



Creative Europe
Desk Hamburg
MEDIA

SERIES LAB HAMBURG 2021: NDR ALBATROSS award goes to "Babyland"

Hamburg, 25.06.2021 – Big cheers on a small screen: The NDR "Albatross" sponsorship award for the best European television series project, worth 7,500 euros, goes to the trio of women behind the Bulgarian series project "Babyland." The "Albatross" was awarded during the three-day digital series conference "Series Lab Hamburg."

In "Babyland," from renowned producer Martichka Bozhilova, [Agitprop](#), and writers Simona Nobile and Dianne Jones, protagonist Natasha has set up a surrogacy clinic in Ukraine as a place where dreams come true: The dreams of the well-traveled parents and the dreams of the mothers who hope for a better life. This script convinced the jury - consisting of actress Almila Bagriacik (Tatort, 4 Blocks), Donna Sharpe (author and script consultant) and Sabine Holtgreve (NDR Film Editor Department Film, Family & Series). The jury team was impressed by the "original and unusual setup and the strong premise. The desire to have children is universal and gives the material the potential to successfully find viewers everywhere in Europe."

Honorable mention was also awarded to producer Geneviève Lemal and writer David Lambert of Scope Pictures' Belgian project "Thou shalt not kill," saying, "Even though the project is still in an early stage of development, one can already see the extraordinary strength of the material, which holds great conflicts for all the characters. The judicial drama around a family left alone in a situation that is hopeless for them is based on a true medical scandal in Liege in 1962, a story that touches us to this day and should definitely be told."

Series Lab Hamburg

The teams and their projects of the Series Lab Hamburg were supervised over two days in small groups by six renowned script experts, who are responsible for many successful, internationally award-winning series such as "The Young Wallander" and "Hunter". Plots, characters and suspense arcs were analyzed, feedback was also given by colleagues from the other teams and the "weak points" and strengths were worked out together. On the third day, the producers met 26 representatives of world distributors, TV stations and platforms from 15 countries during speed dating to find financing partners.

Christiane Siemen, Head of Creative Europe Desk Hamburg: "Europe can look forward to a lot of new high end drama series! For our 5th edition of the Series Lab Hamburg, we have again been able to select a diverse and high-caliber group of producers thanks to the dedicated collaboration of 17 Creative Europe Desks from all over Europe. We are excited to advance the development and financing of European series projects from Hamburg in response to the growing demand for content."

The Series Lab is a cooperation between Creative Europe Desk Hamburg, Letterbox Filmproduktion and MOIN Film Fund. The Lab is supported by NDR, ZDF Enterprises, Sky Deutschland, Hamburg Marketing, GRAEF Rechtsanwälte as well as the Creative Europe Desks from Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Flanders, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turin, Wallonia-Brussels and the Media Desk Suisse.

Foto: (c) CED Hamburg

BU: from left to right: Almila Bagriaciak, ALBATROSS Jury; BABYLAND Produzentin Martichka Bozhilova, Agitprop; below: Christian Granderath, NDR

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