

**Nostos
Screenwriting
Retreats**

Nostos Screenwriting Retreat offers 2-week **intensive screenwriting workshops** taking place in the Tuscan countryside.



The retreat gives **independent filmmakers from around the world** the opportunity to work intensively on their feature-length narrative scripts or their TV Pilots in **an environment structured to foster collaboration and high-quality script development.**

The retreat consists of a **two-week residential workshop and one on one mentorships.** The lab is facilitated by a **professional in the field** with long-standing experience. In addition to the script guidance provided by the facilitator through **workshop sessions and one-on-one meetings, and additional professional advice by guest speakers,** participants have plenty of time for writing.

The participant's projects get workshopped by other international filmmakers and screenwriters, and our writers **become a part of a community of other like-minded artists** in a naturally beautiful, protected, and inspiring environment.

Our mission



Nostos was born out of a wish to create a space for screenwriters from all over the world to share their work, get feedback, and receive valuable mentorship from professionals in the industry.

This is the reason why Nora Jänicke, a screenwriter and filmmaker herself, decided to create a space to help writers find peace and quiet as well as companionship.

Nostos guides participants in developing their feature-length narrative scripts and TV Pilots.

Our mentors

We are proud to work with exceptional screenwriting teachers and mentors at our retreats to bring the best out of the writers attending our workshops.



Lorien McKenna

LORIEN MCKENNA is an Emmy-nominated and NAACP Image Award-winning writer and producer. A former Story Manager at Pixar Animation Studios, she worked on the Oscar Winning films Ratatouille, Up, Brave, and Inside Out. Lorien co-hosts the podcast THE SCREENWRITING LIFE with Meg LeFauve which has 1.2 million downloads and is consistently ranked in the top 100 of TV and Film Podcasts.



Tina Gharavi

Born in Tehran, Tina Gharavi is a BAFTA-nominated, award-winning TV and film showrunner and director initially trained as a painter in the United States later studying cinema in France. Her debut feature, I Am Nasrine, a coming of age story of two teenage Iranian refugees, was nominated for a BAFTA in 2013. The film received 4 stars from Peter Bradshaw in The Guardian calling it, “A valuable debut, shot with a fluent kind of poetry” while Deborah Ross in the Spectator described it as “affectionate, humane, tender and, ultimately, optimistic.”



Laura Colella

Laura has written and directed three features, including the Independent Spirit Award-winner Breakfast with Curtis. She is currently casting her fourth feature, Clingstone, with producer Michael A. Jackman. Her numerous shorts include Chryskylodon Blues, filmed behind-the-scenes on the set of Paul Thomas Anderson's Inherent Vice. Laura has been a Sundance Directing and Screenwriting Fellow, a Film Independent Fellow, a Bogliasco Fellow, and one of Filmmaker Magazine's 25 New Faces in Independent Film.

Our mentors



Kayla Alpert

Kayla Alpert most recently served as writer/executive producer on the Tim Burton series WEDNESDAY for Netflix, the number one English-language series in the streamer's history. Prior to that, she created FALSE PROFITS for ABC and has written and produced series including EMILY IN PARIS, CODE BLACK, UP ALL NIGHT and ALLY MCBEAL. She's written original television pilots for HBO, NETFLIX, AMAZON, PEACOCK, NBC, ABC, FOX, CBS, THE WB and MTV. Kayla wrote the movie adaptation of CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC starring Isla Fisher, and has written feature screenplays for Disney, Fox, New Line, Miramax and Warner Bros.



Marya Cohn

Marya Cohn is a writer, director and film professor. Her feature script, Hurricane Season, currently in development, was a Nicholls quarterfinalist and received a Tangerine Fellowship to Stowe Story Labs. Her short film, Developing, starring Natalie Portman and Frances Conroy, screened at Sundance, won grand prizes at the Belgian Festival Mondial du Cinéma de Court Métrage and the St. Petersburg Message to Man Film Festival, and aired on The Sundance Channel and Channel 13's Reel NY.



Paul Kowalski

Paul Kowalski is an award-winning writer-director whose films center around identity, exile and obsession, often featuring dark psychologies and the supernatural. His 2021 feature "Paper Tiger" premiered at Austin Film Festival in 2020, winning the Audience Award and a Jury mention, and was subsequently sold by The Gersh Agency and distributed by Gravitas Ventures to Amazon in 2021.

Our mentors



Matt Graham

Matt often writes about History and Crime, which he believes “are largely the same thing.” His most well known TV writing credit is OLIVER STONE’S THE UNTOLD HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, a 12-part documentary series for Showtime Network directed by Oliver Stone. This mammoth project took 5 years in the making and Matt’s episode 10 of the series, dealing with the War on Terror, was officially chosen as one of Showtime’s candidates for the Emmys.



Helena Medina

HELENA MEDINA (PhD Columbia University, 2001) started her career as a TV screenwriter at NBC in New York before moving back to Europe, where she creates and writes movies, miniseries and series for Mediaset (Italy and Spain), TVE, Canal Plus France, Netflix, etc. She continues writing in the USA, where her most recent work, now in production, is as an Executive Producer. Helena lives in London where she is now starting her own production company.



Jason B. Kohl

Jason B. Kohl is an award winning Austrian/American filmmaker whose work has screened at the Berlinale, SXSW, Locarno, BFI London and Tallinn Black Nights. He’s currently developing original television series with Gaumont, Odeon, Lieblingfilm and Vienna-based Rund Film. He’s a former Fulbright and DAAD scholar with an MFA in Directing from UCLA Film School in Los Angeles. Jason is represented by the Gersh Agency in Los Angeles and the FBE agency in Berlin.

Our location

Arezzo, Tuscany

We are currently based in a 15th-century villa in the hills of Arezzo, Tuscany.



Our location

Arezzo, Tuscany

We are currently based in a 15th-century villa in the hills of Arezzo, Tuscany.



Online workshops & mentoring



During the pandemic, Nostos adapted to offer **online group workshops** via Zoom.

We also offer **online one-to-one mentorship sessions** with a mentor, allowing writers from all over the world to access **quality feedback and guidance** when perfecting their screenplay.

Online workshops & mentoring

The [online] workshop is amazing! And Flaminio is so **astute, generous and gifted in his critiques** for everyone. I am very happy. His support means the world to me after all the hard work. The group of screenwriters—the very different stories and approaches—are **inspiring, and very supportive.**

Shelagh Carter, writer & director

Online workshops & mentoring

My online sessions with Patty were **amazing!** I'm going to continue to work on what she gave me. She was of **great value** to me and I **hope to work with her again soon.**

Tytiona Coleman, screenwriter

A day at Nostos



Mornings are usually dedicated to free-writing sessions, while every weekday afternoon, the group comes together with the retreat mentor for group workshopping sessions.

After this session, the mentor is then available for **individual mentorship** and consultation sessions. During the course of the two weeks, we also have **two guest speakers** join to give a workshop, for example on the art of pitching.

On weekdays during the retreat, all meals are provided for the writers. This allows the writers to **purely focus on their writing**, but also allows all the participants to come together at mealtimes for a well-deserved break and share a moment of **community, connection, and discussion.**

Weekends are free time, where writers are invited to relax and explore the **beautiful local area.**

Nostos success stories



Devi Snivley

We are incredibly proud of our alumna Devi Snivley whose script “A Trump Era Horror” that she developed with us at Nostos three years ago got into the final rounds at the prestigious Sundance Screenwriting Lab!



Oliver Warren

In Fall 2020, Nostos alumnus Oliver Warren was named one of the International Screenwriters Associations (ISA) Top 25 Screenwriters to watch in 2021.



Bat-Sheva Guez

2019 retreat participant Bat-Sheva Guez was selected to be a finalist in the Screencraft Screenwriting Fellowship with the script that she developed with us at Nostos.



Anne Thieme

Our alumna Anne Thieme got script developing funding for the feature that she developed with us at Nostos at the Fall 2020 Elba Island Retreat with her project MIAMI with Kuratorium junger deutscher Film.



Julia Penner

We want to congratulate Fall 2018 Nostos alumni and full scholarship winner Julia Penner for getting the script that she developed at Nostos produced: the miniseries “Vaterland” for ARD is filming in Munich, Germany. Creator: Julia Penner and David Sandreuter.

Writer feedback

I feel **inspired, confident**, and I'm really **happy with the work I got done** on the retreat. I made some **new life-long friends**. I ate **incredible food** every day. And I got to take the most gorgeous runs across the **Tuscan countryside**. Honestly, I am beside myself with gratitude.

**Alex Qin, filmmaker and
PAGE award winner**

Writer feedback

The retreat was absolutely **fantastic**, incredibly **enriching**, and helped **push me artistically** in my own writing in such a unique way. The time and space (and the setting!) that the retreat gave me to **focus on my work** was such a godsend. **I would come back in a heartbeat.**

**Frank Donnangelo,
Writer & Director**

Writer feedback

Nora and her team have created a writing environment that not only lets screenwriters take a step back from their everyday lives but an opportunity **allowing writers to see true potential** within their own projects and work.

From the **home-cooked meals** to the special guest speakers, I've learned certain lessons and skills that have allowed me to **take my writing to the next level**. I feel **confident, recharged and ready to move forward with my screenwriting career**.

Brandon Stark, Screenwriter

Writer feedback

I had a very **productive and focused experience** at Nostos, writing for hours everyday, receiving **feedback** on my script from a **diverse group of people**, and getting valuable training in the art of the pitch from **leading industry professionals**. Nora has been very active with promoting my script and helping me to get it into the right hands. I've also learned a great deal about how the **film industry and financing** work in Europe.

Nostos is a great place to **sharpen your skills as a writer**, an industry professional, and to make new friends.

Hal Schneider, Actor/Writer/Director

the Nostos team



Nora Jänicke
Founder

Nora Jaenicke is an award-winning filmmaker residing between Berlin and New York City. She grew up in Italy with German parents and studied Film Studies at the European Institute of Design in Rome and Screenwriting at Vancouver Film School. Later on she was able to deepen her studies in Psychology and Creative Writing by obtaining a Bachelors of Liberal Arts at Harvard University Extension Studies, while on a full scholarship. Her first feature film "Ada" starring Fanny Ardant is slated for production in 2022.



Lucia Rose Buffa
Retreat coordinator

Lucia is a British-Italian designer working across the fields of visual communication, photography, and web & social media management in creative and artistic spaces.

In 2020, she graduated with a BA in Design from the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano. She has lived, worked and studied in the UK, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain, and is currently based in Bozen-Bolzano, Italy.



Francesca Gambato
Holistic Chef

Francesca is a sustainable living and travel consultant. Her focus is to create holistic tourism experiences that merge her skills—yoga, food and organic agriculture. She is naming this project "Radicarsi", which in Italian means "to get rooted" referring to the idea of going back to the roots, and in this sense inspiring awareness of the self and connection to the natural world.



Isabella Egizi
Onsite retreat manager

Isabella Egizi has always had a passion for telling stories in as many mediums as possible. With a BA in Theatre and Film Studies from Colorado College, she worked for several years in Los Angeles where she was lucky to take on a range of roles on set and on camera. Some of her most exciting projects include the premiere stage production of Allison After a Fire at the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the award-winning indie feature July Rising (2018), and her first short film as a director, A Different Time (2018).

Collaborations and partnerships

We are always open to exciting and innovative partnerships and collaborations!



For example:

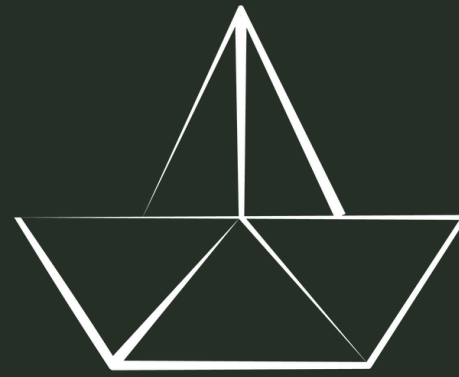
- Becoming **online/marketing partners**
- Becoming a **sponsor**: fund a scholarship
- **Offer your services** at one of our retreats

...and more.

If you'd like to discuss a potential collaboration, don't hesitate to get in touch!

nora@nostoscreenwritingretreats.com

lucia@nostoscreenwritingretreats.com



**Nostos
Screenwriting
Retreats**

[website](#)
[instagram](#)
[facebook](#)
[twitter](#)