



UNION INTERNATIONALE DES CINÉMAS
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CINEMAS

For immediate publication

UNIC LAUNCHES FOURTH EDITION OF THE WOMEN'S CINEMA LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Brussels: 30 June 2020 - The International Union of Cinemas (UNIC), the European cinema trade grouping, today launched the fourth edition of its Women's Cinema Leadership Programme, a 12-month mentoring programme for women in cinema exhibition.

Following the success of the first three editions, this year's programme will provide nine talented female cinema professionals with an exclusive opportunity to receive one-to-one career advice and networking opportunities, and to learn from an outstanding group of women executives from across the cinema landscape, each recognised for their leadership and business success.

The programme remains UNIC's flagship initiative to address the need to encourage and empower female professionals in order for the industry to realise its full potential. Its 2020/21 edition welcomes the following key female leaders and rising female professionals from the cinema exhibition landscape, representing 18 companies across 14 territories:

Mentors

Nathalie Cieutat (Les Cinémas Pathé Gaumont, France), Anne Fitzgerald (Cineplex, Canada), Norma Garcia-Muro (THX, USA), Kate Gerova (Curzon, UK), Jadranka Islamovic (Blitz-CineStar, Croatia), Grainne Peat (Event Cinema Association, UK), Kaisa Rakemaa (Finnkino, Finland), Géke Roelink (Filmhuis Den Haag, Netherlands), Bettina Schmidt (KITAG CINEMAS, Switzerland).

Mentees

Clarissa Bergh (Lillehammer Cinema, Norway), Rachel Bland (VUE Entertainment, UK), Monika Giełżecka (Multikino, Poland), Johanna Herfter (Comscore, Germany), Valeria Kurohtina (CINAMON, Estonia), Madelene Lorentzsson (Svenska Bio, Sweden), Laura Mancilla (Searchlight Pictures/Disney, UK), Anna Paprocka (ODEON Cinemas Group, UK), Olivia Taylor (IMAX, Ireland).

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

"We are delighted to welcome a new, fantastic group of mentors and mentees for this year's edition and to see our inspiring community of women leaders grow year by year. While the past few months have been incredibly challenging, the level of interest that we have received serves to highlight just how important empowerment programmes like ours are, even more so during times of uncertainty."

We are proud of what we have achieved so far with the UNIC Women's Cinema Leadership Programme.

We have been working with outstanding professionals and it's been fantastic to see so many of them recognised for their achievements. We're also delighted to have in Grainne Peat, for the first time, a pioneering mentee becoming a mentor herself in the new edition. This is one of the main objectives of the programme – for the mentees of today to become the mentors of tomorrow.

The discussion around equal opportunities and greater diversity in the industry must continue, and we at UNIC will keep doing our part.

I would like to wish an empowering journey to our new cohort!”

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 38 countries in Europe and neighbouring regions.

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