

X-POLLINATOR

X-Pollinator 2024 is supported by Screen Ireland through the Screen Stakeholders Funding Scheme and Coimisiún na Meán, in association with Creative Europe Desk Ireland and TU Dublin School of Media.

We want to welcome and thank you for joining us for X-Pollinator 2024!

We are really excited to share and learn with and from you all, across the weekend and beyond. We have an incredible line up of speakers and moderators, and you – the participants – from many disciplines across the creative industries. We hope that the experience will be one that brings people and teams together and that those connections will see many projects come to fruition in the future. Please share, engage, support, promote and network so that we can make this experience as inspiring and transformational as possible. And come say hello. Thank you!



Katie Holly



Lara Hickey



Evan Horan

FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY

17:00 – 17:30

Participant Registration - Day 1

Please register on arrival at the Welcome Desk and collect your name badge.

17:30 -18:00

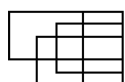
Welcome to X-Pollinator 2024!

Introduction to the programme from Co-Directors Katie Holly and Lara Hickey and Producer Evan Horan, with a welcome address from our supporters, including Neil Murphy from Screen Ireland, Mairéad Nic Gabhann from Coimisiún na Meán and Dr. Caroline O'Sullivan and Dr. Mary Ann Bolger, our hosts at TU Dublin School of Media.

18:00 – 19:30

Networking Reception

A chance to meet and mingle with the participants and speakers with refreshments and canapés, kindly sponsored by Droga5 Dublin and TU Dublin Enterprise Academy.



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19:45 – 21:45

Screening: ANIMAL (2023), with introduction from writer/director Sofia Exarchou and producer Maria Drankdaki, supported by Creative Europe Desk Ireland

A screening of this award-winning film for all participants in advance of our in depth case study with the filmmakers the next morning.

ANIMAL: *Under the hot Greek sun, the animators at an all-inclusive island resort prepare for the busy tourist season. Kalia is the leader of the pack. Paper decors, glossy costumes and dance shows fill the stage. As summer intensifies and the work pressure builds up, their nights become violent and Kalia's struggle is revealed in the darkness. But when the spotlights turn on again, the show must go on.*

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY

09:00 – 09:15

Participant Registration - Day 2

Please check in on arrival for the second day at the Welcome Desk.

09:15 – 09:45

How Do We Make X-Pollinator X-tinct?

Presentation & Analysis

We are joined by Dr. Caroline O'Sullivan and Dr. Mary Ann Bolger from TU Dublin School of Media who will present an overview of the current data and trends in the Irish screen and media industry.

09:45 – 10:45

Feature Film Case Study: ANIMAL - supported by Creative Europe Desk Ireland

Panel Discussion

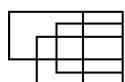
Sofia Exarchou and Maria Drandaki give us the inside track on how they made ANIMAL and what challenges they faced along the way in this European co-production case study.

- Sofia Exarchou – Writer/Director
- Maria Drandaki – Producer
- Moderator: Paula Heffernan – Head of Production, Element Pictures

10:45 – 11:15

Tea/Coffee & Treat Break

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11:15 – 11:25

My Thoughts Exactly...

Presentation

Aisha Bolaji, Writer/Director and Founder of The GALPAL Collective, shares thoughts with us.

11:25 – 12:30

Demystifying Development

Panel Discussion

What is the process of developing work for screen and how is it different to other artforms? Heather Browning finds out everything you ever wanted to know from our panel of development experts.

- Nadine Flynn – Development Executive, Danú Media
- Chelsea Morgan Hoffmann – Producer, Element Pictures
- Dearbhla Regan – Head of Film & Talent Development, Wild Atlantic Pictures
- Moderator: Heather Browning – Development Executive, Screen Ireland

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

Kindly provided for all participants by The Enterprise Academy, TU Dublin.

13:30 – 13:40

My Thoughts Exactly...

Presentation

Maeve Stone, Writer/Director (*The Last Harvest, The House Fell, Mother Tree*) shares thoughts with us.

13:40 – 14:45

Navigating the World of Television Drama

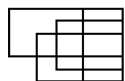
Panel Discussion

What are the routes into the world of television drama? Hear from our panel on their paths in, and the process of making drama for the small screen.

- Oonagh Kearney – Director – *Obituary, Vardy v Rooney: A Courtroom Drama*
- Rachel Kilfeather - Writer - *Vikings: Valhalla*
- Ursula Rani Sarma – Writer - *Smother*
- Moderator: Ailish McElmeel - Company Director & Producer, Deadpan Pictures

14:45 – 15:15

Tea/Coffee & Treat Break



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15:15 – 15:50

Is There Anybody Out There?

In Conversation

BAFTA-nominated *Is There Anybody Out There* follows filmmaker Ella Glendining's global search for someone with a body that looks like hers, and explores what it takes to love yourself fiercely as a disabled person in a non-disabled world.

- Ella Glendining – Writer/Director – *Is There Anybody Out There?*

- Moderator: Aoife Kelleher – Writer/Director – *Mrs. Robinson, One Million Dubliners*

15:50 – 17:20

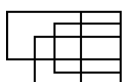
Break Out Sessions

Roundtable Discussions

An opportunity to break into smaller groups for discussion and debate and to gain deeper insight into a range of topics led by a selection of industry experts in each field. Choose from six topics over three sessions, running in parallel with each lasting 30 minutes.

Roundtable Discussions 1 - 15:50 – 16:20

1. FINDING YOUR VOICE IN DOCUMENTARY
 - **Aoife Kelleher** - Writer/Director, *One Million Dubliners, Mrs. Robinson*
2. A CAREER IN DIRECTING: JOYS AND CHALLENGES
 - **Oonagh Kearney** - Director, *Vardy v Rooney: A Courtroom Drama, Obituary*
3. PRODUCING: WORKING WITH THE TALENT
 - **Emma Norton** - Producer, Element Pictures - *The Eternal Daughter, Conversations with Friends*
4. SHORTS TO FEATURES: TAKING THE LEAP
 - **Claire Dix** - Director, *Sunlight, Take Me Swimming*
5. FESTIVALS, AUDIENCES AND TALENT PLATFORMS
 - **Eibh O'Brien-Collins** - Film & TV Programme Director, National Talent Academies; Talent Development Executive, Ardán; Director of Short Film, Galway Film Fleadh
6. CREATIVITY IN ADVERTISING
 - **Alex Ingarfield** - Creative Director, **Karina Cotter** - Senior Producer and **Jessica Bermingham** - Head of Production, Droga5 Dublin



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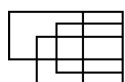
The team in Droga5 Dublin have made it their purpose to craft a radically unique answer, every time. A key part of how they do this is by approaching creative production with a radically unique mindset. With the help of principles and partnerships from Free The Work (a global community platform for underrepresented talent and creators), Green the Bid (a growing movement to transform the production process into one that is sustainable and safe), Editing for Equality (Droga5 Copy Editing program to tackle unconscious bias) and more, the team will talk you through how they made work for Lego, Accenture, AIB and Aer Lingus fairer, greener and ultimately stronger.

Roundtable Discussions 2 - 16:20 – 16:50

1. FINDING YOUR VOICE IN DOCUMENTARY
 - **Ella Glending** - Writer/Director, *Is There Anybody Out There?*
 - **Aoife Kelleher** - Writer/Director, *One Million Dubliners*, *Mrs. Robinson*
2. WRITING FOR ANIMATION
 - **Kristina Yee** - Writer, *Silly Sundays*, *Alva's World*
3. PRODUCING: WORKING WITH THE TALENT
 - **Emma Norton** - Producer, Element Pictures - *The Eternal Daughter*, *Conversations with Friends*
4. SHORTS TO FEATURES: TAKING THE LEAP
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Roundtable Discussions 3 - 16:50 – 17:20

1. FINDING YOUR VOICE IN DOCUMENTARY
 - **Ella Glending** - Writer/Director, *Is There Anybody Out There?*
 - **Aoife Kelleher** - Writer/Director, *One Million Dubliners*, *Mrs. Robinson*



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2. WRITING FOR ANIMATION
 - **Kristina Yee** - Writer, *Silly Sundays*, *Alva's World*
3. PRODUCING: WORKING WITH THE TALENT
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6. CREATIVITY IN ADVERTISING
 - **Alex Ingarfield** - Creative Director, **Karina Cotter** - Senior Producer and **Jessica Bermingham** - Head of Production, Droga5 Dublin

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY

09:15 - 09:30

Participant Registration - Day 3

Please check in on arrival for the third day at the Welcome Desk.

09:30 - 10:35

READY OR NOT: A Work in Progress Case Study

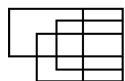
Panel Discussion

The female creative team behind this upcoming feature film debut will be with us to share exclusive clips and chat us through the creative process of making this coming-of-age story with a twist, ahead of its launch later this year.

- Claire Frances Byrne – Director
- Lynn Ruane - Writer
- Ruth Coady – Producer
- Moderator: Niamh Fagan – Project Manager, Screen Ireland

10:35 - 11:05

Tea/Coffee & Treat Break



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11:05 - 11:20

My Thoughts Exactly...

Presentation

Cleona Ní Chrualaoí, Academy Award Nominated Producer of *An Cailín Ciúin* shares thoughts with us.

11:20 - 12:20

Sales and Distribution: Finding Your Audience

Panel Discussion

An introduction to the world of audience and exhibition including festivals, sales and distribution - hear how to get your project, and yourself, out there, from a panel of experts.

- Gillian Cooper – Wildcard Distribution
- Maeve McGrath – Galway Film Fleadh
- Nell Roddy – Break Out Pictures
- Moderator: Síle Culley – Audience Design

12:20 - 13:20

Lunch

Kindly provided for all participants by The Enterprise Academy, TU Dublin.

13:20 - 15:50

Break Out Sessions

Curated Networking

A marathon group speed dating session where you will get to meet and talk to as many fellow participants as possible. Get ready to introduce yourself and meet your future collaborators. You will be assigned a table or group and don't worry, there will be a break!

15:50 – 16:05

Tea/Coffee & Treat Break

16:05 – 16:15

My Thoughts Exactly...

Presentation

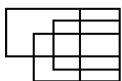
Allie O'Rourke, Writer and Comedian (*Punchline*), shares thoughts with us.

16:15 – 17:15

Director in Focus: Aoife McArdle

An in-depth conversation with Aoife McArdle. Aoife is celebrated for her distinctive visual style and innovative storytelling, working extensively across short film, music videos and commercials with artists like Jon Hopkins, U2, Bloc Party, Cillian Murphy and Adam Driver as well as directing the mind-bending Apple TV + thriller series, *Severance*.

Moderator: Jeanie Igoe – Producer, Homebird Productions



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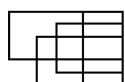
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17:15 – 17:20

Closing Thoughts on X-Pollinator 2024



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