

RACCONTI #8

IDM SCRIPT LAB

PROJECTS & PARTICIPANTS





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WELCOME TO THE RACCONTI #8 IDM SCRIPT LAB



The RACCONTI | IDM Script Lab is a script development program and advanced training initiative for professional screenwriters who want to develop projects and refine their skills with the help of international experts and in creative collaboration with colleagues from other countries. The program's long-term goal is to develop projects suitable for coproduction between Italy and German-speaking countries. The projects should be accessible to international markets and should have the potential to be set/shot in South Tyrol.

Over the course of the years, RACCONTI has adapted to commercial trends and shifted from the development of feature films to TV series. Writers have collaborated together in a Writers' Room in various constellations, in partnership with production companies from Italy and Germany.

In its eighth edition, the RACCONTI #8 IDM Script Lab has focused on developing serial narratives for television and streaming services. The television series industry has experienced extraordinary growth in recent years in terms of both quality and the variety of genres, formats and languages. The European industry has become international and current digital distribution channels are allowing our content to be distributed and enjoyed globally. This has opened up creative opportunities for European authors that were unimaginable just a few years ago, while at the same time relaunching the challenge of developing the skills needed to hone these authors' talents so that their ideas can succeed in the global content arena.

For this edition, the RACCONTI #8 IDM Script Lab has selected three series projects that have deeply impressed us in terms of ambition, originality and the unique variation on genre conventions that they propose.

During two workshops, the concept creators, under the guidance of a team of experts, were supported to develop the specifically serial narrative potential of their projects and to enhance and set out their aesthetic identity through writing and moodboarding, both from a strictly visual point of view and in terms of rhythm and atmosphere.

Supported by the creative advice of **Angelica Cantisani** and under the supervision of **Nicola Lusuardi**, the team of experts comprised **Cyril Tysz**, a screenwriter and lecturer with long-standing international experience in the development of television series, **Ludovica Ferrario**, a highly experienced production designer of extraordinary talent, and **Riema Reybrouck**, an international audience design expert.

Gino Ventriglia finally oversaw the preparation of the pitches that we are now proud to present. We are certain that once you dive into the world of these three series with us, you too will not be able to resist the temptation to get to know our authors and read about their projects.

Let's start sharing stories and ideas!
Welcome to the RACCONTI network.
The IDM RACCONTI Team

PROJECTS & PARTICIPANTS



MIDNIGHT CIRCUS

GABRIEL BORGETTO

HELENA HOFMANN

DRAMA/FANTASY/

COMING OF AGE

8 X 45' EPISODES

TARGET GROUP: 15-45

After her parents die in a fire, 16-year-old Mathilda is saved by the crew of the Circus Luce della Luna and she discovers that she has magical talents. This proves to be a curse rather than a blessing at a time when witchcraft was punished by burning at the stake, and the count himself has vowed to hunt her down.

SYNOPSIS

It's the late 1800s. All over Europe, a new form of entertainment – the traveling circus – has become popular. As a melting pot for many nationalities, religions, colors, ages and languages, these groups quickly grew into multinational gatherings of freaks, acrobats, magicians, clowns, wild animals and stunt artists.

The *Luce della Luna* is a circus like no other. During the day it offers clown shows, fortune telling, a petting zoo and storytelling for visitors of all ages. But as soon as darkness falls and the moon comes out, it's time for the mystical main show that leaves the audience in awe and wonder. Aerial artists glide through thin air as if they were flying, fire breathers enchant their fiery flames to paint beautiful animals into the night sky and the lion tamer seems to have a deep spiritual connection with her animals. However extraordinary these performances may seem, the crew does its very best to hide the real reason for their

outstanding show. The big secret behind the curtain is that the circus's highly ambitious Italian director Giulio "Caesar" Racconti has managed to gather a handful of show artists possessing real magical powers.

16-year-old orphaned Mathilda and her newly found family struggle to escape from the count's henchmen, only to find that Caesar is hiding skeletons in his closet that pose a deadly threat not only to Mathilda but to the entire crew of *Luce della Luna*. Mathilda finds herself embroiled in the center of this battle and realizes that she is far more involved in the count's vendetta than she would like to be. Could the count even be her biological father? If so, who is her real mother? And where does her magical gift come from? Mathilda needs to learn how to control her talents in order to survive in a world where superstition and fear of the unknown control the minds of the mountain folk. And what if the biggest enemy of all is living inside her own mind?

WRITERS' NOTE

It's a coming of age – Mathilda is a young circus apprentice who is yet to find her place in life. It's a struggle that we can all relate to and one might argue that the best of us never stop keeping the child inside of them alive. Mathilda is relatable in the sense that she wins, loses, carries her guilt and falls in and out of love, and we are never quite sure whether we would call her a good or bad person. She's human – in spite of her "special" ability.

It's a character drama – Let's embrace the inherently "soapy" elements we have at our disposal and create a classier version of them. Romance, comradeship, greed, betrayal and jealousy – all these factors play out between our characters. Love triangles, alliances, social outcasts... all the stories that populate a season of *Grey's Anatomy* are found here at the circus.

It's a road movie – A circus is a traveling entity. "Oh, thank God!" you might hear us say, as there's so much to discover in the Alps and Dolomites – from old castles, deep valleys, ice-cold torrents, high passes and gold mines underneath the mountains to crystal-clear

lakes, rocky mountains, a wide selection of beautiful flora and fauna, and last but not least the old and medieval centers of the region's beautiful towns and villages.

It's a fantasy show – Yes, we are moving into a "magical universe", but it's not *Harry Potter*, where wizards wave their wands to cast spells over people and make things disappear. It's more like a mixture of magic power and superhero ability. Plus, it's subtle most of the time and the "magic" doesn't come with bells and whistles. Our character ensemble's special abilities play out like personality traits and are all about the things we don't see on screen, but rather feel.

It's a period piece – Our story is set in a very interesting time period in an area that has long been suffering from what we would nowadays call an "identity crisis". Historical accuracy weaves another beautiful layer of storytelling into our plot. We have the strange feeling of history repeating itself when we see a population in the 1800s struggling with immigration, xenophobia, protectionism and the never-ending fight for freedom.

GABRIEL BORGETTO



Short Biography

Gabriel Borgetto has been working as a director for almost ten years. He believes that good films are based on the psychology behind their characters rather than on the most stunning digital effects. He likes to create surreal worlds, funny and absurd stories and cheeky comedy, and has a strong passion for poetry. He studied in the United States, Germany and Canada, before choosing Munich as his current operating base.

What Else?

On a side note, Gabriel also loves to edit films and has been working as a creative director in the advertising world. He has also recently started to get into writing for TV series.

Awards

Gabriel won the Audience Award at the Beijing Film Academy's 12th ISFF in 2013 and Best Foreign Film at the 17th LA Comedy Festival in the USA in 2015. He was also awarded the Cannes Young Director Award in 2015.



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HELENA HOFMANN



Short Biography

Helena Hofmann is a writer/producer with production and development experience in Germany, London (FilmWave) and Los Angeles (Echo Lake Entertainment). She graduated from the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg in 2018 with a master's in drama series producing and development, and attended the UCLA Extension Hollywood Workshop and the Keith Cunningham DAI Heidelberg Writers' Room Workshop. Since 2018, Helena has been working as a freelance writer and producer for several German production companies, including X Filme, RatPackFilm, UFA Fiction and Studio Hamburg.

What Else?

Helena is also a freelance translator for German and English and a producer.

Filmography

» *Wild Republic* | TV series |

Lailaps Pictures, handwritten Pictures | writer

» *Worauf es ankommt* | feature film |

Lieblingsfilm, ARD Degeto | writer

» *Heldt* | Sony Pictures Television, RTL | writer

Awards

Helena's sitcom pitch *Scheintod* (with Peter Furrer and Andrej Sorin) won the 2018 RTL Start-Up Prize and *Worauf es ankommt* won the 2018 Degeto Impulse Award. Helena was nominated for the FIRST STEPS NO FEAR Award 2018 for her sitcom *Zum Goldenen Lama*.



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NEUZEIT (NEW TIMES)

OLIVIA VIEWEG
CAROLINA HELLSGÅRD

HORROR
6 X 45' EPISODES
TARGET GROUP: 16-45

When the dead learn to run, human kind has to evolve.

SYNOPSIS

Three years after a zombie apocalypse, only the small German city of Jena remains. People believe that nobody could possibly survive outside its borders. That's when we meet 22-year-old Vivi who lives in the forest. Vivi has lost an eye. And... she's not alone. A new kind of plant zombie called Eve is walking with her. But their peaceful life comes to an end when Eve connects with the ground and loses all her human abilities. Vivi can't bear the loneliness and returns to the city. At the protection fence she befriends the worker Nadja, who takes Vivi to the city hospital. The head scientist – Dr. Klose – is suspicious of the new arrival. She wants to know what's under Vivi's eye patch, but Vivi refuses to show her. However, Dr. Klose finds a way and discovers that... sprouts are growing out of Vivi's eye! She subjects Vivi to a series of experiments to see if she's a human or a plant or something in between. Together with Nadja and a bunch of other patients, Vivi

escapes from the hospital. She desperately wants to stay with her new-found friends and makes up lies to encourage them to follow her. But nature is calling Vivi, and she's slowly turning into a plant-like creature...

In the series *Neuzeit*, different generations of zombies exist parallel to one another. In the third generation, nature has finally taken over the zombies' bodies to create a tamer and more adaptable creature. This is the generation to which Vivi and Eve belong. The series will focus on the co-existence between the third generation of zombies and nature. We will follow the group of patients as they are actively pursued by zombie hunters. In fact, the humans will be more dangerous and scary than the undead creatures. The plant zombies are the key to stopping the virus, making them highly valuable to scientists like Dr. Klose, who takes a keen interest in the group.

WRITERS' NOTE

Neuzeit is a TV series set in a post-apocalyptic Germany. It depicts the friendship within a group of people who are forced to flee the city of Jena in order to survive. During their journey, a kind of love develops, not only for each other but also for the fantastic natural world surrounding the group. *Neuzeit* reflects on our future existence, on how we choose to live and on what our options will be in a world where nature strikes back. The *Neuzeit* series will have an obvious ecological subtext.

The virus is presented not only as a curse but also a blessing. The apocalyptic setting will be surprisingly optimistic with some empowering parts, and will even show an alternative utopia. It will provide a topical and important commentary on the current world situation, where climate change is on everyone's agenda, but people are failing to handle the problem and struggling to find a new way of existing in this world – without destroying it.

CAROLINA HELLSGÅRD



Short Biography

Carolina Hellsgård is a writer-director based in Berlin. She studied experimental media design at the Berlin University of Arts and film directing and screenwriting at CalArts in Los Angeles. Her critically acclaimed debut feature film *Wanja* premiered at the Berlinale 2015 and was nominated for the Berlinale Best First Feature Award. It won Best Screenplay at the Valletta Film Festival and Best Feature Film Debut at the Biberach Film Festival and was theatrically released in Germany in summer 2016. Hellsgård's award-winning films have been screened at numerous international film festivals, including the Berlinale, TIFF, Montreal World Film Festival, Mostra São Paulo, Gothenburg IFF, Clermont-Ferrand, Filmes de Femmes, Filmfestival Max Ophüls Prize and the Oberhausen Short Film Festival. Carolina was a recipient of the Dorothea Erxleben Fellowship and has been a guest lecturer at the Braunschweig University of Art (HBK). She was awarded a working grant from the Senate of Berlin in 2015 and the Berliner Künstlerinnen Grant in 2016. She was a Villa Aurora Fellow in Los Angeles in 2017 and spent 2019 in Rome as a Nipkow/Medienboard Artist-in-Residence Fellow.

Filmography

- » *Sunburned* | feature film | NiKo FILM | writer, director
- » *Ever After* | feature film | Ingelore König, Claudia Schröter, Grown up Labels | director
- » *Wanja* | feature film | FLICKFILM | writer, director

Awards

Carolina won Best Screenplay at the 2015 Valletta Film Festival and Best Feature Film Debut at the 2015 Biberach Film Festival. She was also nominated for the Berlinale Best First Feature Award 2015.



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OLIVIA VIEWEG



“Only two things lead to success: 1. Do. 2. It.”

Short Biography

Born in Jena, Germany, in 1987, Olivia Vieweg studied graphic design at Bauhaus University in Weimar and screenplay at the Filmhochschule in Munich. She has published several graphic novels, cartoon books and books for young adults. In 2018, she published the graphic novel for *Endzeit*, which is also a highly successful online webcomic. In 2019, she adapted *Antigone* into a graphic novel. Olivia's books have been translated into English, French, Spanish and Turkish. She lives and works in Weimar, Germany.

Filmography

- » *Spirit Dance* (in development, 2020) | feature film | Kinderfilm GmbH, Grown Up Films | writer
- » *Endzeit* (2018) | feature film | ZDF/ARTE, Grown Up Films | writer

Awards

Endzeit won the Tankred Dorst Award.



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STEISSBACH

JOHANNES KOTZKE

SEBASTIAN SATTLER

HORROR/MYSTERY

6 X 40' EPISODES

TARGET GROUP:

FANS OF MODERN HORROR

Feeling lost his whole life, a selfish crook has to join a religious cult in order to find the truth about his past. But looking behind the curtain of this isolated mountain village reveals not only his origins – but the true nature of our whole existence.

SYNOPSIS

Steissbach is a modern mystery-horror series packed into the innocent shell of a classic 1940s German-Austrian “Heimatfilm”. Two different worlds collide when a wounded loner from the modern world stumbles into the secluded community of a peaceful mountain village. But don’t be mistaken – true evil knows how to mask itself...

The rain pours down on Luis (33) as he reaches the feeble lights behind the trees. A village, finally! Claiming he is just looking for shelter, the sect-like community takes him in. They are overly friendly, which seems weird and very mysterious. But they treat his wounds, and give him dry clothes and food. If only it wasn’t for the deal. Despite not wanting to, Luis has to leave as soon as he can.

Everything then changes when he sees a holy ritual, which is something he shouldn’t have seen. The villagers now want him dead, but being a conman Luis saves his neck with a fateful lie. Only now he isn’t allowed to leave the village ever again.

The presence of an outsider spells trouble for the tight-knit community. Not everybody accepts him, even though the leader, an old woman called Alba (90), has decided to keep him close. Luis, on the other hand, tries to blend in – while secretly sneaking around. A mysterious photo reveals that he is looking for his birth mother, who he has never met. But he knows that she must have been here in this village and then... just disappeared.

As Luis discovers the truth about her whereabouts, he finally uncovers the village’s dark secret. A secret his birth mother was about to reveal and even died for. A new perspective on what life is and how our earth was created. A circle of multiple worlds inside our own – constantly regenerating itself and called Hollow Earth. And due to our excessive and reckless lifestyle, a renewal process has already started. The world is getting rid of its most harmful virus: us.

The end of the world as we know it. Of all people, Luis, a selfish loner who doesn’t care about anybody other than himself, might be our last chance.

WRITERS’ NOTE

There is a huge wealth of old stories, legends, sagas and traditions in the Alpine region. Incredibly captivating and strange at the same time, they take us into a familiar yet fascinating world.

We were inspired by the idea of a small secluded community living in a mountain village somewhere in the Alps. Its people lead a simple life, guided by a strong religious belief system. It’s a stark contrast to our life in the modern world, where everything is so fast and explainable. Our idea developed from the example of native tribes – indigenous peoples

and groups, which are mainly based in South America and consciously or unconsciously live in complete isolation. Would this be possible in Europe? After all, the Alps cover more than 200,000 square kilometers...

Winding valleys bordered by high, snowy mountains and deep, dangerous gorges. This untouched natural landscape brought us to the region of South Tyrol as the perfect setting for our story. Like the province itself throughout history, the village in our tale is trying to stay autonomous. Only in our case, the people are protecting a dark secret...

J O H A N N E S K O T Z K E



“When I was little, my favorite part of the day was time for bedtime stories. That’s when I fell in love with good stories. Since today, what interests me the most is the core of a story and its essential meaning far more than just entertainment. It is easy for me to see potential in the early stages of an idea and to further develop it collectively.”



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Short Biography

Johannes Kotzke was born in 1988 to loving parents, four siblings and a cat. Later, he studied film and television at Macromedia University, focusing on directing and screenwriting. He is currently working as a producer at megaherz GmbH.

What Else?

Johannes loves traveling to foreign countries without planning anything – without a place to stay, and with no destinations or expectations in mind. That’s when he comes across the most amazing, loving and selfless people he’s ever met. Encounters he will treasure forever.

Filmography

- » *Debate* | political magazine show | ZDF | author, producer
- » *Welcome to Steissbach* | TV series | co-creator
- » *So ist meine Stadt* | TV show | megaherz | creator

S E B A S T I A N S A T T L E R



“I’m a dreamer, I think.”

Short Biography

“You’re creative, you should study marketing” is something that Sebastian Sattler was often told. As a result, that’s EXACTLY what he did! His passion, however, lies in writing stories. It’s been eight years of trial-by-fire-learn-on-the-job craziness since he arrived in Munich without a clue about film and television production. After almost a decade of success, he can’t wait to see what comes next!

What Else?

When he was six, his mom asked him how his very first day of school went. After some thought he replied: “I don’t know if this is going to work out, I still can’t write...”

Filmography

- » *Senior High* | feature film | writer
- » *C33* | feature film | writer
- » *Leben, Tod und Kekse* | feature film | writer



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EXPERTS





CREATIVE ADVISOR RACCONTI #8

NICOLA LUSUARDI (IT)

Since 1990, Nicola Lusuardi has been working as a playwright and screenwriter. He is a script consultant and supervisor for original series and has worked with several Italian and European broadcasters and producers. From 2013 to 2019, he acted as a consultant for the original scripted contents produced by Sky Italia. He is head of study for the SeriesLab program created by TorinoFilmLab and Series Mania. Nicola teaches dramaturgy for TV series at Serial Eyes in Berlin and holds masterclasses and workshops in various countries. In 2010, he wrote *La rivoluzione seriale* (Dino Audino Editore, Rome). Since 2020, he has been the head of development for the production company The Apartment.



CREATIVE ADVISOR RACCONTI #8

ANGELICA CANTISANI (IT)

Born near Milan in 1984, Angelica Cantisani graduated in foreign languages for communication and information from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan. In 2008, she obtained a master's in cinema communication and promotion. In the same year, she started to work for EAVE in Milan and joined the Film Commission Torino Piemonte as an international events and projects coordinator. She became an office manager for Filming Europe-EUFCN, the Association of the European Film Commissions, in 2011. At present, the association has 90 members from 30 European countries and is one of the most important entities involved in the promotion of European cinema. Angelica has been a project manager at TorinoFilmLab since 2016.



MAIN TUTOR

CYRIL TYSZ (FR)

Cyril Tysz is a French screenwriter and head writer. After graduating from the film departments at both the Sorbonne and UCLA, he spent several years working in physical production, notably for 20th Century Television in Los Angeles, before dedicating himself completely to screenwriting. He has written, adapted for the screen or supervised the scripts of more than 40 TV productions, such as Marvel's *Fantastic Four* and *Iron Man*, *Casper*, *Gormiti*, *Marsupilami*, Warner's *Xiaolin Chronicles*, Luc Besson's *Arthur and the Invisibles*, Playmobil's *Super 4* and *Nils Holgersson*. He also successfully adapted the hit series *SKAM* for France Télévisions. Besides teaching at the Sorbonne, INA, CEEA, CANNESERIES Institute and Serial Eyes in Berlin, Cyril is currently developing several series with various European production companies.



ART DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION DESIGNER
PRODUCTION DESIGN TUTOR

LUDOVICA FERRARIO (IT)

Ludovica Ferrario is an Italian production designer. She graduated in architecture and has a particular interest in the relationship between space and psychology, which led her to arrive at the cinema as an expressive means of research. After many years as a production designer assistant and art director for foreign directors like Wim Wenders, she made her debut as a production designer for Kiarostami. She first collaborated with Paolo Sorrentino on *The Great Beauty* and then on *Youth*, for which she was nominated for the David di Donatello and the Nastri d'Argento awards. She received an Emmy nomination for her work on the HBO/SKY series *The Young Pope*, which was directed by Sorrentino (2017 and 2020). Even more recently, she has worked on *Trust* (FX), *The New Pope* (again with Sorrentino) and Giorgio Diritti's *Hidden Away*.



**PUBLICITY & MARKETING,
AUDIENCE DESIGNER
AUDIENCE DESIGN TUTOR**

RIEMA REYBROUCK (BEL)

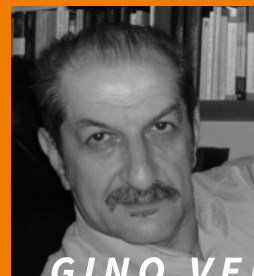
Riema Reybrouck studied photography at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp and later graduated as an arts and culture mediator specializing in strategic communication in order to act as a bridge between cultural organizations and their audiences. She immediately applied her studies by working for various film festivals in Flanders. With a growing interest for raising awareness of films outside of Belgium, she started promoting short films and independent features for international Belgian production companies. She currently manages her PR firm Post Bills, which promotes and releases films, series and documentaries for production companies and acts as a press office for various film festivals and broadcasters. When working on a film, she strongly believes in getting involved in the process from the early development stages all the way up to the release.



**SCREENWRITER
MOOD REEL EXPERT**

DARIO BONAMIN (IT)

Dario Bonamin graduated in screenwriting from the National School of Cinema in Rome. Since then, he has been working as a scriptwriter for the most important Italian producers and broadcasters, including Rai, Mediaset and Sky Italia. He is one of the head writers currently developing a fantasy kids and family series for Rainbow and Netflix. Together with Martina Caggianelli and Francesca De Lisi, he manages the production of mood reels for production companies and development programs such as Series Lab Italia, Series Lab Europe and RACCONTI.



**SCREENWRITER
PITCHING TRAINER**

GINO VENTRIGLIA (IT)

Gino Ventriglia is a screenwriter and international script consultant. He teaches drama writing and drama writing for TV series at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, National School of Cinema in Rome and Scuola Holden in Turin. He works as a tutor and pitch trainer for a number of European development programs, including SeriesLab with TorinoFilmLab and Series Mania, Biennale College Cinema and Biennale College VR with the Festival of Venice. He has recently written the book *OCCHIO* (2019) for Fefè Editore.



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KLAUSEN/CHIUSA TOURIST OFFICE SPONSOR OF THE RACCONTI #8 IDM SCRIPT LAB

KLAUSEN – A MEDIEVAL TOWN
IN THE HEART OF SOUTH TYROL

Klausen Chiusa
Barbian Barbiano
Feldthurns Velturno
Villanders Villandro
.info

The medieval town of Klausen, which is overlooked by the mighty Säben/Sabiona monastery mountain, proudly calls itself the “Town of Dürer”. It was here, when the town was the scene of intense artistic activity hundreds of years ago, that Albrecht Dürer stopped off during his journey through Italy. He used his painting of the town as the background for an allegorical copper-plate engraving titled **Nemesis**.

Today, Klausen still ranks among the most beautiful of Italy’s ancient towns and cities. Its tower-studded facades, its wide alcove balconies, and the picturesque signs of its old inns and pubs were all that was needed to convince the I Borghi più belli d’Italia association of small Italian towns of its worthiness. The Treasure of Loreto, a singular collection of works of art in the town museum, has got to be seen to be believed. A visit to the Säben monastery will provide you with a better understanding of the local culture as well as with breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. This picturesque Benedictine monastery is one of the oldest places of pilgrimage and the first bishop’s residence in Tyrol.





IDM RACCONTI TEAM



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IDM Film Fund & Commission has been providing financial backing (Film Fund) and services (Film Commission) to support film productions in South Tyrol since 2010.

With the funds made available by the province of South Tyrol, IDM manages one of the most important regional development funds in Italy.

The geographical location and bilingualism of South Tyrol allow the Film Fund to look beyond borders and to act as an interface between the film markets of Italy, Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

RACCONTI
is an initiative of
IDM Südtirol



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