FILM FEST STRATEGY PANEL
1/24/22

6PM PT / 7PM MT / 9PM ET

“Film Festival Strategy” presented by Evolution Mallorca International film festival, The Festival Key and MovieMaker Magazine

Film Festival experts share best submission practices, finding the right festivals for your film and how to get the most out of your film festival visit.
Sandra (Seeling) Lipski

Film Festival Director / Filmmaker & Festival Consultant / Actress / Filmmaker

Sandra Lipski: Born in Berlin and raised in Mallorca Spain, founder and director of the Evolution Mallorca International Film Festival (EMIFF), located in Palma de Mallorca, Spain and the founder of THE FESTIVAL KEY; Film festival strategies for filmmakers and film festivals.

Sandra is an accomplished actress with notable credits such as CSI NY, Bruno (Sasha Baron Cohen) and Jane the Virgin (CW). Sandra splits her time between Mallorca and Los Angeles.

MI ISLA is Sandra’s latest short film as a writer, director, producer and actress. It will start distribution in the spring of 2022. Currently Sandra is preparing the 2022, 11th edition of EMIFF and consulting her international clients via The Festival Key. She most recently taught a master-class on “Film Festival Strategy” at Salmdance Film Festival, spoke on a panel at Hollyshorts Film Fest about “Film Festivals” and enjoyed being on the Jury of the NÖT Film Festival in Santarcangelo, Italy.

Other speaking events include; the SCL (Society of Composers and Lyricists) event together with the AFI (American Film Institute) and being part of the feature film jury at the 2018 SEEFest and Cinema Without Borders Festival in Hollywood. In 2017 she joined the juries at the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival and Los Angeles Music Video Festival.

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Hollywood Reporter Press: Berlin according to Fest Director Sandra Lipski
Podcast by MovieMaker Magazin https://apple.co/3IdisyZ
Gabriela Ortega

Gabriela Ortega is an award-winning writer/director and actor born and raised in the Dominican Republic. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California, a 2021-2022 Sundance Institute "Art of Practice" fellow and is currently based in Los Angeles. Gabriela was selected as one of the ten writer/directors of the 2021 Rising Voices fellowship created in partnership by Lena Waithe’s Hillman Grad productions and Indeed. The companies produced Gabriela’s short film HUELLA which will be screening at the 2022 Sundance film festival and is being turned into a feature film. The feature version of Huella also won development funds in the inaugural NewNarratives grant cycle created by WarnerMedia OneFifty and NewFilmmakers LA. She is a Sundance Lab, Nalip Latino Media Market, HBO Tomorrow’s filmmakers today and and IAMA under30 lab alum. She was also awarded Best Director of a live-action short at the 2021 LALIFF for her short film In Case I’m Next.

She was also named one of three directors-in-residence at Indeed for their new 2022 Development Lab. As a screenwriter, she’s been hired by Sony Pictures International to write a Spanish language script and was a staff writer for the second season Netflix’s sketch show "Go Off with Jess and Julissa". Most recently, she's been hired to write on the anticipated Bioshock 4 game produced by 2K. She is also developing a half-hour dramedy series with Wilmer Valderrama’s WV Entertainment. She is also developing a Dominican narrative feature, Piratas. The film won development funds in the Dominican Republic with the annual FONPROCINE contest and was part of the 2021 Latino Media Market.

Gabriela's work lives within the intersection of fiction and poetry. She writes flawed people with larger-than-life ambitions, driven women with sour senses of humor and families living between opposing cultures. She aims to draw cultural bridges that lead to the Caribbean and tell stories that represent the people she grew up with, authentically. She is proud to say that Papi, the first short film she made (on her phone in the Dominican Republic) about her overlanding travels with her father, has been acquired by and is set to premiere on HBO in 2022 after a successful festival run.
Margeaux Sippell is a film reporter for MovieMaker Magazine with a proclivity for covering true-crime documentaries and ripped-from-real-life TV series. She is an alumni of Emerson College and has written in the past for Variety, TheWrap, and The Boston Globe.
Rafael Thomaseto is a Brazilian filmmaker known for his work as a director and producer. Thomaseto co-founded Driven Equation, a production company based between Los Angeles and São Paulo. DE prides itself on a well-curated slate of projects ranging from internationally awarded short films, independent music videos, and the development of upcoming TV series and feature films. Since early 2020, Rafael Thomaseto is a proud member of the organization Queer Producers Network.
Helena Sardinha

With a degree in Filmmaking at the New York Film Academy, in Los Angeles, Helena Sardinha is a creative producer with extended experience in film and television. Since the early stages of her life, Sardinha has been exposed to artistic mediums and has a Middle-Level Technical Course degree in Contemporary Dance from the renowned Russian theater Bolshoi, in Brazil. During her time as a professional dancer, she had contact with classical ballet, contemporary dance, circus techniques, musical theory, and theatrical performances, opening herself to the infinity of possibilities art has to offer.

After shifting her focus to filmmaking, Helena started her producing career at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) where she produced short films and live events. In 2015, after moving to Los Angeles, Helena produced several projects, with 60+ awards and nominations; including films, music videos, and commercials, working with clients and musicians such as Grubhub, LA Fashion Week, Future, Role Model, and Max Hershenow.