

INDUSTRY

M
A WARSAW

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF ETHNOGRAPHY
IN WARSAW

9-13.05.2024 D
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A SPACE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOCUMENTARY INDUSTRY



INDUSTRY

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MDAG

A space for the
development of the
documentary industry

INDUSTRY

Welcome to this year's MDAG Industry. Our main aim is to connect Polish and other Eastern European filmmakers with foreign festival representatives, distributors, producers, sales agents and contemporary cinema stars. We started in 2021 with a single event, since 2022 we are creating an expanded module of industry events under the banner of MDAG Industry. The MDAG Industry program is growing organically and is being developed in response to the current needs of the audiovisual market, following trends, staying ahead of changes in the market.

For the third time, we have prepared for you a carefully selected set of projects that testify to the power of documentary film as a mean of expression that builds civil society. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to showcase films that boldly explore urgent issues, ranging from human rights and minority rights violations to war crises, as well as local and personal narratives that resonate with everyone. It is this thoughtful filmmaking that fosters empathy, bridges gaps, and drives change.

In our program, we emphasize fostering a 'networking' culture - cultivating connections, exchanging ideas and dialogue, and learning from each other through shared knowledge and experience. We aim not only to support film production but also to create a community of open-minded filmmakers and industry representatives. We aspire for participants to feel valued, inspired, and uplifted through the exchange of thoughts among MDAG Industry participants. We want to encourage you to talk to each other, meet, and share experiences and ideas not only related to the industry.

We hope you have a productive time in Warsaw at the Millennium Docs Against Gravity Industry event.

ON BEHALF OF THE MDAG INDUSTRY
Anna Szczypińska
Head of Industry

PROGRAM

THURSDAY → 9.05

10:00-16:30 5th Documentary Film Forum for Young Audiences
One-on-One Meetings
Organiser: Andrzej Wajda Centre For Film Culture
The National Ethnographic Museum → Kredytowa 1

FRIDAY → 10.05

11:00-15:30 Progress Pitching Session + Thom Powers Keynote Speech
One-on-One Meetings
Partners: PISF, CANAL+ Poland, Polish Filmmakers Association,
SMAKJAM, SoundMind, Pitch the Doc
The National Ethnographic Museum → Kredytowa 1

15:30-17:00 THE AUTHENTIC NOW - Niels Pagh Andersen Masterclass
The National Ethnographic Museum, Kredytowa 1

SATURDAY → 11.05

11:00-12:00 Where's the market for documentaries? Masterclass with Esther van Messel.
Organizer: KIPA
The National Ethnographic Museum → Kredytowa 1

12:15-17:00 Pole Position – Pitching
One-on-One Meetings
The National Ethnographic Museum → Kredytowa 1

SUNDAY → 12.05

11:00-14:30 Short Pitch Program
One-on-One Meetings
Organiser: Institute of Documentary Film
The National Ethnographic Museum → Kredytowa 1

14:30-15:30 Case study: How to navigate success of a short film?
The Journey to Success of Mariia Ponomarova's Short Film "Three
Windows On South West"
Organiser: Institute of Documentary Film
The National Ethnographic Museum → Kredytowa 1

15:45-16:45 Lecture: The US Documentary Film Industry in a Nutshell
The National Ethnographic Museum → Kredytowa 1

MONDAY → 13.05

10:00-11:30 KIPA Breakfast
Organiser: KIPA
Moko Cafe, The National Ethnographic Museum → Kredytowa 1

11:45-13:00 Discussion panel: How to Distribute Documentaries In Cinemas?
(event held in polish)
Organiser: KIPA
The National Ethnographic Museum → Kredytowa 1

13:00-14:30 Discussion panel: Working Conditions On Documentary Film Sets
(event held in polish)
Organiser: Związek Zawodowy Filmowców (Filmmakers' Trade Union)
The National Ethnographic Museum → Kredytowa 1

14:30-16:00 Discussion panel: Sports Documentaries Are Not About Sports.
How to Make Films That Will Appeal Not Only To Fans?
(event held in polish)
Organiser: Papaya Films
The National Ethnographic Museum → Kredytowa 1



A DETAILED PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE IN THE INDUSTRY SECTION ON THE FESTIVAL WEBSITE → [MDAG.PL](https://mdag.pl)

PROGRESS PITCHING SESSION

MDAG INDUSTRY



An event dedicated to visually interesting, creative documentary projects with international potential. Progress Pitching Session is an excellent chance to discover films which are looking for international co-production or distribution opportunities in their different phases, from concept to post-production. 10 selected finalists will present their projects to leading Polish and international film industry representatives: producers, investors, sales agents, distributors and festival programmers. The pitching aims to leverage the festival guests' expertise and create a place where world-class projects are born.

The 7-minute presentations will be followed by Q&A session and individual meetings between participants and the decision makers.

Organizator: Against Gravity

Partners: Polish Film Institute, CANAL+ Poland, Polish Filmmakers Association, SMAKJAM, SoundMind, Pitch the Doc

Moderator: Ola Salwa

Awards

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| CANAL+ Poland | → | for the best pitch - cash prize of 3,000 euros |
| Polish Filmmakers Association | → | cash award of PLN 10,000 |
| SMAKJAM | → | color-correction service worth PLN 15,000 |
| SOUNDMIND | → | sound post-production service worth PLN 10,000 if the entire process is carried out by Sound Mind |

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FRIDAY → 10.05 → 11:00





Kim
Christiansen

Executive Producer - Documentaries & Co-productions
DR Sales, Denmark

Master degree in Film and Law from University of Copenhagen. Worked with international documentary (selling, buying, commissioning and co-prod.) for the last +20 years. Previous Head of Sales at TV 2 WORLD and Head of Industry at CPH:DOX (2012 & 2013) Selected work on following international productions: The Mole - Last Men in Aleppo (OSCAR nominated 2018) - Cold Case Hammarskjöld - Armadillo - India's Daughter - Pervert Park -- DEMOCRATS - The Red Chapel - Putin's Kiss - Blood in the Mobile - Dark Side of Chocolate - Queen of Versailles - Ai Weiwei the Fake Case - The Why Poverty Series.

Currently: Overseeing all our documentary films for the international market mainly from independent producers from the Nordic region but also from US, UK, Germany etc. as well as helping the producers with getting their films financed. DR Sales is the sales department of the Danish Broadcasting Corp. It is Scandinavia's largest international distributor, specialized in social and political contemporary documentaries and present at all major television markets and festivals. DR Sales also handles film projects in production in close collaboration with independent producers eligible for international co-productions and pre-sales.




Martijn
J. te Pas

e u R O P E doconsultancy

Martijn te Pas studied Psychology, English and Film & Television Studies at the University of Amsterdam. From 2000 onwards until 2019 he was part of the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) as senior programmer. He was an advisor for the IDFA Bertha Fund and also read projects for the IDFA Forum. Between 2000 and 2020 he traveled to many film festivals as a guest or jury member. Martijn also was a documentary advisor of the Dutch Mediafund (currently NPO Fund) between 2007 and 2013. In 2019 Martijn moved from Amsterdam to Stockholm and in 2020 he was Guest Documentary Programmer at Nordisk Panorama. Currently he is a programmer and festival advisor of MIRAGE - a hybrid/ documentary festival in Oslo. April 2020 Martijn started e u R O P E doconsultancy which is aimed at directors and producers and offers tailor made SWOT analysis of films both at development and edit stages. Martijn also offers expert advice and guidance on curation, festival and distribution strategies. Martijn is an advisor of Eurimages, worked for SFI Talent to Watch in 2023, is an advisor for Sheffield DocFest and is an EAVE and Sources 2 alumnus. Occasionally he writes reviews - and interviews filmmakers for Business Doc Europe.

Leonard Cohen: Behind the Iron Curtain

Leonard Cohen: Za żelazną kurtyną

 Check the project at
Pitch the Doc Platform

Run time: 90 min
Budget: 259 764 €
Delivery date: 1Q 2025
Co-financed by: Polish Film Institute, Silver Frame, Creative Europe

Leonard Cohen: Behind the Iron Curtain" follows Leonard Cohen and the people who knew him and worked with him in Poland during the tour promoting the album "Various Positions", in 1985. In Poland, his music is considered more than just entertainment; it is the soundtrack to an opposition movement of millions of people working to topple a totalitarian regime. Featuring never-before-published concert footage and scenes from life in Poland in the 1980s, as well as music, and unknown interviews with Cohen during his stay in Poland in 1985, "Leonard Cohen: Behind the Iron Curtain" tells the story of Cohen's cult in a society under Soviet backed communist rule. The film also showcase the stories of a younger generation of Poles who are still deeply connected to the bard's music and remain influenced by it.

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Focus → co-producers / distributors

director

producer

15



Eric Bednarski

Born in the city of Halifax, Canada. Currently living and working in Warsaw. He studied history and directing at universities in North America and Europe. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Gemini Award presented by the Canadian Academy of Film and Television for a documentary film produced in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada. He was nominated for the prestigious Writers Guild of Canada Award.

Stanisław Zaborowski

Co-owner of Silver Frame. Producer and co-producer documentary and feature movies. He graduated from Andrzej Wajda's Master Film School also studied in the University of Warsaw on Faculty of Journalism and Political Science. From 2007 to 2012 he worked in national Polish Television, TVN and Polish National Radio. From 2019 board member in KIPA. In 2019 he became a Polish representative at the Emerging Producers workshop and IDFA Academy. EFA member.

Contact

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Frontline

Check the project at
Pitch the Doc Platform

Country of production: Poland (HAKA FILMS), Denmark (Ström Pictures - co-producer Monica Hellström)
Run time: 90 min
Delivery date: January 2025
Co-financed by: FILMBOOST scholarship program, Chicken & Egg Critical Issues Fund, Woman Make Movies, Silicon Valley Community Foundation - Meadow Fund

The battle rages on, but everything seems so calm and fragile, until a missile shatters everything. A first-hand look into the reality of the Ukrainian front line, by a director and a mother, who became a soldier. Frontline reveals a very different and unseen side of war through a camera that is both a soldier's and a documentary filmmaker's eye.

"Frontline" will be a poetic documentary based on a footage that Alisa Kovalenko shot during her time on the front. This intimate film project aims to capture the reality of war as soldiers experience it, not as people outside imagine.

Front is not about heroism and action, about fearless warriors and tough battles, but about endless routine and waiting, about days and nights in the trenches, staring into the space around you, into the horizon lines of wheat fields, into the trees of woodlands, listening to every possible sound, when everything is exploding, or when everything is silent.

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Focus → sales agent / broadcasters / distributors

director

producer

17



Alisa Kovalenko (1987)

is an award-winning Ukrainian documentary film director living in Kyiv. She studied documentary cinema at the I. Karpenka-Kary National University of Theater, Cinema and Television and at the Andrzej Wajda School as part of the Dok Pro program. Her documentary, „WE WILL NOT FADE AWAY,” premiered at the Berlinale in the Generation 2023 section and was a major festival success. From 2019, she is a member of the European Film Academy.

Kasia Kuczyńska

is a Polish producer at HAKA Films in Warsaw. She graduated from the Lodz Film School and the Wajda School. Katarzyna has worked on international co-productions, such as „Communion,” directed by Anna Zamecka, which won the European Film Award for Best Documentary in 2017. HAKA FILMS' first documentary film, Bogna Kowalczyk's „Boylesque,” premiered at Hot Docs 2022, winning the award for Best International Filmmaker. Kasia was part of the Ji.hlava Emerging Producers 2023 program.

Contact

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My Sunnyside

Check the project at
Pitch the Doc Platform

Delivery date: Q1 2025
Run time: 84min
Budget: 430 000 eur
Director / script / editor: Matylda Kawka
DoP: Marcin Kaproń

Focus → co-producers / financing / post-production partners /
distributors / sales Agent / broadcasters / festivals

True love can surprise you when you have already lost hope of finding a partner. Allie and Jo knew they would be together from the very first moment. The feeling gave them a strength they never anticipated.

Jo, a trans man, is one of the most prominent figures in the New York start-up scene, a great speaker, mentor, and activist. His partner, Allie, a trans woman, is a biology lecturer beloved by her students.

When they were in their twenties, coming from small religious communities, they didn't even know the word „transgender“. Two decades later, their paths cross so they can start the family they've always dreamed of having together, and they both begin to transition.

We meet them as they prepare for their wedding to the rhythm of family events and celebrations. We witness scenes from the life of an ordinary but unusual family from Sunnyside, Queens, New York.

And just when things are finally starting to fall into place, Jo receives a devastating cancer diagnosis. Our protagonists are faced with questions they never saw coming this soon. It turns out that this seemingly unconventional couple manages to create a surprisingly traditional family where everyone feels loved and supported.

director

Matylda Kawka

Born in Poland and living in New York since 2013, she started making films at the age of 16. She holds a Master's degree in Philosophy from the University of Poznań and graduated in Directing from PWSFTviT in Łódź. She has directed several short films and edited two feature-length documentaries. Her short feature film "Forever Mine" was screened at the Cannes Film Festival.

producer

Alicja Gancarz

is a graduate of Film Studies at the Jagiellonian University and of the Organisation of Film and Television Production at the Warsaw Film School. She has almost 25 years of experience in the media industry, having previously worked for the film services of the Onet portal, and then for the CANAL+ station, where she supervised, among others, the production of the documentary series „Nuns“ and drama series „Planet Single. Eight Stories“ and „A Minute of Silence“.

Contact

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My father, the Iceman

Check the project at
Pitch the Doc Platform

Mój ojciec, Iceman

Run time: 80 min
Delivery date: 2026
DoP: Stanisław Cuske, Adam Suzin

Ewa struggles with being known as the 'murderer's daughter', as her father once used terrorist tactics to try to start a civil war in South Africa and stop the fall of apartheid. Even though they have different beliefs, she wants him to be released from prison and wants to fix their relationship. After more than thirty years in jail, there's a chance he could be sent to Poland. Ewa embarks on a perilous journey to Africa, seeking assistance from Lindiwe, one of the daughters of Chris Hani, the politician her father killed.

"My Father, the Iceman" is an intense political and psychological documentary thriller, underscored by a compelling narrative. It explores ideas like crime and punishment, lack of remorse and forgiveness, dangerous beliefs, and the thin line between good and evil.

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Focus → co-producers

21

director

producer

Łukasz Kowalski

Director, screenwriter and film producer.

He is a member of the Polish Film Academy, Polish Filmmakers Association, the National Chamber of Audiovisual Producers. His feature-length documentary film Lombard (The Pawnshop) was screened at over 100 international film festivals and won 25 prestigious awards including Polish Film Award „Eagle” award for Best Documentary Film 2023.

Anna Mazerant

Film producer, psychologist, trend watcher. Graduate of the Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing, the KIPA Incubator and various documentary film development programmes, including Dok.Incubator 2020, DocLab Poland 2019. She received the Best Polish Production Award at the Millennium Docs Against Gravity 2022 festival and Polish Film Award Eagle 2023.

Contact


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Light in the Darkness

Światło w Mroku

Estimated budget: EUR 165.000

 Check the project at
Pitch the Doc Platform

„Light in The Darkness” is a cinematic scrapbook of life in the war zone. The film adapts the form of an essay in which the narrators (a Polish Reporter and Female Volunteer from Ukraine) share their reflections. The war casts a shadow over the everyday lives of ordinary people.

The movie comprises two layers. The first layer is visual, depicting the lives of ordinary people. The second layer explores the emotional aspects, which we get to know through the narratives of the Reporter and the Volunteer. The characters in the film represent hundreds of individuals affected by the war who are trying to help others and find their place in the chaos of war.

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Focus → financing / TV broadcaster / distribution / co-producers

23

director

Tadeusz Chudy

Director and cinematographer. I work on long-term projects. I enter that little part of the world that interests me. Time allows me to understand people and spaces which are different from the ones I come across on a daily basis. I include my experiences and stories of the people I meet in my frames. I studied philosophy and film theory at the Jagiellonian University and the making of film image, TV and photography at the Faculty of Radio and Television of the University of Silesia.

Alina Shapran

Actress, screenwriter, designer. Graduate of the Faculty of Graphic Design (BA), and GeekHub advanced web design course, graduate of Kostrov acting school, and courses in acting and physicality (expression through the body). She has participated as an actress in film productions (short film „Are you here?“, „Inversion”) in music videos („Good evening” by KARNA), as an assistant producer for the film „As It Was”. She has recently started to make her first attempts at directing, and working on two scripts for future films.

Contact

Marta Wierzbicka → marta.malgorzata.wierzbicka@gmail.com

producer

Marta Wierzbicka

Producer and production manager. A graduate of the University of Warsaw's Faculty of Management and a course for Film and Television Producers at Lazarski University, Marta has experience in the production of a variety of film forms, ranging from feature films („Das Weisse Haus Am Rhein”, „From Bed Thou Arose”, „The Model”), to commercials (Leroy Merlin, McDonald's, Lirene), TV programmes („Down The Road”, „Unusual Transportation”) and documentaries („Angels of Sinjar”, „Desire For Beauty”). She undertakes projects both as an independent producer and in collaboration with television stations, and she is a member of the National Chamber of Audiovisual Producers.



Baltic

Check the project at
Pitch the Doc Platform

Baltyk

Run time: 52 min
Delivery date: Q1 2025
Budget: 92 000 EUR
Co-producers: Canal + Poland, Munk Studio and Polish Filmmakers Association, Creative Europe, MX 35

Focus → co-producers / post-production partners / sales agents
distributors / festivals

After forty years of running her famous smokehouse in a Polish seaside town, sixty-four-year-old Miecja grapples with the challenges of aging and illness while facing the daunting fear of the business's survival prospect without her at the helm. Known to tourists and locals as the Queen of Łeba, Miecja's dedication to her employees and her establishment drives her to persist, as she refuses to relinquish her role.

The story unfolds against the backdrop of Miecja's journey to success, marked by relentless hard work and personal sacrifice. Through her efforts, Miecja not only achieved wealth and local fame, but also became a 'godmother' to troubled individuals like Mirek and Pikolo, offering them solace and protection within the sanctuary of her smokehouse. As Miecja's health deteriorates, she is compelled to confront the ultimate question: should she prioritize her career and the legacy of her establishment, or her own well-being? The impending decision forces Miecja to reevaluate her life's purpose and consider the possibility of passing the torch to her son-in-law, Dawid, as her successor.

"Baltic" is a film about a woman's struggle to balance societal roles and personal ambition, aiming to answer the question: can you really have it all?

director

Iga Lis

Upon receiving a bachelor's degree in History from the London School of Economics in 2021, Iga channeled her social initiatives into her film work. She wrote and directed short films on environmental topics for Google and Greenpeace. Co-founder of Olsnienie.eu and Przebudzenie, projects aimed at increasing voter turnout among the Polish youth. Age and the stages of human life are concepts at the heart of her work, reflected in her short Can You Hear Me? and documentary film Baltic.

producer

Justyna Gawełko

executive producer

A graduate of Cultural Studies and Script Pro scriptwriting program at Wajda Film School. For several years she has been working in the documentary industry, gaining her experience within CoPro Market (Israel) and CEDOC Market (Poland). Director of a short documentary "Yehudis" (2018), co-director and a producer of a feature documentary "Jews by Choice" (2024).

Silver Frame is an independent production house which brings together talented artists. We specialize in the production of documentary and fiction movies with international potential.

Contact

Justyna Gawełko → j.gawelko@silver-frame.com



Candidates of Death

Kandydaci śmierci

Country of Production: Poland
Delivery date: Q1 2025
Run Time: 72 min
Producers: Maciej Cuske, Ewa Hoffmann
Co-producers: Silesia Film, Telewizja Polska
DoP: Tomasz Pawlik
Co-financing: Polish Film Institute
Partners: Miejskie Centrum Kultury w Bydgoszczy

Check the project at
Pitch the Doc Platform

Fifteen years ago, I took my son and two of his young friends on holiday, where we shot an amateur horror film together. Little did I know back then that it would turn into one of the greatest adventures of my life, spanning more than a decade.

Today, the boys are almost 30 years old and they have changed. Rafał has always believed he would be the second Tarantino, but after graduating from film school he still can't fulfil his dreams. Growing up in a broken family, Adrian dreamed of sharing his life with another person, but he still can't find love. My son Stasiek, a budding cinematographer, has also had to deal with my separation from his mother. Taking trips together allows me to turn into the boy I was 30 years earlier, who dreamed of making films without limitations.

"Candidates of Death" is a record of our cinematic adventures over a dozen years. It's a film about ourselves, growing up, our questions, fears and dreams and, above all, the power of a long-standing friendship.

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Focus → sales agent / broadcasters / distributors

director / producer

producer

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Maciej Cuske

Documentary film director. In 2004 he completed the documentary course at the Andrzej Wajda Film School, where he is currently a lecturer. His films "The Cure", "Suburban Train" and "Old Bookstore" have been screened at leading film festivals worldwide. His last film, "The Whale from Lorino", received the Silver Horn at the KFF, the Polish Film Academy Award for best documentary and the Golden Frog at the Camerimage Festival.

Ewa Hoffmann

Graduate of financial mathematics at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń and the PWSFTviT in Łódź. Associated with documentary film since 2018. She has been working in documentary filmmaking since 2018, producing both original projects and cooperating with production companies as an executive producer. Member of the Board of Directors of the Bydgoszcz Chronicle Film Foundation which produces documentary films. Member of KIPA and Polish Filmmakers Association.

Contact

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Ewa Hoffmann → fundacjabkf@gmail.com

Sugarland

Check the project at
Pitch the Doc Platform

People in Chiapas, the poorest state of Mexico, consume the most Coca-Cola in the world – over 2 liters per day. It plays a ceremonial role during church prayers, even traditional healers attribute healing properties to Coca Cola. Business transactions often involve gifting large quantities of Coke and to gain the votes, politicians are expected to offer up to 180 cases of Coca-Cola. However, Chiapas is grappling with a diabetes epidemic. The Coca-Cola factories are also depleting the groundwater so local residents are deprived of access to drinking water.

Ola, a journalist from the Polish crew, teams up with Joel, an indigenous artist from the Mexican crew, to delve into the root causes of why Chiapas has the highest global consumption of Coca Cola. Throughout their journey, they discuss the varying responses they receive from their interviewees and reflect on whether it depends on their respective backgrounds and skin colors. Will they understand why Coke took over the Mexican soul?

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Focus → producer

director

co-author

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Julia Groszek

Director of documentaries, short films and music videos. Graduate of documentary film directing at the Wajda School. She studied Audiovisual Communication in Malaga (Spain) and holds a Master of Cultural Studies. She made documentaries in Poland, Romania and Jordan, reportages in Burma and Thailand. Her documentary „Arabic Secret” was presented at international festivals and received numerous awards.

Ola Synowiec

Journalist and writer specialising in Mexico, a country where she resided for nine years. She earned master’s degrees in both Literature and Latin American Studies from the University of Warsaw. Ola has also studied Tsotsil, an indigenous language native to Chiapas. She has authored two books centered on Mexico as well as guides to the country. She also curates the website Mexico Magico Blog.

Contact

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Dekonstrukt

Check the project at
Pitch the Doc Platform

Shooting starts summer 2024
Development grant from Polish Film Institute

The film about creating safe spaces in an unfriendly reality and entering adulthood. Stefa, Mac and Karo, three non-binary young artists, founded an art and party collective called 'Dekonstrukt' (Deconstruct). The initiative, operating on the Polish club scene, is run by and aimed at transgender people. They live on the fringes of a socially marginalized group and excluded by the society in Poland. They are looking for ways to express their aesthetics. Meanwhile, the protagonists reach adulthood, face the final exams at the Academy of Fine Arts and need to decide how to handle their lives. Will they be able to live according to their own rules and build a series of events that become a welcoming place for the people like them? Documentary footage will be supplemented by fictional scenes and VHS recordings made by the protagonists. This documentary coming-of-age story will transform into a punk road movie. Their lives reflect the journey that the queer community in Poland has made while fighting for their rights.

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Focus → co-producers / pre-sales

31



director

producer

Mateusz Góra

A graduate in Film Studies at the Jagiellonian University and Film Editing at the Warsaw Film School, he works for the Polish film festivals. A reporter for such magazines as i-D, Vice and Kultura Liberalna. Interested in documentary and queer cinema. A co-director of the short documentary A Few Things I'd Like To Tell You (the World Premiere at the 2023 MDAG).

Kamil Wilk

A director and editor based in Warsaw, and a graduate in Film Editing at the Warsaw Film School. He works on post-production of films and TV series launched by Netflix, Canal+ and Viaplay. Fascinated by the films of Wong Kar-wai and Pedro Almodóvar. A co-director of the short documentary A Few Things I'd Like To Tell You (the World Premiere at the 2023 MDAG).

Contact

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Piotr Śmiechowski → piotr.smiechowski@telemark.com.pl

Anna Kępińska PGP

graduated from the Department of Film and Television Production at the University of Silesia in Katowice. Since 2003, she has been running TELEMAR, serving as its co-owner, board member, and creative producer. She has produced multiple award-winning documentaries such as: „Entangled” („Uwikłani”), „Over the Limit” and „High Water” („Wielka Woda” Netflix) of which she is also the creator.

Piotr Śmiechowski

A graduate of the National Film School in Łódź. The projects he has supervised have won him awards and honourable mentions at Polish and European festivals, for instance, the Silver Hobby-Horse for Best Short Film at the Krakow Film Festival for „Bitten”. In 2020 joined Telemark as a Junior Producer.

Birdie

Check the project at
Pitch the Doc Platform

Ptaszek

Country: Poland
Run time: 70 min
Delivery date: April 2024
Budget: 233 000 EUR
Financing in place 113 000 EUR
Still required 120 000 EUR

An unexpected series of events throws Aneta off guard and in one sudden blast sweeps away from her life two most important men - her father and her husband. The unwanted breakup of her marriage triggered by the unforeseen death of her dad forced her to search for consolation through the relationship with her camera. This medium, implanted in her by her father, a cinematographer, becomes her witness, therapist and redeemer. She directs the lens on herself and the immediate surroundings and documents her years-long process of realisation that the painful "celestial coincidence" of both losses, was in reality a blessing in disguise. While Aneta reexamines her life, a terrifying truth comes to the surface. She recognises how oblivious she was to the fact that her once beloved husband is in reality a sexual predator and brainwashing cult leader. Aneta uses her right as the filmmaker to claim the narrative and liberate herself from the influence of false personas of masters.

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Focus → financing / sales agent / festivals

director

producer

33

Aneta Ptak

graduated from the Faculty of Multimedia Communication at the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznan, Poland in 2010. She exhibited her short films, video art installations, performances in museums and galleries across Europe including Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland (2009), Platform Gallery, Vaasa, Finland (2009), Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, Poland (2010). Her experimental short films have been screened on international festivals in Poland and other European countries. In 2010 she received a grant from The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland. Currently she is a Phd student in National Film School in Lodz, Poland. Since 2017 she has been working as a movie post production specialist.

Małgorzata Staroń

is a Polish producer. She holds PhD in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Paris V Sorbonne, and she is an EAVE graduate. In 2005 together with Wojciech Staroń, she founded Staron-Film a film production company that specializes in documentary film production and international fiction and documentary coproductions.

Previous films:

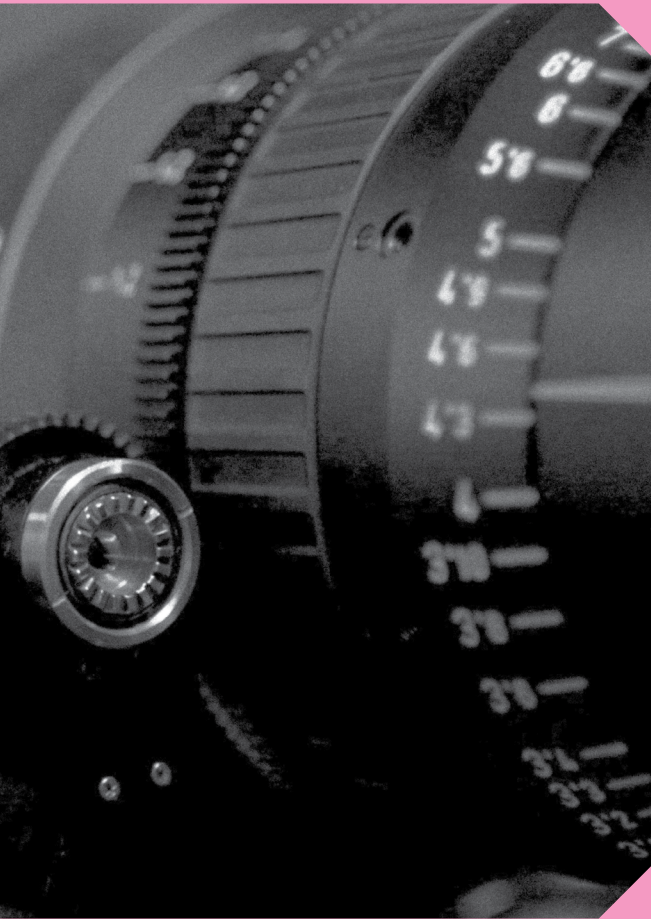
„Apolonia Apolonia” – doc (2022) IDFA Grand Prix,
„January” – fiction (2022) Best Film Tribeca IFF,
Autobiography – fiction (2022) Orizzonti di Venezia IFF,
El Premio – fiction (2011) Berlinale Silver Bear

Contact

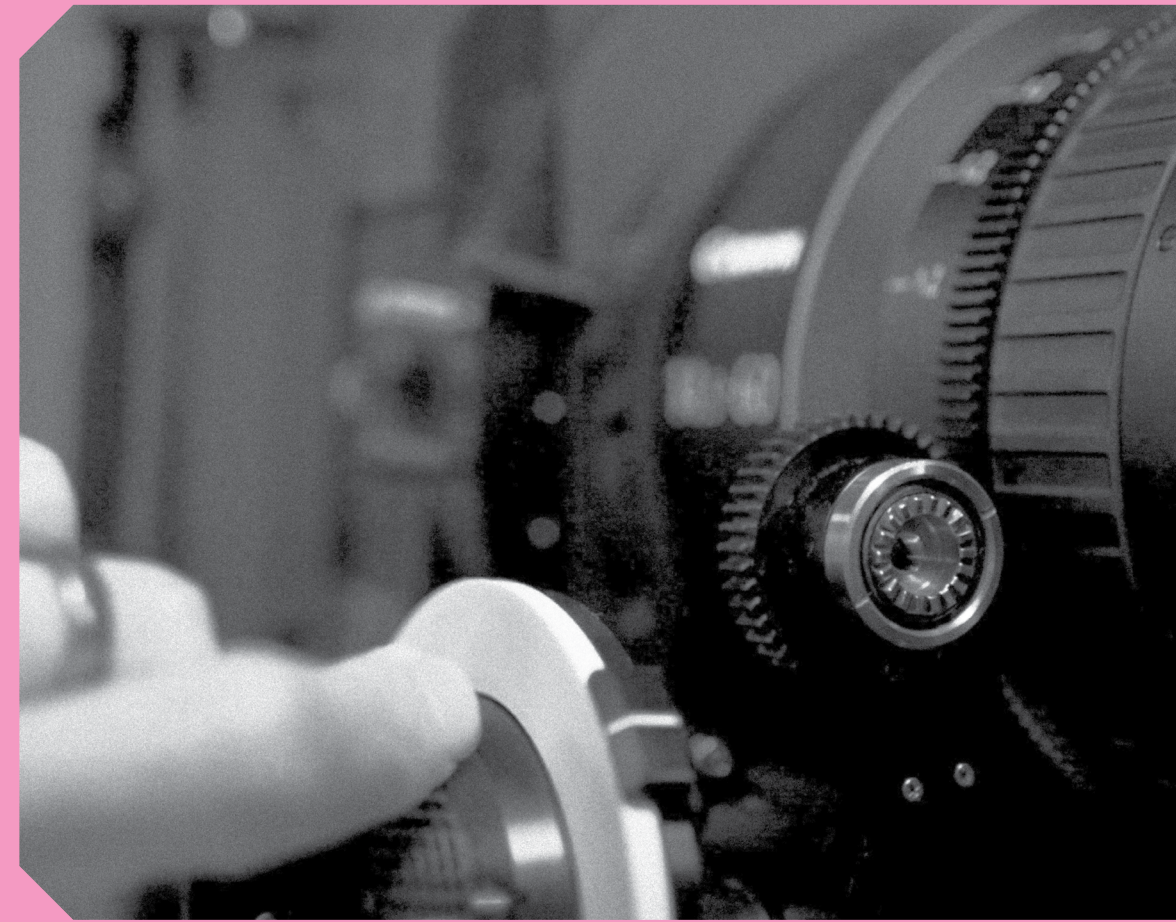
Małgorzata Staroń → mstaron@staronfilm.pl



POLE POSITION



Pole
Position



POLE POSITION

MDAG INDUSTRY

Pole Position

Join us for an experimental pitching of Polish films that are already completed and included in the program of the 21. Millennium Docs Against Gravity.

Every year, the Millennium Docs Against Gravity program features excellent Polish films, often taking part in the Main Competition and in the Short Film Competition. Once again, we want to draw attention to the extraordinary quality of Polish cinema and the variety of topics touched by filmmakers. For the second time, the MDAG Industry will host a pitching session of selection of Polish films that are already completed and included in the 21th Millennium Docs Against Gravity programme. The short presentations will encourage foreign guests to watch the film and include it in their festival programme, distribution or other forms of cooperation.. This is a unique opportunity for filmmakers to attract the best industry professionals.

The 7-minute presentations will be followed by individual meetings between participants and the decision makers.

Organiser: Against Gravity
Moderator: Marcin Radomski

Towards the Sun

W stronę słońca

Debut Competition

Poland, 2024, 92 min
Directed by: Agnieszka Kokowska
Cinematography by: Agnieszka Kokowska
Producer: Sławomir Richert, Michał Zamencki, Justyna Ziemkiewicz, Katarzyna Tymusz
Production: Warsaw Production Team sp. z o.o.
Editing: Albert Bana
Partner: Canal+ POLSKA
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity Film Festival: World Premiere

Kasia and Robert, along with their three sons, take a bold leap from their conventional lives into an RV, embarking on a journey with no set destination, guided only by a longing for freedom and closeness. As the miles accumulate, the stark contrast between their fantasies and the realities of road life unfolds. Can leaving everything behind and venturing into the unknown truly unlock the path to happiness?



Focus → sales agent / distributors / festivals

director

producer



Agnieszka Kokowska

Cinematographer, director, educator. Author of feature documentary film „Towards the Sun”, DOP of feature film „Mum” (dir. J.Ouarrak, 2024) and numerous music videos and short films. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Cinematography from the Katowice Film School in Poland. A graduate of Wajda School where she studied directing. Co-founder of the Polish Collective of Professional Female Cinematographers FDOP.

Justyna Ziemkiewicz

is Producer graduated from Administration at the UMK in Torun and from the Production Organization at the PWSFTviT in Lodz. Besides she has completed courses of Documentary Photography and Screenwriting. She has been working in the film industry since 2009 mainly involved in advertising production. In May 2021 became a Producer at Warsaw Production Team, where she produces TV commercials and documentary projects.

Katarzyna Tymusz

Graduate of Cultural Studies and Film Production at the University of Silesia and Postgraduate Studies in Management (Polish-French MBA) at the University of Lodz. She gained experience working on features and series but mostly documentaries. Since 2023 she is a part of the Warsaw Production Team and she currently works on the project „Towards The Sun” directed by Agnieszka Kokowska.

Contact

Warsaw Production Team → weare@warsawproduction.com

Grandmamauntsistercat

Short Film Competition

The Netherlands, Poland, 2023, 23 min
Directed by: Zuza Banasińska
Production: Zuza Banasińska, Wytwórnia Filmów Oświatowych w Łodzi
Distributor: Video Power, Eye Filmmuseum
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – IFF Rotterdam, 2024 – Berlinale

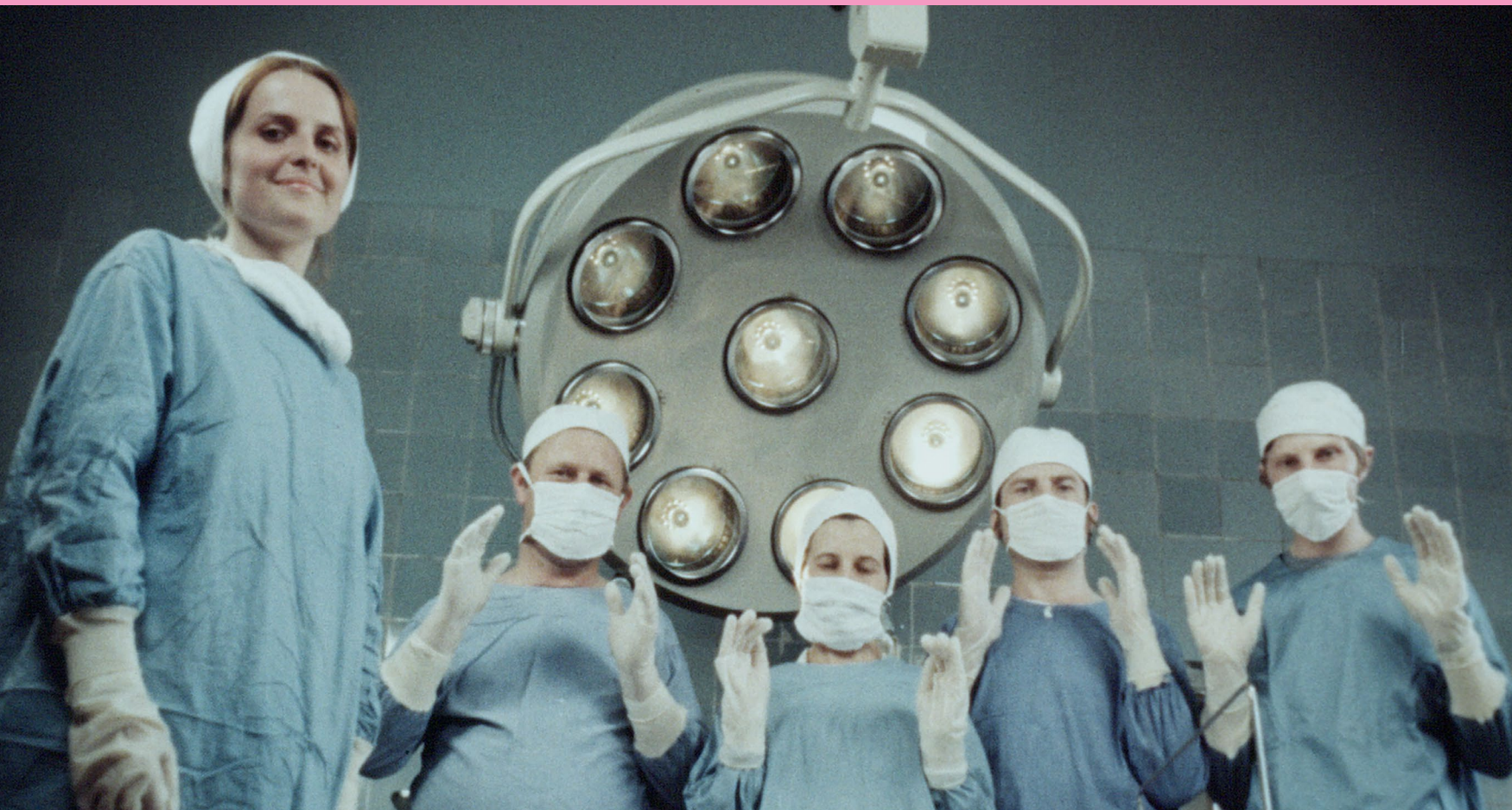
The classic Slavic witch figure, Baba Jaga, is reimagined as a “prehistoric goddess from the times of the matriarchy” using found footage from the Polish Educational Film Studio archive. This transformation incites layered reflections on kinship and identity, guided by a child grappling with binary gender roles. The often sexist and anthropocentric images, created as didactic materials in communist era, are repurposed into an emotive portrait of a multispecies matriarchal family seeking freedom and empowerment.

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Focus → sales agent / festivals

director

41



Zuza Banasińska

is an artist and filmmaker from Warsaw, currently based in Amsterdam. In their essay films and installations, they animate spectral realities sedimented within archives, investigating processes of standardized knowledge production. They studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków, at the University of the Arts in Berlin, and at the Sandberg Instituut in Amsterdam. Their works have been shown in spaces such as the U-Jazdowski CCA in Warsaw, Dům Umění Mesta Brno in Brno, and Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam, among others. Their work is currently supported by the Mondriaan Fund, Netherlands Film Fund, and Stimuleringsfonds, and is distributed by Video Power and EYE Filmmuseum. Their newest film premiered at International Film Festival Rotterdam 2024 and the 74th Berlinale, where it received the Teddy Award for best short film.

Contact

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Jade Wiseman → jade@videopower.eu

Freshman

Świeżak

Short Film Competition

Poland, 2024, 25 min
Directed by: Michał Edelman, Tomasz Pawlik
Cinematography by: Tomasz Pawlik
Producer: Ewa Jastrzębska, Jerzy Kapuściński
Production: Studio Munka
Editing: Przemek Krężel, Julia Polkowska
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity
Film Festival: World Premiere

„Freshman” is a two-year observation of fifteen-year-old Jędrrek. Cut off from his family and loved ones, the boy gets locked up in a juvenile prison. Now he has to adapt to a new, harsh environment. At first, he is scared and lonely, but later, he meets a friend – Wojtek. The juvy slowly becomes their new home.

director

Michał Edelman

He studied at the Interdepartmental Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities at the University of Warsaw and graduated in directing at the Łódź Film School. Born into a family of filmmakers, he grew up on film sets where he developed a love for cinema that has continued to grow over time. In 2020 he made his debut with the documentary film “The Last Knights of the Right Side”, which had its international premiere at the Ji.hlava Documentary Film Festival. He is currently working on his feature film debut “Nerwica Serca”.

Tomasz Pawlik

Cinematographer and documentary film director. He studied Artes Liberales at the University of Warsaw. In 2024, he graduated from the Cinematography Department of the Łódź Film School. During his studies, he did camerawork for many short feature films as well as documentaries. Some have been recognised at prestigious film festivals, including Palm Springs International ShortFest, Brussels Short Film Festival, Polish Film Festival Gdynia, and Kraków Film Festival. As a cinematographer, he also works on international projects. He develops his skills by collaborating with respected cinematographers as a camera operator.

producer

Munk Studio

Munk Studio functions within the structures of Polish Filmmakers Association since 2008 and was set up to focus exclusively on producing directorial debut films. The goal of the studio is to discover and support talented young directors in making creative, art-house cinema.

Focus → sales agent / festivals



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Contact

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Tomasz Pawlik → tomasz.pawlik6@gmail.com

Ewa Hoffmann → ewa@ehproduction.pl

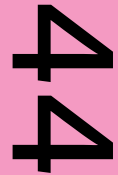
The Ghost

Duch

Short Film Competition

Poland, 2024, 7 min
Directed by: Jakub Gomółka
Cinematography by: Vincent Prochoroff
Producer: Agata Golańska
Production: The Polish National Film School in Lodz
Editing: Zuzanna Grabowska
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity
Film Festival: World Premiere

Andrzej has completed a two-year course at the center for former prisoners in Silesia, the mining region in Poland, which was intended to bring him back into the society after detention. However, it turns out that the society does not forget about the past. The landscape outside Andrzej's room window and repeating sound of the voicemail intensify his loneliness.



Focus → sales agent / festivals

director

producer



Jakub Gomółka

Student of the Directing Department at the Polish National Film, Television and Theatre School in Lodz. Previously a student of the Intermedia. A cinephile. A photographer and an amateur writer. Rised in the village near Krakow, son of the Baltic Sea.

Agata Golańska

A graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Lodz and the Film Production at the Polish National Film, Television and Theatre School in Lodz. Since 2006, a lecturer at the Faculty of Film and Television Directing and since 2020, the Rector's Plenipotentiary for Film, Television and Theater Production at the Polish National Film, Television and Theatre School in Lodz.

Contact

Agata Golańska → a.golanska@filmschool.lodz.pl



The Faint Clatter of Birds

Niewyraźny klekot ptaków

WFO retrospective

Poland, 2024, 71 min
Directed by: Franciszek Berbeka
Cinematography by: Stefan Żółtowski, Włodzimierz Puchalski, Ryszard Wyrzykowski
Producer: Waldemar Drozd
Production: Wytwórnia Filmów Oświatowych
Editing: Natalia Jastrzębska
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity Film Festival: National Premiere

“The Faint Clatter of Birds” is the story of Polish Nature Film pioneer embarking on his last journey. Włodzimierz Puchalski immensely in love with the nature, has been documenting its beauty for nearly a half of century. His heritage includes thousands of meters of film reels. Using unique archive materials of WFO Film Studio Łódź, director Franciszek Berbeka tells about remarkable passion of Puchalski, and the price he had to pay for pursuing it.

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Focus → sales agent / distributors / festivals

director

producer

47



Franciszek Berbeka

Born in 1989 in Zakopane where he graduated from the Antoni Kenar High School of Fine Arts. He studied Philosophy at the Pontifical University in Kraków and then continued his studies at the University of Warsaw. As of 2019, he is studying Film and Television Directing at the Łódź Film School (PWSFTViT). At the Film School he made several feature and documentary shorts. One of his most important films is “The Disappearance of Janusz Klarner” (2021). He made it using the found-footage technique, mixing original film from a 1939 Himalayan expedition with feature shorts from the 1940s and 1950s. Festivals and awards: 37th Warsaw International Film Festival, world premiere; 19th Krakow Mountain Festival – 2nd prize in the Polish competition; 70th Trento Film Festival – official selection; Tbilisi International Student Film Festival – Best Director Award; Berg Tegernsee International Film Festival – Special prize.

Contact

Franciszek Berbeka → fberbeka@gmail.com

Wytwórnia Filmów Oświatowych → wfo@wfo.com.pl

Waldemar Drozd

Board president of WFO Sp. z o.o. – graduate of Cultural Studies with a major in Film Studies at the University of Łódź, and of Management Studies and Occupational Health and Safety at the Łódź University of Technology. Assistant director and second assistant feature film director. Producer of documentary films: „WHEN THE DIABEL LIVED IN THE FIELDS” (WFO, 2022), „TRWANIE” (WFO, 2022), „SOLARIS MON AMOUR” (2023, co-production between WFO, PWSFTViT in Łódź and IAM), „PARTYTURA W GŁOWIE” (WFO 2024), „GRANDMAMAUNTSISTERCAT” (2024, WFO co-production with the author).

Twenty Years After: C.K.O.D.3

Dwadzieścia lat później: C.K.O.D.3

Debut Competition

Poland, 2024, 71 min
Directed by: Piotr Szczepański
Cinematography by: Piotr Szczepański
Producer: Anna Pachnicka
Production: Anagram Film
Editing: Piotr Szczepański
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity
Film Festival: World Premiere

“Twenty Years After: C.K.O.D.3” is the third part of a unique lifetime project. Twenty-two years ago Piotr Szczepański decided to make a film about a group of his friends every ten years, creating a unique generation portrait. These friends were the punk rock band Cool Kids of Death. The first part of the saga was the 2004 awarded documentary “C.K.O.D. Generation”. Twenty years after its foundation and ten years after disbanding, Cool Kids of Death starts a special tour of concerts now having a cult status. Will this reunion bring something more than just purely mercantile benefits?

48

Focus → sales agent / festivals

director

producer

49



Piotr Szczepański

Born in 1975 in Łódź. Member of the Polish Film Academy, Polish Film Directors' Guild and Polish Documentary Directors' Guild. He specialises in long observation documentaries shot in direct cinema method. His documentary debut „C.K.O.D. Generation” brought him the Golden Hobby Horse in Kraków in 2004.

He is a cinematographer by education and works also as director of photography. He collaborated among others with Krzysztof Zanussi, Sławomir Fabicki and Krzysztof Wodiczko.

Anna Pachnicka

Anna Pachnicka is a producer and production manager.

Her latest films include “Our Tenement” and “@miriamfrompoland”, directed by Piotr Szczepański. She is a member of the Guild of Polish Producers. Anna combines her professional work in film production with teaching duties. She is a lecturer at the Department of Production Organisation of Film Art at the Łódź Film School, where she has served as Dean since 2020. She collaborates with Opus Film and Lava Films, most recently on Magnus von Horn’s “Sweat” (2020) and “Treasure” (2024), directed by Julia von Heinz.

Contact

Piotr Szczepanski → piotr.szczepanski@me.com

Forest

Las

Polish Competition
Main Competition
Cinematography Competition

Poland, Czech Republic, 2024, 84 min
Directed by: Lidia Duda
Cinematography by: Zuzanna Zachara-Hassairi
Producer: Patryk Sielecki, Michał Ostatkiewicz, Aleksandra Ostatkiewicz
Co-Producers: Michał Sikora, Anna Bławut, Lidia Duda
Co-production: Lonely Production Studio, Filmowe Rabarbar, CANAL+ Poland, EC1 Łódź - City of Culture
Outreach producer: Weronika Adamowska
Production: Lumisenta Film Foundation
Editing: Lidia Duda, Filip Stanisławski
Sales Agent: RISE AND SHINE WORLD SALES
Selected festivals and awards: Silver Alexander, International Competition -Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival 2024, DOK.fest München 2024 - Official selection, Crossing Europe Film Festival 2024 - Documentary Competition, Millennium Docs Against Gravity 2024 - International Competition & Polish Competition, Ji.hlava New Visions Award 2022, MDAG Industry: Progress Pitching Session 2023 - Main Award

After graduating from university, Asia and Marek bought an old house near the eastern border of Poland. Located in Białowieża Forest, the oldest forest of Europe, the couple created their own paradise over the years - a place where their children can grow up safely, away from the problems of today's world. For Marysia, Ignacy and Franek the forest became their second home. Yet one day, things change as strangers show up. Refugees, unwelcome both in Poland and Belarus. Despite controversial border laws the whole family helps those who are in need. The new reality shows its impact on the children's world: they no longer play knights and princesses, but refugees and border guards. The growing humanitarian crisis on the EU border entered the family's safe place, leaving nothing as it used to be.

50

Focus → distributors / festivals

director

producer

51



Lidia Duda

Documentary film director and screenwriter. Her latest film "The Fledglings" (2022) won the Marco Zucchi Award in the Semaine de la critique section at the 2022 Locarno Film Festival, as well as four awards at the Millennium Docs Against Gravity Film Festival in Poland. She is a two-time Grand Prix winner at the Kraków Film Festival for "Hercules" (2005) and "Entangled" (2012), and has won Grand Prix at film festivals in Chicago, New York, Houston, Istanbul, Mexico City, Moscow, Banff, Guangzhou and Prague. Winner of the Grand Press Award for "U nas w Pietraszach" (2002). She is a member of the Polish Filmmakers Association, the Polish Film Academy and the Guild of Polish Documentary Directors.

Patryk Sielecki

Born in 1996 in Lodz, Poland. After two years of professional experience at Lava Films, he began working as a producer at Lumisenta Foundation. His involvement in many film productions has made him one of those filmmakers who fully appreciate the complexity of the film production process. His recent works include "An Orange From Jaffa" (2024) by Mohammed Almughanni, which won the Grand Prix at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and "Forest" (2024) by Lidia Duda which received Silver Alexander at the Thessaloniki International Documentary Film Festival. Currently, he's developing the feature-length fiction "You Don't Know Me" by Michal Edelman as part of the MIDPOINT Feature Launch Program 2024.

Contact

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Rise and Shine → info@riseandshine-berlin.de

Just Hear Me Out

Posłuchaj, co chcę Ci powiedzieć

Polish Competition

Poland, 2024, 76 min
Directed by: Małgorzata Imielska
Cinematography by: Zuzanna Zachara Hassairi
Producer: Agnieszka Balicka, Janusz Skałkowski, Barbara Ławska
Production: Studio Filmowe Kalejdoskop, Mazovia Warsaw Film Found, Telewizja Polska S.A.
Editing: Grażyna Gradoń, Marcin Szymański
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity Film Festival: World Premiere

After 2 years in a mental hospital, Gosia, 18, is returning to her family and friends. As every other young woman, all she wants is a chance at ordinary life: to finish her studies and meet someone who will love her. She fights to be heard and understood, and speaks openly about her experience of schizophrenia. Our camera accompanied Gosia for 3 years. We were there when she struggled with the voices in her own head and faced brutal rejection, and the stigma of being different. We also witnessed the unrelenting fear of her parents, that of losing their child.

52

Focus → sales agents / licenses / festivals

director

producer

53



Małgorzata Imielska

A graduate of Film and Television Directing at the University of Silesia, is a distinguished director and scriptwriter for various mediums. Her film „All For My Mother” won multiple awards, including the Golden Debut Award at 3Kino Fest IFF Praha (2020). Her documentary „Love and Empty Words” also earned acclaim, winning the „Golden Grape” at the Lubuskie Film Festival and the Grand Prize at the Hong Kong International Film Festival. Imielska’s films often tackle themes related to the Holocaust. She’s received international recognition for her work, including awards in Guangzhou, Houston, and Krakow. Additionally, her play „Chciałam Ci tylko powiedzieć” was honored at the Festival of Polish Radio Theatre and Polish Television Theatre „Two Theatres” in 2003.

Janusz Skałkowski

is an Oscar®-nominated producer, the founder of Studio Filmowe Kalejdoskop and Kalejdoskop Film. He has produced over 150 documentary films shown and awarded all over the world. Member of the Polish and European Film Academy.

Barbara Ławska

is an experienced documentary producer and production manager. For almost two decades, she held the position of head of production at Studio Filmowe Kronika. Member of the Polish Filmmakers Association.

Contact

Kamil Skałkowski → kamil@kalejdoskop.art.pl

When Harmattan Blows

Gdy powieje harmattan

Polish Competition

Poland, 2024, 82 min
Directed by: Edyta Wróblewska
Cinematography by: Marcin Sauter
Producer: Edyta Wróblewska
Production: SK Film Studio
Editing: Anna Garnarczyk
Sales Agent: Cat&Docs
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity:
World Premiere

Barbara is 25 and lives in Accra, the capital of Ghana. As an eight-year-old girl, she shared the fate of thousands of Ghanaian children who were put to slave labour by their own parents. For years Barbara functioned in a world full of abuse, violence and fear but she survived. Although full of anger, she has been supporting her parents and pays for the family, but their expectations keep rising. One day, together with her eldest brother, Kweku, she returns to her hometown to solve some family problems. Before that can happen, Barbara has to finally confront her parents.

54

Focus → international festival premier / distributors / broadcasters

director / producer

55



Edyta Wróblewska

is a film director, scriptwriter and producer, a graduate of Wajda School, Camerimage Film School and Berlinale Talent Campus, PhD student at Łódź Film School. Author of awarded documentaries („PRL de Luxe”, „Girl from a Reading Primer”, „Small Instruments”), which have been screened at numerous film festivals, including Vision du Reel, Sheffield Doc, Vancouver IFF, Guangzhou Doc, Docs Lisboa, ZagrebDox and many others. She has also directed a short fiction film The Road and a theatre play Mulholland Drive based on the script by David Lynch (Horzyca Theatre, Torun, Poland). She has been working as a tutor in film directing. A member of the Polish Film Academy.

Contact

Edyta Wróblewska → edytawroblewska@protonmail.com

The Last Expedition

Ostatnia wyprawa

Polish Competition
Main Competition

Poland, Switzerland, Nepal, India, Italy, Austria, 2024, 85 min
Directed by: Eliza Kubarska
Cinematography by: Piotr Rosołowski, Marcin Sauter, Małgorzata Szytak
Producer: Monika Braid
Production: Braidmade Films
Editing: Bartosz Pietras
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity
Film Festival: World Premiere

The true story of Wanda Rutkiewicz, the first woman in the world and the first person from Poland to climb the highest peaks on earth, told by herself. Wanda entered the men's world of mountaineers uninvited and paid the highest price for it. The film's director, herself a climber, sets off to the Himalayas in Wanda's footsteps. The clue to the search is the protagonist's audio-diary found among a pile of archival materials. Wanda disappeared 30 years ago. Her body was never found. Reportedly she stayed in a Buddhist monastery. The film explores her life and mystery with the participation of famous climbers: Reinhold Messner, Krzysztof Wielicki and Carlos Carsolio, as well as the women closest to her: sister Janina Fies and manager Marion Feik.

56

Focus → festivals (international premiere open)

director

producer

57



Eliza Kubarska

A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts and Wajda Film School in Warsaw. Author of internationally awarded documentaries: „Mountain Love Story” filmed in Greenland, „Walking Under Water” (for ARTE/ZDF) winner of the Jury Prize at Hot Docs in Canada, „K2. Touching the Sky” (for HBO), premiered at Locarno and filmed in Karakorum, „The Wall of Shadows” (for ARTE/ZDF), a story of extreme Himalayan expedition told entirely from the point of view of Nepalese Sherpas, premiered at Hot Docs. Winner of 30 international awards, including the Best Director from Zürcher FilmPreis. Her new documentary, the true story of Wanda Rutkiewicz „The Last Expedition” premieres at MDAF. As a climber, she has completed several mountain expeditions including Greenland, the Himalayas, Karakorum, Mali and Jordan. Eliza specialises in extreme location work; mountain and underwater expeditions.

Contact

Eliza Kubarska → eliza@verticalvision.pl

Monika Braid → monika@braidmadefilms.co.uk

Monika Braid

is an independent documentary and fiction film producer based in the UK since 1995. She founded Braidmade Films in 2006, collaborating with international organizations, TV broadcasters, and producers. She initiated the Polish Film Festival in London (now Kinoteka) during her time at the Polish Cultural Institute (2000-2004). Braid works globally, producing award-winning arthouse films like „Wall of Shadows,” „K2. Touching the Sky,” „Walking Under Water,” and „Wojtek: The Bear Who Went to War.” Her films enjoy worldwide distribution and screenings in cinemas across Poland, Germany, Switzerland, and the UK.

Monika Braid and Eliza Kubarska have formed a strong team working together since 2012.

Life and Deaths of Max Linder

Życie i śmierci Maxa Lindera

Polish Competition

Poland, France, US, Belgium, 2024, 99 min
Directed by: Edward Porembny
Editing: Aia Asé
Sound: Bartek Putkiewicz
Cinematography by: Joo Joostberens
Producer: Edward Porembny
Production: AMP Polska Edward Porembny
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity IFF: World Premiere, 2024 TIFF
Transilvania International Film Festival, 2024 International Documentary Film Festival Visioni dal Mondo.

The film was made as if it had been shot by an unknown filmmaker 100 years ago and rediscovered today. The entire work is based on carefully researched documentation. Finally, after 8 years of frame by frame work using artificial intelligence, neural networks, and other state-of-the-art technology, often invented by us, we have completed Life and Deaths of Max Linder. The movie depicts Max Linder, the first international screen star once revered in France, throughout Europe, and in Hollywood. This pioneer of early silent film comedy was a mentor to Charlie Chaplin. Linder miraculously escaped death five times, yet at the height of his artistic powers he and his wife, whom he adored so much, commit double suicide. How was this possible?

58

Focus → sales agent / distributors / festivals

director / producer

59



Edward Porembny

A Paris-educated filmmaker, specializes in international co-productions, having crafted over 50 documentaries for leading broadcasters worldwide like ARTE, Channel 4, HBO, and more. He's an EAVE 2007 graduate and a member of various film organizations across Europe and the USA. His works have garnered numerous awards, including Cannes Lions, D&AD, and Tromsø Palm Award. Notable films include „To the Last Tree Standing,” „I Am Kuba,” and „Madame Tyson.” Porembny's diverse portfolio showcases his talent and global reach in the filmmaking industry.

Contact

Edward Porembny → edward@porembny.com

In Limbo

W zawieszeniu

Polish Competition
Debut Competition

Poland, 2024, 70 min
Directed by: Alina Maksimenko
Cinematography by: Alina Maksimenko
Producer: Justyna Ham, Filip Marczewski
Executive producer: Katarzyna Madej-Kozłowska
Production: Wajda Studio
Editing: Feliks Mirosław Mamczur
Selected festivals and awards: Visions du Reel, International competition, Millennium Docs
Against Gravity: National Premiere

Russia's invasion of Ukraine finds Alina in Irpien, near Kiev. She is alone, with her leg in a cast after recent surgery. She manages to escape with her cat from a bombed and cut off city in one of the last evacuation groups. She reaches a cottage in a nearby village where her parents are stuck. For the first weeks they try to live normally. Her mother conducts online classes, her father takes care of his cats and the animals in the neighborhood, Alina records current events with her camera. However, the front is getting closer and closer, and they have to make a decision – to stay or to run away? When the neighbors leave their homes, Alina and her parents, under the cover of the night, hurry to pack. At the very last minute, the father decides to stay..

09

Focus → festivals / sales agent / distribution / broadcasters /streamers

director

producer

61



Alina Maksimenko

An artist born in Kiev, Ukraine. Painter, film director, DoP. During the years 1985 - 1988 studied in T.G. Shevchenko Art School; graduated from Kiev Art. College of M.Boychuk, documentary film directing at class of Sergey Bukovsky, Radio Broadcasting and Press Institute, and Wajda School's DOK PRO programme. Her first short "Ptitsa" was awarded at It'sAll True! IDFF in Brazil, received Andrei Matrasov Award at Docudays UA and the Award for Best Direction at Astra Film Festival, Romania.

Filip Marczewski

Director, screenwriter, producer, lecturer. As a director, he received over 50 awards at national and international film festivals. Nominated by the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for a student Oscar for the short film „Melodrama“ His feature debut „Shameless“ was selected by IndieWire magazine as one of the 10 best films of the Karlovy Vary festival. As a producer of the films „Live“, „Ptitsa“, „Basia: Three Short Stories“ - he received over 20 awards and nominations at festivals in Poland and abroad. Director of the Wajda School and Wajda Studio. Organizer of the Script Pro screenplay competition. Lecturer at the Wajda School, Gdynia Film School and Łódź Film School. Member of the Directors Guild of Poland.

Contact

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Director → Alina Maksimenko → alishamaks@gmail.com

Wajda Studio → +48 690 055 077

Well Of Dreams

Beczka snów

Polish Competition

Poland, 2024, 73 min
Directed by: Paweł Tarasiewicz
Cinematography by: Paweł Tarasiewicz
Producer: Paweł Tarasiewicz, Hanna Drewek
Production: Amondo
Editing: Paweł Tarasiewicz
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity: World Premiere

Reema works in the Well of Death – a carnival sideshow in Pakistan, where motorcyclists perform stunts and Reema dances to attract spectators, living the life of a nomad. Shattered by the loss of her love – Asif, heartbroken Reema travels back to her "Guru", who runs the transgender house where she grew up. "Well of Dreams" is a tale about the hopes and trials of Reema, set in a world where love can only be seen on a cinema screen in Lollywood films.

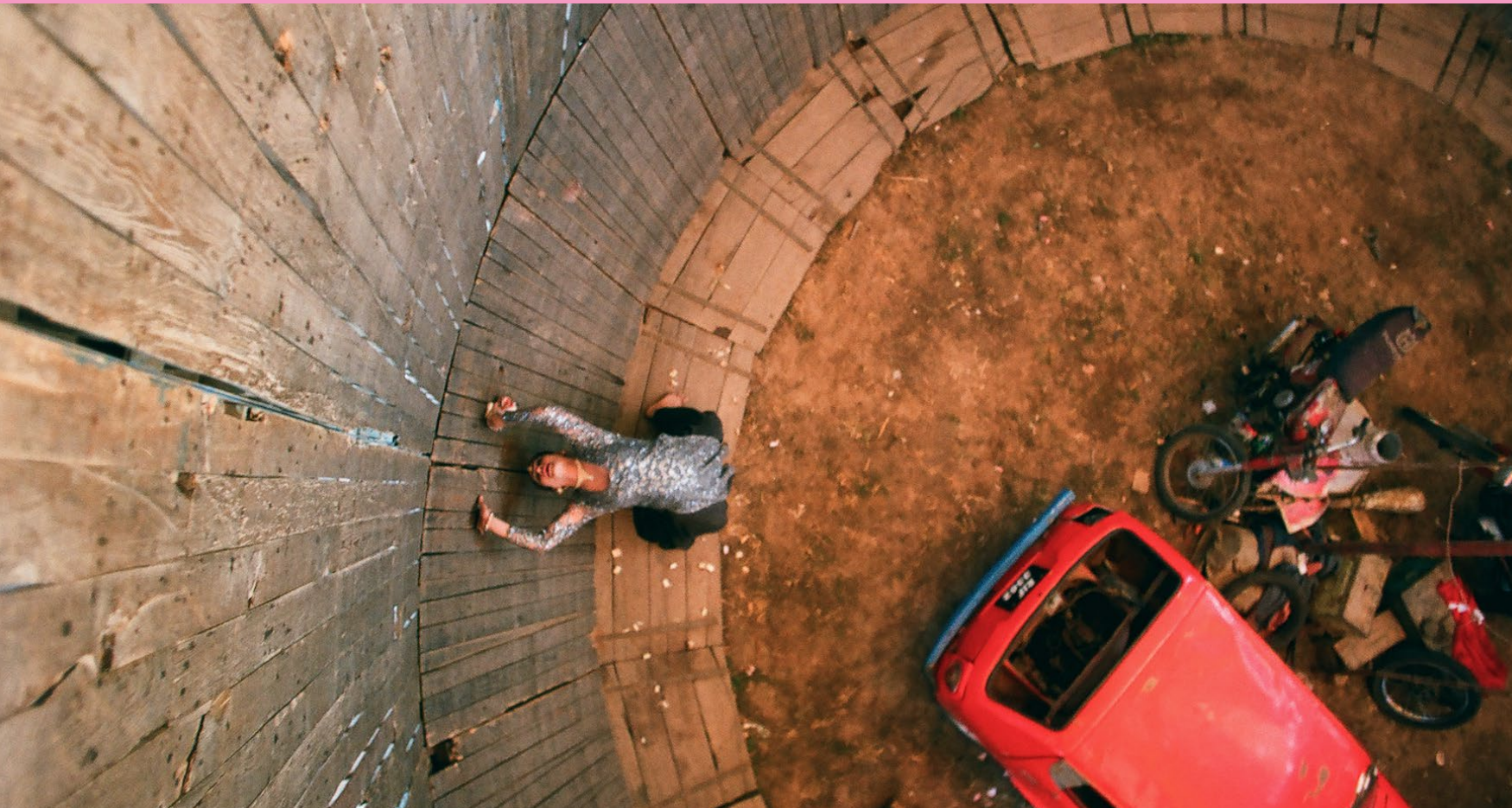
62

Focus → sales agent / festivals

director / producer

producer

63



Paweł Tarasiewicz

is a Polish film director, producer, and exhibitor. A graduate of the National Film School in Lodz, he began his career making music videos for Polish and French rappers. His short films earned acclaim for their unique visual style, leading him to co-found Amondo Films in 2010. His feature debut, „Hel,” premiered at the Warsaw Film Festival in 2016. He also established Amondo Kino, a boutique cinema in Warsaw, serving as a cultural hub for cinephiles and filmmakers. Tarasiewicz co-produced notable films like „Maquinaria Panamericana” and „Hole in The Fence” directed by Joaquin Del Paso. Currently, he divides his time between Warsaw and Mexico City, working on a documentary and his next fiction film.

Hanna Drewek

Born in 1991. She studied in Polish National Film School in Lodz, Film and TV Production Organization. Hanna holds the position of Post Producer supporting foreign feature and commercial projects. She gained her experience during the four years of cooperation as the Post Producer in the Chimney Poland studio in Warsaw, Platige Image now. Documentary Films: The Prince and the Dybbuk (Venice Classics Award for the Best Documentary on Cinema) Features Films: Anon, Lord of Chaos, Findus und Petterson 3, Spoor, Chappaquidick, Spinning Man, Mosul (preproduction), Pimp, Alone in Space.

Contact

Paweł Tarasiewicz → hak@amondofilms.com

Abortion Dream Team

Nie jesteś sama

Polish Competition

Poland, Sweden, 2024, 80 min
Directed by: Karolina Domagalska
Cinematography by: Monika Kotecka
Producer: Katarzyna Ślesicka, Anna Stylińska, Kristoffer Rus
Production: MY WAY STUDIO, Paprika Studios
Editing: Laura Pawela
Distributor: Viaplay Content Distribution
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity: World Premiere

Every third woman in the world will have an abortion, that's a fact. But in Poland the abortion ban protects a foetus over a woman's life. Luckily, there is "Abortion Dream Team", four bold women running a hotline to support their sisters in need. They make a lot of enemies when they brag on TikTok about facilitating 100 abortions a day and shock people with the slogan „Abortion is OK!”. This dangerous battle leads to a complete burnout of one team member and to the political prosecution of another, threatening her with three years in prison. Will "Abortion Dream Team" survive?

director

Karolina Domagalska

Reporter, activist and documentary director. She is an anthropologist by training and a graduate in gender studies. Author of the book „Nie przeproszę, że urodziłam. Historie rodzin z in vitro”, which made it to the final of the Ryszard Kapuściński Award. Author of the podcast „Coś na A”, the first podcast about abortion in Poland.

producer

Katarzyn Ślesicka

Founder and producer at My Way Studio which recently released „Vika!”, a documentary musical by Agnieszka Zwiefka, a Polish-German-Finnish co-production commissioned by HBO, YLE, NHK. Deputy director at the Wajda Center for Film Culture, co-founder of Władysław Ślesicki Film Foundation, running development programs and markets for documentary filmmakers, such as DOC LAB POLAND and CEDOC.

Anna Stylińska

Producer at My Way Studio. Graduate of philosophy (University of Warsaw), photography and film studies (French Universite Paris X). Her feature length debut “Lessons of Love” (co-produced by HBO Europe) which premiered at IDFA and went to 60 festivals around the world (e.g. Hot Docs, Vision du Reel, Docs NYC) and was nominated for the Polish Film Awards. Anna is a graduate of training programs: EAVE 2021, Ex Oriente, IDFA Academy, DocLab Poland and DokIncubator. She loves surfing.

Kristoffer Rus

The head of the Polish branch of a production company Paprika Studios. A graduate of the Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts and Wajda School in Poland. Directed and co-authored award-winning short films („The Big Leap”, „Naturalni”). His debut feature film „Against the Wind” premiered on Netflix (2022) and was among the top 10 foreign-language films worldwide. His second film „Too Big for Fairy Tales” had the best opening weekend for a family film since 1989 in Poland.

Katarzyna Kosicka-Polak

Founder of My Way Studio, legal counsel and managing partner of MKZ Partners Law Firm. Specialist in copyright law, m&a transactions, investment processes. Vice-Chair Judge of the District Disciplinary Court of the Warsaw Bar Association, lecturer at the Warsaw Bar Association. A graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration (University of Warsaw and Université Panthéon-Assas Paris II), Economic Law (DESS / Université de Poitiers) and MBA.

Focus → sales agent / festivals

Contact

Anna Stylińska → stylowa@gmail.com



64

65

8th Day of Khamsin

8. dzień Chamsinu

Polish Competition

Poland, Israel, 2023, 80 min
Directed by: Zvika Gregory Portnoy
Cinematography by: Zvika Gregory Portnoy
Producer: Maria Krauss
Production: Plesnar & Krauss FILMS
Editing: Zuzanna Solakiewicz
Selected festivals and awards: 2024 – Millennium Docs Against Gravity
Film Festival: World Premiere

Marek Hłasko, the „Polish James Dean”, writer and rioter, comes to Israel in the late 1950s. This land and people become his inspiration and a trap at the same time.

This is an essay about Marek Hłasko’s Israeli episode. A multi-story, hypnotic and trance-like film in which a personal perspective intertwines with literature. A story about a dreamland that turned out to be a nightmare for many. About an utopia whose future decline was noticed by the writer’s watchful eye over half a century ago. In addition, unique archival footages from private collections, funny fragments from propaganda chronicles, fragments of Hłasko’s prose, non-obvious, innovative montage sequences.

69

Focus → sales agent / distributors / festivals

director

producer

67



Zvika Gregory Portnoy

He studied at the BEZALEL Academy of Art and Design and the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem, majoring in film directing and visual arts. He has been living and working in Poland since 2011. He is the cinematographer of the award-winning documentaries “15 Corner of the World” directed by Zuzanna Solakiewicz, and “Light Years” directed by Monika Próba. He completed the Zagreb Dox Pro, Doc Lab Poland and Baltic Sea Docs workshops with his feature-length directorial debut “Dramas”, which premiered at the Kraków Film Festival. As a director and cinematographer, he cooperated with Polish Television (documentary series „Dzika Muzyka”, Television Theatre, feature series), Viaplay platform (documentary series Human to Human) and others. He has also directed audiovisual publications on contemporary music and choreography (in cooperation with Bolt Records, National Museum in Warsaw) and is the translator of the comic book Tunele by Rutu Modan.

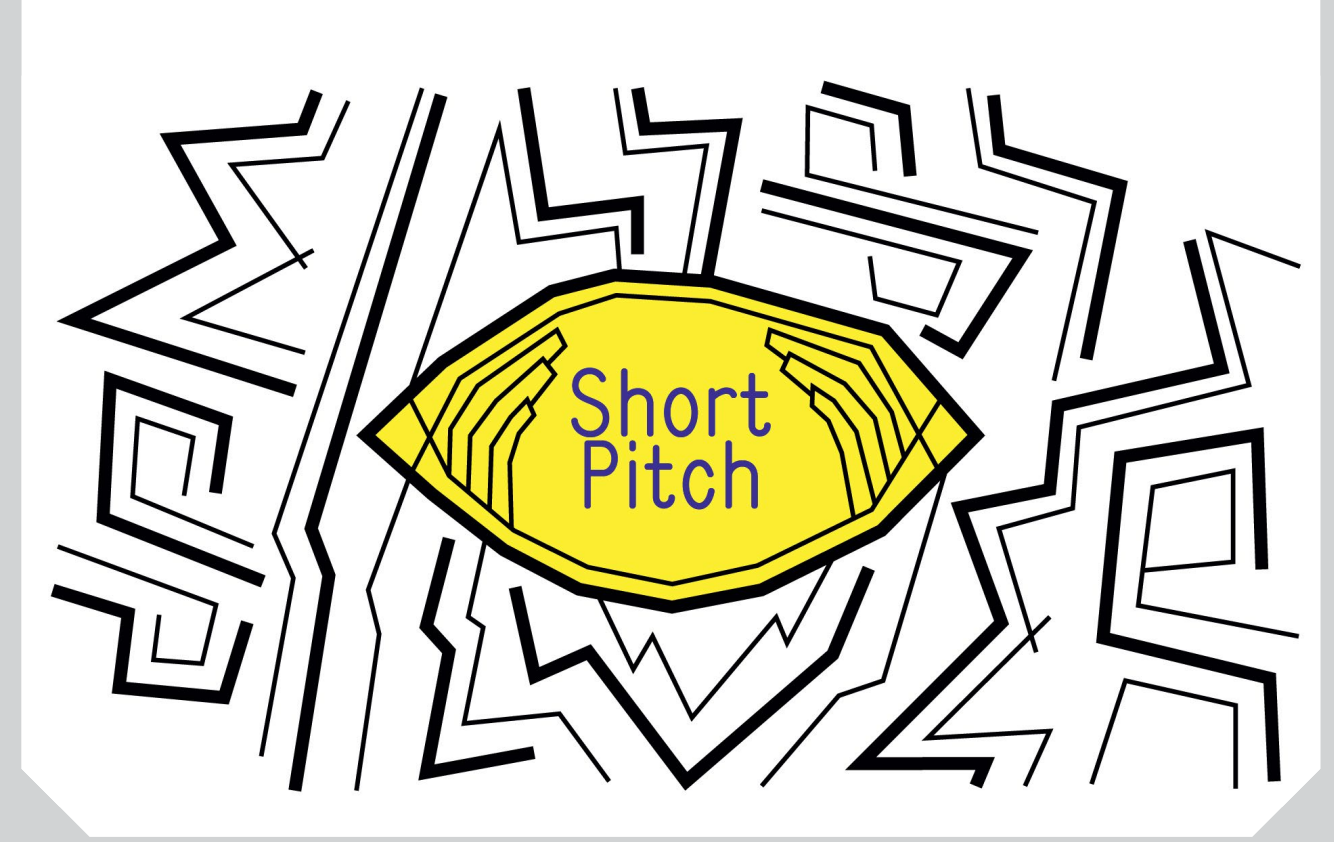
Contact

Maria Krauss → mary@plesnarandkrauss.com

Maria Krauss

Documentary film producer and social activist. Co-founder of a boutique production company Plesnar & Krauss FILMS. She produced or co-produced „Looking for the Polish Schindler” dir. Barbara Necek, „Once upon a time in Poland” by famous Czech duo dir. Vit Klusak & Filip Remunda, „The Last Generation” by debuting director Mikołaj Borowy. Her newest film „Faces of Agata” won Golden Hobby-Horse Award at 63. Krakow Film Festival and was nominated for Polish Film Awards (Best Documentary Film). Member of the Board of the Women in Film Association. Member of Polish Producers Alliance KIPA.

SHORT PITCH PROGRAM



MDAG INDUSTRY

The Short Pitch Program is intended for creators of short documentary films from the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Five selected short documentary film projects in the development or rough-cut phase will be presented in the form of an 8 minute presentation moderated by Anna Stylińska and followed by Q&A.

Pitch presentation will be followed by the individual meetings between participants and the decision makers consisting of sales, buyers and festival representatives. The event will include consultations with experts prior to the pitch, in order to improve their presentation skills and update the project pitch decks for the specific audience of decision makers.

The Short Pitch Program will be held on May 12, in Warsaw, Poland, organized by the Institute of Documentary Film in cooperation with Millenium Docs Against Gravity and DAE - Documentary Association of Europe.

Awards

SILVER EYE AWARD for short documentary to support directors with innovative approach, authors of films that create social impact, filmmakers who have the courage to open discussion on serious topics, and creators offering unique points of view. The winner receives a trophy award, a cash prize of 1 500 €, and a year-long festival distribution service at East Silver Caravan.

DAE TALENT ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD
The award consists of a bespoke consultation and DAE memberships for one year for the film team.

Contact

Veronika Fidrmuc Dvořáčková

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Nora Särak

→ sarak@dokweb.net → +420 777 159 408



Hidden

Ukryte

Poland

Date of completion: November, 2024 (premiere)

„Sometimes anxiety is already impossible to separate. It has fused with the fears of others”, she says. She is our protagonist, she has no name, no clear age or education. She can be you, me or her. She is all the women I know.

Loud heart palpitations, a strange, uneven rhythm of the breath. At times heavy, slowed down and shallow, at other times fast, wheezing. An accelerated pulse. A clatter. Rustling. Anxiety has its own melody. „Hidden” is a portrait of women’s anxiety. An essay inspired by private stories and intimate feelings. Pondering the origins of anxiety, the inheritance of trauma and epigenetics. It is also a project that explores the documentary format.

72

Length → 18 min.

73

director

producer

Monika Kotecka

Marta Szymanowska

Cinematographer, director; she graduated from sociology from the University in Wrocław, in photography from the European Academy of Photography (EAF) in Warsaw, and in DoP studies from Łódź Film School. Her works have been presented at many festivals, including Cannes and the Berlinale. Her debut with Karolina Poryzala called “Volte” was an award-winner at Hot Docs 2017 in Toronto, nominated for a Silver Eye Award in Jihlava, and presented at Sundance and IDFA. Their featurelength documentary “The Herd” received support from the PFI and HBO.

Marta Szymanowska is producer at Kijora Film. Graduate of law and Interdisciplinary Humanistic Studies. Participant of Impakt Producers Lab 2021. Alumna of Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris 2022-23. Regular freelance collaborator with sales agency The Match Factory.

Production

Marta Szymanowska (Poland) → szymanowska.mm@gmail.com



Hole

Rupa

Serbia

Date of completion: May, 2026 (world premiere)

A gigantic excavator is like a hungry beast swallowing earth, coal and lignite. It is located at the bottom of a city-sized hole. On the edges of the hole, archaeologists are slowly discovering an ancient Roman town. While digging in different ways, at different paces, for different purposes, these two localities are living in some kind of symbiosis in which both of them are portals to different civilizations. They are having an eternal dialogue about the past, present and future while humans and machines are digging soil inside of them.

74

Length → 15 min. | 20 min.

director

producer

75

Danilo Stanimirovic (director, producer)

Nikola Spasić

Danilo Stanimirović is a young filmmaker and chocolate lover. With his short films „Bambiland“, „Prokop“ and „5/3/0“ he has visited hundreds of international festivals and won numerous awards. He is an alum of many workshops and programs including FIDCampus Marseille, Sarajevo Talents Campus, Ateliers Varan, Odense FF TalentCamp, Film+ Bucharest... Currently, he is working on 3 new short films.

Nikola Spasić is an award-winning film producer and director. His latest film „Kristina“ got numerous awards, including the First Film Award at FIDMarseille and Best Emerging Director at the Seville European Film Festival. His films were shown at festivals such as Torino Film Festival, DOK.Leipzig, Jihlava IDFF.

Production company

Inkubator Rezon (Serbia) → inkubator.rezon@gmail.com



Second Hand War (WT)

Germany, Czech Republic
Date of completion: Summer 2026

Length → 17 min.

Třeboň, Occupied Czechoslovakia: a Nazi soldier points a gun at a mother, demanding milk and bread; a girl watches as the 4000 German soldiers camping behind her house are replaced by as many Soviets; a little girl pretends to be a mannequin in her grandmother's shop to hide from SS officers.

The animated short documentary "Second Hand War" foregrounds wartime snapshots that didn't make it to the history books, focussing on women's experiences. The version of history portrayed is fragmentary and contradictory, privileging the fragile poetry of human subjectivity over verifiable facts.

Survivors' memories are pieced together to create a subtle overview of daily life under occupation and what it meant to be a woman, while at the same time revealing the gaps in our collective memory.

director

Eluned Zoë Aiano

Eluned Zoe Aiano is a filmmaker, editor and translator with a background in Visual Anthropology whose work is generally centred on Central/Eastern Europe. Her first feature documentary „Flotacija“ made in collaboration with Alesandra Tatic, was selected for IDFA Project Space and was supported by SCAM in France. She attended IFDA Academy 2022. She was selected for the Wapping Artist Residency in Berlin and the Pépinières Européennes de Création residency in Quebec. She is currently artist in residence at the Aix-en-Provence Opera Festival. She also writes about film and is a regular contributor to the East European Film Bulletin.

Anna Benner

Anna Benner is a Berlin based artist and filmmaker. Her work deals with the psychology of the everyday, often using hand-drawn rotoscope animation. Her artworks have been exhibited across Europe; her animated short films have screened worldwide and won prizes at film festivals like Annecy, Encounters and Stuttgart Trickfilmfestival.

Production company

parabellum film (Germany) → imaz@parabellumfilm.de

producer

Natalia Imaz

With a degree in Journalism and 25+ years of experience in film & TV, today Natalia (she/her) focuses on producing international documentaries with an special interest on women filmmakers. Her current project slate includes work spanning four continents and in various stages from development to post-production. Additionally, she works as consultant, facilitator and industry selector. Member of DAE - Documentary Association of Europe, NdM - New German Media Makers, and EWA - European Women's Audiovisual Network. Since November 2022 Natalia also serves in the executive board of DAE.



Signs of life

Hungary, Belgium, Portugal
Date of completion: August 2024

In Belgium, the demand for the production of stuffed pets has grown significantly over the past year. In a small taxidermy workshop near Ghent, several taxidermy artists are trying to bring back to life the pets that have passed away. I would like to explore this mystical space from the point of view of one living animal who spends all her time surrounded by stuffed animals - the dog Mila. She is very curious and always craves attention from her owners, but they spend all their time recreating a bygone life.

I would like to contrast Mila's living interaction with her environment and the birth of a creature made of clay, wool, foam rubber, iron and screws. The stuffed animal will never resemble a live animal, only its owner's projections can bring it to life in their own head.

78

Length → 12 min.

director

producer

67



Julia Kushnarenko

Julia Kushnarenko grew up in small city in the North Caucasus and graduated at VGIK named after S.A. Gerasimov, directing department. For over 8 years, she worked as an editor on documentaries, including the feature film "Voy" directed by Oscar-nominated filmmaker Maxim Arbugaev. Julia has collaborated as a director with National Geographic Magazine (USA), Vogue Magazine, Stereotactic production, and "E" film company. Her middle-length film "Terra" has won over 15 awards from multiple international film festivals, including a Jean Loup Passek Award at Melgacy Film Festival (Portugal). In 2022 she was granted a scholarship by DocNomads International Master's Course in Documentary Film directing to make films between Portugal, Hungary, and Belgium. Currently Julia is based in Belgium.

Victor Candeias

Victor Candeias is the DOC NOMADS course director at ULHT Lisbon. He holds a Master in Film Studies, and since 2001 he is a faculty instructor on documentary and fiction subjects in the film BA and MA degree courses.

He has been both a producer and a director for short films, commissioned documentaries and commercial videos from 1990 to 2007.

Production company

DOC NOMADS (Hungary, Belgium, Portugal) → iuliakushnarenko@gmail.com

WORM EATEN

Robaczywki

Poland

Date of completion: September, 2024 (world premiere)

The love story of an teenage girl and a man much older than her. The reunion of former lovers more than a decade after the breakup is an pretext for working through a pedophilic relationship. The main character is a now-30-year-old DI. We observe the world through her eyes - the images of childhood, filled with peace and warmth, are destroyed by the Black Paw - an allegory of a man and the depression and trauma associated with him.

Through DI's dreams and flashbacks, we learn about the story, the woman's gradual transformation, and eventually the rejection of guilt.

08

Length → 10 min.

18



director

producer

Maja Markowska

Karolina Galuba

Born in Koszalin. Student of Gdynia Film School. Graduate of Wajda School and Studio. Member of Bydgoszcz film chronicle and association of Polish filmmakers.

Film producer and script consultant, co-owner of Furia Film. Debuted at Berlinale 2017 with a documentary „Miss Holocaust”. Just finished shooting first feature co-production, getting ready for the summer, for the shoot of a family film „Grandpa, let's go!”, directed by Olga Chajdas (Fipresci award).

Małgorzata Małysa

Małgorzata Małysa was born in 1984 in Gdańsk, Poland. Producer and production manager since 2011 with experience in both feature films and documentaries. A graduate of Wajda Film School. She runs Furia Film with Karolina Galuba. Małgorzata loves animals, nature, peace and good food.

Production company
Furia Film (Poland) → hello@furiafilm.pl

MDAG INDUSTRY GUESTS

SALES DISTRIBUTION PRODUCTION

Andrew Norton
Head of Festival Distribution
Raina Films, Finland

Anna Grabo
Sales Distribution
Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg / Kurzfilm
Festival Hamburg, Germany

Bérénice Hahn
Festival handling: Feature films
Square Eyes Film, Austria

Brigitte Hofer
Producer
Maximage, Switzerland

Christoph Holthof
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Kim Christiansen
Executive Producer - Documentaries
& Co-productions
DR Sales, Danish Broadcasting
Corporation, Denmark

Kristof Bilsen
Producer, CEO
Limerick Films, Belgium

Laura Shacham
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SheMakes Productions

Lennart Ström
Managing Director
M:brane, Sweden

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Producer
Warboys Films, France

FESTIVALS

Adam Thorsmark
Senior programmer
CPH:DOX, Denmark

Ania Trzebiatowska
Feature film programmer
Sundance Film Festival, USA

Cecilia Björk
Programmer
Tempo Documentary Film Festival,
Sweden

Chiara Liberti
Artistic co-director
Biografilm Festival, Italy

Gudrun Sommer
Festival director
DOXS RUHR, Germany

Jaie Laplante
Artistic Director
DOC NYC, USA

Mourad-Anis Moussa
Co-Head of the Programming Office
Visions Du Reel, Switzerland

Niki Padidar
Youth Competition Programmer
IDFA, Netherlands

Qila Gill
Head of Programme
London Short Film Festival, UK

INSTITUTIONS

Christina Ramsø Thomsen
Film commissioner - new talents
Danish Film Institute, Denmark

Eric Hynes
Film curator, journalist
Museum of Moving Image, USA

Heidi Klm Andersen
Film commissioner
Danish Film Institute, Denmark

Veronika Fidrmuc Dvořáčková
Menagerka East Silver
Institute of Documentary Film in
Prague, Czech Republic

Martijn Te pas
Consultant
e u R O P E doconsultancy

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SVT Dokumentär project manager
SVT, Sweden

Frederic Ulferts
Commissioning editor
ZDF/ARTE, Germany

Markéta Stinglová
Head of International Co-Productions
Czech Television, Czech Republic

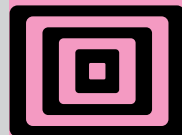
Nathalie Windhorst
Head of the Factual Acquisition
Department
VPRO, Netherlands

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PARTNERS

co-financing



**POLSKI
INSTYTUT
SZTUKI
FILMOWEJ**

main partner



Award funder: CANAL+ Poland Award for the best pitch - 3,000 euros „The cooperation between CANAL+ Poland and initiatives supporting Polish documentary productions has a long history. We are proud to support creative directors and tell real stories from the world around us. Our documentary productions and co-productions, which have won numerous awards at Polish and international festivals, can be viewed on the CANAL+ online platform. Being part of the MDAG festival and a partner of the INDUSTRY section is a great opportunity for us to see new, interesting topics and exceptional filmmakers. We are very pleased that we will be able to present the award for the best international pitching during this year's edition. We support those who tell stories, and do it well!" - says Katarzyna Kostecka, producer of documentaries for CANAL+ Poland.

partners



Audioteka is a leading platform for audiobooks and podcast production, offering access to thousands of titles in multiple languages. The app enables listening to favorite books and podcasts covering a wide range of topics, allowing for knowledge expansion anytime, anywhere. Audioteka support authors, publishers, and readers, creating a space for spoken word enthusiasts. Together with MDAG, Audioteka is preparing a documentary film podcast titled „Reality Check.”



The Polish Filmmakers Association (Stowarzyszenie Filmowców Polskich) is Poland's largest organisation of film professionals. The Association promotes Polish film domestically and abroad, supports talented young filmmakers, and produces debut films. The Association is a member of the leading international audiovisual organisations. As an entity involved in collective copyright management, it cooperates with similar institutions around the world.



SMAKJAM is a post-production studio operating for 16 years with offices in Warsaw and London. We provide high-quality image and sound post-production services for the television, film, and advertising industries. We collaborate with both international media corporations and independent creators, offering support at every stage of post-production.



The Polish Producers Alliance (KIPA) was established more than 20 years ago and is one of the largest independent business organizations, boasting over 170 member entities. Among these entities are production companies specializing in film, television, and advertising, as well as film schools and regional film funds (RFF). Since its inception in 2000, KIPA has played a crucial role in the development of the Polish audiovisual industry. The primary goal of KIPA is to represent the economic interests of its members, particularly before the government and key players in the audiovisual market. The chamber facilitates the integration of producers, serving as a platform for the exchange of experiences and collaboration. Additionally, it disseminates information about current legislative amendments, including those related to taxation, and highlights the most significant events in the industry.



The Institute of Documentary Film (IDF) has been supporting creative documentary films from Central and Eastern Europe since 2001. The IDF provides both emerging and experienced filmmakers with training, financing, networking and pitching opportunities, helps them get international attention and co-productions, rewards the exceptional projects with awards and further opportunities and improves their orientation on the international market. The promotional and practical service of the IDF includes a wide range of online and offline catalogues being created annually, updating a thorough database of CEE documentaries and professionals and a calendar of important deadlines for producers, and bringing news from the world of documentary film in general via dokweb.net and social media. To the audience of documentary enthusiasts, the IDF also brings a rich program of lectures, presentations and screenings in their home regions or during the IDF's industry events.



The Andrzej Wajda Centre for Film Culture is a Warsaw-based institution dedicated to film, carrying out important tasks related to the promotion of culture and film education. We organize film screenings, discussion clubs, film music concerts, exhibitions, workshops for children and youth, panels, and conferences. We create educational programs and are present online through the vod.warszawa.pl platform. We operate at Aleje Ujazdowskie 20, and in three years, we will reopen the Tęcza cinema in Żoliborz.

We encourage filmmakers to create documentary films for children and youth as part of the SKOK W DOK Documentary Ideas Laboratory program, producers and broadcasters, film funds, distributors, to produce and introduce them to the market (through pitches and the Documentary Film Forum for Young Audience organized annually during the Millennium Docs Against Gravity film festival), teachers, and parents to use such films in education (we provide films and educational materials, organize workshops and courses). We are the organizers of the LET'S DOC Documentary Film Festival for Young Audience.

www.ckf.waw.pl

LET'S DOC Festival: www.letsdoc.pl

VOD Warsaw Platform: <https://vod.warszawa.pl>



sound mind

Sound Mind Studio was founded and is run by Michal Fojcik - an acclaimed sound director, member of the Motion Picture Sound Editors (MPSE) association, responsible for the sound of such films as: „White Courage,” „Pianoforte,” „Escape to the Silver Globe” and „Hyacinth.” The studio offers full audio post-production for feature films, documentaries and animated films.



Established in 2006, Papaya Films is a dynamic production company fostering a diverse community of creatives including directors, photographers, and cinematographers. Embracing innovation, we strive to deliver top-notch work, constantly challenging ourselves to experiment and evolve. Our collaborative spirit has made us a trusted partner for leading agencies, brands, and artists worldwide, earning nearly 100 global awards. With offices in London, New York, Warsaw, and Lisbon, our international team enables us to tackle a wide range of projects with agility. Committed to nurturing emerging talent, our Papaya New Directors program provides opportunities for up-and-coming creators to work on real client briefs. Additionally, our Papaya Originals initiative allows us to explore non-commercial projects, fueling our creativity and reinforcing our mission to be the premier independent production company globally.



Pitch the Doc creates a market platform focused on curated documentary film projects and dedicated to professionals. It acts as an online hub that brings together all the parties involved: filmmakers, producers, decision makers, but also events, programs and networks. Combining documentary expertise with digital solutions, it supports the market activity of emerging and established professionals, as well as contributes to various industry initiatives.

<https://pitchthedoc.com/>



The Filmmakers' Trade Union was established to unite the film community and protect the rights of those working in audiovisual production. We aim to elevate the quality of Polish films by enhancing our skills, improving working conditions, and ensuring safety. Our goals include setting positive work standards, implement unified regulations, and upholding contractual agreements, especially regarding compensation, professional ethics, and industry safety. We will focus on establishing and enforcing work hour limits. Additionally, we will provide legal assistance, negotiate working conditions, and represent members in disputes. To support colleagues in need, we will develop a social program and create a relief fund for on-set accidents, complemented by group insurance for union members in the future.



Mazovia Warsaw Film Commission (MWFC) offers free support for national and international film crews interested in shooting in Warsaw and the Mazovian voivodship. Acting as a guide and intermediary, MWFC promotes the region's assets and provides assistance in finding locations, accessing databases, connecting with industry experts, and obtaining necessary permissions and licenses. Established in 2013 within the Mazovia Institute of Culture, MWFC collaborates with EUFCN and Film Commission Poland.

Special thanks to The National Ethnographic Museum, in whose beautiful spaces this year's MDAG Industry is held

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MDVAGINDUSTRY

V

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MECENAS FESTYWAŁU



ORGANIZATOR



ORGANIZATOR



WSPÓLFINANSOWANIE



PARTNERZY



WSPÓLFINANSOWANIE



WSPÓLFINANSOWANIE



WSPÓLFINANSOWANIE



PARTNERZY GŁÓWNI

