

JOHN HOPEWELL

Argentina's Manuel Abramovich, Ecuador's Ana Cristina Barragán and the Ukraine-born Oksana Bychkova, all big fest winners, will introduce their latest films to an industry audience at San Sebastian's pix-in-post strands, WIP Latam and WIP Europa over Sept. 20-22.

The sections promise discoveries. They also underscore a reality. As art film pre-sales have plunged, public-sector equity financing has escalated, with producers tapping film funds around the world via international co-production. WIP Latam's six films average four production partners a piece. Sales, which the films now seek in San Sebastian, is icing on the cake.

A drill down on titles:

WIP LATAM

Daughter of Rage (La hija de todas las rabias, Laura Baumeister, Nicaragua, Mexico, Netherlands, Germany, France, Norway).

Nicaraguan Laura Baumeister's stirring feature debut which swept three of the four prizes on offer at San Sebastian's 2019 Europe-Latin America Co-production Forum. Since then it has grown in production partners and plot detail, turning on 11-year-old María who seethes with rage at her mother's abandonment of her at a garbage dump in Managua, Nicaragua's capital. She uses her dreams to explain what's happened.

Dos estaciones, (Juan Pablo González, Mexico, France, U.S.)

The heir to a traditional tequila factory in Los Altos de Jalisco highlands battles a plague, floods but above all foreign pressure strangling her business and sense of identity. The feature debut of Mexico's González, whose *Por qué el recuerdo* (2014) screened at Cannes Critics' Week.

A Male, (Un varón, Fabián Hernández, Colombia, France, Nederland, Germany)

The debut feature of Colombia's Fabián Hernandez, turning on Carlos, a student at a Bogotá boarding school, who is forced to hide his sexuality, feigning male stereotypes with which he doesn't identify.

Octopus Skin, (La piel pulpo, Ana Cristina Barragán, Ecuador, Greece, Mexico, Germany)

Developed at a Sundance Morelia workshop, another feature from up-and-coming Ecuadorian writer-director Ana Cristina Barragán, plumbing the complexities of human relationships. It follows her acclaimed debut, *Alba*, Ecuador's Oscar submission. Here, set on a rocky island, two twins' fraternal intimacy exceeds normal limits. Shocked by her mother's suicide, the sister, Iris, decides to go to the city alone for the first time.

Pornomelancholia, (Pornomelancholia, Manuel Abramovich, Argentina, Brazil, France, Mexico)

A doc feature turning on Lalo, who lives in Mexico's mountains and is a sex influencer. He is also HIV positive. Reflecting on "the limits of in-

WIP Latam, WIP Europa: A Drill-Down



Octopus Skin / La piel pulpo.



Vicenta B.

timacy in an era where the day-to-day and subjectivity have become a show for the gaze of others," said Abramovich, *Pornomelancholia* pictures Lalo moping in real life at his existential void. Produced by Gema Juárez Allen at Argentina's Gema Films ("Lina de Lima") with Rachel Daisy Ellis at Brazil's Desvia, co-writer and producer of Sundance hit *Divine Love*, France's Dublin Films and Mexico's Martfilms – a pedigree producer package.

Vicenta B., (Carlos Lechuga, Cuba, Colombia, Netherlands, France)

Lead produced by Claudia Calviño at Cuba's Cacha Films, sold by Habanero, the third feature from Carlos Lechuga, whose *Santa and Andrés* played Toronto and San Sebastián's Horizontes Latinos in 2016. Here, in a resonant set-up, a santera in modern-day Havana who can see people's future is distraught when her son abandons Cuba, unable to understand what's happening to her life or why she's being left alone in Cuba.

WIP EUROPA**Carbon, (Ion Borș, Moldova, Romania)**

A first feature from Moldova's Bors, whose debut short *One Less One More* scooped the best international short debut award at Spain's Huesca Festival. Set in the '90s, *Carbon* sees Dima and Vasea enlist in the army. On their way to the front, they stumble across a carbonized body and set out to establish its identity.

which Tsitsi instigates a school reunion, 13 years after he left school, with the secret mission of punishing the former school bully. "In my school, bullying, abuse and beating were almost the daily norm," Pirtskhalava has recalled. Whether a still traumatized Tsitsi will exact any kind of cathartic revenge is another question.

Lucky Girl, (Ya, Nina, Marysia Nikitiuk, Ukraine, Germany)

The second feature as a director of on-the-rise Nikitiuk whose debut, *When the Trees Fall* – a genre-blending coming-of-age tale laced with a local mob sub-plot and magic realism – caught attention when brought onto the market by Latido Films at 2018's Berlin. Selection of Nariman Aliev's *Homeward*, which she wrote, for Cannes' 2019 Un Certain Regard also established her as a cineaste to track. Based on true events, *Lucky Girl* traces the emotional free-fall of a TV star after she is diagnosed with cancer and loses an arm, until she accepts experimental treatment which makes her fight for her life.

Mission to Mars, (Misión a Marte, Amat Vallmajor, Spain)

A Catalan director and former student at San Sebastian's Elías Quejeta Zine Ezkola, Vallmajor pictures what's described as a futuristic road trip through a family past: In a post-apocalyptic Basque Country, two brothers are encharged with a mission to Mars. They'll need sister Mila, some ghosts and Jesus Christ to complete their journey. Allegorical lo-fi sci-fi.

Nina, (Oksana Bychkova, Russia, Georgia)

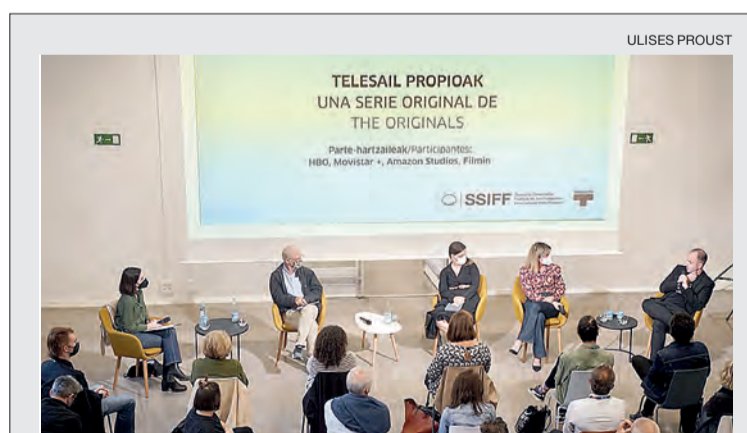
The latest from the best known director in WIP Europa, whose films pretty well almost always do something. In this one, Nina, almost 40, attractive and successful, in a stable marriage, receives a call from ex-boyfriend Ruslan who is seriously ill and asks her to come to Tbilisi to see him, perhaps for the last time. "Nina goes to the city to support Ruslan like a friend," the synopsis runs. "She is sure that she loves her husband and that she will return home soon. But this short journey will be her last."

A Hero of Our Time, (Zamanimiz bir Kahramani, Mirac Atabey, Turkey)

An alum of Europe's Doc Nomads Master's Program, Atabey makes his feature debut with the tale of middle-class Mert who leaves his comfortable life in Istanbul to hold a funeral service for his father in a small Anatolian village. Whereupon, over three days, his life falls apart.

A Long Break, (Didi Shesveneba, Davit Pirtskhalava, Georgia)

Georgia's Pirtskhalava, whose first short, *Father*, won Locarno's Golden Pardino, makes his debut feature, in

**LOS PROYECTOS DE CUATRO PLATAFORMAS**

En el marco de la iniciativa 2deo serieak, Jaume Ripoll (Filmin), Susana Herreras (Movistar+), Miguel Salvat (HBO) y María José Rodríguez (Amazon) presentan en "Una serie original de" los nuevos proyectos de dichas plataformas, que se proyectarán en el marco de la 69 edición del Festival de San Sebastián, y hablan, sobre todo, de la apuesta por las historias que emocionan y el talento, tanto nuevo como reconocido.

AGENDA**INDUSTRIA****09.30 - 11.20 – PRÍNCIPE, 9****WIP Europa****Nina**

Dirección: Oksana Bychkova
Producción: Pan-Atlantic Studio, 20 Steps Productions (Rusia - Georgia)
(Con acreditación de Industria / Reserva de entrada obligatoria)

10.00 - 14.00 – KURSAAL –**THE INDUSTRY CLUB****VII. Ikusmira Berriak**

Citas one-to-one con los proyectos seleccionados.
(Con acreditación de Industria)

10.00 - 20.00 – KURSAAL –**THE INDUSTRY CLUB****10 Foro de Coproducción****Europa-América Latina**

Citas one-to-one con los proyectos seleccionados.
(Con acreditación de Industria)

10.30 - 12.00 – SAN TELMO MUSEOA –**EKITALDI ARETOA****Mesa redonda: Adaptarse y prosperar**

El impulso de una nueva era para la distribución de cine, tras las ideas desarrolladas durante la Covid-19 impulsada por Europa Distribution.
(Con acreditación de Industria)

12.00 - 14.00 – KURSAAL –**CLUB DE PRENSA****Cine y financiación. Un buen cóctel para reencontrarnos**

Presentación de la iniciativa de financiación de proyectos que hacen Triodos Bank y Crea SGR.
(Con acreditación)

12.00 - 14.00 – PRÍNCIPE, 3**WIP Europa****Zamanimizin bir kahramani /****A Hero of Our Time**

Dirección: Mirac Atabey
Producción: Micmuss Film (Turquía).
(Con acreditación de Industria / Reserva de entrada obligatoria)

12.30 - 13.00 – MUSEO SAN TELMO –**SALÓN DE ACTOS****Focus on Georgia**

Presentación del programa de incentivos del Georgian National Film Center por David Vashadze, Georgian Film Commissioner.
(Con acreditación de Industria)

15.30 - 17.05 – PRÍNCIPE, 9**WIP Latam****La piel pulpo / Octopus Skin**

Dirección: Ana Cristina Barragán
Producción: Caleidoscopio Cine, Graal, S.A., Desenlace Films, Unafilm (Ecuador - Grecia - México - Alemania)
(Con acreditación de Industria / Reserva de entrada obligatoria)

16.00 - 19.00 – KURSAAL – SALA 9**Reunión del Comité Ejecutivo de Ibermedia. Reunión cerrada.****16.30 - 18.30 – MUSEO SAN TELMO –****SALÓN DE ACTOS****European Film Forum**

La transformación del ecosistema audiovisual europeo: hacia una industria más sostenible y digital. Coorganizado con Europa Creativa MEDIA. Modera: Elena Neira
(Con acreditación, prioridad Industria)

18.30 - 19.30 – KURSAAL –**CLUB DE PRENSA****Presentación: Preservación 35**

Presentación de la plataforma Preservación 35 cuyo objetivo es la preservación de los soportes digitales y cinematográficos a largo plazo. Organizado por Preservación 35.
(Con acreditación)

18.30 - 19.51 – PRÍNCIPE, 9**WIP Latam****Pornomelancholia /****Pornomelancholia**

Dirección: Manuel Abramovich
Producción: GEMA FILMS, DESVIA FILMS, DUBLIN FILMS, MART-FILMS. (Argentina - Brasil - Francia - México)
(Con acreditación de Industria / Reserva de entrada obligatoria)