

EUROPA DISTRIBUTION

Brussels, 5 October 2020

It is with great sadness that Europa Distribution shares the news of the passing of our valued colleague and friend Marie Strauss. We will keep with us the memory of her smile, her kindness and warmth, and above all we will remember her profound dedication to auteur cinema that she greatly contributed to bring to Sweden.

Marie was one of Europa Distribution's founders and was a board member of the association until 2017. Adeline Monzier, former General Manager of Europa Distribution, remembers her key role in shaping the association back in 2006. *"Marie was one of the key European distributors who started ED. She was passionate about the idea of building something collectively with fellow distributors to ensure that European cinema could continue thriving. In Sweden, she was always a fervent advocate of world cinema, fighting hard for films she believed in, even the smaller ones. The international film industry has lost a great distributor and an important person."*

Marie started her career at Folkets Bios as Head of the Cinema Zita in Stockholm where she worked until 2000 when she was appointed Head of Acquisitions at Folkets Bio Distribution. Folkets Bio is one of Sweden's leading arthouse distribution companies and has been at the forefront of independent and arthouse distribution in Sweden for nearly five decades (since 1973). Folkets Bio has acquired, distributed and exhibited films such as *Amour*, *L'Enfant*, *The Man without a Past*, *Blue Is the Warmest Colour*, *120bpm* and *My Life as a Zucchini*.

Distributors who met Marie in the festival's circuit all share the impression of a special face in the crowd, someone with whom you could talk profoundly about both cinema and life.

"I am so heart broken by this news. Marie was one of the brightest people I've met, so full of passion and joy. She was such an inspiration, her knowledge of cinema was admirable and, most of all, kindness was her superpower." (**Hanna Lajunen, Cinemanse, Finland**).

"I shared screenings seats and screening lines chats, waiting rooms at markets, films' acquisitions, small moments... and she was always nice, gentle, kind, passionate, funny.... a face in the crowd I will be missing a lot, a face that made every market a friendly place." (**Margherita Chiti, Teodora Film, Italy**).

"During my over 25 years as distributor and head of acquisition at Arthaus I have met many wonderful colleagues from all over the world, but my relationship with Marie was special. Passionately discussing exciting or bad films at festivals and markets, or why our release was successful or did not work at all. She was always well prepared and knew which film to look out for. Marie was determined, but always open for new impulses, and most of all a kind and loving person, mild and funny. We have lost one of our best." (**Svend Jensen, Arthaus, Norway**)

"I remember meeting her many, many times over the last 23 years, but it was in Lanzarote in 2000 when we spent so many hours walking around, laughing and talking life and cinema. Some people make profound impact on us and stay with us for good." (**Jakub Duszynski, Gutek, Poland**).

"Of course we used to discuss what movies we liked (or had missed!), but our conversations always started talking of our personal lives. I will miss her; I will miss a lovely person I used to meet in our small community three four times a year over the last 15 years". (**Antonio Medici, BIM, Italy**)

"I'm deeply moved. I had very good times with Marie during festivals and it was always a pleasure to see how she represented our cause in political work with verve and conviction. A wonderful woman." (**Monika Weibel, Frenetic, Switzerland**)

"Marie was an excellent person. The film distribution loses an excellent professional. Our deepest condolences to her family." (**Eduardo Escudero, A ContraCorriente, Spain**)

"Marie was one of the most enthusiastic supporters of Ed since the beginning and very accurate regarding her

*opinions. It was a real pleasure to have the chance to know and develop a lot of work together
It is a great loss for ED and for the Film industry” (Luis Froes, Outsider, Portugal)*

Christine Eloy, General Manager of Europa Distribution along with her team, and all the members of the Association wish to offer their condolences to Marie’s family and colleagues, and dedicate a special thought to Marie’s special smile, the one that would always accompany her appearances. *“It has been so nice to work with her, such a kind person with an incredible knowledge of film and distribution, and all this with this fantastic smile. We like very much this picture of her, it is how we will remind her”.*

NOTE FOR THE EDITORS: *Europa Distribution is the association of independent film distributors, created in 2006. With about 120 leading independent distributors representing 31 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 and European films.*



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