

EUROPA DISTRIBUTION - PRESS RELEASE

October 13 2015

OPEN PANEL

Rome Film Festival / The Business Street / MIA

October 17 - 2PM - Hotel Boscolo Exedra

For the second year in a row, Europa Distribution, in partnership with The Business Street and MIA, is hosting an open panel in the scope of the Rome Film Festival.

Entitled "**Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Distribution But Were Afraid to Ask**", the panel will aim at shading light on independent distribution as it is today and as it could be tomorrow.

Far from being mere intermediaries who stand in the shadows, independent distributors are an essential asset to the circulation of films. As they adapt to an ever-changing marketplace, where consumer behaviour is fluctuating and new entertainment models are emerging constantly, this panel explores their role and the challenges they are facing. Specifically, what does it mean to be a distributor today?

How long does an independent distributor exploit the films he/she has the rights for and what revenues can they still garner through physical, linear and non-linear services? Why is exclusivity so important? Why does total territoriality matter so much? What has changed in the last decade, and what consequences has that had on their work and the risks they are still able to take? What do independent distributors need to be able to continue to defend and promote the films they believe in?

Film distributors from different territories will join the conversation, led by Andreas Wiseman (Screen International), sharing their knowledge and experience on facing these challenges: Ivo Andrlé (Aerofilm, Czech Republic), Greta Akcionaitė (Kino Pasaka, Lithuania), Stefano Massenzi (Lucky Red, Italy), Olivier Mortagne (Paradiso Filmed Entertainment, Benelux), Andy Whittaker (Dogwoof, UK), Kent Sanderson (Bleecker Street Media, US) and Susan Wendt (Trustnordisk, Denmark).

The panel will be held on Saturday October 17th 2015, from 2-4 p.m. at Hotel Boscolo Exedra (Sala Michelangelo).

NOTE: *Europa Distribution is the association of independent film distributors, created in 2006. With more than 140 leading independent distributors representing 29 countries in Europe and beyond, it serves as the voice of the sector and acts as a network and a think tank. Since its creation, Europa Distribution has accompanied and reinforced the integration and collaboration process between its members through information, brainstorming and training sessions. The network's aim is to strengthen the existing ties to improve the curation, promotion and distribution of independent films.*

CONTACT: For more information about the Rome panel, contact: communication@europa-distribution.org