

#9

# European Workshop for Film Criticism

## Regulations

## Framework

The **European Network for Film Discourse (The END)** and short film magazine **Talking Shorts** are organising the 9th European Workshop for Film Criticism, a two-part intensive programme for emerging film critics. The workshop will unfold during **Filmfest Dresden** (Germany, April 2026) and **Vienna Shorts** (Austria, May 2026).

This year's edition centers on **podcasting as a vibrant medium for film criticism**, led by Susanne Braun and Yugen Yah, the creators of *Indiefilmtalk*. Over two immersive weeks, participants will delve into film critique, festival coverage, and industry-specific discussions, while also gaining hands-on technical expertise—from recording and editing to producing a polished final podcast. By the end of the programme, **each of the six participants will have developed and completed their own original podcast episode**.

The workshop kicks off with a joint digital onboarding session ahead of the Dresden week, followed by **four workshop days in each city**, complemented by **extensive film screenings at both festivals** to inspire and inform the critical work. To ensure continuous support, two digital sessions will be held between the two festival weeks. Throughout the process, participants receive **one-on-one editorial guidance from the tutors and guest mentors**, with a selection of the finished podcasts featured on Talking Shorts.

All sessions will be conducted in English.

## Timeline

**12–19.04.2026**

Workshop at Film Fest Dresden (Germany)

**26–31.05.2026**

Workshop at Vienna Shorts (Austria)

Arrival and departure dates may vary depending on your place of residence. A more detailed timeline of the workshop schedule will be shared prior to the start of the first workshop leg.

## Tutor Duo

**Susanne Braun** is a moderator, workshop designer, and expert in participatory formats that foster open dialogue and collaboration. With a focus on transforming conflicts into opportunities for growth, she supports teams in communicating authentically and building meaningful connections. Since 2018, she has co-hosted *Indiefilmtalk*, a podcast that dives into the learnings and challenges of independent filmmakers, creating a space for genuine exchange within the film community.

**Yugen Yah** is a Berlin-based filmmaker and podcast producer who crafts compelling stories across audio and visual media. In 2017, he launched *Indiefilmtalk*, a platform for exploring the creative processes and insights of emerging filmmakers. Beyond producing and co-hosting the podcast, Yugen leads workshops and advises on the development of innovative podcast formats, bridging the gap between storytelling and industry practice.

Together, they bring a wealth of experience in **facilitating creative dialogue, podcast production, and film criticism**, guiding participants through both the conceptual and technical aspects of crafting their own podcasts.



## Eligibility

The workshop is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 interested in critical and discursive work about (short) films and can participate in both units of the tandem workshop.

The application is available for European residents who:

- are over the age of 18;
- have a strong interest and motivation to gain insight into journalistic and criticism practices;
- are eager to learn/be mentored by industry professionals;
- are proficient in English (speaking and writing);
- can attend the programme fully, i.e., participate in both units of the tandem workshop in Dresden and Vienna.

Please note:

- applications in languages other than English will not be accepted;
- incomplete applications will not be accepted;
- during the application process, additional materials will be required to be attached, such as a curriculum vitae (CV) in English;
- to help us evaluate your criticism skills, please include a piece of writing (a film review, interview, essay, dispatch, etc.) or recording (audio or video) that you worked on and was published after January 1, 2025;
- no previous experience with podcast-making is required

The call is open **from February 2 to March 3, 2026**.

The results will be communicated by March 11, 2026.

## **Selection Process**

Six participants will be selected for the European Workshop for Film Criticism #9.

- a minimum of two different readers will process each application;
- applications can not be withdrawn after selection, except at the sole discretion of the workshop organisers;
- the workshop organisers reserve the right not to provide any feedback, comments, or any other information regarding the selection or non-selection of any application.

## Fees and Logistics

The participation fee is **€150,-** in total.

In return, the hosting festivals offer:

- accommodation (single hotel room) in Dresden and Vienna;
- partly covered travel expenses (up to €150 per festival);
- breakfast, lunch, and dinner during the workshop;
- full accreditation that grants access to all screenings and other festival events.

## Contact

Niels Putman

[niels@talkingshorts.com](mailto:niels@talkingshorts.com)

Project Coordinator

## **A Project By**

### **The European Network for Film Discourse (The END)**

The European Network for Film Discourse consists of 8 unique and diverse European short film festivals—**Filmfest Dresden** (DE), **Vienna Shorts** (AT), **Curtas Vila do Conde - International Film Festival** (PT), **Lago Film Fest** (IT), **FeKK Ljubljana Short Film Festival** (SI), **Bucharest International Experimental Film Festival** (RO), **Kortfilmfestival Leuven** (BE) and **Vilnius Short Film Festival** (LT)—and is funded by the Creative Europe MEDIA programme.

The network's primary purpose is to promote critical film discourse by and for a younger generation and to familiarise new audiences with a flourishing European film landscape.