

# EBU

# Audio Storytelling Festival

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Rai Headquarter  
**Rome**  
**20-22 May**  
**2024**



## EBU

OPERATING EUROVISION AND EURORADIO

Con la  
collaborazione  
di



## Sunday May 19th

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**14.00 > 18.00**

ACCREDITATION

Via Asiago, 10

For those interested, a guided tour is available of the historic Italian radio building with exhibition dedicated to 100 years of Italian radio and 150 years of Guglielmo Marconi.

## Monday May 20th

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**9.15 > 9.30**

FESTIVAL OPENING/WELCOME FROM RAI AND EBU

Sala Zavoli  
Viale Mazzini, 14

**9.30 > 10.35**

AUDIO  
**Coming out** - LRT (Lithuania)

In Soviet times, admitting you were a homosexual was extremely dangerous: it was considered an illness and a crime. Vitalius got used to lying about it to protect himself and his lover. As they grow old and Albinas' memory slowly fades, Vitalius is tired of hiding and decides to tell their life story publicly for the first time.

*A radio documentary by Rūta Dambraitė and Inga Janiulytė-Temporin (LRT)  
Language: Lithuanian with English subtitles  
Length: 47:09"*

**10.35 > 10.55**

BREAK

**10.55 > 11.35**

PLENARY  
**Use of AI in audio**

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly prevalent in all of our lives, what impact might it have on audio storytelling? And what possibilities might it open up for broadcasters?

*With Benjamin Poor, EBU Senior Project Manager -  
Technologist | Innovation | Hybrid Radio  
Language: English*

**11.35 > 12.40**

AUDIO

**Heart Over Cross** – SWR (Germany)

Magdalena is in her mid-30s and the mother of three children when she can no longer ignore the fact that it is women she desires - not men. However, she has been a member of a Christian evangelical free church since the age of fifteen. Her entire social life has taken place within the confinements of this strict, sect-like organization.

This is a story about faith, freedom, and fear. And the absurdity of the notion of "sin".

*A radio documentary by Monika Kursawe*

*Language: German with English subtitles*

*Length: 50:59"*

**12.40 > 13.50**

LUNCH

**13.50 > 14.40**

PLENARY

**Golden Jubilee IFC**

For half a century, radio makers from around the globe have been jamming together. What's the scoop for listeners? And how do we rocket 50 years of know-how into tomorrow's airwaves? Includes the eagerly anticipated release of the one-of-a-kind book *'European Radio Documentary: a History of the Format and its Festivals'*.

*With Lorelei Harris (Ireland), Berit Hedemann (Norway), Edwin Brys (Belgium) and special guest Tereza Reková (Czech Republic). Host: Willem Davids (Netherlands).*

**14.40 > 14.45**

**Ake Blomström Masterclass 2024**

A presentation and launch with Wolfgang Schiller and Agnieszka Czyżewska-Jacquemet  
Chair and coordinator of the Ake Blomström Masterclass.

**14.45 > 15.25**

AUDIO PLENARY

**Inside Kabul** – France Inter, Radio France

A podcast project in nine episodes that follows the parallel lives of two young Afghan women, Raha and Marwa, since Kabul fell to the Taliban. While telling their stories, *Inside Kabul* focuses on the many difficulties they face as young Afghan women in their early twenties, caught up in a series of tumultuous events beginning in the summer of 2021.

2023 PRIX ITALIA Winner – Radio Documentary and Reportage.

*By and with Caroline Gillet*

*Language: English and French with subtitles.*

**15.25 > 15.30**

A remembrance of a colleague, a friend and award-winning documentary maker, Leslie Rosin.

15.30 > 15.40

BREAK

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15.40 > 16.30

PLENARY

**Documentary and the truth: What lies beneath facts, emotions, time and perception.**

Is it true or not? Is it real or not? Have I been tricked or scammed into believing this story never happened - or happened differently from the way I've been told. These are some of the most compelling questions for a documentary maker. But what about audiences? For the last century, documentary makers have strongly believed in separating fact from fiction - in telling the audience the truth. But is this really what's been happening?

*With Jonathan Zenti*  
*Language: English*

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Evening  
19.00 > 22.00

DINNER

Sala della Protomoteca  
Piazza del Campidoglio, 1

Please note that guests will reach the venue on their own

## Tuesday May 21th

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9.30 > 10.40

PLENARY

**Six Characters in Search of a Cliffhanger**

It's become a cliché that we need to hold listeners through propulsive storytelling and cliffhanger endings. This workshop looks at how we create compelling protagonists and how we use them to shape the structure of a narrative.

*By Emma Harding (BBC) - with Alison Hindell (BBC)*  
*Language: English*

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10.40 > 11.00

BREAK

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11.00 > 12.00

AUDIO PLENARY

**Talk about *Shit Town, Trondheim* - NRK (Norway)**

Berit Hafsmo lives around the poverty limit in Trondheim, Norway's third-largest city. Despite constant adversity, however, she is a worldclass optimist. Things are looking up when she is granted a council flat in Skitbyen (literally "Shit Town"), nicknamed for the city sanitation workers who were the original tenants a hundred years ago. She turns her flat into a safe haven for friends and family who find themselves in equally dire straits. But now eviction is looming. Berit has fought the system before-and lost-so she finds no reason for despair. When life slaps her in the face, she finds all the more reason for creative and positive thinking.

2023 PRIX EUROPA Winner - Best European Audio Documentary Series of the Year.

*By Ole Martin Hafsmo with Kjetil Saugestad (NRK)*  
*Language: English and Norwegian with English subtitles*

12.00 > 12.30

AUDIO

**Story of A. - life, dreams and struggles of unaccompanied and separated children in Italy**

A four-part podcast telling the story of Abdul, who in 2017 arrived in Italy as an unaccompanied child from the Ivory Coast. He was only 14. The episodes, narrated by him, follow his story from his arrival in Italy to his inclusion in the reception system, with all of the dreams and challenges he faced along the way. Abdul's story is intertwined with those of the people in Italy who supported him, such as one of his teachers and a family who took him in through the 'Terreferme' family foster care pathway. This pathway has been run by UNICEF and the Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità d'Accoglienza (CNCA) since 2017 to promote family-based care for migrant and refugee children and adolescents who have arrived in Italy alone.

*By Marco Stefanelli with UNICEF Italia  
Language: Italian with English subtitles  
Length: 16'.36"*

12.30 > 13.15

AUDIO

**Short Stories Bath**

As listeners, producers and editors, we're moving more and more towards long form, multi-episodic series. But is bigger always better? Here we immerse ourselves in 5 short form stories.  
With Liam O'Brien (RTÉ)

• **It's not you, it's me**

by Neža Borkovič (Slovenia)  
*Language: Slovenian with English subtitles  
Length: 8'.21"*

• **Changing my mind - Katrin's story**

by Claire Crofton - (UK)  
*Language: English  
Length: 7'.03"*

• **This is a village, thought as it wasn't here**

by Alicja Pietruczuk and Aleksandra Sadokierska (Poland)  
*Language: Polish with English subtitles  
Length: 9'.50"*

• **The Fighter pilot**

by Kathi Tu (US)  
*Language: English  
Length: 6'.35"*

• **The change in farming**

by Adam Goddard and Steve Wadhams (Canada)  
*Language: English  
Length: 11'.37"*

13.15 > 14.30

LUNCH

**14.30 > 15.20**

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PLENARY

**How do the Italian stories sound?**

A journey through Italian radio documentaries from the 1950s to present times. We dive into RAI's archive to discover how audio storytelling has changed over the last 80 years in Italy - and how Italian stories really sound.

*With Andrea Borgnino and Michela Mancini (RAI)  
Language: English and Italian with subtitles*

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**15.20 > 15.40**

BREAK

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**15.40 > 16.10**

**...And How Does It End?**

As audio documentary producers we are used to thinking about how to begin our story - we start with a scene, a quote, or a collage of the best tape. But what is a good way to end? How do we leave our listeners? More often than not we do not know it ourselves when pitching our story idea to the editors.

Georgia Catt (BBC) and Vaida Pilibaityte (LRT) share some examples from their work and invite you to think about the editorial and creative choices we make when ending our audio stories.

*Language: English*

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**16.10 > 17.00**

AUDIO PLENARY

**Million Dollar Lover** - BBC (UK)

Million Dollar Lover is an unlikely love story, recorded in real time as the relationship unfolds between Carolyn, who is 80 and has properties worth a few million dollars, and Dave, 57, a former drug addict who is homeless and has spent a decade in jail.

The story captured the attention of the BBC Journalist Sue Mitchell, as it was unfolding on her street. She spends a lot of time in California - she married an American and her award-winning journalism has been about the lives of people like Dave who inhabit the dangerous margins of society.

*With Sue Mitchell (BBC)  
Language: English*

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Evening  
**19.00 > 20.45**

Sound walks in three districts of Rome: Trastevere, Monti, San Lorenzo

Event by reservation only

Max 20 people per sound walk

More info [here >>](#)

# Wednesday May 22th

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**9.15 > 9.30**

EBU ELECTION OF AUDIO STORYTELLING GROUP

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**9.30 > 10.50**

PLENARY  
**Fragments Of Extinction**

A sensorial experience into the 'paleo-choirs' of the oldest primary forests on Earth, never recorded before with 3D technologies.  
"It is the sonic heritage of millions of years of evolution. We must save fragments of it in order to study, understand, experience, enjoy, and conserve it, preserving for future generations imprints of the disappearing sonic intelligence of nature."

*By and with David Monacchi*  
*Language: English*

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**10.50 > 11.10**

BREAK

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**11.10 > 11.40**

PLENARY  
**The Finaly Affair. Abducted by order of the Vatican** - ORF (Austria)

An inside view on one of ORF's most successful series (4-parts). In 1953 Robert and Gérald Finaly, orphaned by the holocaust, are abducted by priests by order of the Vatican and brought from France to Spain. The children had been baptised against the wishes of their family. The resulting national scandal divided public opinion in France. Georg Renöckl was able to interview the brothers Robert and Gérald Finaly who today are over 80 years old and live in Israel.

*By Elisabeth Stratka*  
*Language: German with English subtitles*  
*Episode Length: 14'.53"*  
*Broadcaster: ORF*

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**11.40 > 12.30**

AUDIO PLENARY  
**The Mystery** - DR (Denmark)

A behind the scenes look with the makers of a 7-part investigative series which uncovered systemic issues in the Danish judicial system as two young Somali girls fight to be heard.

2023 PRIX EUROPA Winner - Best European Audio Investigation Series of the Year

*By Frederik Hugo Ledegaard Thim & Signe Mansdotter*  
*with Thorgerdur Sigurdardottir*  
*Language: English*

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**12.30 > 13.45**

LUNCH

**13.45 > 14.45**

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AUDIO

**Permanent Lockdown** - HateFree Culture (Czech Republic)

They were young, active, artistically gifted, and sociable people. However, they have spent the last few months partially forgotten by the world, in a state of absolute exhaustion. The common denominator of Adam and Hana's struggles is post-COVID syndrome in the form of ME/CFS. It's a complex illness without a simple diagnosis or reliable cure. Due to the fragility of their condition, they prefer to isolate themselves in their own personal lockdown.

*A Radio documentary by Martina Pouchlá*  
*Original language: Czech with English subtitles*  
*Length: 32':35*

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**14.45 > 15.20**

AUDIO

**The good and the flawed** - Independent (India)

The first ever computer programmers: a group of six women mathematicians who worked on the ENIAC. The ENIAC is a fixture in computer history, but for a long time these women lived in complete obscurity. Even historians who saw them in photos dismissed them as "just models". This was until someone looking for role models stumbled across them.

*A podcast by Abhijit Shilanhata*  
*Language: English*  
*Length: 22':52"*

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**15.20 > 15.40**

BREAK

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**15.40 > 16.30**

PLENARY

**All Things Story**

Liana Simstrom is Acting head of the Enterprise Storytelling Unit, NPR's home for longform documentary audio storytelling. Overseeing some of the biggest story-based podcast and radio shows in the US, Liana gives her insights on all things story.

*By Liana Simstrom (NPR) - with Till Ottlitz (WDR)*  
*Language: English*

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**16.30 > 16.45**

ENDS/HANDOVER TO LITHUANIA

See you next year in Vilnius!