

# The vanishing

Writers and directors of European film  
and TV fiction 2015-2020

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# Foreword

**This presentation focuses on writers and directors of EU27+UK theatrical films and TV fiction released between 2015 and 2020.**

## **Sources of the data:**

- **The Observatory, for theatrical films and their directors and for TV fiction titles.**
- **IMDB public files, for theatrical films writers and TV fiction directors and writers.**
- **Level of analysis:**
  - **By film.**
  - **By episode for TV series.**
- **Identification rate:**
- **The identification rate of directors and writers (i.e. the share of films or TV episodes for which at least one director or one writer has been identified) varies between categories of work: close to 100% for film directors ; about 80% for film writers and short TV series directors and writers; about 60% for long-running daily telenovelas and soaps. The latter have been excluded from the analysis when relevant.**

# Prearity in numbers

# Film: huge **turnover**... low level of **activity**

## Film directors

**10 553**

active between 2015 and 2020

**17%** active at least **2** years  
between 2015 and 2020

**1.3** films directed  
between 2015 and 2020

## Film writers

**12 798**

active between 2015 and 20220

**18%** active at least **2** years  
between 2015 and 2020

**1.3** films written  
between 2015 and 2020

... no matter the **genre**

## Film director

**1.3** films directed  
between 2015 and 2020



Animation

**1.2**

Documentary

**1.2**

Live-Action fiction

**1.3**

## Film writer

**1.3** films written  
between 2015 and 2020



Animation

**1.2**

Documentary

**1.1**

Live-Action fiction

**1.3**

# More recurrence in **TV fiction**

## TV fiction director

**4 010**

active between 2015 and 2020

**58%** active at least **2** years  
between 2015 and 2020

**12.6** TV film or episode directed  
between 2015 and 2020

## TV fiction writer

**8 808**

active between 2015 and 2020

**52%** active at least **2** years  
between 2015 and 2020

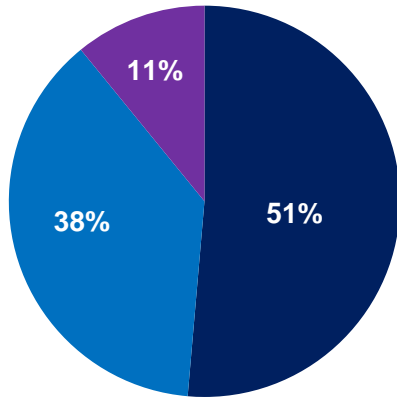
**12.9** TV film or episode written  
between 2015 and 2020

# Are TV series the lifeline of filmmakers?

# To which extent **film** and **TV fiction** creators **overlap**?

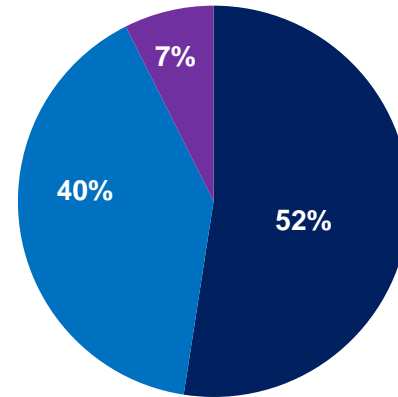
Only **11%** of directors and **7%** of writers worked both for film and TV between 2015 and 2020

## Directors



■ Directed only films ■ Directed only TV ■ Directed films and TV

## Writers



■ Wrote only films ■ Wrote only TV ■ Wrote films and TV



# New ways of creating

# The European “film d’auteur” model in figures

The “film d’auteur” model, i.e. a work written and directed by the same creator, is much more prevalent in film than in TV fiction

Films with a creator credited as director and screen writer

61%

TV films with a creator credited as director and screen writer

23%

2-13 ep. TV series with a creator credited as director and screen writer

20%

# Working in **teams**: much more **cowriting** TV fiction

**Film / directing**

**1.1** directors per film

**TV fiction / directing**

**1.2** directors per TV film or episode

**Film / writing**

**1.8** writers per film

**(1** excluding writers also credited as directors)

**TV fiction / writing**

**2.8** writers / TV film or episode

# The vanishing

# What happened to **2015** fiction film directors?

Out of **100** directors who directed a live-action film **in 2015**:



**36** directed at least another film

**11** did not direct any other film but directed at least one TV fiction episode

**6** did not direct any other film or any TV fiction episode but wrote at least one film or one TV episode

**47** were not active anymore

**between 2016 and 2020**

# What happened to **2015** fiction film writers?

Out of **100** writers who wrote a live-action film in **2015**:



**37** wrote at least another film

**7** did not write any other film but directed at least one TV fiction episode

**3** did not write any other film or any TV fiction episode but directed at least one film or one TV episode

**53** were not active anymore

**between 2016 and 2020**