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Nordic International Film Festival in New York Announces Christiane Seidel Head of Jury



Christiane Seidel, award winning actor and producer

New York, NY (September 18, 2023) – The [Nordic International Film Festival](#) in New York is announcing award winning actor and producer Christiane Seidel as Head of Jury at the 9th annual film festival happening October 18-22.

Based in New York, Christiane is known for her acting in series such as Netflix's *The Queen's Gambit* and HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*, and can currently be seen in *Paradise Highway* opposite Juliette Binoche and Morgan Freeman. As the Head Jury at the 9th annual Nordic International Film Festival, she will lead the jury through international and Nordic film categories that include documentaries, short, and long film.

NIFF is the largest Nordic film festival outside of Europe, renowned for its Nordic independent film screenings of both Nordic and international films that portray genres distinguished by complex plots, often focusing on social issues. The annual five-day film festival embraces a “Grit to Glam” theme, celebrating Nordic Noir characteristics coupled with Hollywood glamor.

Head of Jury

Christiane Seidel

Christiane Seidel is an American-German-Danish actor and producer. Currently, she can be seen in the independent feature *PARADISE HIGHWAY* opposite Juliette Binoche and Morgan Freeman, and in Netflix's award-winning series *THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT*. Christiane is also known to audiences from four seasons on HBO's *BOARDWALK EMPIRE*, FX's *FOSSE/VERDON*, and Netflix's critically acclaimed series *GODLESS*.

She is a partner and producer at *RED ROPE PRODUCTIONS* and has produced several short films that have screened at Academy qualifying and international film festivals with numerous wins. She served as the Producing Director for the *SCANDINAVIAN AMERICAN THEATER COMPANY* that presents award-winning Scandinavian plays in the US. In theatre, Christiane starred in the US Off-Broadway premiere of *THEN SILENCE* by Arne Lygre.

Official Selection of Jury

Danelle Eliav

Originally from Canada, Danelle Eliav is an actor, filmmaker and producer based in New York. Producing work includes Joshua Z Weinstein's debut feature *MENASHE* which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, Berlinale and New Directors/New Films and was released by A24. *MENASHE* was nominated for a Gotham Award, an Independent Spirit Award and was named one of the top ten Independent Films of 2017 by the National

Board of Review.

Producing work also includes THE GREAT DARKENED DAYS (TIFF, Winner of 5 Canadian Screen Awards); THE GREAT PRETENDER (Tribeca Film Festival, Berlin Critics Week); EMOTICON ;) featuring Carol Kane and Sonia Braga; THE SHEIK, a documentary feature film about Iranian wrestling legend the Iron Sheik featuring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (Hot Docs Film Festival). Danelle recently produced Hugo Perez's documentary OMARA: THE LAST DIVA on Cuban singer Omara Portuondo. She is a writer on MGM's reboot of #WARGAMES and a founder of WOMEN INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS (WIP).

Samantha Soule

Samantha Soule is an actress and filmmaker. Currently her work behind the camera can be seen in the films MIDDAY BLACK MIDNIGHT BLUE, TAFFETA, SHED, TELLING TIME and BIRDWATCHING among others. As an actress she can currently be seen in OUTER BANKS, GODLESS, TALES OF THE CITY and QUEENS GAMBIT on Netflix and CITY ON A HILL for Showtime. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School and an Artistic Associate of Rising Phoenix Rep Theater.

Michelle Tesoro

Chicago native Michelle Tesoro's recent works includes Netflix's hit limited series THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT, directed by Academy Award-nominated Scott Frank, for which Tesoro won the 2021 ACE Award for Best Edited Limited Series Or Motion Picture For Television. Tesoro's versatile slate also includes Netflix's Emmy-nominated series WHEN THEY SEE US, directed and produced by Ava Duvernay, Sean Penn's independent feature FLAG DAY, Focus Features' biography of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg ON THE BASIS OF SEX, Bold Films and Participant Media's SHOT CALLER, starring Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, and Netflix's Emmy-nominated series GODLESS, directed by Scott Frank and starring Emmy-winner Jeff Daniels.

Her most recent work premiered at the 80th Venice International Film Festival: Bradley Cooper's second directorial venture, MAESTRO, produced by Amblin and Netflix.

Jacob A. Ware

Jacob A. Ware is a filmmaker, actor, and screenwriter. Stars in the SHUDDER horror, AN UNQUIET GRAVE, and can be seen in the Amazon series, FALLOUT (2024), from the creators of WESTWORLD. His films have been Official Selections at Tribeca Festival, Sundance Film Festival, Fantasia, Atlanta Film Festival, Garden State Film Festival, et al.

Loves short films, NIFF, and Unions.

Johan Hallström

Johan is an actor and Film Programmer that, aside from working as an actor for film, television and theater, also has a Master in Film Programming and Curating from Birkbeck, University of London. This led to a job as program assistant at the British Film Institute and their Ingmar Bergman 100 retrospective as well as Short Film Programmer at Dublin International Film Festival and many other exciting experiences within the film festival industry.

Daniela Ruah

Daniela Ruah is a Portuguese American TV, Film & Theatre actress and director who has been in the business for over 20 years- most notably playing Special Agent Kensi Blye on the CBS hit drama NCIS LOS ANGELES, for 14 seasons. In the last few years her directing career has bloomed, propelling her into feature film development as well.

Anna Gutto

Anna Gutto's feature debut PARADISE HIGHWAY, starring Academy Award-winning actors Juliette Binoche and Morgan Freeman, premiered at Locarno Film Festival 2022 to a sold-out 8000 seat Piazza Grande. Hailed by Variety as “a singularly promising debut for a first-time feature filmmaker,” the film is distributed by Lionsgate in the US and Netflix in select international territories, where it went straight to no. 1.

Anna directed part of the first season of the Netflix success HOME FOR CHRISTMAS, and her short films have won multiple festival awards, among them Best Director and Best Ensemble Cast. Her short comedy MOMMY HEIST was broadcast by France Televisions' channel FR3 and A LUCKY MAN is an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Award recipient and is in the screening catalog of the Museum of the Moving Image in New York.

Gjermund Gjesme

Gjermund Gjesme is an actor from Oslo, Norway. He studied at The Lee Strasberg Institute, and works in theater, film, TV, stunts, and motion capture. He toured the USA with the arena stunt show Marvel Universe Live, and is a member of the New York theater company Shakespeare Downtown. In Norway he recently acted opposite Aksel Hennie in PEER GYNT.

His film and TV credits include ACAPULCO (Apple TV+), ODD MAN RUSH (Hulu), BEFOREIGNERS (HBO) NESTE SOMMER (Feelgood TV), and CADAVER (Netflix). His

latest project is the Disney+ series WHAT I WAS DOING WHILE YOU WERE BREEDING - a romantic comedy shot in Iceland, set for release in 2024.

He has a background in the military and has worked as a combat instructor for NATO.

About Nordic International Film Festival

The organizers of the Nordic International Film Festival want to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for filmmakers from all over the world, highlighting the beauty and diversity of the Nordic region to an international audience and showcase Nordic independent filmmaking on a world stage. With a significant sustainability focus, NIFF leads the way in a green approach to film festivals, for example by carbon compensating on behalf of all filmmakers who fly into the festival. In addition, NIFF studies the statistics behind their submissions, to make sure that decisions can be made to lift equality, diversity and inclusivity questions. It is important to NIFF and its team to showcase the diverse nature of the region. NIFF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. For more information, visit www.nordicfilmfest.org.

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