

Clearing Rights for Film and TV

September 25-27, 2025, Berlin

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

DAY OF ARRIVAL

19:30 **Welcome Dinner**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

DAY ONE

9:00 **Welcome, Introductions and Expectations**

Katharina Domnick, LL.M., *Brehm & v. Moers*

9:30 **How to Structure a Rights Clearance Procedure**

The introductory presentation gives an overview on the increasing importance of rights clearance. Clearing rights is art, not science. The introduction serves as a roadmap through the seminar and illustrates not only the legal, but also the economic, artistic and strategic issues with regard to rights clearance.

Katharina Domnick, LL.M., *Brehm & v. Moers*

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:30 **Archival Workflow**

This session provides expert insight into archival workflows and the artistic process of an archive-driven documentary entirely sourced from a legacy. Through the case study of the theatrical feature-length documentary *Riefenstahl*, you will explore professional working methods, from access and development to production and post-production. The session also covers the classification of legal aspects, as well as budget calculations for licenses and the costs associated with an archive producer. Additionally, we will include specific examples of rights clarification processes in fiction productions

Monika Preischl, *bildfinderin*

13:00 **Lunch Break**

14:30 **Case Study : *Riefenstahl***

Riefenstahl - legal issues regarding the use of archive materials and clip licenses (including without limitation: copyright, privacy and defamation law, license vs. fair use)

Wolfgang Brehm, *Brehm & v. Moers*

15:30 **Coffee Break**

16:00 **Clearing Rights at Zentropa: How Not to Get Sued**

Examples and best practice lessons from Zentropa, one of the leading film production companies in Europe. The session provides hands-on knowledge on how to deal with clearance issues in real life and especially how the balance between theory and real life is handled at Zentropa. Examples include *The Kingdom Exodus*, *Italian for Beginners*, *Klovn (Clown)*, *Nymphomaniac*, *The House That Jack Built* and *Dear Wendy*.

Anders Kjærhauge, *Zentropa*

18:00 **End of Day One**

19:00 **Dinner** at a nearby restaurant

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

DAY TWO

- 09:00 **Clearing Music Rights**
Clearing music rights is one of the most complex parts of the film production. This presentation will focus on the steps that are necessary to determine which permissions are needed to make use of a composition, to find out who are the owners of the copyright, whom to contact and how to negotiate the license deal. One shortcut for the producer might be to hire a composer to write original music for the film and to clear the rights for the score at source with one contract. Finally, the presentation will address the pitfalls of the so-called Public Domain and Fair Use.
Kai Florian Furch, *Brehm & v. Moers*
- 10:30 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 **AI session**
This AI Session gives a general overview on generative AI tools and the legal implications for the use in a production, especially with regards to Copyright and Personal Rights in connection with text, image, video and voice synthesis.
Kai Florian Furch, *Brehm & v. Moers*
- 12:00 **Lunch Break**
- 13:15 **Clearing Personality Rights for Fiction and Non-Fiction**
Sophie will present a whistlestop tour through clearing personality rights as they arise in True Crime, Documentaries, Biopics and Scripted genres. This session will also compare the legal and practical approaches involved in assessing personality rights in different genres.
Sandhiya Sophie Argent, *Creators Counsel*
- 14:45 **Break**
- 15:00 **Clearing Rights – The American Way**
In this presentation, Yvette Encarnación gives a practical overview on how clearance for US productions is conducted. The program is an overview of rights clearance procedure generally with a special focus on scripted content and fiction inspired by true events.
Yvette Encarnación
- 16:30 **Coffee Break**
- 16:45 **Expert Speed-Dating: What You Always Wanted to Know (But Were Afraid to Ask)**
This session gives participants the exclusive chance to discuss their current projects and problems they might be facing with various experts.
All
- 18:00 **End of Day Two**
- 19:00 **Dinner** at a nearby restaurant

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

DAY THREE

- 09:00 **Case Study : *Spy/Master***
 The espionage drama SPY / MASTER is set in the 1970s and follows the story of Rumanian double agent Victor Godeanu across Europe and the United States. Clearing the rights of a period piece like this can be challenging, especially if the story takes place in a recent era, where most of the artworks and other copyrighted materials are still under protection. This case study will reveal the most interesting parts of this process, highlighting all the different types of rights clearance involved in the process. The presentation will also feature some examples from other recently completed shows.
Balázs Zachar, *Proton Cinema*
- 10:30 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 **Trademarks and Co. in Films: What Can and Can't Be Done**
The use of trademarks in films is a two-sided issue. One not only has to know under which circumstances approval is necessary for such rights, but it is also important to protect one's own rights in the film, such as the film title or possible phantasy brands etc. The presentation will provide practical guidelines for dealing with trademark issues in films.
Katharina Domnick, LL.M., *Brehm & v. Moers*
- 12:15 **Trademarks and Artwork in Films: The Creative Approach**
 This presentation shows examples from various films such as *The Bourne Supremacy*, *V for vendetta*, *The Ghostwriter*, *The Fall Guy* and *Snowden* as well as from the Netflix-shows *Bad Banks* *Berlin Station*, in which original trademarks couldn't be used and fictitious brands were created instead.
Henning Brehm, *design-tourist*
- 13:15 **Lunch Break**
- 14:30 **Introduction of Case Studies**
Katharina Domnick, LL.M., *Brehm & v. Moers*
- 14:45 **Group Work on Case Studies (including coffee break)**
- 16:00 **Group Work Presentations**
- 17:00 **Clearing Rights Wrap Session**
Katharina Domnick, LL.M., *Brehm & v. Moers*
- 17:15 **Final Evaluations**
- 17:30 **End of Day Three**
- 19:00 **Dinner at a nearby restaurant**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

DAY OF DEPARTURE