



2024

**POLISH  
DOCS  
PRO**

**PROJECTS & DELEGATION  
AT DOK LEIPZIG INDUSTRY**

**POLISH  
DOCS  
PRO**

## **MEET THE POLISH DOCS PRO DELEGATION**

**AT DOK LEIPZIG**

**FROM 29 OCTOBER TO 31 OCTOBER**

# 2024

**POLISH DOCS PRO** – addressed to film professionals, the project focuses primarily on the wide-ranging promotion of the Polish documentary film industry at international events. It supports filmmakers and producers in developing their projects by facilitating access to markets, pitching forums, and co-production meetings; presenting the projects, production models, and co-production opportunities with Poland; organizing networking meetings; and participating in lectures, panel discussions, workshops, and training sessions.

[www.polishdocs.pl](http://www.polishdocs.pl)

ORGANISED BY



CO-FINANCED BY: THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND NATIONAL HERITAGE WITHIN A FRAME OF THE POLISH CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROGRAMME 'ROZWÓJ SEKTORÓW KREATYWNYCH'

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage  
Republic of Poland



PARTNERS:

**kbf:**



# PROJECTS



## **Cambodjana**

by Michał J. Owerczuk •  
prod.: Imagine Media



## **En Garde**

by Mateusz Wajda • prod.: MX35



## **In the Circle**

by Michał Bielawski • prod.: Telemark



## **Isabella**

by Joanna Janikowska • prod.: Kijora



## **On My Own Terms**

by Tadeusz Chudy • prod.: Smart Films



## **The World Is Not (a) Mine**

by Natalia Koniarz • prod.: Telemark

## SELECTED PROJECTS WERE PART OF **KFF INDUSTRY 2024**

**KFF INDUSTRY** is a part of Krakow Film Festival dedicated to film industry professionals.

The programme includes workshops, pitching sessions: Animated in Poland, Docs to Go, Docs to Start for animated and documentary projects, CEDOC co-production market presentations, networking meetings, and a digital online video library. **Next edition will be held 26–31.05.2025.**

[www.krakowfilmfestival.pl/en/industry/](http://www.krakowfilmfestival.pl/en/industry/)



# MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION

## PRODUCERS:



**Maciej Kubicki**

TELEMARK

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**Mateusz Wajda**

MX35

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**Michał J. Owerczuk**

IMAGINE MEDIA

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**Marta Wierzbicka**

SMART FILMS

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**Marta Szymanowska**

KIJORA FILM

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## DELEGATION ORGANISER:



**Katarzyna Wilk**

HEAD OF KFF INDUSTRY  
/ POLISH DOCS PRO  
COORDINATOR

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# Cambodjana

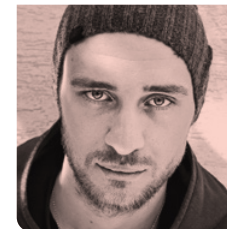
**Early 90s. An UN logistics team supports Cambodia's democratic process. As the Khmer Rouge disrupts elections, young peacekeepers are thrust into the midst of war that will forever change their lives.**

Summer of '92. Kristof, a cadet field cook, eagerly signs up for an UN peacekeeping mission in Cambodia. The first democratic elections are a chance to rebuild a country shattered by a civil war, and for many young conscripts, it offers the adventure of a lifetime. But upon their arrival, reality sets in hard as the treacherous jungle and remnants of the Killing Fields turn each day into a struggle for survival. All hell breaks loose when Pol Pot suddenly ends the ceasefire, plunging the peace mission into chaos and bloodshed. As the spring of '93 approaches, the Khmer Rouge launch an all out attack on Siem Reap. The defense of the ancient capital of Cambodia isn't just strategic — it's critical. The fall of the city would mean a massacre of civilians and a complete breakdown of the election process. Cornered, Kristof and his comrades are forced to take up arms for the first time in their lives. But victory comes at a cost. While the mission succeeds, the men who return home are forever changed, scarred by the experience. Over the decades, silence reigns — many give up, but those who remain finally speak out. *Cambodjana* delves into the dark corners of human nature, taking viewers on a Heart of Darkness-like journey set against the historical backdrop of Cambodia. Through over 100 hours of archival footage, the film reveals a brutal yet universal truth about war. It's the first feature documentary to expose the largest and most obscured UN mission in history, involving 46 countries.

**ENGLISH TITLE:** CAMBODJANA  
**ORIGINAL TITLE:** CAMBODJANA  
**DIRECTOR:** MICHAŁ J. OWERCZUK  
**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:** KRZYSZTOF MIESZKOWSKI  
**EDITOR:** MICHAŁ J. OWERCZUK  
**PRODUCER:** AGATA MODZELEWSKA  
**PRODUCTION COMPANY:** IMAGINE MEDIA  
**ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME:** 90'  
**PRODUCTION COUNTRY:** POLAND  
**LANGUAGE:** POLISH, ENGLISH, FRENCH, KHMER  
**PRODUCTION STAGE:** EDITING  
**SHOOTING PERIOD:** JANUARY–JULY 2024  
**FILM DELIVERY:** DECEMBER 2025  
**TOTAL BUDGET:** 300 000 EUR  
**STILL NEEDED:** 87 000 EUR  
**CONFIRMED PARTNERS:** POLISH FILM INSTITUTE, WAJDA SCHOOL & STUDIO, DOCUMENTARY AND FEATURE FILM STUDIOS (WFDIF), NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE – AUDIOVISUAL INSTITUTE  
**LOOKING FOR:** CO-PRODUCERS, FINANCING, BROADCASTERS, SALES AGENT

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**CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL:**  
cambodjanamovie@gmail.com



**Michal J. Owerczuk**

DIRECTOR

Film director, scriptwriter, and editor, with a background in American Studies, Film Directing, and Visual & Media Arts. A graduate of various documentary masterclasses

and programs such as DocLAB and DokPRO, he has been actively involved in film and television since 2008. His work spans over 15 years, collaborating with leading media and game development companies across Europe, North America, and Asia. He has contributed to international broadcasters, covering conflict zones in Asia and Ukraine. As an academic lecturer and writer, he has authored works on modern history and science fiction, exploring the intersection of technology and storytelling. His directorial debut, *League of Legends: More Than a Game* (2020), showcases his expertise in documentary filmmaking.



**Agata Modzelewska**

PRODUCER

**IMAGINE MEDIA** is a production and post-production house based in Warsaw. It was founded by Agata Modzelewska in 2018.

The company specializes in documentaries, series and unconventional commercial productions for leading international brands.



# En Garde

**En Garde is a story of a unique family sharing love of sports, trying to overcome a recent breakup and achieve a dream goal — win an Olympic medal in fencing.**

*En Garde* is a film about a community of Venezuelan fencers created 20 years ago by a man called Ruperto 'Chicho' Gascon. Within the circumstances of a harsh political context and unstable financial situation in Venezuela in the beginning of the 2000s he convinced his proteges to move to Poland. The team, mostly composed of family members, has since then fought for the title of the best epee fencers in the world. Still, until now only one of them managed to achieve a significant result. In 2012, Ruben Limardo became the gold medalist of the London Olympic Games. Now, in 2023 — for the first time in the history of Venezuelan fencing — they look forward to qualifying for the Olympics in the team category. Paradoxically, when their position in the ranking gives hope for a promotion to the most important competition of their career, the coach calls a meeting where he informs the group about his immediate withdrawal as well as termination of the club. What are the reasons for the coach's leaving? Will the athletes decide to stay in Poland and try to advance to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games without their central figure? Who will leave the group and who will stay regardless of the sport results? And most importantly — what will be the team members' future post-career? *En Garde* is a story of an underdog team trying to prove that family support can be as important as talent and dedication.



## Mateusz Wajda

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

In 2013 he did a MA in Cinematography at the Polish National Film School in Lodz. For years he worked as a cinematographer on many acclaimed Polish documentaries (*Vakha and Magomed*, *Hugo*). 12 years ago, he set up his own film company, MX35, and since then has produced and co-produced dozens of Polish documentary films, including *Communion*, *In Touch* and *Pianoforte*. He is a member of the Polish Society of Cinematographers (PSC).

**ENGLISH TITLE:** EN GARDE  
**ORIGINAL TITLE:** EN GARDE  
**DIRECTOR:** MATEUSZ WAJDA  
**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:** MATEUSZ WAJDA  
**PRODUCER:** PAWEŁ ZIEMIŁSKI  
**PRODUCTION COMPANY:** MX35 WAJDA ZIEMIŁSKI  
**ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME:** 85'  
**PRODUCTION COUNTRY:** POLAND  
**LANGUAGE:** SPANISH, POLISH, ENGLISH  
**PRODUCTION STAGE:** SHOOTING  
**SHOOTING PERIOD:** JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2024  
**FILM DELIVERY:** JUNE 2025  
**TOTAL BUDGET:** 346 000 EUR  
**STILL NEEDED:** 77 500 EUR  
**CONFIRMED PARTNERS:** POLISH FILM INSTITUTE, PLAYADE  
**LOOKING FOR:** CO-PRODUCERS, FINANCING, FESTIVALS, BROADCASTERS, SALES AGENT

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**CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL:**  
[mateusz@mx35.eu](mailto:mateusz@mx35.eu)



## Paweł Ziemiński

PRODUCER

**MX35** is a Warsaw based company that started 12 years ago just as a camera rental and transformed into a documentary production and co-production house.

It specializes in creative documentaries producing and co-producing over the years more than a dozen acclaimed Polish films: *Pianoforte* by K. Piątek (2023), *Escape to the Silver Globe* by J. Mikurda (2021), *Lessons of Love* by K. Mateja and M. Goliszewska (2019), *In Touch* by P. Ziemiński (2018), *Communion* by A. Zamecka (2016).



# In the Circle

**The most neglected aspect of climate change are human emotions. Group of people connect to work on them.**

Under the supervision of experienced therapist Zbigniew Mitsuński, people talk about their helplessness and anger caused by the end of the known World. They talk about personal losses — for one it means beloved trees chopped in close forest, for another it is a grief after the close one. In the workshops participate climate activists, photographer, film director, miner and farmer. They work together for few weeks in Silesia and in the Odra River Valley. Workshops are about talking, working with body and voice, looking for exact emotional expression. Film reveals therapeutic process and follows characters in the moments of their privacy, it includes also creative sequences about human's exploitation of the Earth: harvesters cutting the trees, mining machines consuming the coal in the open mining fields, pipes pumping polluted water into the huge waste tank, plastic covering landscape. For the characters, the workshop becomes an emotional roller-coaster. Together, they will try to go deeply into their emotions. Eventually they will open to each other and will find the strength that the support group can offer. That path may help them finding the balance without which no one will be able to live in the future.

**ENGLISH TITLE:** IN THE CIRCLE  
**ORIGINAL TITLE:** TREN  
**DIRECTOR:** MICHAŁ BIELAWSKI  
**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:** MICHAŁ GRUSZCZYŃSKI  
**EDITOR:** MICHAŁ BUCZEK  
**PRODUCER:** MACIEJ KUBICKI  
**PRODUCTION COMPANY:** TELEMAR  
**ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME:** 75'  
**PRODUCTION COUNTRY:** POLAND  
**LANGUAGE:** POLISH  
**PRODUCTION STAGE:** SHOOTING  
**SHOOTING PERIOD:** SEPTEMBER 2024 – NOVEMBER 2025  
**FILM DELIVERY:** SPRING 2027  
**TOTAL BUDGET:** 350 000 EUR  
**STILL NEEDED:** 280 000 EUR  
**CONFIRMED PARTNERS:** POLISH FILM INSTITUTE, MX35  
**LOOKING FOR:** CO-PRODUCERS, BROADCASTERS, SALES AGENT

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**CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL:** bielawski.wind@gmail.com



## Michał Bielawski

DIRECTOR

Debuted with a feature documentary *Mundial. The Highest Stakes*, where he mixed politics and sports of ending communist era. Breakthrough in his career was the creative doc *The Wind. A Documentary Thriller*, an HBO Europe production on highlanders community affected by extremely destructive wind in Polish Tatra Mountains. Premiered at Visions du Réel in 2019, *The Wind* came back from global tour with several awards received at Dok Leipzig, Jihlava, DocsMX, Mediawave, Trento Film Festival.



## Maciej Kubicki

PRODUCER

**TELEMAR** is a Warsaw based boutique company focused on creative docs, premium drama and indie/arthouse features. We seek to develop and produce projects with creators of a distinctive narrative and cinematic language. Company's record includes creative docs: *Pianoforte* (2023), *Kubrick by Kubrick* (2020), *The Wind. A Documentary Thriller* (2019), *Over the Limit* (2017).



# Isabella

**Isabella, a 91-year-old fortune-teller, lives in an abandoned village and fights for its survival. But she has not much time left, as her own prophecy says she will die at the age of 93.**

Isabella is 91-year-old and has an explosive temperament. She is a deeply religious Catholic and a fortune-teller. She also lives all alone in an abandoned Sardinian village, next to what was once the world's largest river dam. Today, the dam is at risk of collapse and the village is deserted. Isabella's solitary life is often disrupted by visitors seeking her prophecies. But those who expected a quiet old lady are in for a surprise. She is despotic, impatient and has a bawdy sense of humour. And after helping her guests, she puts them to work. They clean and barricade vacant buildings or help Isabella write her autobiography. When she's alone again, she insistently asks God to let her win the lottery to renovate the village. And when a fire puts her home in danger, she warns the whole fire department. And later, she gives them a tour of the place and the museum she founded. But despite her strong character, she grows weaker. Before she dies, she wants to renovate the village. There's not much time left. Isabella's own prophecy says she will die at the age of 93. As she fights against time, we gradually discover the reasons behind her persistence. In the past, Isabella was mother to a severely disabled daughter Rita. After her death, Isabella dedicated the museum and the village to her memory. Since the village embodies her child's spirit, Isabella will never abandon it and will do everything she can to bring it back to life. Her seemingly doomed struggle turns into a performative act in defence of the memory of her daughter, of the village and of herself.

**ENGLISH TITLE:** ISABELLA  
**ORIGINAL TITLE:** ISABELLA  
**DIRECTOR:** JOANNA JANIKOWSKA  
**PRODUCER:** ANNA GAWLITA,  
MARTA SZYMANOWSKA  
**PRODUCTION COMPANY:** KIJORA FILM  
**ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME:** 72'  
**PRODUCTION COUNTRY:** POLAND  
**LANGUAGE:** ITALIAN  
**PRODUCTION STAGE:** SHOOTING  
**SHOOTING PERIOD:**  
AUGUST 2021 – APRIL 2025  
**FILM DELIVERY:** MARCH 2026  
**TOTAL BUDGET:** 340 000 EUR  
**STILL NEEDED:** 180 000 EUR  
**CONFIRMED PARTNERS:** CREATIVE  
EUROPE MEDIA, POLISH FILM INSTITUTE,  
ORKA FILM (PL), DOMUS FILM (IT), ITALIAN  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE (IT)  
**LOOKING FOR:** CO-PRODUCERS,  
FINANCING, SALES AGENTS,  
BROADCASTERS

**CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL:**  
[marta@kijorafilm.com](mailto:marta@kijorafilm.com)



## Joanna Janikowska

DIRECTOR

Film director and editor of short and medium-length documentaries. Graduate of Warsaw University's Multidisciplinary Individual Studies in Humanities, where she studied Italian Philology and Cultural Studies. Originally from Poland, but connected with Italy for years. Participant of Women Doc Circle Accelerator and Doc Lab Poland programs. As an author, she has collaborated with the Fryderyk Chopin National Institute, the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Caritas Poland and Polish Television.



## Anna Gawlita

PRODUCER

Co-owner and chairwoman at Kijora Film. Member of the European Film Academy. Her productions have been selected for Berlinale, Busan, Visions du Réel, Slamdance, Camerimage and many others. Her latest production *In Ukraine* premiered at Berlinale Forum 2023. She was awarded as the Best Producer at New Horizons International FF and Krakow FF. Participant of Berlinale Talents, Emerging Producer and Producers To Watch MIPCOM/DOC/TV.



## Marta Szymanowska

PRODUCER

**KIJORA FILM** was launched in Warsaw in 2007 by Anna Gawlita. The company produces documentaries and fiction films with a strong focus on social and ethical issues of contemporary relevance and intimate, local stories. Kijora's productions have been selected for Berlinale, Busan, Visions du Réel, Slamdance, Camerimage and many other festivals.





# On My Own Terms

**Paweł, a young boxer, and his half-sister inherit a flat, offering hope to leave the orphanage for their first real home. Their quest for stability tests their bond and confronts adult challenges.**

Paweł (18) and Julka (16) are half-siblings living in a children's home. Paweł is a 'gentle giant', sensitive and reserved, starting his boxing career. Julka is an incurable optimist, vibrant and lively. He calmly plans every move in his life. His sister, on the other hand, has a thousand ideas per minute. Despite the differences, they are best friends. Their shared dream is to start living independently away from orphanage restrictions. Unexpectedly Julka inherits an apartment from her deceased grandmother. However, to formally become her property, she must pay off the debt. Paweł helps to renovate the apartment and settle the dues. Julka finally moves out from the orphanage and offers to her brother that he can move in, but Paweł is very careful about decisions like this. While Paweł, thanks to his coach's support, engages in a sports career and studies, Julka is struggling to find her purpose in life, and when she becomes pregnant and her life and the baby's life are at risk, Paweł realizes that he cannot leave his sister alone. The tough decision to move out from an orphanage grows inside him. However, their visions of adulthood and living life on their own terms collide with reality. Their quest for stability forces them to confront the challenges of adulthood, which will ultimately test the siblings' bond.

**ENGLISH TITLE:** ON MY OWN TERMS  
**ORIGINAL TITLE:** NA WŁASNYCH ZASADACH  
**DIRECTOR:** TADEUSZ CHUDY  
**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:**  
TADEUSZ CHUDY  
**EDITOR:** JAKUB RADOS  
**PRODUCER:** MARTA WIERZBICKA  
PRODUCTION  
**COMPANY:** SMART FILMS  
**ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME:** 60/75'  
**PRODUCTION COUNTRY:** POLAND  
**LANGUAGE:** POLISH  
**PRODUCTION STAGE:** EDITING  
**SHOOTING PERIOD:**  
SEPTEMBER 2021 – APRIL 2024  
**FILM DELIVERY:** MARCH 2025  
**TOTAL BUDGET:** 165 000 EUR  
**STILL NEEDED:** 25 000 EUR  
**CONFIRMED PARTNERS:** POLISH  
TELEVISION (TVP), DF FILMS, POLISH  
FILM INSTITUTE  
**LOOKING FOR:** BROADCASTER,  
FINANCING, CO-PRODUCTION  
(POST-PRODUCTION)

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[mateusz@mx35.eu](mailto:mateusz@mx35.eu)



## Tadeusz Chudy

DIRECTOR

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. 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.



## Marta Wierzbicka

PRODUCER

**SMART FILMS** is a newly established dynamic company focusing on the production of feature films and documentaries. The aim of the company is to bring to the market highquality content and services based on an optimised production process, while at the same time synergising the artistic qualities of the projects undertaken.



# The World Is Not (a) Mine

**A cinematic testament unveiling the cost of mining through the eyes of youth and seasoned hands alike, it reveals the ballet of sweat and sorrow, where each step echoes the weight of past generations.**

What do Juvenal (13), Hoper (40) and Claudia (25) have in common? They are enslaved to the Cerro Rico Mountain, the oldest silver mine in Bolivia, where 8 million miners have lost their lives since the 16th century. Deprived of any labour rights, abandoned by the state, treated as cheap labour, they earn just enough money not to starve to death. Hardly any miner survives to thirty-five in good health, many die at that age. Kids at Juvenal's age have no choice but to begin working in a mine to support their many siblings. Women are destined to guard the mines and work relentlessly while risking their selfhood. Seasoned miners such as Hoper live in hope of finding the last remaining crumbs of silver while the mountain is collapsing. Their world is made of rocks bursting in daily explosions of dynamite. The inhabitants are united by the proximity of death. They accept the will of the mountain, believing in its consciousness and the legends of the dominant Tio God made of clay, rewarding them with silver veins. A cinematic look at a cycle of never-ending exploitation, *The World Is Not (a) Mine* is a testament to a harsh reality for the world that looks away, an anatomy of the dark past persisting into the present.

**ENGLISH TITLE:** THE WORLD IS NOT (A) MINE

**ORIGINAL TITLE:** THE WORLD IS NOT (A) MINE

**DIRECTOR:** NATALIA KONIARZ  
**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:** STANISŁAW CUSKE

**EDITOR:** Yael BITTON

**PRODUCER:** MACIEJ KUBICKI

**PRODUCTION COMPANY:** TELEMAR

**ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME:** 80'

**PRODUCTION COUNTRY:** POLAND, FINLAND, NORWAY, FRANCE

**LANGUAGE:** SPANISH, QUECHUA

**PRODUCTION STAGE:** POST-PRODUCTION

**SHOOTING PERIOD:**

MARCH 2021 – DECEMBER 2022

**FILM DELIVERY:** JANUARY 2025

**TOTAL BUDGET:** 300 000 EUR

**STILL NEEDED:** 70 000 EUR

**CONFIRMED PARTNERS:** POLISH FILM INSTITUTE, NORWEGIAN FILM INSTITUTE, FINISH FILM FOUNDATION, FILMKRAFT ROGALAND, PROMOTION CENTRE FOR AUDIOVISUAL CULTURE (AVEK), TELEMAR, HINTERLAND AS, PIRAYA FILM AS, IV FILM LTD, SILESIA FILM FUND

**LOOKING FOR:** FINANCING, BROADCASTERS, FESTIVALS, SALES AGENT

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## Natalia Koniarz

DIRECTOR

Director and screenwriter. Graduated in film directing at the Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School. Her first creative doc *The Dam* was awarded at the New Horizons IFF. It also won

the prizes at the FIPADOC Festival in France, Go Short and DOKer. Her latest mid-length documentary *Postcards from the Verge* premiered at IDFA Medium Length competition in 2023. *The World Is Not (A) Mine* is going to be her feature-length debut.



## Maciej Kubicki

PRODUCER

**TELEMAR** is a Warsaw based boutique company focused on creative docs, premium drama and indie/arthouse features. We seek to develop and produce

projects with creators of a distinctive narrative and cinematic language. Company's record includes creative docs: *Pianoforte* (2023), *Kubrick by Kubrick* (2020), *The Wind. A Documentary Thriller* (2019), *Over the Limit* (2017).

2024

