# International coproductions – A success formula for European films?

Cannes, 5 June 2018 #cannes2018

**European Audiovisual Observatory** 

Cannes 2018 conference



#### welcome and introduction

#### **Susanne Nikoltchev**

Executive Director
European Audiovisual Observator



### introducing the panel

#### **Roberto Olla**

Executive Director EURIMAGES

Lucia Recalde-Langarica Head of Unit Audiovisual Industry and MEDIA support programmes **European Commission** 

**Peter Dinges General Director** FFA (Germany)

CEO First Hand Films (Switzerland)

**Esther Van Messel** 

Moderator: Roberto Olla Executive Director, EURIMAGES

Dariusz Jablonski Producer Apple Film Production

(Poland)

Diana Elbaum Producer Beluga Tree (Belgium)

Helena Danielsson Producer **Brain Academy** (Sweden)



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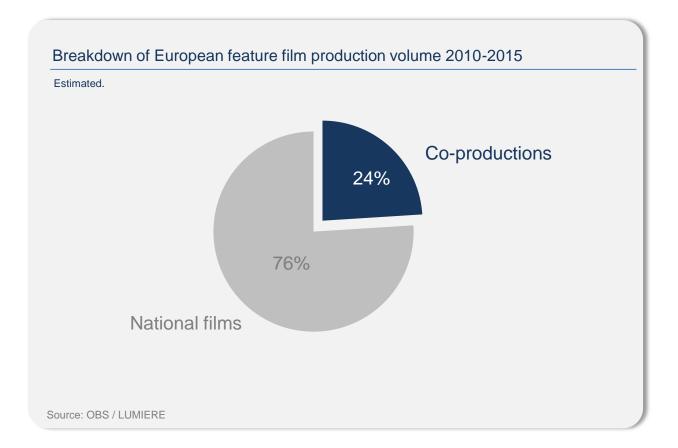
## Gilles Fontaine Head of Department for Market Information



some facts and a question

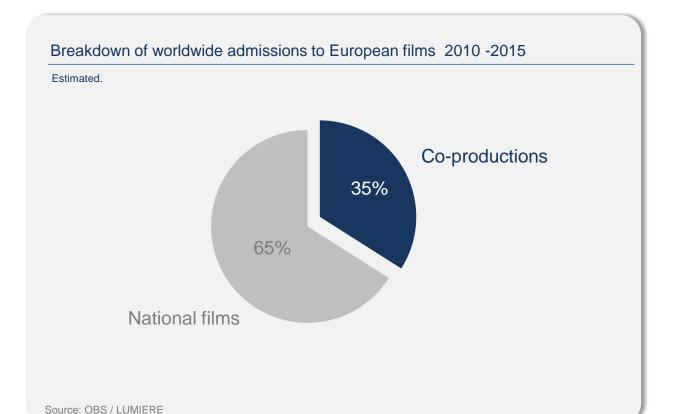
### one in four European films is an international co-production

compared to 10% of TV fiction

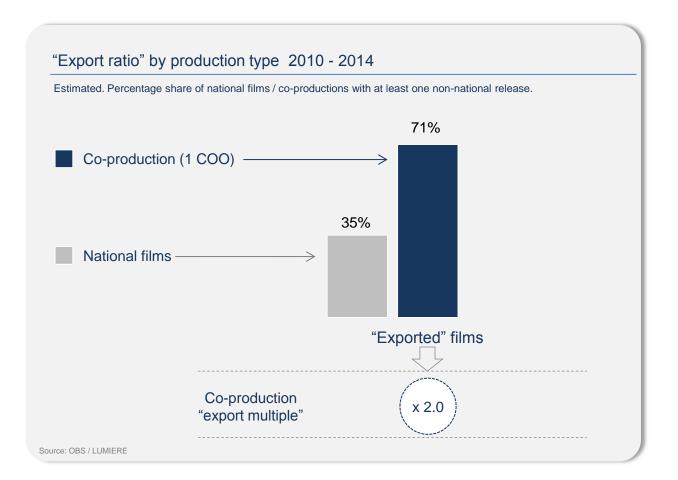


co-productions account for more than one third of admissions

(including GB inc films it is 50%)

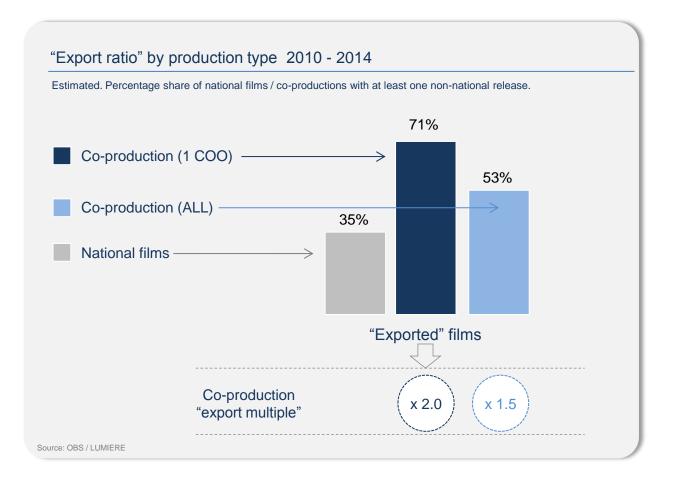


# Co-productions have a higher «export ratio»



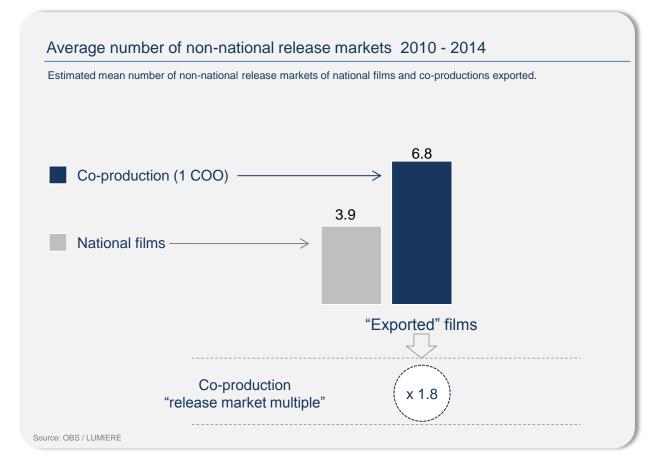
# Co-productions have a higher «export ratio»

this holds also true when you consider all co-producing countries to be national markets



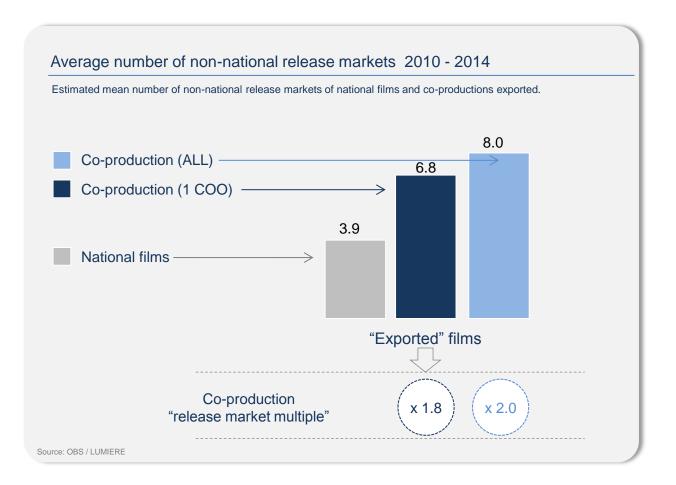
# ...get released on more export markets

namely, twice as many on average



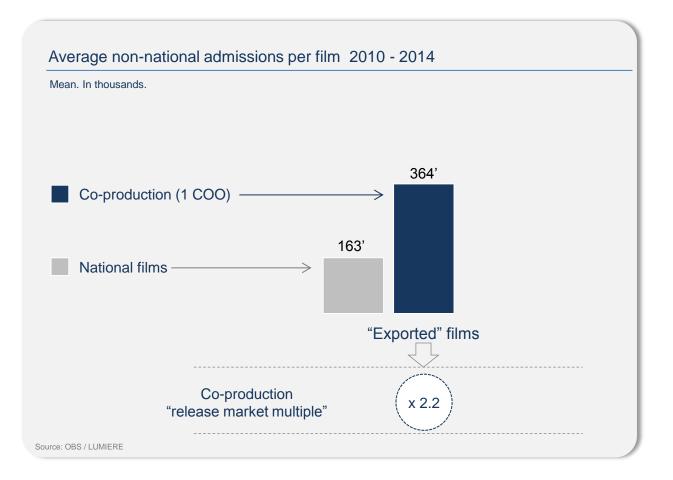
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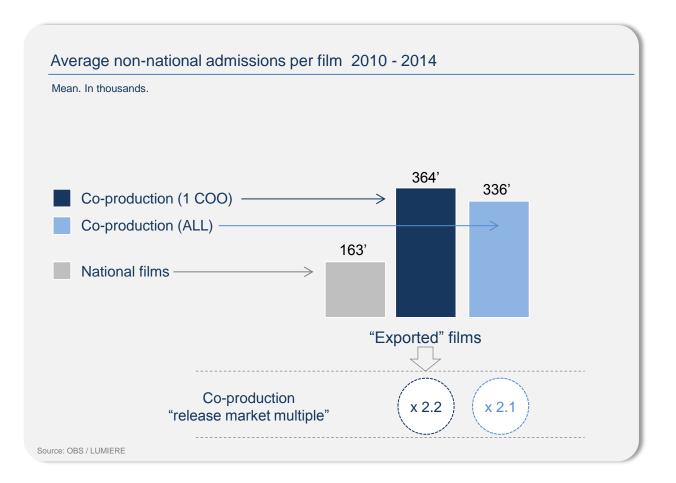
## ...and sell more tickets abroad

again, twice as many on average



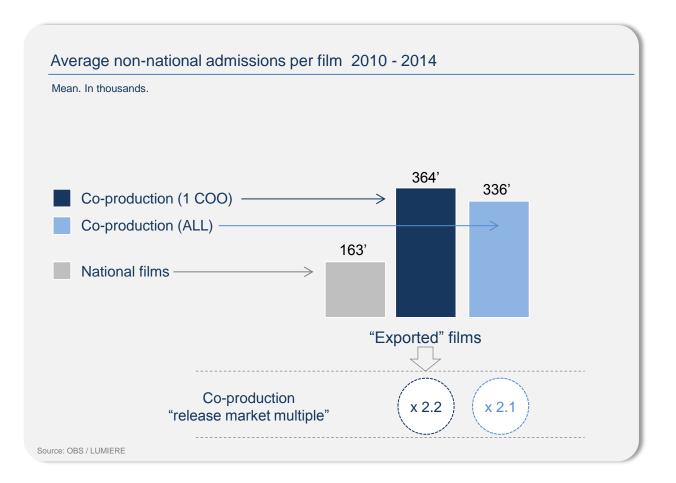
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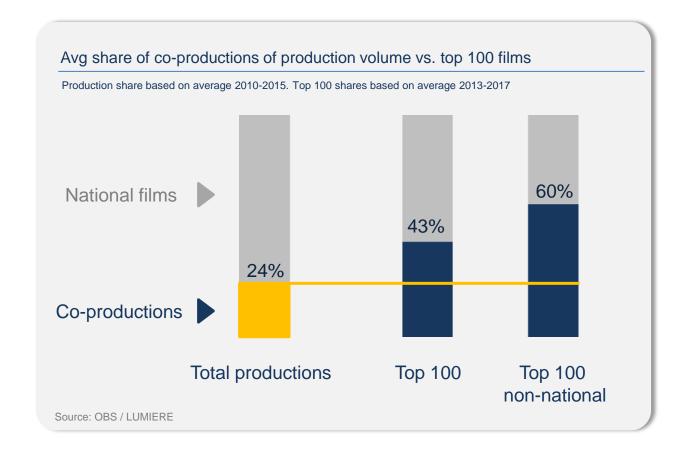


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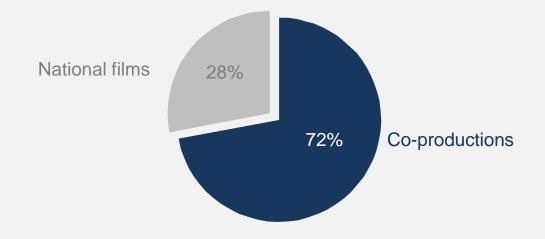
majority of top 100 European export films are co-productions



...and seem to win more international awards

#### Breakdown of 29 European major award winning films 2008-2017

Award winning films from Cannes, Berlinale, Venice, San Sebastion, Academy Awards, Best Foreign Picture



Source: OBS / LUMIERE

why?

Lucia Recalde-Langarica

Head of Unit

Audiovisual Industry and

MEDIA support programmes

European Commission

Peter Dinges
General Director
FFA
(Germany)

CEO First Hand Films (Switzerland)

**Esther Van Messel** 

# PANEL DISCUSSION 1 Moderator: Roberto Olla Executive Director, EURIMAGES

Diana Elbaum
Producer
Beluga Tree
(Belgium)

Helena Danielsson
Producer
Producer
Brain Academy
(Sweden)

**Dariusz Jablonski**Producer
Apple Film Production
(Poland)

# Co-producing a film internationally: tango or tangle?

International co-productions - A success formula for European films?

Cannes, 12 May 2018

#### Maja Cappello

Head of Department for Legal Information European Audiovisual Observatory





# It takes two to tango...



"The tango is a direct expression of something that poets have often tried to state in words:

the belief that a fight may be a celebration."

Jorge Luis Borges

# A joint (ad)venture...



### What is an international co-production?

- Co-producers come from different countries
- Each co-producer co-owns the work
- Agreed upon via a co-production contract
  - Merely participating in the financing of the work does NOT amount to be a co-producer.



### What is an "official" co-production?

- Follows the rules of a co-production agreement/convention
  - Bilateral/multilateral agreements
  - CoE Convention
- The co-production is considered as "national" in each coproducing country
- The co-production must be approved by national authorities.

# Convention on Cinematographic Coproduction (1/3)

- Only cinematographic works
- Co-productions with at least three co-producers, established in three different Parties to the Convention
- Bilateral co-productions between two Parties to this Convention in the absence of any bilateral agreement.



# Convention on Cinematographic Coproduction (2/3)

The amount of contribution per producer of the cinematographic work:





For multilateral co-productions





For bilateral co-productions

 Co-production contract must guarantee joint ownership of the property rights of the film for each of the co-producers

# Convention on Cinematographic Coproduction (3/3)

Each Party to the Convention must:

- Facilitate access, residence and work permit for technical and artistic personnel
- Enable the temporary import and re-export of production and distribution equipment

### Reasons for co-producing

Financial: pooling resources

 Artistic: collaboration between artists from different backgrounds, cultures etc

Access to more markets



### The importance of being European (1/2)

Promotion measures for European works under the AVMS Directive

#### **Broadcasting services (Art. 16-17 AVMSD)**





of transmission time/programming budget to independent EU works

#### **On-demand services (Art. 13 AVMSD)**

- Financial contribution to production/rights acquisition in European works
- Share of European works in VOD catalogues
- Prominence obligations

European Audiovisual Observator

### The importance of being European (2/2)

Amendment of the promotion measures for European works in ondemand services (revision of the AVMS Directive – Article 13)

Share in the catalogues





**Prominence** 



Financial contribution

→ also for targeting services





# It takes two to tango...



# It takes two to tangle...



## Some "entanglement" issues

A bad prenup

The (unbearable?) rigidity of bilateral agreements

Bigger fish eats smaller fish?



## Another "entanglement" issue...?



### Another "entanglement" issue...?





## Thank you!

For any queries: maja.cappello@coe.int





Lucia Recalde-Langarica Head of Unit Audiovisual Industry and MEDIA support programmes **European Commission** 

**Peter Dinges General Director** FFA (Germany)

PANEL DISCUSSION 2

CEO First Hand Films (Switzerland)

**Esther Van Messel** 

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Q&A

Thank you for coming!
See you on our stand – level -01, Alley 19.8

A conference of The European Audiovisual Observatory



