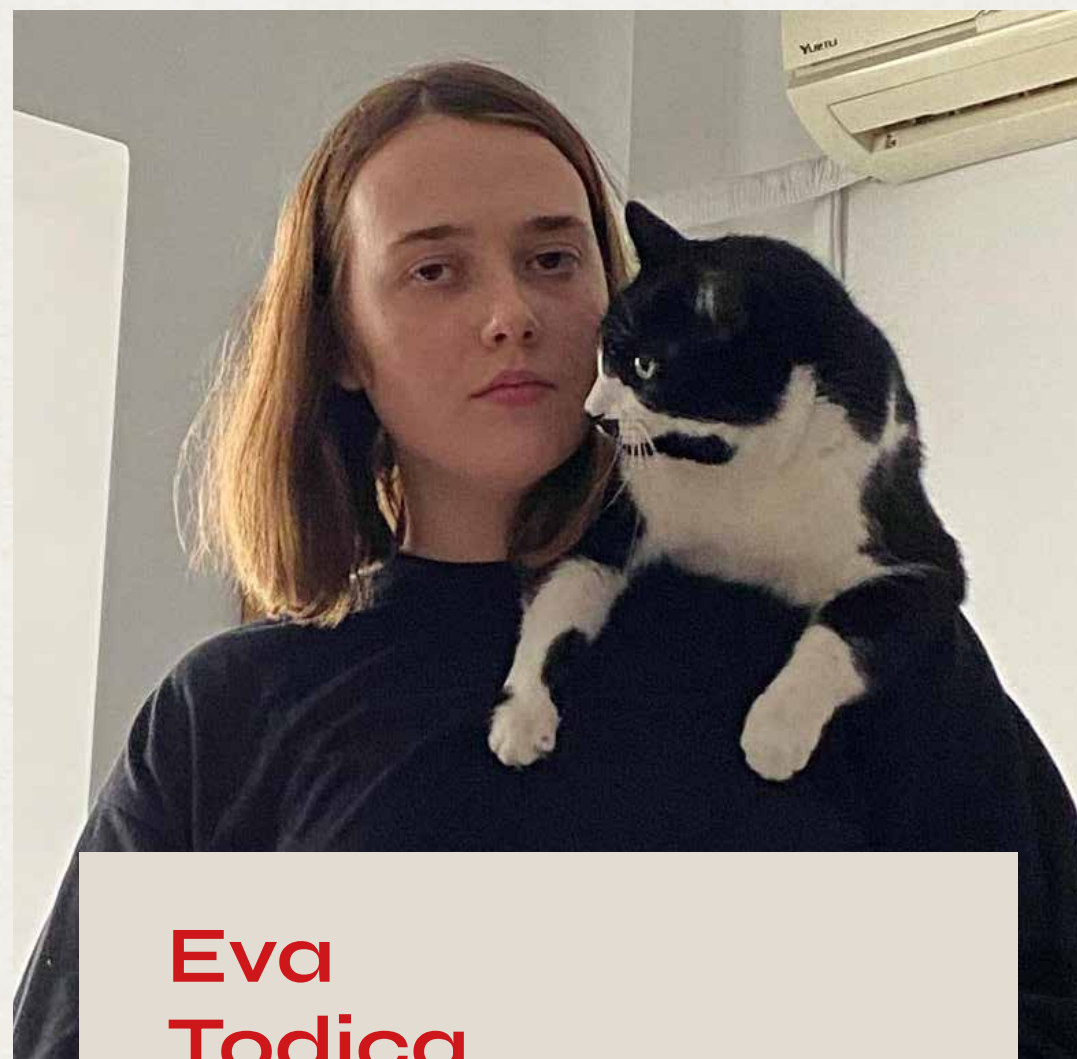


“Slow Horses“. I love losers, I am passionate about them. I am one of them. So, I want to write about them to keep my hopes up. As one day they always succeed.



“Killing Eve“. Can there be more fun than to write a charismatic sociopath? If I can’t write it, I would also agree to work in their costume department for a dress or two...





## Eva Todica

[evabtodica@gmail.com](mailto:evabtodica@gmail.com)

NATIONALITY  Romania, UK

BIRTH YEAR 1996

WRITES IN English, Romanian

PREFERRED GENRES comedy, dramedy

### MOTTO

Call me! ♥  
+40 784 578758

### WHY I WRITE

You know how people say “think outside the box”? I don’t know the box. I think I was born outside the box and grew to understand it as an advantage.

I am a writer with experience in production, theatre, and cultural management. One of my strengths is writing in an ingenious yet mindful way, keeping real possibilities in mind. I have a knack for comedy, and for finding fun and unexpected solutions for resolving a plot.

I grew up mainly watching shows from overseas, but they never quite hit home. I wanted and needed to relate more. Between growing up in a small Romanian town on my parent’s farm and studying theatre in London, I can relate to stories across the continent. And I want to write engaging shows for this world, to contribute to the next big hit in European series.

### TRAINING

- MIDPOINT Writers’ Room 2023 (Czech Republic)
- Mediterranean Film Institute Script 2 Film 2023 (Greece)
- ProTV’s Writing Long-form Drama Workshop 2023 (Romania)
- ProTV’s Script Editing for TV 2023 (Romania)

### RECENT PROJECTS

#### Dracula Tours

COMEDY SERIES, MOCKUMENTARY  
(1 SEASON, 10 EPISODES)

ROMANIA, IN DEVELOPMENT

Mirela (45), the owner of a struggling travel agency fights to stay relevant, all while micro-managing her similarly displaced employees.

CREDIT: Creator

#### As If Nothing Had Happened

DRAMA MINISERIES, BOOK ADAPTATION  
(1 SEASON, 6 EPISODES)

ROMANIA, IN DEVELOPMENT

Best friends Cristina & Nana (18) fall in love and start an illegal, bordering incestuous affair that spans the last decade of Ceausescu’s regime in Romania.

CREDIT: Creator

#### In the City

COMEDY SERIES (1 SEASON, 10 EPISODES)

ROMANIA, 2022

Soft-hearted Doru (20) moves from the countryside to wild Bucharest to become a food courier, chasing his dream of raising money to marry the girl he loves.

CREDIT: Writer, Producer

### MY FAVOURITE WRITING PLACE



I do not have a favourite place to write, at least not yet. I keep my options open, as illustrated in the picture.

### MY FIRST MEMORY OF A (TV) SERIES



“South Park“, ...and watching it with my older brother. I used to pretend I got the jokes, and also that I understood English. But it brought us together, which was enough.

### SERIES I WOULD LOVE TO WORK ON



“Arrested Development“. A show that stays with me forever as a lesson in comedy, creativity, and acting. Sometimes going the unhinged way truly pays off.



“I May Destroy You“. Often in our real lives we use laughter to navigate dark experiences, and I believe that it takes great sensitivity and courage to translate this to the screen.



**partners**





[www.midpoint-institute.eu](http://www.midpoint-institute.eu)

## About MIDPOINT Institute

MIDPOINT Institute is an international audiovisual training and networking platform offering comprehensive professional support in film and series development, individual skills development, and post-production.

Working with a unique network of partners, MIDPOINT activities are directly connected to the European audiovisual market, following and responding to the current trends and needs. The three overarching ambitions behind MIDPOINT Institute's programs are to support talents who are at the beginning of their international career, to increase the quality of feature films, short films, and series production, and to provide training of skills important for adaptation in a rapidly changing industry.

Year-long services are divided into programs (regular or one-off events) dedicated to short and feature narrative films and long or short-form series.

## Check out MIDPOINT Institute's program portfolio

### Project-based

- / Feature Launch
- / Series Launch
- / Shorts
- / Smash Cut
- / Intensive Queer

### Skills-development

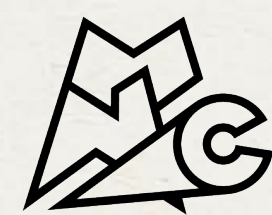
- / Cold Open
- / Writers' Room
- / Script Consultancy Training
- / Development Executive Training

### Post-production guidance

- / Editing Room



organized with:



MUSEO  
NAZIONALE  
DEL CINEMA  
TORINO

**TFL**  
TorinoFilmLab

co-hosted by:



**BERLINALE  
SERIES  
MARKET**

in collaboration with:

**ACE  
PRODUCERS.**





# **only writers in the building**

INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' SHOWCASE