

Shop Talk Sessions – 4 June 2022

More about our Industry Specialists

DIRECTING | Guest speaker: Nina Swart



Nina Swart has been working as a television director for 18 years in both the scripted/drama and unscripted/reality/lifestyle genres. She recently finished directing a brand-new reality show for KykNet by the name of 'Plaasjapie', which will be launching in July 2022. In 2021 Nina Swart directed the Showmax series 'Troukooors'. She acted as Head of Content and castings on Mzansi and Showmax's reality show 'Temptation Island'. During 2020 she directed Season 3 of the KykNet drama, 'Die Boekklub', after wrapping on 'Duiwelspoort' (Netwerk24) earlier in the year. In 2019, she directed 2 seasons of the hit KykNet legal drama series, 'Fynskrif', as well as the adaptation of the international reality format 'Get the F*** out of my House' (Fremantle). Nina Swart has extensive experience directing, casting and heading up content for international reality shows, including being series director on Season 1-5 of 'Boer soek 'n vrou / Farmer wants a Wife' (Fremantle), and HOD of Content for Survivor South Africa (Banijay) for M-Net. She is hands-on in the development process, from format to casting, as well as overseeing and participating in post-production. A career highlight for Nina was directing the docu-series 'In ons midde' about intimate femicide in South Africa. She has been fortunate to experience many roles in the industry such as camera operator, interviewer, casting director, researcher, writer, actor, editor – all of which inform her work as a director. She enjoys collaborating with creators, producers, crew and talent to bring stories to life – whether the story is scripted or unfolds on set.

SCREENWRITING | Guest Speaker: René van Rooyen



Rene van Rooyen is a South African director and screenwriter who has firmly established herself in the South African film industry over the past ten years. She graduated cum laude in Directing at AFDA, winning the best final year short film award. Her career kicked off when she won the Best Director and Best Picture award for her short film at the kykNET Silwerskermfestival 2012. The following year she was selected to partake in the NFVF female filmmaker short film program to direct the 25 min "Pathology", which premiered at Durban IFF. Soon after she directed "Mooiriver" The same year she established her production company RED LETTER DAY PICTURES with her husband Corne van Rooyen, which has produced "Hollywood in my Huis", and "Vaselinetjie". Both were the top 3 local box office earners in their respective years. Most recently, she was co-writer on the pilot for "Trackers" - MNET's first high-end drama with CINEMAX and ZDF. Her television series, together with Corne, "Alles Malan" received record breaking viewership numbers for kykNET in 2019 and 2021. Her feature as director and writer,

"Toorbos," funded by Multichoice and the NFVF, was chosen by the NFVF to be South Africa's official entry to the 2021, 93rd Annual Academy Awards. She also won the SAFTA for screenwriting in the same year. Released during COVID, Toorbos achieved the 2nd highest local box office earnings. She recently produced "Hans steek die Rubicon oor" and is currently in development of several feature films and a new television series for kykNET "Beter as Gister".

SCREENWRITING | Guest Speaker: Corné van Rooyen



Corné van Rooyen has directed over 60 hours of content for SABC, BBC, National Geographic, kykNET and Mnet as well several award-winning short films and commercials. He holds a Ba. Hons degree in Directing and Screenwriting from AFDA. In 2015, he directed, produced and wrote the feature film "Hollywood in my Huis", winning The Audience Choice Award for Best Film, The Critics' Choice Award for Best Film and the Audience Choice Best Leading Lady Award at Afrikaans festival "Silwerskermfees". He has since directed four more features "Susters", "Sy Klink soos Lente" and "Vaselinetjie" which also won the Best Picture Award and reached #2 at the local box office. He was director and creator of "Alles Malan" which broke kykNET viewership numbers, and which is now in its second season. This year he directed and produced the film adaptation of the popular novel and RSG radio drama "Hans steek die Rubicon oor".

Corné and René work together at Red Letter Day Pictures and are based in Stellenbosch.

Bookings essential: Contact Luna Paige at media@paulroos.co.za by Friday 3 June, 12pm.