

For immediate publication

UNIC LAUNCHES SECOND EDITION OF WOMEN'S CINEMA LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

CineEurope 2018, Barcelona: 13 June 2018 - The International Union of Cinemas (UNIC), the European Cinema trade grouping, today launched the second edition of its Women's Cinema Leadership Programme, a 12-month mentoring programme for women in cinema exhibition.

Building on the success of a ground-breaking pilot programme, itself launched at CineEurope in 2017, this year's edition will provide seven talented female European cinema professionals with the opportunity to receive one-to-one career advice, network and learn from outstanding women executives, recognised for their leadership and business success across the cinema landscape.

The programme represents UNIC's flagship initiative to address the need to encourage and empower female professionals in order for the industry to realise its full potential. The 2018/19 edition welcomes a new group of key female leaders and rising female professionals from across the cinema exhibition landscape:

Mentors

Clare Binns (Picturehouse, UK), Mariam el Bacha (Cinepax, Pakistan), Edna Epelbaum (Cinevital; Cinepel; Cinemont; Quinnie; Swiss Cinema Association, Switzerland), Elisabeth Halvorsen (Bergen Kino, Norway), Susanna Hermida Barbado (NOS Audiovisuais, Portugal), Daniella Koot (Pathé Netherlands, The Netherlands), Sarah Lewthwaite (Movio, UK).

Mentees

Lucia Anglade (Les Cinémas Gaumont Pathé, France), Marieke Jonker (Vue Netherlands, The Netherlands), Deliah Kyburz (Youcinema, Switzerland), Anna Malaret (Cinesa/Odeon Cinemas Group, Spain), Sharon Reid (Cinema First, UK), Valerie Thoen (Kinopolis Group, Belgium), Laura Weber (Cinecitta' Multiplexkino, Germany).

Welcoming the second edition of the programme, UNIC CEO Laura Houlgatte commented:

“UNIC is very much dedicated to reinforcing the commitment of cinema exhibitors towards promoting more gender-balanced leadership within the industry. As a female professional working in cinema exhibition, this is an issue I feel very strongly about and wholeheartedly believe that you should never underestimate the value of role models and guidance. I also think that we need to become more inclusive if we want to attract and retain talent and come together as an industry to promote a culture of

change that values growth and equal opportunities. That's what the UNIC Women's Cinema Leadership Programme is all about; prompting our industry to be more engaged and aware of the business value of having more women in leadership roles.

Our key long-term objective is to broaden and deepen the talent pool for leadership in our industry and to transform the exhibition sector into a healthy environment where everyone can realise their full potential.

We're delighted to welcome our new group of fantastic mentors and mentees for this year's edition and would like to wish them all the best for what promises to be an exciting year."

The UNIC Women's Cinema Leadership Programme is a cross-sector, cross-company and international initiative, involving thirteen companies across ten territories.

Notes for editors

The UNIC Women's Cinema Leadership Programme is a 12-month cross-sector, international mentoring scheme for women in cinema exhibition.

Launched in 2017, the Programme is rooted in the belief that gender-balanced leadership in cinema exhibition is imperative for business success, better governance and more equity in the industry.

More information can be found on the UNIC website [here](#).

The International Union of Cinemas (UNIC)

The Union Internationale des Cinémas/International Union of Cinemas (UNIC) represents the interests of cinema trade associations and cinema operators covering 37 countries in Europe and neighbouring regions.

CineEurope

CineEurope 2018 will take place from 11-14 June at the Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB) in Barcelona, Spain. CineEurope is the longest-running and most successful European convention and trade show for Major, Regional, and Independent cinema professionals. CineEurope will feature exclusive screenings and product presentations of upcoming films, sponsored events, timely and informative seminars and the CineEurope Trade Show. CineEurope is the Official Convention of the Union Internationale des Cinémas/International Union of Cinemas (UNIC).

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