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WELCOMING ADDRESS

Welcome to the heart of Europe, where Germany stands as a dynamic hub connecting you to a plethora of captivating filming locations across the continent. I am Markus Vogelbacher, the proud publisher of this magazine.

Germany not only serves as a magnificent filming location in its own right but also acts as a gateway to an array of shooting opportunities throughout Europe. From the serene Bavarian Alps and the enchanting Black Forest to the bustling urban charm of Berlin, Germany offers a diverse range of settings. Additionally, its central position ensures easy access to neighboring countries such as Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Spain, and beyond, each with their unique landscapes and cultural backdrops.

Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and a robust infrastructure, Germany ensures a seamless production process. Embrace the rich culture, vibrant cities, and unmatched hospitality as you embark on your creative journey. Here, in the heart of Europe, inspiration knows no bounds, and the possibilities are endless.

Warm regards,



Markus R. Vogelbacher



International Business Development
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HOTEL BAYERISCHER HOF – WHERE EVERY STAY IS A SCENE.

Since 1841, the privately managed, award-winning Hotel Bayerischer Hof is valued internationally for its elegant atmosphere and the amiable, highly personal service. Discover the perfect fusion of timeless elegance and genuine hospitality from the moment you step into the rich heritage of the hotel, a haven in the heart of Munich. Nestled in the old city center, our location offers proximity to iconic landmarks, museums, art galleries and the Opera, as well as the finest shopping areas.

Indulge in a sanctuary of luxury with our meticulously designed 337 rooms, including 74 suites. With our breathtaking Penthouse Garden Suite, a masterpiece created in collaboration with the internationally renowned interior designer, art collector and antique dealer Axel Vervoordt from Belgium, you can immerse yourself in a world of refined opulence.

Guests have a choice of 40 function rooms with a capacity of 10 up to 2.500 persons, including five restaurants (Michelin starred, Mediterranean, Polynesian, Bavarian and Spa Cuisine), six bars, the Night Club with live Jazz, the Art déco style Ballroom ensemble and the historic Palais Montgelas. The astor@Cinema Lounge, with 38 seats, is ideal for presentations and private events. Enjoy the Blue Spa – designed by French star designer Andrée Putman – a unique wellness area on four floors, with a panoramic rooftop terrace.

Axel Vervoordt designed not only the astor@Cinema Lounge, the Palaishall, the two gourmet restaurants Atelier and Garden, the complete South and North Wing with 28 rooms and the luxurious 350 square meter Penthouse Garden Suite, but also the Palais Keller restaurant, the 14 event rooms in the historic Palais Montgelas and the Atrium.



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EUROPE & SPOTLIGHT GERMANY



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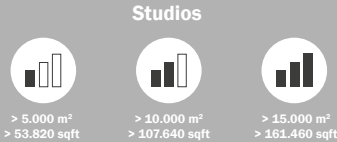


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UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES AT EUROPE'S PRODUCTION HUB



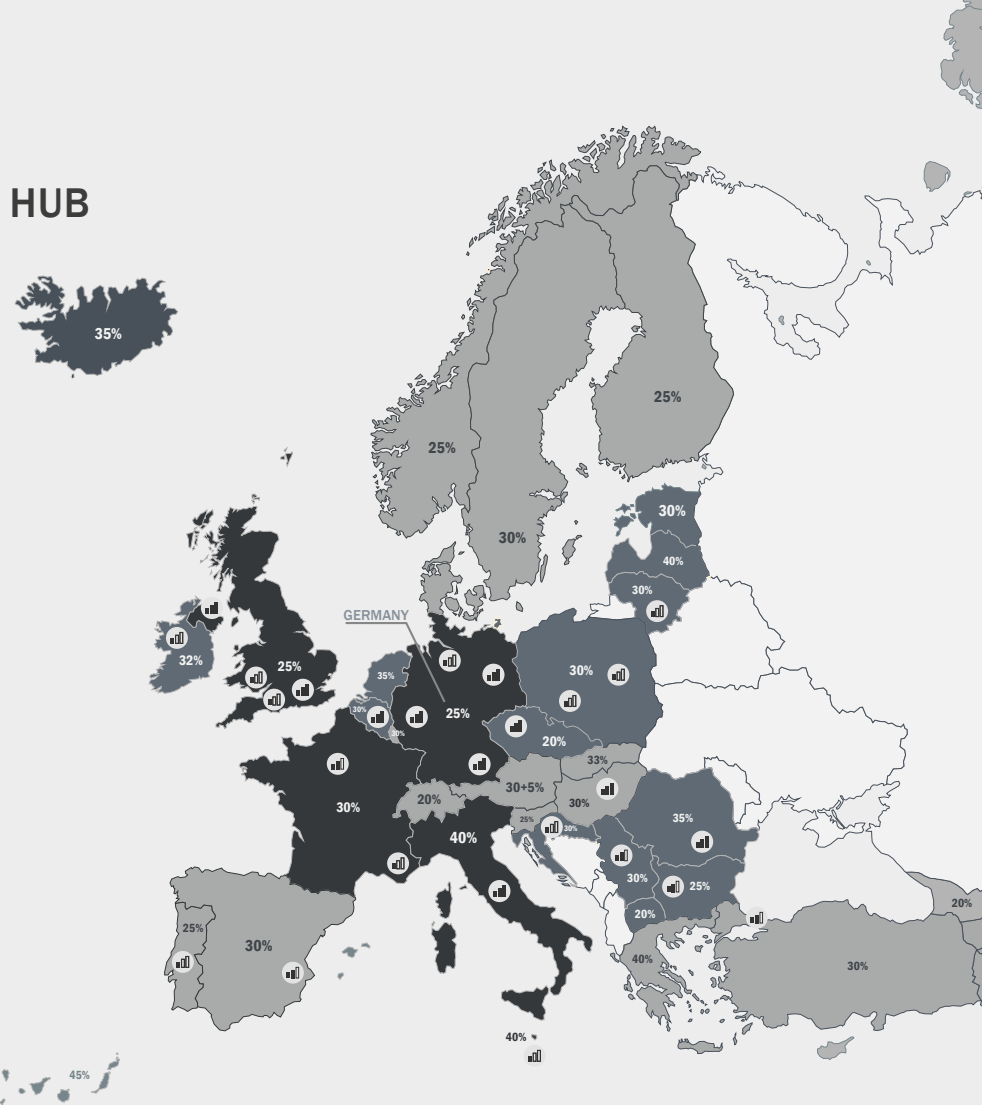
Deepest European crew base on high-concept TV, feature and show

US talent and crew-members count as German spend while working in Germany

High skill-set on German crews, combinable with east European labour

German-Canadian co-production treaty supports US talent

European incentives combinable with Germany



CREATIVE EUROPE

Artificial intelligence is the next big thing, and its evolution hinges on the quality and diversity of data it can access. Europe, with its rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and millennia of history, presents a unique and unparalleled environment for AI development. The continent's dense cultural landscape provides a fertile ground for AI algorithms to learn, adapt, and innovate.

Hyper-personalization is revolutionizing the entertainment industry by offering tailored content based on extensive data collection. Streaming platforms like Netflix and Spotify utilize complex algorithms to provide personalized recommendations, thereby increasing engagement and revenue. However, challenges such as data privacy and algorithmic transparency persist. Combining local experiences with distributed content adds an intriguing dimension. Geo-targeted content, collaborations with local artists, and interactive experiences can enrich the viewer experience. Examples like Netflix and Spotify demonstrate how localized content can achieve global success.

Europe is poised to meet any global challenge. Its diverse cultural and economic landscape ensures innovation and resilience.

THE EUROPEAN HUB

What makes Germany one of the most important business locations in Europe?

Europe is home to over 700 million consumers, making it the most affluent market in the world. Positioned centrally within the European Union, Germany offers the largest domestic market in Europe and seamless access to all EU member states. As the leading economy in Europe and the fourth-largest globally, Germany is renowned for its high productivity rates, steady market growth, and cost-efficient production sites. The country's investor-friendly, social market economy ensures stable and reliable employment relationships that have thrived for decades.

Why are innovation and reliability crucial for a stable economy?

Innovation is crucial in today's economy. Each year, Germany's federal budget allocates several billion euros for research and development projects, solidifying Germany as one of Europe's top investors in this realm. Despite growing competition, Germany maintains its position as a global leader in innovation, spearheading Europe in patent applications and being a prominent player in high-tech solutions. Additionally, its robust economy provides attractive incentives for both domestic and international investors. Investment security is guaranteed by reliable economic and political frameworks of the highest standards. Furthermore, contractual agreements are legally binding, and intellectual property is stringently protected.

How has Germany become a flourishing media hub today?

Germany's stable economy also supports its thriving media industry. With the largest TV market in Europe, Germany has become a key producer of original content and co-productions. Despite Covid challenges, the country continued promoting audiovisual content, readying the creative sector for recovery. Strong federal and state funding bolsters Germany's global film and series production, making it a significant exporter of films.

GERMANY:

Political System: Federal Republic
Capital: Berlin
Joining the EU: Founding member (1952)
Area: 138.000 mi² (357.000 km²)
Population: 84,5 million
Currency: Euro (€)

Language: German (English is the dominant second language)
Industrial location: fourth place worldwide
Culture: public is committed to western world
Highest point: „Zugspitze“ at 2,962 m (9,722 feet)
Features: more than 5,300 lakes,
more than 21,700 castles, fortresses and royal residences



SPOTLIGHT ON GERMANY

Germany has long valued creativity and technology. Its numerous public and private film schools, whose students and graduates have won prestigious international film awards, are spread across the country.

In addition to its creative talent, Germany boasts a number of renowned film studios responsible for high-quality international productions. Studios such as MMC in Cologne, Studio Hamburg, Media City Leipzig, Bavaria Studios, and Studio Babelsberg are notable examples. The country is also at the forefront of virtual production, with Penzing Studios near Munich emerging as a global leader in digital and virtual production.

To ensure continuous growth, reliable funding is essential for the German film industry. Creativity, art, culture, and economics are deeply intertwined, supporting and complementing one another. Federal and state policies provide a robust support system that creates significant incentives for both domestic and international productions. Beyond state funding, such as the German Federal Film Fund and support from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM), the media industry also benefits from public and private broadcasters. Germany, with nearly 40 million TV households, over 200 channels, and a market volume exceeding 10 billion euros, is one of the largest and most diverse TV markets in the world. Additionally, several federal states offer production funding, with the largest institutions in Munich, Berlin, Stuttgart, and Düsseldorf, collectively providing around 120 million euros annually.





FILMING IN GERMANY

Great Britain, France or Italy - why might Germany be the best film location in Europe?

Germany offers almost every landscape and backdrop you can think of: fantastic islands and seas, majestic mountains and picturesque valleys, idyllic forest landscapes, rivers and lakes. World famous Hollywood stars like Tom Cruise, Liam Neeson, George Clooney, Oliver Stone and Wes Anderson have filmed in Germany - and would like to do it again.

Either ancient ruins, castles or palaces, even perfectly preserved medieval towns, spiritual churches or monasteries, pristine natural landscapes, backdrops of the Second World War or futuristic architecture: location scouts always find what they are looking for. And although Germany's castles and palaces still are the biggest attraction for international producers, outstanding locations in Frankfurt, Hamburg, Giessen and, of course, Berlin are also used as filming locations for various productions.

Apart from the impressive backdrops - what else speaks for Germany?

With its remarkable film history, Germany simply fulfils all requirements of professional film productions - and exceeds them by far: the highest standards in film technology, modern studios with professionally trained and English-speaking crews and creative minds in all areas and trades are a reliable standard.

The local producers and service providers are not only highly skilled, they also offer first-class services. German VFX Companies such as RiseFX („Avengers: Endgame“), Trixter („Black Widow“), ScanlineFX („Gemini Man“), Mackevision („Game of Thrones“) and BigHugFX („Ben Hur“) are already known for creating high-quality visual effects for the most famous productions, proving once again the quality and visionary creativity of the German film industry.

Total Studio Area

PENZING STUDIOS:

12 studios on a 270 hectare studio site

Virtual Production, XXL sound stages, co-production competence

BLACK FOREST STUDIOS:

6 studios, standard sets, embedded in Black Forest landmarks

Factual and serial boutique, ref. awarded “Navalny”

BAVARIA STUDIOS:

12 Film and TV studios on a 30 hectare studio site

Founded 1919, green studio lot

MMC STUDIOS:

23 studios on a 16 hectare studio site

Feature & TV shows, co-production

STUDIO BABELSBERG:

21 studios on a 17 hectare studio site

Founded 1912, full service studio lot

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

The Academy Awards, or Oscars®, have long been a stage for celebrating global cinematic achievements, and Germany has consistently played a notable role in this prestigious ceremony. In recent years, German cinema has garnered increasing attention, with films, directors, and actors making their mark on the international stage.

One of the standout achievements for German cinema at the 2023 Oscars® was the recognition of Sandra Hüller, a highly regarded German actress. Hüller made headlines for her performances in „The Zone of Interest“ and „Anatomy of a Fall“, both of which received critical acclaim. „The Zone of Interest“, a chilling drama set outside the Auschwitz concentration camp, was shortlisted for Best International Feature. Hüller’s dual performances in these two films made her one of the most talked-about actors of the season, although she narrowly missed out on an Oscar® nomination. Her growing international profile showcases the talent emerging from Germany’s acting community.

This recognition comes alongside Germany’s other notable 2023 Oscars® successes. The film „All Quiet on the Western Front“ (German: „Im Westen nichts Neues“) dominated the 95th Academy Awards, winning four Oscars®, including Best International Feature and Best Cinematography. The film, directed by Edward Berger, vividly portrays the horrors of World War I through the eyes of a young German soldier. Its success at both the Oscars® and the BAFTAs, where it won seven awards, reinforced the strength of German storytelling and technical prowess in film.

Germany’s recent achievements extend beyond the Oscars®. In the television realm, while no German actors were individually nominated at the 2023 Emmy Awards, the broader contributions of German filmmakers, particularly in documentary and technical categories, continue to reflect the country’s influence in the entertainment industry.

As Germany continues to produce compelling films and performances, the country’s presence at international awards like the Oscars® and Emmys is set to grow, reinforcing its status as a global cinematic powerhouse.



MADE IN GERMANY: OSCARS® AND EMMYS

And the Oscar® goes to... 2006-2023

2006	Technical Achievements Udo Schauss, Hildegard Ebbesmeier, Nicole Wemken, Michael Anderer („L.A. Crash“)
2006	Technical Achievements Florian Kainz (Design and Development OpenEXR Software Package)
2007	Best Foreign-Language Film Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck („Das Leben der Anderen“)
2007	Student Oscar Toke Constantin Hebbeln („Nimmermeer“)
2009	Best Short Film Jochen Alexander Freydank („Spielzeugland“)
2014	Technical Achievements Johannes Saam (Deep Image Compositing)
2015	Best Documentary Dirk Wilutzky („Citizenfour“)
2018	Best Visual Effects Gerd Nefzer („Blade Runner 2049“)
2022	Best Soundtrack Hans Zimmer („Dune“)
2023	Best International Film Edward Berger („Im Westen nichts Neues“)
2023	Best Set Design Ernestine Hipper, Christian M. Goldbeck („Im Westen nichts Neues“)
2023	Best Soundtrack Volker Bertelmann („Im Westen nichts Neues“)

These Productions have won an Emmy 2016-2023

2016	International Emmy Best Performance by an Actress Christiane Paul: „Unterm Radar“
2016	International Emmy Best Documentary „Krieg der Lügen“
2016	International Emmy Best Drama Series „Deutschland 83“
2017	International Emmy Short-Form Series Polyphon, ZDF: „Familie Braun“
2017	International Emmy Best Kids Series Bantry Bay, Vox: „Club der Roten Bänder“
2017	International Emmy Best Kids Factual Imago TV, ZDF: „Berlin und Wir“
2018	International Emmy Best Performance by an Actress Anna Schudt: „Ein Schnupfen hätte auch gereicht“
2021	Directorate Awards Director General of German national broadcaster ZDF: Thomas Bellut
2022	International Emmy Current Affairs MDR, ARTE a.o.: „In Search of Monsters“
2023	International Emmy Best Drama Series „The Empress“

SUBSIDIES AND FINANCING POSSIBILITIES IN GERMANY

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FILM INCENTIVES



There are numerous and various financing opportunities in Germany, also through German co-productions. Aside from incentives on a national level, a number of regional film funds provide additional support to productions of any budget. Nearly all German federal states provide grant funds and additional soft money depending on local expenditure. More than € 520 million go into national and international film projects every year. The application procedure is basically the same at all regional funds: The most important thing to remember is that you will need a German co-producer.

<p>DFFF I The German Federal Film Fund I focuses on producers of theatrical motion picture: feature, documentary and animated films.</p> <p>ANNUAL BUDGET € 50.0 million</p> <p>MINIMUM BUDGET Feature Films: € 1.0 million Animation: € 2.0 million Documentaries: € 200,000</p> <p>MAXIMUM AMOUNT 20% on approved German production costs 25% on approved German production costs above € 8.0 million, maximum € 4.0 million</p> <p>MINIMUM SPEND 25% of total budget If budget exceeds € 20 million, only 20% German spend is required</p> <p>TYPE OF FUNDING Share-financing, non-repayable grant</p> <p>APPLICATION German-based producer or co-producer All year round, 6 weeks prior to shooting</p> <p>MORE REQUIREMENTS dfff-ffa.de/en.html https://dfff-ffa.de/guidelines.html</p> <p>REFERENCES Iron Box, September 5, The Girl from Köln, Leonora in the morninglight, The End</p>	<p>DFFF II The German Federal Film Fund II focuses on production service providers for theatrical motion picture: animated fictional film/ VFX-driven film or film segment.</p> <p>ANNUAL BUDGET € 28.0 million</p> <p>MINIMUM BUDGET € 20.0 million</p> <p>MAXIMUM AMOUNT 25% on approved German production costs Maximum € 25.0 million</p> <p>MINIMUM SPEND € 8.0 million € 2.0 million for animated films and films with virtually animated components</p> <p>TYPE OF FUNDING Share-financing, non-repayable grant</p> <p>APPLICATION Production service providers i.e. studios or VFX service-providers All year round, 6 weeks prior to shooting</p> <p>MORE REQUIREMENTS https://dfff-ffa.de/index.php?dfff-2-en https://dfff-ffa.de/guidelines.html</p> <p>REFERENCES Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom, The Crow, MEG 2, Mother Mary</p>	<p>GMPF The German Motion Picture Fund focuses on international and national high-end TV and VOD films and series (feature, animation, documentary).</p> <p>ANNUAL BUDGET € 84.3 million</p> <p>MINIMUM BUDGET Feature films: € 25.0 million</p> <p>Fiction series: € 30.000 per minute, unless the productions costs exceed € 1.2 million per episode and € 7.2 million per season</p> <p>Documentary series: € 9.000 per minute, unless the production costs exceed € 360.000 per episode and € 1.65 million per season and € 7.000 per minute</p> <p>MAXIMUM AMOUNT Feature films 20% of eligible German production costs up to € 2.5 million</p> <p>TV SERIES 20% or 25% of the eligible German production costs (depends on the German spent),</p> <p>Maximum grant € 10.0 million per season</p> <p>NEW FUNDING REQUIREMENT: COMPLIANCE WITH ECOLOGICAL STANDARDS Applications must comply with the new ecological standards. Funding can only be received, if effective measures to promote ecological sustainability are taken during the production. Ecological standards for German cinema, TV and online VoD productions: www.ffa.de/nachhaltigkeit.html</p> <p>TYPE OF FUNDING Automatic, non-repayable loan</p> <p>APPLICATION German-based producer or co-producer All year round, 6 weeks prior to shooting</p> <p>MORE REQUIREMENTS Cultural test release on German television or VOD platform Min. length feature film: 79' (59' for films for children) Min. length fiction series: 240' per season Min. length documentary series: 180' per season Film only: Minimum German co-production, share: 20% If the budget is more than € 35.0 million, than € 7.0 million</p> <p>REFERENCES Electric Eye, Hello, The Grimm Reality, Sloborn 3, Bumper in Berlin</p>
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MOI/N Filmförderung
Hamburg
Schleswig-Holstein

Hamburg | Schleswig-Holstein


filmfriendly cosmopolitan city, vast countryside & sea shores | supports cinema films, high end series, innovative formats | green filming expertise

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Lower Saxony | Bremen



beautiful castles and picturesque old towns | endless shores and sandy islands | from the plains to the mountains into deep caves

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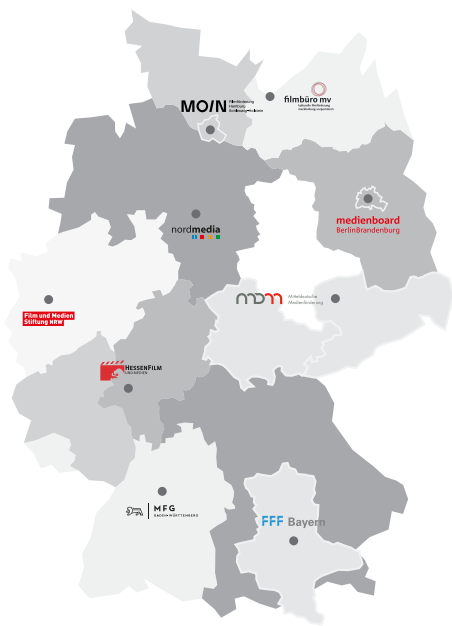
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Hesse

Germanys only high rising skyline | medieval castles and historic architecture | HessenFilm has a strong focus on emerging talent, documentaries, web series and international co-productions.

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Funds for:



Feature Film



Television & Series





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filmbüro mv kulturelle Filmförderung
mecklenburg-vorpommern

Mecklenburg Western Pomerania




unique natural riches | pristine sceneries
much is still undiscovered and exciting stories
are waiting to be told

  www.mv-filmfoerderung.de

medienboard
Berlin-Brandenburg

Berlin | Brandenburg

Berlin-Brandenburg is THE PLACE for shooting highend films and series! The capital region offers unique filmmaking experiences and rolls out the red carpet for film crews – not only during the Berlinale!

   www.medienboard.de/en/funding/film

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Medienförderung

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highly attractive shooting location in the heart of europe thanks to efficient infrastructures, experienced co- and post-producers, excellently trained staff and an impressive variety of backdrops

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FFF Bayern

Bavaria

offers up to € 2 million funding budget for international feature films or series projects and extensive Film Commission services

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 **MFG**
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Baden-Württemberg

aims especially to promote the animation and VFX industry and is the first German regional film funding institution to make sustainability a compulsory criteria for receiving subsidies.

  www.film.mfg.de/foerderung/

LOCATIONS & INCENTIVES

GERMANY: A FILMING POWERHOUSE

WITH WORLD-CLASS STUDIOS AND COMPETITIVE INCENTIVES

Germany has long been a major player in the global film industry, offering a diverse array of filming locations, world-class studios, and some of the most attractive film incentives in Europe. Whether filmmakers are looking for historic cities, industrial landscapes, or stunning natural settings, Germany provides an ideal backdrop for a wide range of productions. With a highly skilled workforce and cutting-edge production facilities, the country continues to attract major international productions.

KEY FILMING LOCATIONS

Germany's vast variety of locations makes it a versatile choice for filmmakers:

- **Berlin:** The German capital offers a unique combination of modernity and history. From the iconic Brandenburg Gate to remnants of the Berlin Wall, the city has been featured in films like *The Bourne Supremacy* and *Bridge of Spies*.
- **Bavaria:** Known for its picturesque landscapes and fairytale castles, Bavaria has been a favorite for period dramas and historical films. Neuschwanstein Castle, for example, has inspired films such as *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and numerous fantasy projects.
- **Cologne:** A modern city with Gothic architecture, Cologne has been a prime location for film and TV productions, offering both contemporary and medieval aesthetics.
- **Saxon Switzerland:** This stunning national park with unique rock formations has been featured in fantasy and adventure films, offering a dramatic natural setting.

NOTABLE PROJECTS

Germany's mix of iconic locations and advanced studio infrastructure has attracted many high-profile productions:

- **Inglourious Basterds (2009):** Quentin Tarantino's World War II film was shot at Babelsberg Studio and various German locations, making full use of the country's rich historical settings.
- **The Grand Budapest Hotel (2014):** This Wes Anderson film was shot at Studio Babelsberg and in Görlitz, a small town in eastern Germany, known for its well-preserved architecture.
- **Valkyrie (2008):** Tom Cruise's historical thriller about the plot to assassinate Hitler was filmed extensively in Berlin and at MMC Studios in Cologne.
- **The Hunger Games: Mockingjay: Parts 1 and 2** of the series used Babelsberg Studio's sound stages, further cementing Germany's role as a production hub for major Hollywood films.

CONCLUSION

Germany's extensive range of filming locations, from historic cities to breathtaking natural landscapes, combined with its competitive incentives and world-class studio infrastructure, make it one of Europe's leading filming destinations. Whether shooting on location or taking advantage of advanced studio lots like Babelsberg and Bavaria Film Studios, filmmakers can find everything they need in Germany to bring their projects to life. With a strong commitment to supporting international productions, Germany continues to thrive as a global hub for filmmaking.

AUSTRIA: A PREMIER FILMING LOCATION

WITH NEW INCENTIVES DRIVING INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS

Austria, with its stunning alpine landscapes, historic cities, and rich cultural heritage, has long been a favorite filming location for international film and television productions. The country's diverse scenery, ranging from majestic mountains and serene lakes to urban cityscapes like Vienna, offers filmmakers a wide palette of visually compelling settings. Coupled with world-class production facilities, skilled local crews, and a well-developed infrastructure, Austria continues to be a top choice for both European and Hollywood filmmakers.

KEY FILMING LOCATIONS

Austria's diverse geography provides a unique blend of filming locations, including:

- **Vienna:** The Austrian capital, famous for its imperial architecture and cultural landmarks like the Schönbrunn Palace and the Belvedere, has played a starring role in movies like Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation and Before Sunrise.
- **Salzburg:** The birthplace of Mozart and the setting for The Sound of Music, Salzburg's Baroque architecture and stunning surroundings continue to attract productions.
- **The Alps:** Known for their breathtaking landscapes, the Austrian Alps have served as a backdrop for films such as Spectre and Downhill.
- **Tyrol:** A mountainous region in western Austria, Tyrol has been the setting for numerous action and adventure films, offering dramatic landscapes ideal for high-stakes scenes.

FILM INCENTIVES IN AUSTRIA: A RECENT BOOST

To maintain its competitive edge in the global film industry, Austria has implemented a series of film incentives that have recently been improved and expanded. These financial incentives aim to attract international productions and support the domestic film industry, making Austria an even more attractive destination for filming. The latest improvements to Austria's film incentives were introduced in mid-2023, enhancing its appeal to larger-budget productions. The main elements of Austria's improved film incentives include:

- **Rebate Increase:** Austria's film rebate, which was traditionally capped at around 20% of qualifying production expenditures, has been increased to 35%. This applies to both Austrian and international productions, provided that a certain percentage of the film is shot in Austria, and local film professionals are employed. The rebate can cover expenses like crew costs, production equipment rentals, and post-production services.
- **Green Production Incentives:** Austria has taken a forward-thinking approach by introducing an additional 5% rebate for green filming. Productions that meet specific eco-friendly criteria—such as reducing carbon footprints, utilizing sustainable energy, and minimizing waste on set—are eligible for this bonus, making Austria one of the leaders in the push toward sustainable filmmaking.
- **Support for International Co-Productions:** Austria's government has expanded its co-production agreements with several countries, offering more financial benefits and tax advantages for international collaborations. This has led to an increase in partnerships with neighboring Germany, as well as countries like the UK and Italy.
- **Improved Cash Flow for Producers:** The latest reforms have also introduced mechanisms to improve cash flow for filmmakers, allowing a portion of the rebate to be claimed during the production process, which is particularly beneficial for smaller productions.

REFERENCE PROJECTS: AUSTRIA'S RISING PRESENCE IN FILM

Several major film and TV productions have taken advantage of Austria's scenic beauty and financial incentives in recent years. Notable projects include:

- **James Bond: Spectre (2015):** The Tyrol region and the Ötztal Alps were prominently featured in the film's high-octane action sequences. Austria's film incentive program played a significant role in attracting this big-budget production to the country.
- **Downhill (2020):** A comedy-drama starring Will Ferrell and Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Downhill was shot in the Austrian Alps, taking full advantage of Austria's beautiful ski resorts and snow-covered landscapes.
- **A Hidden Life (2019):** Directed by Terrence Malick, this World War II-era drama about an Austrian conscientious objector was filmed in Austria's scenic countryside. The film used local crews and resources, benefiting from the country's film incentive program.
- **The Witcher (Netflix series, Season 3):** In 2023, parts of the globally popular The Witcher series were filmed in Austria, with production taking place in Lower Austria's iconic medieval castles and dense forests. The show's producers cited Austria's new green incentives as a key reason for choosing the country as a filming location.

CONCLUSION: A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR AUSTRIA AS A FILMING HUB

Austria's picturesque landscapes, historical sites, and improved film incentives make it a highly attractive destination for international productions. The recent enhancements to the country's film incentives, especially the new focus on green filmmaking, position Austria not only as a visually compelling location but also as a forward-thinking, environmentally conscious choice for filmmakers. With a growing number of high-profile projects choosing Austria, the country is poised to become a leading European filming hub in the years to come.



ITALY: A TIMELESS FILMING LOCATION

WITH RICH CULTURAL BACKDROPS AND COMPETITIVE INCENTIVES

Italy, with its unparalleled artistic heritage, diverse landscapes, and world-renowned cities, has long been a top choice for filmmakers. From the romantic streets of Rome to the rugged beauty of the Italian Alps, Italy offers filmmakers a unique blend of ancient history and modern vibrancy. Combined with its generous film incentives and world-class studios, Italy continues to attract major international productions.

KEY FILMING LOCATIONS

Italy’s vast geographical and cultural diversity provides filmmakers with an abundance of settings:

- **Rome:** The Eternal City is a prime filming destination, with iconic landmarks such as the Colosseum, the Vatican, and its winding cobblestone streets. Rome has been featured in countless films, including *Gladiator* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.
- **Venice:** Famous for its canals and Gothic architecture, Venice has been used as a backdrop in films like *Casanova* and *The Tourist*, providing a dreamlike setting for romance and intrigue.
- **Tuscany:** With its rolling hills, vineyards, and picturesque villages, Tuscany has been a favorite for films such as *Under the Tuscan Sun* and *The English Patient*, offering filmmakers idyllic landscapes and timeless beauty.
- **Amalfi Coast:** Known for its dramatic cliffs and azure waters, the Amalfi Coast has been featured in films like *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and *Wonder Woman* 1984, adding glamour and natural beauty to any production.
- **Italian Alps:** With breathtaking mountains and ski resorts, the Italian Alps have been the backdrop for action films and adventure scenes, such as *Spectre* and *The Italian Job*.

ITALY’S FILM INCENTIVES

Italy has introduced a range of competitive incentives designed to attract international filmmakers:

- **Tax Credit:** Italy offers a 30-40% tax credit on eligible production costs, including both local and international expenses. This incentive applies to feature films, TV series, documentaries, and animation projects. The tax credit is available to both domestic and foreign productions, making Italy highly competitive in the global film market.
- **Regional Film Funds:** In addition to the national tax credit, many Italian regions, such as Tuscany, Puglia, and Piedmont, provide their own film funds to encourage productions in their areas. These regional incentives can be stacked with the national tax credit, maximizing the financial benefits for filmmakers.
- **Co-Production Opportunities:** Italy has co-production treaties with several countries, allowing productions to tap into funding from both Italy and their home country. These partnerships, supported by the Italian Ministry of Culture and ANICA (Italian Film Commission), help international filmmakers access additional resources and expand their audience reach.



STUDIO LOTS AND SOUND STAGES

Italy also boasts top-tier studio facilities, offering filmmakers a combination of historic settings and modern production capabilities:

- **Cinecittà Studios (Rome):** One of the most famous film studios in the world, Cinecittà is known as the “Hollywood on the Tiber” and offers:
 - 19 sound stages, including one of the largest stages in Europe.
 - Full production and post-production services, including costume and set design.
 - Major films shot at Cinecittà include *Ben-Hur*, *Gangs of New York*, and *The Young Pope*.
- **Fellini Studios (Rome):** Also located in Rome, this studio specializes in high-end TV and film production, offering modern sound stages and extensive backlot spaces for elaborate sets.
- **FVG Film Studios (Trieste):** Located in northeastern Italy, these studios provide comprehensive production services and are particularly favored for productions needing access to the nearby Alps or the Adriatic coastline.
- **Palazzo del Cinema (Venice):** While not a traditional studio, Venice’s film festival headquarters is an iconic filming venue and plays host to prestigious premieres and productions, particularly during the Venice International Film Festival.

NOTABLE PROJECTS

Italy’s iconic locations and world-class studios have hosted numerous blockbuster films and acclaimed series:

- **Spectre (2015):** The James Bond film used multiple locations across Italy, including Rome and the Alps, showcasing the country’s diverse landscapes and urban settings.
- **The Talented Mr. Ripley (1999):** Filmed in Venice, Rome, and the Amalfi Coast, this psychological thriller took full advantage of Italy’s stunning coastal and city locations.
- **The English Patient (1996):** Filmed in Tuscany, this Oscar®-winning film captured the region’s sweeping landscapes and historical architecture.
- **House of Gucci (2021):** This Ridley Scott-directed drama was shot extensively in Italy, including Milan, Lake Como, and Rome, highlighting the country’s role in fashion and luxury.

CONCLUSION

Italy’s diverse and breathtaking locations, combined with its attractive film incentives and advanced studio infrastructure, make it one of the most desirable filming destinations in Europe. With the iconic Cinecittà Studios and a supportive tax credit system, filmmakers can find both historical charm and modern production capabilities in Italy. As the country continues to support international filmmakers with competitive financial incentives, Italy remains a timeless hub for global cinema.

HUNGARY: A TOP FILMING DESTINATION

WITH RICH HISTORY, STUNNING LOCATIONS, AND COMPETITIVE INCENTIVES

Hungary has rapidly become one of Europe’s premier filming destinations, offering a unique blend of historical architecture, picturesque countryside, and advanced film studios. Known for its cost-effective production services and strong film incentives, Hungary has attracted some of the world’s biggest productions. Its capital, Budapest, often doubles for other European cities, while its countryside provides the perfect backdrop for historical and fantasy films.

KEY FILMING LOCATIONS

Hungary offers a range of visually diverse and culturally rich filming locations:

- Budapest: The crown jewel of Hungary’s filming industry, Budapest often stands in for cities like Paris, Berlin, and Moscow, thanks to its grand architecture and versatile streetscapes. Films like Blade Runner 2049 and Red Sparrow have showcased the city’s beauty and flexibility.
- Buda Castle and Castle Hill: A UNESCO World Heritage site, this area offers filmmakers stunning medieval and Baroque architecture. The majestic setting has been used in productions such as The Last Kingdom and The Martian.
- Hungarian Countryside: With rolling hills, ancient forests, and picturesque villages, the Hungarian countryside provides the perfect natural backdrop for period dramas and historical epics. Films like The Eagle and Hercules have made use of these locations.
- Esztergom Basilica: As one of Hungary’s most iconic religious sites, the basilica offers grand and dramatic settings perfect for historical and period films.

Hungary’s Film Incentives

Hungary offers one of the most competitive film incentive programs in Europe, drawing in a wide range of international productions:

- 30% Tax Rebate: Hungary provides a 30% tax rebate on eligible production costs, including expenditures related to pre-production, production, and post-production. This incentive applies to feature films, TV series, documentaries, and animations, making Hungary an ideal destination for a variety of projects.
- Simplified Administration: The Hungarian National Film Fund has streamlined the application process for film incentives, making it easier for international productions to access financial support.
- Cost-Effective Production: Beyond the tax rebate, Hungary offers a relatively low cost of production compared to other Western European countries, while maintaining high production standards.
- Co-Production Treaties: Hungary has co-production agreements with several countries, enabling filmmakers to access additional funding sources and expand their production budgets.



STUDIO LOTS AND SOUND STAGES

Hungary is home to world-class studios, providing filmmakers with state-of-the-art facilities and a highly skilled workforce:

- Origo Studios (Budapest): One of Hungary’s most advanced studios, Origo offers:
 - 9 sound stages, including one of the largest in Europe.
 - Full-service production and post-production facilities, from set construction to VFX and sound editing.
 - Major productions like Blade Runner 2049 and The Witcher have been filmed at Origo Studios.
- Korda Studios (Etyek): Located just outside of Budapest, Korda Studios is known for its large sound stages and impressive backlots, including a full medieval village set. It offers:
 - Multiple sound stages and backlots, ideal for large-scale productions.
 - On-site production services and post-production facilities.
 - Films like The Martian, Inferno, and Dune have utilized Korda Studios’ vast resources.
- Mafilm Studios (Budapest): Known for its long history in Hungarian cinema, Mafilm Studios offers:
 - Several sound stages and outdoor backlots, including period-specific sets like medieval castles and 19th-century streets.
 - Full production services, including costume design and set construction.
 - It has been used for historical dramas and films like Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy.

NOTABLE PROJECTS

Hungary’s stunning locations and world-class studio facilities have attracted numerous big-budget productions:

- Blade Runner 2049 (2017): Budapest was the primary filming location for this sci-fi epic, with many of the city’s streets and architectural landmarks doubling for futuristic cities.
- The Martian (2015): Ridley Scott’s sci-fi blockbuster used Hungary’s Korda Studios to recreate the surface of Mars, while additional scenes were filmed in Budapest.
- Dune (2021): Denis Villeneuve’s adaptation of Dune utilized Korda Studios for key scenes, taking advantage of Hungary’s vast sound stages and production capabilities.
- The Witcher (2019–present): The popular Netflix series shot parts of its first season in Hungary, using Origo Studios and various outdoor locations to recreate the fantasy world of The Witcher.
- Red Sparrow (2018): This spy thriller, starring Jennifer Lawrence, was largely filmed in Budapest, with the city standing in for both Moscow and other European locations.

CONCLUSION

Hungary’s blend of historical charm, modern cities, and advanced film studios has made it a top destination for international filmmakers. With its competitive 30% tax rebate, cost-effective production environment, and world-class facilities like Origo and Korda Studios, Hungary offers everything needed for productions of any size and genre. As the country continues to support and attract international projects, Hungary’s reputation as a leading European filming hub continues to grow.

THE BALTIC STATES: EMERGING FILM HUBS

WITH DIVERSE LOCATIONS AND ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVES

The Baltic states – Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania – have rapidly gained recognition as attractive filming destinations in Europe. These countries offer a variety of stunning natural landscapes, historic towns, and well-preserved architecture, making them versatile choices for international productions. Alongside their scenic appeal, the Baltic states have competitive film incentive programs, modern studios, and skilled local crews that are drawing the attention of film-makers worldwide.

KEY FILMING LOCATIONS

Each of the Baltic states offers distinct filming opportunities:

- **Estonia:** Known for its medieval cities and lush natural landscapes, Estonia provides unique filming environments. The capital, Tallinn, is one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe, making it ideal for historical and fantasy films. Its otherworldly forests and islands have also been used in films needing natural, untouched settings.
- **Latvia:** Riga, Latvia’s capital, is famous for its Art Nouveau architecture and cobbled streets. The city has been used as a stand-in for various European capitals, and its mix of historical and Soviet-era buildings provides a wide range of visual options for filmmakers. Additionally, Latvia’s rural countryside offers vast forests and lakes perfect for outdoor scenes.
- **Lithuania:** Lithuania’s diverse filming locations range from baroque cities like Vilnius to sprawling castles and rolling countryside. Vilnius has doubled for Berlin, Moscow, and other major cities in international productions, thanks to its historical charm and varied architecture.

Also see page 48: NAFTA service production

FILM INCENTIVES IN THE BALTIC STATES

Each Baltic country offers film incentives designed to attract international productions:

- **Estonia:** Estonia offers a 30% cash rebate on eligible production expenses, including both local and international costs. This incentive applies to feature films, TV series, and documentaries, making the country increasingly popular for productions looking to benefit from both urban and natural settings.
- **Latvia:** Latvia provides a 20-25% cash rebate, with the possibility of additional regional support, depending on the location of the shoot. This incentive applies to feature films, TV, and animation, and encourages both local spending and the employment of local crews.
- **Lithuania:** Lithuania’s 30% tax incentive has become a significant draw for international productions. The incentive is aimed at projects spending at least part of their budget locally, and it applies to both pre-production and post-production costs. The country’s attractive locations, coupled with this financial support, have led to a rise in international co-productions.



STUDIO LOTS AND SOUND STAGES

The Baltic states also offer modern studio facilities and sound stages to accommodate a range of productions:

- **Nu Boyana Film Studios (Lithuania):** A subsidiary of the well-known Nu Boyana in Bulgaria, this studio in Vilnius offers:
 - Several sound stages and backlots suitable for high-budget productions.
 - Full-service facilities including set construction, visual effects, and post-production.
 - Projects like Chernobyl (HBO) and War and Peace have used these studios for filming and post-production.
- **Riga Film Studio (Latvia):** One of the oldest studios in the Baltic region, Riga Film Studio offers:
 - Modern sound stages equipped for a range of productions.
 - Post-production facilities including editing, sound, and visual effects services.
 - Notable projects include The Last Soviet Movie and several historical dramas.
- **Tallinnfilm (Estonia):** Known for its connection to Estonia’s film industry, Tallinnfilm offers:
 - Several sound stages, as well as extensive production support.
 - Strong links with the local film community, making it ideal for international productions looking to collaborate with Estonian talent.
 - Used for both local films and international co-productions.

NOTABLE PROJECTS

The Baltic states have attracted numerous high-profile productions in recent years, thanks to their stunning locations and film-friendly incentives:

- **Tenet (2020):** Christopher Nolan’s blockbuster was filmed in various locations across Tallinn, Estonia, showcasing the city’s mix of modern and medieval architecture.
- **Chernobyl (2019):** This critically acclaimed HBO miniseries was filmed in Lithuania, with Vilnius and the surrounding areas doubling for Pripjat and other Soviet-era locations.
- **War and Peace (2016):** The BBC miniseries used Riga’s stunning architecture to recreate the 19th-century Russian Empire, with parts of the series also filmed in Lithuania.

CONCLUSION

The Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have established themselves as rising stars in the European film industry. Their well-preserved historic cities, diverse natural landscapes, and competitive film incentives make them attractive destinations for international filmmakers. With modern studio infrastructure and skilled local crews, these countries offer everything needed for productions ranging from period dramas to contemporary action films. As their reputation grows, the Baltic states are poised to become key players in the global film industry.

POLAND: A RISING STAR IN THE FILM INDUSTRY

WITH EXPANDING STUDIO INFRASTRUCTURE AND INCENTIVES

Poland has increasingly attracted the attention of international filmmakers thanks to its diverse locations, ranging from medieval castles to stunning natural landscapes. Coupled with a growing studio infrastructure, skilled crews, and a recently introduced incentive program, Poland is becoming a key player in the European film industry.

KEY FILMING LOCATIONS

Poland offers a wide variety of scenic and historical locations:

- **Kraków:** With its medieval old town, Gothic churches, and cobblestone streets, Kraków has been featured in films like Schindler’s List and provides an ideal backdrop for historical dramas and period pieces.
- **Warsaw:** Poland’s capital offers a mix of old-world charm and modern urban settings, making it versatile for both historical films and contemporary productions.
- **Białowieża Forest:** As one of Europe’s last primeval forests, Białowieża offers a dramatic natural backdrop for nature and fantasy films.
- **Wrocław:** Known as the „Venice of Poland“ due to its many rivers and bridges, Wrocław has been used in productions needing picturesque urban landscapes, such as the award-winning Cold War.

POLAND’S FILM INCENTIVES

Poland has enhanced its appeal with a film incentive program designed to attract international productions:

- **30% Cash Rebate:** Introduced in 2019, Poland’s incentive offers up to 30% rebate on qualifying production expenses. This rebate is applicable to feature films, TV series, and documentaries. Filmmakers must meet certain criteria, such as a minimum local spend, to qualify for the rebate.
- **Co-Production Opportunities:** Poland encourages international co-productions, especially within the European Union, offering additional financial support through the Polish Film Institute (PISF). This has led to successful collaborations with filmmakers from countries like Germany, France, and the UK.
- **Support for Animation and Post-Production:** Poland also provides specific incentives for animation and post-production work, making it an appealing option for films requiring extensive digital or post-production services.



STUDIO LOTS AND SOUND STAGES

Poland’s growing infrastructure includes several well-equipped studios that are increasingly being used by international productions:

- **Alvernia Studios (Kraków):** A futuristic studio complex with unique, dome-shaped sound stages. Alvernia offers:
 - High-tech sound stages suitable for large-scale productions.
 - Full-service production and post-production facilities, including visual effects and sound mixing.
 - Films such as The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo used these facilities.
- **WFDiF Studios (Warsaw):** One of Poland’s oldest and most famous studios, WFDiF offers:
 - Multiple sound stages, with modern equipment for film, television, and commercials.
 - On-site post-production services and special effects workshops.
 - Known for hosting international productions, including war films and historical dramas.
- **ATM Studio (Warsaw):** A newer studio complex, ATM is equipped with:
 - Several sound stages, including a large-scale stage suitable for major international productions.
 - Comprehensive production support, including prop design and set construction.
 - Productions like Jack Strong and various international television series have filmed here.
- **Łódź Film Studio:** A historic studio and home to the famous Łódź Film School, this studio offers:
 - Multiple sound stages, as well as a rich cinematic tradition.
 - The location has been used in iconic films, including The Pianist.



NOTABLE PROJECTS

Poland’s film industry has attracted a variety of international productions, including:

- **Schindler’s List (1993):** Filmed in Kraków, this iconic film used Poland’s historical architecture to recreate scenes from Nazi-occupied Europe.
- **The Pianist (2002):** Roman Polanski’s Oscar®-winning film was shot largely in Warsaw and Łódź, utilizing local locations and Polish crews to recreate World War II-era Poland.
- **The Coldest Game (2019):** A historical thriller that was filmed in Warsaw, making use of the city’s blend of Communist-era architecture and modern settings.

CONCLUSION

Poland’s appeal as a filming destination continues to grow, thanks to its mix of historical cities, stunning landscapes, and improving studio infrastructure. With competitive film incentives and world-class production facilities such as Alvernia Studios and WFDiF, Poland is quickly establishing itself as a major hub for international film and television productions. The country’s experienced crews and commitment to supporting foreign filmmakers make it an attractive destination for a wide range of projects.

CZECH REPUBLIC: A FILMING LOCATION

WITH RICH HISTORY, STUDIO INFRASTRUCTURE, AND STRONG INCENTIVES

The Czech Republic has become one of Europe's top filming destinations, known for its architectural diversity, beautiful countryside, and a well-established film industry. Its rich history, combined with modern production facilities, has attracted filmmakers from around the world. The country offers a wide array of locations, from medieval castles to contemporary urban landscapes, and boasts experienced crews and state-of-the-art studio lots.

KEY FILMING LOCATIONS

- **Prague:** The capital city is a standout filming location, with its well-preserved Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture. It has frequently doubled for cities like Paris, Vienna, and Berlin in films like Mission: Impossible and The Illusionist.
- **Český Krumlov:** This UNESCO World Heritage town is known for its picturesque streets and historic castle, making it a perfect setting for period films and fantasy dramas.
- **Czech Countryside and Bohemian Forest:** The Czech countryside, with its expansive forests, lakes, and mountains, has been used in films requiring lush natural settings, including fantasy and war movies.

CZECH REPUBLIC'S FILM INCENTIVES

To attract international productions, the Czech Republic offers a highly competitive film incentive program:

- **Cash Rebate Program:** Filmmakers can benefit from a 20% rebate on local spending and a 15% rebate for international cast and crew wages. This rebate applies to feature films, TV series, and even commercials, giving the country broad appeal across various production types.
- **Efficient Bureaucracy:** The Czech Film Commission works to facilitate an easy and efficient permitting process, allowing productions to get up and running quickly.
- **Post-Production Benefits:** Rebates also extend to post-production work completed within the country, adding further appeal to filmmakers looking for end-to-end production solutions.



STUDIO LOTS AND SOUND STAGES

In addition to its diverse filming locations, the Czech Republic boasts a number of highly regarded studios with advanced facilities and sound stages, making it a top choice for both location-based shoots and studio production:

- **Barrandov Studios (Prague):** One of Europe's largest and most famous film studios, Barrandov has hosted major international productions for decades. It offers:
 - 13 sound stages, including one of the largest in Europe, capable of accommodating complex sets and large-scale productions.
 - Full-service production and post-production facilities, from costume and set design to visual effects and sound mixing.
 - Notable films shot here include Casino Royale and The Chronicles of Narnia.
- **Prague Studios:** Another prominent studio complex, Prague Studios offers:
 - Several sound stages, including one of 3,000 square meters, used for large-scale international productions.
 - Comprehensive production services, including special effects workshops, carpentry, and prop design.
 - Films such as The Bourne Identity and Van Helsing have utilized its facilities.
- **Cinematic Studios (Zlín):** Located in the Zlín region, this studio complex includes:
 - Sound stages, post-production services, and set construction workshops.
 - A history tied to Czech cinema, as well as modernized facilities to accommodate both domestic and international productions.

NOTABLE PROJECTS

The Czech Republic has drawn numerous big-budget productions due to its mix of historical locations and modern studios:

- **Casino Royale (2006):** Much of the action in this James Bond film was shot in Prague and the surrounding areas, using both real locations and studio facilities at Barrandov Studios.
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (2005):** Filming took place across Prague, as well as in the Czech countryside, with extensive studio work done at Barrandov.
- **Jojo Rabbit (2019):** Prague and Czech locations were used to recreate a World War II-era German town, blending historical settings with on-lot studio work.

CONCLUSION

The Czech Republic continues to stand out as a leading European filming destination, offering a unique combination of historical architecture, natural beauty, and advanced studio infrastructure. Its generous film incentive program, experienced local crews, and top-tier studio lots like Barrandov and Prague Studios make it a top choice for international filmmakers. With both location shoots and world-class sound stages, the country offers a versatile production environment for a wide range of genres and budgets.

BELGIUM: A VERSATILE FILMING LOCATION

WITH ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVES AND EXPANDING STUDIOS

Belgium has emerged as a dynamic filming destination in Europe, offering a blend of historical charm, modern urban landscapes, and a strong network of studios. Known for its efficient production infrastructure, talented crews, and a generous incentive program, Belgium is increasingly popular for international film and television productions.

KEY FILMING LOCATIONS

Belgium's diverse cities and landscapes offer filmmakers a wide range of options:

- **Brussels:** Belgium's capital city provides a mix of grand historical buildings and sleek, modern architecture, making it a versatile location for both period and contemporary films. Movies like *The Danish Girl* have used Brussels to recreate 1920s Copenhagen.
- **Bruges:** With its medieval streets, canals, and well-preserved Gothic architecture, Bruges served as a stunning backdrop for the dark comedy *In Bruges* and continues to attract filmmakers seeking a fairy-tale European setting.
- **Antwerp:** Known for its port, historic city center, and modern design, Antwerp has been used for various international productions, blending old-world charm with industrial settings.
- **Ardennes Forest:** The dense forests and rolling hills of the Ardennes region provide a natural setting perfect for war films and nature documentaries.

BELGIUM'S FILM INCENTIVES

Belgium offers a highly competitive incentive system to attract international productions, boosting its appeal across the global industry:

- **Tax Shelter Program:** One of the most attractive aspects of filming in Belgium is its Tax Shelter incentive. Productions can benefit from a 40-45% tax reduction on qualifying expenses, making it one of the most generous film tax incentives in Europe. This program applies to films, TV series, animation, and documentaries.
- **Regional Film Funds:** In addition to the tax shelter, Belgium has several regional film funds such as Screen Flanders and Wallimage, which offer additional financial support. These funds are targeted at productions that spend a portion of their budget in the respective regions, further incentivizing location-based shoots.
- **Co-Production Treaties:** Belgium has a number of co-production treaties with countries across Europe and beyond, making it an ideal location for international partnerships.



STUDIO LOTS AND SOUND STAGES

Belgium's expanding studio infrastructure is another key factor driving international productions to the country:

- **Lites Studios (Vilvoorde):** Known for its state-of-the-art facilities, Lites Studios offers:
 - Large sound stages designed to accommodate high-budget international productions.
 - The world's largest indoor water tank for underwater scenes, used by productions like *The Spy Who Dumped Me*.
 - Full production and post-production services, making it a favorite for big-budget films and series.
- **AED Studios (Lint):** As one of the largest studio complexes in Europe, AED Studios provides:
 - Several sound stages, including one of 6,000 square meters, ideal for large-scale productions.
 - Comprehensive production support, from set construction to visual effects and post-production.
 - Notable films shot here include *The Fifth Estate* and *The Expatriate*.
- **KVS Studios (Brussels):** A modern facility located in the heart of Brussels, KVS offers:
 - Smaller, high-tech sound stages ideal for TV shows, commercials, and smaller film productions.
 - Post-production services including sound editing and mixing.

▪ **Flanders' Animation Studios:** Belgium has a strong tradition of animated film-making, supported by specialized animation studios that are well-regarded in the industry. nWave Studios and Walking The Dog are two leading facilities for animated and hybrid projects.



NOTABLE PROJECTS

Belgium's diverse locations and advanced studio facilities have attracted many high-profile productions:

- **In Bruges (2008):** The city of Bruges itself was the central character in this dark comedy, showcasing the town's medieval charm.
- **The Danish Girl (2015):** Brussels was used to recreate 1920s Copenhagen, highlighting Belgium's versatile architecture.
- **The Fifth Estate (2013):** Shot partly at AED Studios, this film relied on Belgium's top-tier studio infrastructure for its high-tech sequences.
- **A Quiet Passion (2016):** This biographical drama about poet Emily Dickinson was filmed in Belgium, using its historic settings to double for 19th-century New England.

CONCLUSION

Belgium's attractive tax incentives, diverse filming locations, and expanding studio infrastructure make it a prime destination for international productions. From medieval towns to modern cities and high-tech studio lots, Belgium offers filmmakers a versatile environment supported by a robust production infrastructure. With a growing number of major films and TV series being shot in the country, Belgium is quickly solidifying its position as a key player in the European film industry.

FRANCE: A CINEMATIC PARADISE

WITH ICONIC LOCATIONS AND STRONG INCENTIVES

France, renowned for its rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and vibrant film industry, is one of the world’s most sought-after filming locations. From the romantic streets of Paris to the picturesque vineyards of Provence, France offers filmmakers an extraordinary range of settings. Alongside its scenic beauty, France’s robust film incentives and modern studios make it an attractive destination for international productions.

KEY FILMING LOCATIONS

France provides a diverse array of iconic and versatile filming backdrops:

- **Paris:** The French capital is perhaps the most filmed city in the world, offering landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame Cathedral, and the Louvre. Films like *Midnight in Paris* and *Inception* have captured the city’s unique blend of history and modernity.
- **Provence:** Known for its lavender fields, vineyards, and charming villages, Provence has been a favorite for films like *A Good Year* and *The Man in the Iron Mask*, offering filmmakers a serene, sun-soaked landscape.
- **French Riviera (Côte d’Azur):** Famous for its glamorous coastline, the French Riviera has featured in iconic films like *To Catch a Thief* and *Magic in the Moonlight*, providing the perfect backdrop for luxury and intrigue.
- **Loire Valley:** Dotted with castles and palaces, the Loire Valley has been used in numerous historical dramas and fantasy films, with its breathtaking châteaux providing a fairy-tale setting.
- **Mont Saint-Michel:** This dramatic island commune, with its medieval abbey, has been featured in both historical epics and fantasy films, offering a stunning, otherworldly location.

FRANCE’S FILM INCENTIVES

France offers a range of competitive film incentives aimed at attracting international productions:

- **Tax Rebate for International Production (TRIP):** France’s TRIP offers a 30% tax rebate on eligible expenses incurred in the country. This incentive covers production, VFX, and post-production costs for both feature films and TV series. The rebate can go up to 40% for projects that meet additional cultural or environmental criteria.
- **Regional Film Funds:** In addition to the national tax rebate, many French regions—such as Île-de-France, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes—offer their own film funds. These funds can be combined with TRIP, providing extra financial support to productions filming in specific regions.
- **Co-Production Treaties:** France is a key partner in many international co-production treaties, allowing productions to access both French and home-country film incentives, making it a hub for collaborative projects.



STUDIO LOTS AND SOUND STAGES

France boasts several modern and historic studios, offering comprehensive production and post-production facilities:

- **Cité du Cinéma (Paris):** Located just outside of Paris, this studio complex, founded by director Luc Besson, offers:
 - 9 sound stages, including a large stage capable of handling big-budget productions.
 - Full-service production and post-production facilities, from set construction to special effects.
 - Notable films shot here include *Valerian* and *the City of a Thousand Planets* and *Taken 2*.
- **La Victorine Studios (Nice):** Situated on the French Riviera, La Victorine Studios is one of France’s oldest studios, offering:
 - Several sound stages and extensive backlots.
 - Convenient access to the Mediterranean coastline and nearby locations.
 - Used for films such as *To Catch a Thief* and *The Return of the Pink Panther*.
- **Bry-sur-Marne Studios (Paris):** Located in the eastern suburbs of Paris, this studio provides:
 - Multiple sound stages and production facilities, often used for both French and international films.
 - Full post-production services, including editing and visual effects.
 - Films such as *The Intouchables* and *Amélie* have used these studios.

- **Foley Sound Studios (Île-de-France):** A hub for post-production sound and foley work, this studio provides services for a wide range of productions and is highly regarded in the European film industry.

NOTABLE PROJECTS

France has hosted numerous blockbuster productions, showcasing its ability to cater to both large-scale Hollywood films and European art-house cinema:

- **Inception (2010):** Paris was a central location for Christopher Nolan’s mind-bending thriller, with the city’s architecture playing a key role in several scenes.
- **Mission: Impossible – Fallout (2018):** Tom Cruise’s action-packed film used iconic Parisian landmarks, including the Arc de Triomphe and the Grand Palais, for some of its most memorable sequences.
- **Midnight in Paris (2011):** Woody Allen’s homage to the City of Lights captured the romantic and nostalgic essence of Paris, showcasing its streets, cafés, and historical landmarks.
- **The Da Vinci Code (2006):** The Louvre Museum and various Parisian locations were central to this blockbuster adaptation of Dan Brown’s novel.

CONCLUSION

France’s combination of iconic locations, modern studios, and attractive film incentives make it a top destination for filmmakers. With its rich cultural history and breathtaking landscapes, the country offers an unparalleled variety of settings for films of all genres. The TRIP tax rebate, along with regional funds and co-production treaties, make France financially appealing for both large international productions and smaller, independent films. As a global filmmaking hub, France continues to inspire and attract the world’s top filmmakers, ensuring its status as a premier destination for cinema.

SWITZERLAND: A SCENIC FILMING LOCATION

WITH ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVES

Switzerland, known for its stunning landscapes, from the iconic Alps to pristine lakes and charming villages, offers filmmakers a variety of visually striking backdrops. With its blend of natural beauty and well-preserved architecture, the country has become an appealing filming destination for international productions.

KEY FILMING LOCATIONS

Switzerland's unique geography provides filmmakers with a range of settings:

- The Swiss Alps: With dramatic peaks and valleys, the Alps are perfect for adventure and action films. The iconic Matterhorn has been a favorite, seen in movies like The Climbers and Point Break.
- Zurich and Geneva: Switzerland's urban centers offer a sleek, modern look, while still maintaining their old-world charm, making them suitable for contemporary and period dramas alike.
- Lakes and Villages: Areas like Lake Geneva and the picturesque villages surrounding it have served as serene backdrops for films needing idyllic, peaceful settings.

SWITZERLAND'S FILM INCENTIVES

In recent years, Switzerland has improved its film incentives to attract more international productions. Although not as large as neighboring countries' offerings, Switzerland provides competitive support through regional funds and incentives. The main highlights include:

- Regional Funds: Cantons such as Zurich and Ticino offer location-based financial support for productions that spend a portion of their budget in the area. These funds often support both local and international projects, encouraging filmmakers to showcase the region's beauty.

- Simplified Permitting Process: Switzerland has streamlined its permitting processes for film shoots, making it easier and faster for productions to get the approvals they need, especially for large-scale projects like commercials and feature films.
- Support for Eco-Friendly Productions: Following a growing trend, Switzerland has introduced incentives for environmentally conscious film projects, rewarding productions that minimize their ecological impact.

NOTABLE PROJECTS

Switzerland has hosted several high-profile productions, including:

- Goldfinger (1964): This classic James Bond film famously shot car chase scenes in the Furka Pass, an iconic winding mountain road in the Swiss Alps.
- Youth (2015): Directed by Paolo Sorrentino, this Oscar®-nominated film was set in a luxurious Swiss spa, taking full advantage of Switzerland's stunning alpine views.

CONCLUSION

With its world-renowned landscapes, modern infrastructure, and improving film incentives, Switzerland is becoming a competitive player in the international film industry. The country's scenic beauty and commitment to sustainable filmmaking make it an attractive destination for productions looking for visually spectacular locations.



UNITED KINGDOM: A GLOBAL FILMING HUB

WITH ICONIC LOCATIONS AND LEADING FILM INCENTIVES

The United Kingdom has long been a premier filming location for both Hollywood blockbusters and European cinema. With its blend of historic landmarks, scenic countryside, and bustling cities, the UK offers filmmakers a wide range of settings. Supported by some of the world's most advanced studios and a generous film incentive program, the UK continues to attract major international productions.

KEY FILMING LOCATIONS

The UK's diverse geography and cultural landmarks provide an extraordinary array of options for filmmakers:

- London: The British capital is a top filming destination, offering iconic sites like the Tower of London, Big Ben, and Buckingham Palace. London has been featured in major films such as Skyfall and Sherlock Holmes.
- Scottish Highlands: Known for their dramatic landscapes, the Scottish Highlands have been used in films like Braveheart and Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, providing stunning backdrops for adventure and historical dramas.
- Cornwall: Famous for its rugged coastlines and picturesque villages, Cornwall has been featured in productions like Poldark and Alice in Wonderland, offering a quintessentially British coastal landscape.

▪ Oxford and Cambridge: With their historic architecture, the universities of Oxford and Cambridge have served as the backdrop for films like Harry Potter and The Theory of Everything, providing a sense of academic grandeur.

▪ Yorkshire Dales: This rural region offers sweeping landscapes, perfect for period dramas and films requiring picturesque countryside. The Secret Garden and Wuthering Heights are among the many films shot in this area.

THE UK'S FILM INCENTIVES

The UK's generous film incentives have made it one of the most attractive destinations for international productions:

- Film Tax Relief (FTR): The UK offers a 25% tax relief on qualifying UK expenditure for feature films. To qualify, a project must pass the British Film Institute's cultural test or be a qualifying co-production under one of the UK's international treaties. The FTR is available for films with a minimum core expenditure of £1 million, making it accessible to both large and independent productions.
- High-End Television Tax Relief (HETV): Similar to the FTR, the UK also offers 25% tax relief for high-end TV productions with a minimum expenditure of £1 million per broadcast hour. This has made the UK a major destination for prestige TV productions such as The Crown and Game of Thrones.

▪ Animation and Children's TV Tax Relief: The UK also provides generous tax relief for animation and children's television programming, offering 25% relief on qualifying expenditure, which has boosted the country's animation industry.

▪ Regional Film Funds: In addition to the national incentives, several regions in the UK, such as Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, offer additional financial support for productions. These funds can be combined with the national tax relief, increasing the overall benefit for filmmakers.



STUDIO LOTS AND SOUND STAGES

The UK is home to some of the world's most advanced film studios, offering cutting-edge production and post-production facilities:

- Pinewood Studios (Buckinghamshire): Known as one of the most iconic studios in the world, Pinewood offers:
 - 23 sound stages, including Europe's largest, the 007 Stage, which has been used for James Bond films and other major blockbusters.
 - Extensive backlots and water tanks for outdoor filming and special effects.
 - Films like Star Wars: The Force Awakens and Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom have been filmed at Pinewood.
- Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden (Hertfordshire): A major studio complex used for both films and TV productions, Leavesden offers:
 - 14 sound stages, full production facilities, and backlots.
 - Known for hosting the Harry Potter series, as well as Fantastic Beasts and Wonder Woman.
- Elstree Studios (London): Elstree Studios offers:
 - 10 sound stages, including large stages used for high-budget productions.
 - Notable for films such as Indiana Jones and The King's Speech, as well as various television shows.
- Titanic Studios (Belfast): One of Europe's largest studios, Titanic Studios offers:
 - Multiple sound stages, which were used for the filming of Game of Thrones.
 - Convenient access to Northern Ireland's rugged landscapes, frequently used for outdoor scenes.

▪ Cardiff Bay Studios (Wales): Located in Cardiff, this studio is a major hub for TV production, including shows like Doctor Who and His Dark Materials, offering multiple sound stages and modern facilities.



NOTABLE PROJECTS

The UK's variety of locations and its world-class studio infrastructure have attracted some of the biggest films and TV series:

▪ Harry Potter Series (2001–2011): Filmed across iconic British locations like Alnwick Castle, Gloucester Cathedral, and the Scottish Highlands, the Harry Potter franchise also used Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden for its studio work.

▪ Game of Thrones (2011–2019): Much of this globally successful series was filmed at Titanic Studios in Belfast and on location across Northern Ireland, capitalizing on the region's stunning landscapes.

▪ Star Wars: The Force Awakens (2015): Pinewood Studios served as the main base for this blockbuster film, continuing the long-standing connection between the UK and the Star Wars franchise.

▪ The Crown (2016–present): This critically acclaimed series has used various locations across the UK, including Ely Cathedral and Lancaster House, and has benefitted from the UK's high-end TV tax relief.

CONCLUSION

The UK's diverse filming locations, competitive tax incentives, and state-of-the-art studios make it one of the most attractive destinations for filmmakers globally. Whether filmmakers are drawn to the historic streets of London, the scenic landscapes of Scotland, or the advanced facilities of Pinewood Studios, the UK provides a rich variety of resources for film and TV productions of all sizes. With strong governmental support and a well-established film industry, the UK remains a global leader in the world of cinema.

3 QUESTIONS: MARCUS AMMON

What makes Bavaria Fiction special?

We're one of Europe's largest production companies with a long-established legacy - as part of the Bavaria Film Group we are proud of having a history of filmmaking for more than 100 years. We're reknowned for projects like the multi-award winning series "Das Boot" with A-list talent like Vicky Krieps, Lizzy Caplan, Tom Wlaschiha, Vincent Kartheiser and Ray Stevenson for Sky, "Freud" (Netflix) and "Arctic Circle" (Elisa Viihde, Yle, ZDF). Our core business is producing daily and weekly series as well as movies for all German networks and streamers - for instance, our weekly series "The Rosenheim-Cops" is ZDF's most successful access primetime show.



Your critically acclaimed high-end series "Das Boot" has been a global success: Can US partners get involved with your work?

Of course, we are extremely pleased to welcome co-production partners at Bavaria Fiction. Given our expertise in producing, we also expand our business and provide, together with Bavaria Studios, advanced service production including line producing. We offer US partners a compelling turnkey solution to create premium content in Munich.

You've been a commissioner for Sky and worked for various US studios such as NBCUniversal and MGM - how has that experience influenced your approach to content creation?

I started in this industry as set production manager and then switched sides to program planning, acquisition and channel management. When Sky moved into in-house fictional production, I was given the opportunity to build up this area from scratch and we quickly enjoyed great success with high-end series 'Babylon Berlin', 'Pagan Peak' and 'Das Boot'. The change of perspective that comes along with working for both sides - commissioning and producing - nationally and internationally, develops the complete understanding of a production and emphasizes the goal of creating compelling content for broadcasters and streamers alike.

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Web: www.bavaria-fiction.com
Social: <https://www.instagram.com/bavariafiction/>
<https://de.linkedin.com/company/bavaria-fiction>



Marcus Ammon,
Managing Director Content
at Bavaria Fiction:

■ In charge of development and production of content for TV, streaming and theatrical at Bavaria Fiction

■ Headed Sky Germany's Original Production, creating multi-award winning dramas including "Das Boot" and "Babylon Berlin"

■ Ran Sky Studios' European production units in Germany and Austria

■ In charge of development and expansion of film and series channels at Sky Germany





■ Strong US studios' experience with long term senior executive roles at MGM Networks Germany and Universal Studios Networks Germany





■ Was responsible for program acquisition and planning for NBCUniversal Channels "13th Street" and "Studio Universal"



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3 QUESTIONS: SASCHA OMMERT

What are the benefits for US Partners filming in Germany?

There are many. First of all, Germany offers various opportunities for significant national funding schemes that can support international projects with up to 25 million € of secured financing. And with the upcoming implementation of a tax incentive to a maximum of 30%, filming in Germany gets even more attractive. At Bavaria Studios, we offer state of the art studio facilities in Munich. And, with spectacular locations from big cities and historical towns to mountains, lakes and the sea, Germany simply has it all.



Why should US Partners choose Bavaria Fiction as the German Production Company?

Bavaria Fiction has produced or serviced more than 400 projects and has a proven track record across all aspects of production throughout Europe. Joining forces with our sister company Bavaria Studios means we can offer a real one-stop shop that includes all the necessary production requirements such as financing, in-house line producing, studios including art department, construction, LED Stages, original

unique locations, the latest technical equipment and post-production services. Bavaria Fiction is also highly experienced in working with completion bonds.

As Head of Production you oversaw more than 100 projects – which was your favorite and why?

Definitely "Das Boot": Overseeing an international financed period high-end series across four seasons with filming taking place in five different countries by multiple production companies and an international A-list cast was thrilling and rewarding. We basically covered everything from being in the studio, in a water tank, on the ocean with a rebuilt submarine, planes overhead, dressing original locations into the 1940s, filming underwater in 8k with massive CGI in post-production. All in one series – it was incredible.

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Sascha Ommert,
Head of Production
at Bavaria Fiction

■ Overseas all Co-Production and Service Production activities at Bavaria Fiction, ensuring of staying on time and on budget

■ Managed more than 100 projects including award-winning series such as „Das Boot“ (Sky, NBCU), „Freud“ (Netflix), „Arctic Circle“ (Elisa Viihde, Yle, ZDF), „The Privilege“ (Netflix), „Dark Woods“ (ARD), Deutsch-Les-Landes (Amazon Prime Video France, Magenta TV Germany)

■ Highly experienced in filming and production in many countries besides Germany including France, Italy, Spain, Malta, UK, Croatia, Greece, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Canada and Thailand

■ Member of the German Production Alliance

3 QUESTIONS: MICHAEL HILSCHER

Please introduce BAVARIA STUDIOS shortly!

We are one of the oldest Studios in the world – we were established in 1919 and many legendary Hollywood filmmakers and actors as Alfred Hitchcock, Stanley Kubrick, Billy Wilder, Bob Fosse, Steve McQueen, Wolfgang Petersen, or Oliver Stone filmed in our stages or on our lot in past. But also, nowadays we support the best filmmakers on the market: Our most recent credits include “September 5” “that is among the 2025 Best Picture Top 5 in the “Hollywood Reporter” Feinberg Forecast or the “The Magic Flute” by Executive Producer Roland Emmerich. Today we rank among the leading production services companies in Europe and our lot is the most integrated production complex in Germany. We are a “one-stop shop” for all production needs and home to various soundstages from 50 to 3.150 sqm, numerous backlots and interior sets, as well as a full-service art department with large workshops, costume / property department and postproduction facilities. And since 2023 we operate four soundstages in Cologne as well. So, either Cologne or Munich – both cities are possible.

What differentiates BAVARIA STUDIOS from others?

We consider ourselves not only as a production one-stop shop, but also as a marketplace of ideas. Our state-of-the-art lot, our (technical) -infrastructure, the very short distance to Munich City Center and the beautiful surroundings of Bavaria and Austria -which is roughly 1 to 1,5 hours away from our studio- will inspire your creatives and enable feature film and series development and production that can hardly be found somewhere else. In addition, foreign producers can take advantage of the entire physical production

and financing / completion bond experience, capabilities, and resources of Bavaria Fiction. They are one of the biggest production companies in Europe and will give you the highest possible security that your project will be delivered on time and budget. Currently we are preparing for the new upcoming German Tax Rebate system that should be introduced in 2025.

You are Head of Production and Sales of BAVARIA STUDIOS – Tell us more about this combination?

Our range of services is quite broad – meaning it ranges from sole stage rental to the entire technical / construction services and rental package. But in the meanwhile, also Virtual Production in LED Volume stages. Only by being so close to all our customers and understanding their needs and goals in my sales role, I can make sure that our production workflows and value chains are prepared and ready. And our credo is “One face to the customer” and especially during the early stages of any new customer contact this is me. I love film production from the bottom of my heart and feel deeply grateful that we had the chance working together with so many great and creative filmmakers in the past and their projects. Among them were Oliver Stone, Abel Ferrara, Tim Fehlbaum, Joe Penna, Tom Stern, Mark Tildesley or Roland Emmerich

Instagram Bavaria Studios: <https://www.instagram.com/bavariastudios/>
YouTube Bavaria Studios: <http://www.youtube.com/@bavariastudios1>
Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-hilscher-5415b4314/>
IMDB Michael Hilscher: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10602547/>



Michael Hilscher,
Head of Production
Sales & Marketing at BAVARIA STUDIOS

■ Oversees as Head of Production / Sales & Marketing all Film and TV production services provided by Bavaria Studios and their Coproduction activities.

■ Is Visiting Lecturer at the University of Television and Film Munich and member of the Jury of the “Bavarian Film Prize” since 2023.

■ He is credited as Co- / Executive producer on feature films like “Siberia” (Abel Ferrara / Willem Dafoe), “Stowaway” (Joe Penna / Anna Kendrick and Toni Collette) and “No Name Restaurant” – Winner of the Bavarian Film Prize 2022. As Senior Stage Manager Michael is credited on international projects as Snowden (Oliver Stone / Joseph Gordon Levitt), Kung Fury – The Movie (David Sandberg / Arnold Schwarzenegger), The Magic Flute (EP: Roland Emmerich) and most recently “September 5” (Tim Fehlbaum / Peter Saarsgard)

■ Graduated from Leeds University Business School with a master’s degree in business management and began his career as author and presenter for a regional TV station near Munich and worked his way up to become casting editor for Constantin Entertainment GmbH.

■ Besides his experience with the technical / construction and stages needs of international feature film production he is also very experienced with large prime-time non-fiction tv-show production, where Bavaria Studios has been production hub.



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NAFTA FILMS: A LEADING PRODUCTION FORCE IN THE BALTIC REGION

Nafta Films, established in 2009, has emerged as the largest full-service production house in the Baltic region. With a presence across Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the company has positioned itself as a significant player in the film and television industry.

The company's core activities include developing and co-producing feature films and TV series, as well as providing production services. Nafta Films' strategic placement in all three Baltic states allows it to offer a unique service model where clients can access various financial incentives through a single point of contact.

One of Nafta's key offerings is streamlined access to cash and tax rebates across Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. These rebates range from 30% to 45%, potentially providing significant financial advantages for productions in the region.

Nafta Films has built a portfolio of collaborations with major international partners. The company reports working with established entities such as Warner Bros. Entertainment, Solar Film, Yellow Film & TV, Nimbus Film, Nordisk Film, and Maze Pictures.

The company is involved in all significant regional film projects and has developed its own successful productions. Notable among these are „The Secret Society of Soup-town," which Nafta claims is Estonia's most-watched family film, and „Conference," which premiered at the Venice Film Festival. Other productions include „Totally Boss," which won Best Children's Film at the Black Nights Film Festival, and „Cohabitants," which premiered at IDFA

and was selected for the 2024 program. The company's portfolio also boasts the nationally acclaimed „Melchior the Apothecary" trilogy and the co-production „Erna at War" in collaboration with Nimbus Film. Nafta Films has undertaken service work for prominent Nordic and American productions, such as „Bullshitt," „Bachelor," and the „Oxen" series.

Nafta Films has grown significantly since its founding, establishing a crucial role in the Baltic film industry. With a boutique approach and a team of 20 seasoned professionals, the company creates globally resonant Pan-Baltic stories. Its blend of local presence, international partnerships, and diverse portfolio spanning original content, co-productions, and premium services has carved out a unique niche. Nafta's sustainable practices and expertise make it a preferred partner for both local and international collaborators in the competitive film and TV production landscape.



NAFTA FILMS OÜ

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Olga Hartšuk
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ENSIDER.NET: PRODUCTION INTELLIGENCE & EXECUTIVE NETWORKING

Founded in 1982, ensider.net has transformed from a print publication into a comprehensive digital platform while maintaining its core mission of providing valuable insights to the creative industries. The company offers production intelligence data, online workshops, and video interviews on their digital platform. Physical industry conferences add a huge value for personal networking in this people's business.

Ensider.net caters to executives and decision-makers with expertise in the fields of production, including physical and development, but also packaging, financing (executive production), and general management. Their meticulously curated production intelligence data and in-depth trade news help industry leaders make informed decisions.

Looking ahead, Markus (publisher and managing director) sees both challenges and opportunities for the European film industry, including adapting to changing viewer habits and navigating complex funding landscapes. Ensider.net is positioning itself as a vital resource by investing in data analytics, expanding coverage of emerging technologies, and fostering industry inclusivity.

„Our goal is to be more than just an information provider,“ Markus states. „We aim to be a platform that actively contributes to shaping a vibrant, innovative, and sustainable European film industry.“

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ARMINERVA: SPECIALIZED SAFETY SERVICES

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Arminerva.com operates as a niche service provider offering safety concepts, tools, and training for persons of public interest, filmmakers, and journalists. The company's services are designed to address the security needs of individuals working in high-risk environments or high-profile situations.

The company's product range includes protective gear such as bulletproof vests and self-defense tools. These items are intended for clients who may face potential security risks in their professional activities. In addition to personal protection equipment, Arminerva.com provides services specifically tailored to the film industry. The company operates a film weapon agency, supplying prop firearms for productions. This service is complemented by film weapon support, which aims to ensure proper firearm handling on set.

One of Arminerva's notable offerings is firearms training for directors and actors. These sessions involve instruction with real firearms, with the stated goals of enhancing performance authenticity and promoting firearm safety awareness.

Arminerva's business model combines personal security services with film industry support. This approach appears to target a specific market segment consisting of high-profile individuals and media professionals who may encounter challenging security situations in their work. The company's services suggest an attempt to address both practical safety concerns and industry-specific needs within its target market. Arminerva.com offers indicate a focus on specialized security solutions for public figures and creative professionals operating in potentially risky environments.

ARMINERVA

Managing Director:
Roland Schaffner

<https://arminerva.com>



3 QUESTIONS: DIRECTOR JOHANNES GUTTENKUNST

The technical possibilities for the creative realization of ideas in film production are now more extensive than ever before. What does it mean for you as a filmmaker when technology finally no longer limits creativity?

Development of technology and storytelling has always been fascinating to me. From the creation of the first visual effects to the magnificent technology we have today, movie directors have always loved to capture movie technology, take it to the next level, combine it, and that is what we are going to do in our science fiction movie “Transport”: we are going to combine different technologies - from visual effects to special effects to practical effects to virtual production.

You have to have the overview as the director, that your project - which is nowadays filmed in different countries around the world - is still the film which you have in your head. Because of that we do a 100% previsional of the entire film. The previsional has everything; the voices of the protagonists, all the scenes, and we can add the final picture to the previsional and step by step generate the final film. Technology, when used correctly, can greatly assist in creating a movie.

The advantage of a previsional is that you already know when you start filming if the storytelling of your filmworks. That makes working with visual effects very inspiring.

With the series Tesla, you're tackling a subject that has exceptional relevance today in times of technological transformation. What's next? Can you talk about one of your upcoming projects, and what makes it so special for you?

Working on the five part miniseries with Christopher Lloyd on the forgotten genius Nikola Tesla was a great experience. We physically filmed all around the world to follow Nikola Tesla's footsteps, not just in a scientific way, at Harvard, MIT, etc, but also from a supernatural standpoint. Today there are people who admire Nikola Tesla not just for his inventions, but also for his ideas and philosophies.

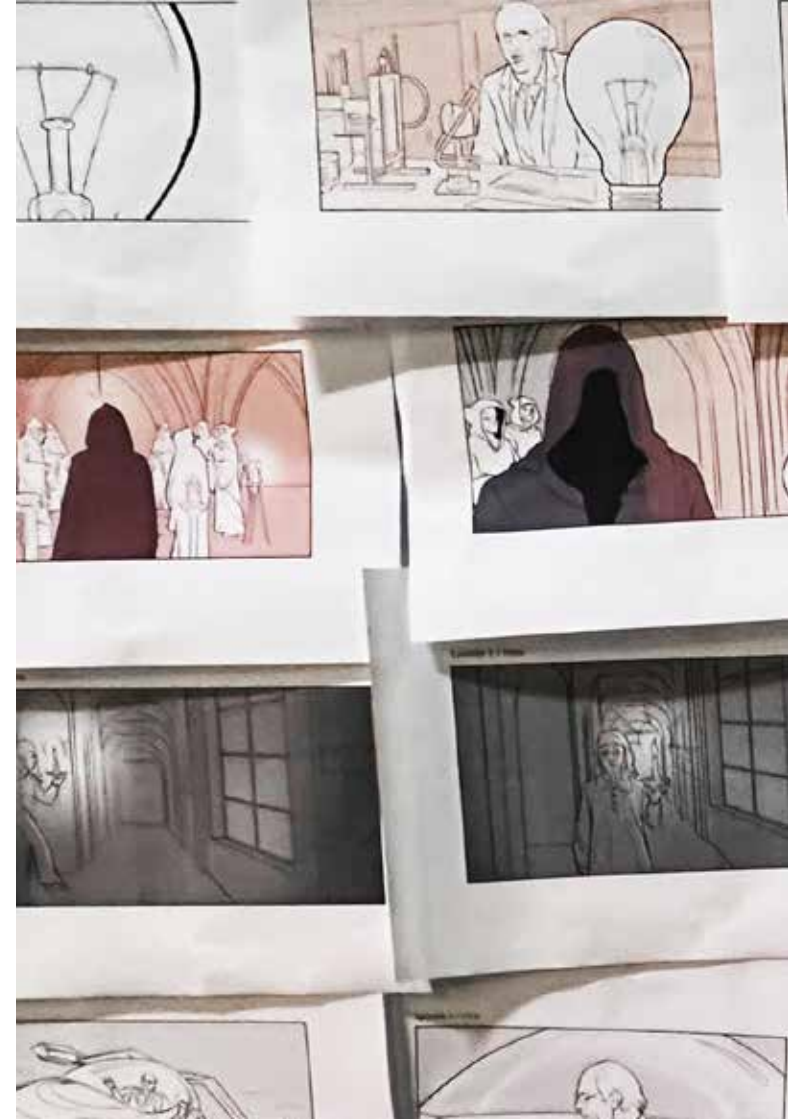
This series, which is coming out in early 2025 is really interesting not just for science geeks, but for anyone who loves science fiction movies as well. And yes, sure the biggest project coming up for me right now is the adaptation of a very famous science fiction novel the principal shooting is set for next year. In the story of the book we are taken all throughout the universe by our protagonists in a transporter. So yes, exciting things are coming up.

How do you think the transformation of the entertainment industry, shaped by technology and changing audience behavior, will play out? Where do you see opportunities?

I see where you are going with this question about artificial intelligence, AI, KI in movies. There is a lot of stuff out there. People talking about how in the future we won't be needing writers and directors anymore because our storylines can be created by AI. Same thing with graphic artists or animators, or even up to actors; who are already being marked as “unimportant” in the near future.

I personally don't believe any of that. Of course, with all technology there comes change. Starting with editing, I still learned editing on a 35 millimeter. Nowadays that's all digital, and while certain jobs were lost, certain new jobs were also created. The same thing will happen with AI. Someone has to operate the technology and this more less will be a producer or director who understands storytelling and technology.

I believe that AI technology will help make phenomenal movies, but there is



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This science fiction spectacle, in collaboration with VFX specialists from around the world, is set to begin principal shooting in Q4 2025. Director Johannes Guttenkunst says, "An extraordinary story. Somewhere between Stargate and Con Air."

For contact, reach out to the production office in Stuttgart/Germany
P: 0711-1378620 / E: info@lbfilms.de

Timo Joh. Mayer is a leading German film producer and director who heads LITTLE BROTHER FILMS.

He has distributed over 400 films nationally and 60 internationally, working with top German actors and Hollywood stars. Mayer has also produced nearly 100 music videos for major German artists and created successful films about sports icons like Tom Brady and the late Kobe Bryant.

His strong connections in television, sponsorship, and global licensing enable him to consistently deliver high-quality cinematic productions each year.



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BORN TO CRUISE
HARLEY DAVIDSON DOCUMENTARY
5 PART MINISERIES / RELEASE 2025
BY JOHANNES GUTTENKUNST

GABA FILM INITIATIVE

A DIVISION OF THE GERMAN AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Our group is dedicated to connecting and supporting German and American producers and filmmakers to strengthen ties and build a community that generates boundless creativity and collaboration.

The GABA Film Initiative is a division of the German American Business Association of Southern California, supported by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany. We offer a platform for film professionals and organizations in Los Angeles and beyond through networking and educational events, industry panels, receptions, social media outreach, and exchanges. The focus of the GABA Film Initiative is on German and American professionals working in all areas of the Film, TV & New Media industry.



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VTFF – THE ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Berlin in February 2024. The German capital is in the spotlight with the Berlinale, the famous film festival. Legendary director Martin Scorsese receives a Golden Honorary Award, and global stars such as Sharon Stone, Matt Damon, and Cillian Murphy walk the red carpet.

Just a few kilometers away from Potsdamer Platz, the center of the Berlinale, a green carpet is being rolled out. At the Cinegate Studios, exhibitors from Germany and abroad present cutting-edge green technology for sustainable, low-carbon production processes in the film and television industry. The future-oriented trade fair, named „Green Tec Day,“ was successfully organized by the Association of Technical Operations for Film and Television (VTFF). VTFF is the voice and network of the technical-creative service companies for film and television in Germany. Its members come from areas such as outside broadcasting, camera and lighting rental, costume design, studio and post-production, as well as visual effects (VFX).

The association's more than 70 members represent well over half of the market volume of technical-creative service providers in the German film and television industry. The four largest film studios in Germany are all organized under the VTFF. Prominent members include legendary production sites like Potsdam/Babelsberg and Bavaria Studios in Munich, leading VFX company Trixter GmbH, and the Oscar®-winning Arri Rental Deutschland GmbH. For many years, the Berlin-based Theaterkunst GmbH, Europe's leading costume house, has also been a member of the VTFF. Extensive service provider studies conducted by the association show that Germany's technical-creative service providers possess excellent infras-

tructure and highly skilled personnel that are in demand for international productions. Despite the current economic challenges following the COVID pandemic and the Hollywood strike, VTFF members are investing in future technologies such as Virtual Production and are already integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the preparation and execution of film and television productions.

The association, led since 2021 by Achim Rohnke, former head of Bavaria Film GmbH, is well-connected within the film and TV industry and represented on all important committees. For example, VTFF has a seat and voting rights on the board and commissions of the Filmförderanstalt (FFA), the key institution of the German film industry, which sets the framework for the German film and TV industry. VTFF is currently deeply involved in the reform of German film funding, which aims to significantly enhance the international competitiveness of the German film industry. Since 2015, VTFF has cooperated with the Allianz Deutscher Produzenten – Film & Fernsehen, the most important association of producers in Germany.

On an international level, VTFF is involved in the media policy of the European Union (EU) and maintains especially close contacts with the UK Screen Alliance. In short, VTFF is heard in London, Berlin, and Brussels. In October, VTFF celebrates its 75th anniversary. However, the association and its members are not looking back but are focused on the transformation process that the audiovisual industry is undergoing in Germany and worldwide. Virtual Production and Artificial Intelligence will fundamentally change the production processes in the film and TV industry. VTFF will continue to fight energetically for the competitiveness of the technical-creative service providers.

VTFF e.V.

Founded:
1949

Chairman of the Board:
Stefan Hoff

Managing Director:
Achim Rohnke

Offices:
Berlin, Cologne, Munich

Number of Members:
80

Member of the
“Green Production” Initiative

Member of the
Spitzenorganisation der
Filmwirtschaft (SPIO)

Member of the
Board and Commissions
of the Filmförderanstalt (FFA)

www.vtff.de



3 QUESTIONS: BEN BLASKOVIC

Your company has established a strong reputation in the commercial sector. How has your experience in commercial production shaped your approach to fiction films, and how do you see this expertise benefiting your storytelling and production style in longer formats?

Our background in commercial production has ingrained a highly disciplined and structured approach to storytelling, focusing on clarity, emotional impact, and visual quality. Commercials require us to communicate effectively in a concise timeframe, so we're constantly honing our skills in efficient storytelling, visual impact, and emotional resonance. This experience translates seamlessly into fiction films, where we bring that same precision and focus to create stories with well-paced narratives and compelling aesthetics. Our commercial expertise also gives us an advantage in creating visually captivating scenes, drawing in audiences from the very first frame, and maintaining high production values throughout longer formats. We see this blend of commercial discipline and cinematic creativity as a unique advantage in crafting fiction films that are both impactful and visually engaging.

What is the core philosophy or unique approach that drives your company's projects? How do you envision this influencing potential partnerships, especially as you continue to expand into the realm of fiction?

At the heart of our company's philosophy is the belief in purposeful storytelling—stories that resonate deeply with audiences by addressing universal themes and human experiences. Our approach is to find the core message of each project and amplify it through immersive visual

and emotional storytelling. This philosophy makes us a strong partner for others who value meaningful narratives and a collaborative approach to storytelling. As we continue to explore fiction, we seek partnerships that are aligned with our values, sharing our dedication to quality and authenticity. By working with like-minded creatives and organizations, we're committed to pushing the boundaries of storytelling and delivering projects that leave a lasting impact.

As a company branching into more diverse formats, where do you see the greatest opportunities for growth, and what kinds of partnerships are you looking for to bring your long-term vision to life?

We see exciting growth opportunities in both streaming platforms and international co-productions, as well as in creating hybrid genres that merge elements of fiction and branded content. Audiences are increasingly open to unique, experimental formats, and this openness allows us to explore new ways of blending fiction and branded storytelling. To bring our long-term vision to life, we're interested in partnerships with production companies, streaming platforms, and investors who are forward-thinking and open to innovative formats. We're also looking to collaborate with creatives who share our commitment to high-quality production and powerful storytelling, enabling us to expand into new markets and bring fresh perspectives to audiences worldwide.

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Bayern, Germany

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84790 St. George
Utah, USA

<https://victus-films.com>

victus.
films & commercials

victus. Films and Commercials is a **full service film production** for the fiction and commercial sector. With **headquarters in Germany** and the **USA**, we have a local presence and an international network. Our geographical diversity allows us to bring cultural diversity and global perspectives into our films. No matter where in the world your story takes place, we are ready to bring it to life with passion and precision.

“

**We deliver
films with
groundbreaking
storytelling,
technical
brilliance and
unwavering
passion.**

Contact us:

✉ shootit@victus-films.com

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**Larger
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