



2024

MEET PRODUCERS FROM POLAND AND FIND OUT ABOUT THEIR NEW PROJECTS!

**POLISH  
DOCS  
PRO**

**POLISH DOCS PRO DELEGATION**  
AT JI.HLAVA INTERNATIONAL  
DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL  
25.10–3.11



**Monika  
Braid**

**BRAIDMADE FILMS**

Based in London and in St Leonards (UK) and with its outlet in Krakow (Poland), Braidmade Films keeps to work with international talents to produce films of high quality: fiction, documentaries, and experimental. The company focuses on films that relate to a universal human experience and appeal to viewers from various cultural backgrounds.

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**Step by Step**

DIR.: **ELIZA KUBARSKA, MICHAŁ WOROCH** • DOC.

Michał, who has spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) and uses a wheelchair, embarks on a challenging expedition to the Himalayas. At 36, after 15 years in a wheelchair, he draws mental strength from travel, despite the toll on his health. His disease is progressively weakening him, and he fears being fully dependent on others one day. Joined by Paralympic athlete Bartosz Mrozek, they aim to cross the steep Annapurna trail, facing cold, high bridges, and the Thorung Pass (5,416 m). Michał documents the journey, which reveals friendship and determination against the breathtaking backdrop of the world's highest mountains.



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# PRODUCER



## Marta Duźbabel

### ATM GRUPA S.A.

The largest independent production studio in Poland. It has been operating since 1992 and is the only company in the industry to have the status of a public company listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange. The company makes shows of all genres. After starting out in the fields of commercial and documentary production, it honed its skills making music and current affairs shows.

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# PROJECTS



## Polański

DIR.: **MARCIN BORCHARDT** • DOC.

Who is Roman Polański? A wonderful artist with everlasting fame. The outlaw, marked by the fate of the public aura of extreme oppositions – idolatrous almost worship and hateful invective of the heaviest caliber. The film is an attempt to face his phenomenon.



## There's Nothing to Fear

DIR.: **KASIA CIEŚLAR** • DOC.

This project explores the evolving perceptions of death and the funeral industry, blending lightness with a profound topic. With death often seen as taboo or a scare tactic in modern culture, we aim to tell a fresh, reflective story that balances tradition with emerging trends.



## The Death of Our Mother

DIR.: **MARCIN KOSZAŁKA** • DOC.

A deeply emotional and universal story about loss, family bonds, and art as a tool for reconciliation. The film focuses on the death of Olga Sipowicz, known as Kora, one of the most influential figures in the Polish music scene, who passed away in 2018.



## Unheard. The Story of Sarsa

DIR.: **LUIZA BUDEJKO** • DOC.

The film's main protagonist is Marta Markiewicz, known as Sarsa, a Polish music artist who is battling otosclerosis, a condition that leads to hearing loss. Through her personal story, Sarsa touches on themes that are both universal and deeply human, making this film particularly valuable on many levels.



## Justyna Kluczewska

### RABAN

Raban is a creative collective specialising in the production of documentaries that explore contemporary social issues in depth. The group is active on the Polish audiovisual market, producing documentaries of high artistic and content value. The group's mission is to support local talent and create opportunities for film projects that bring valuable, thought-provoking content to the Polish audiovisual landscape.

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### The Chef Suffragette

DIR.: **MAGDALENA SZYMKÓW** • DOC.

The film's exploration of the suffragette movement through the lens of culinary history provides a unique entry point into discussions about women's rights, making it accessible and relatable to diverse audiences worldwide. The feminist and culinary themes resonate on a global scale, as issues of gender equality and food culture are relevant in many societies.



### Becoming Christine Granville

DIR.: **SYLWIA ROSAK** • DOC.

An international story by nature, focusing on the life of Krystyna Skarbek, a Polish-British spy whose extraordinary contributions during World War II have left an indelible mark on history. The film's potential to cross borders is inherent in its subject – Krystyna Skarbek, known in the UK as Christine Granville, was a key figure in the Allied war effort.





## Natalia Koryncka-Gruz

### EUREKA STUDIO

Eureka Studio is a feature film, TV and documentary production company founded by Natalia Koryncka-Gruz. Its ambition is to produce high quality content that captivates modern audiences. They explore a cinematic narrative that combines art with merit.

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### Crack in the Wall

DIR.: NATALIA KORYNCKA-GRUZ • DOC.

Rami is an Israeli, and Bassam is a Palestinian, both lost their daughters – Smadar died in a Jerusalem suicide bombing and Abir was shot by an Israeli soldier. Their shared grief forged an enduring friendship and a common mission for peace. The film follows their journey as they share their stories across Israel, Palestine, and the world. Through memories, family conversations, and archival footage, we explore two families divided by conflict but united by loss, seeking to inspire dialogue and healing.

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## Maciej Kubicki

### TELEMARK

Warsaw based boutique company which focuses on creative docs, premium drama, and arthouse features. It seeks to develop and produce projects with creators of a distinctive narrative and cinematic language. Company's record includes creative docs *Over the Limit* (2017), *Pianoforte* (2023), *The Wind. A Documentary Thriller* (2019), and premium drama series *High Water* (2022), *Glitter* (2022), *Illegals* (2018), *The Pact* (2016-2017), *In Treatment* (2013-2015) produced for HBO Max, Netflix, and Canal+ among others.

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## The World Is Not (a) Mine

DIR.: NATALIA KONIARZ • DOC.

Natalia Koniarz's feature debut reveals the harsh realities of life around Bolivia's Cerro Rico, the oldest silver mine where 8 million miners have perished since the 16th century. Juvenal (13), Hoper (40), and Claudia (25) are bound to this collapsing mountain, earning just enough to survive, deprived of labor rights and state support. Miners rarely live past 35 in good health, while children like Juvenal work to support their families. Women are destined to guard the mines and work relentlessly while risking their selfhood. This film explores a world united by death, where hope is scarce, and exploitation never ends.



## In the Circle

DIR.: MICHAŁ BIELAWSKI • DOC.

The most neglected aspect of climate change are human emotions. Group of people, under the supervision of experienced therapist Zbigniew Mituński, talk about their helplessness and anger caused by the end of the known World. In the workshops participate climate activists, photographer, film director, miner and farmer. 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. For the characters, the workshop becomes an emotional roller-coaster. Eventually they 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.



# PRODUCER

# PROJECTS



## Dorota Schleiss

### ASF STUDIO

Established in December 2010, ASF Studio, specializes in creating impactful films, documentaries, and commercials, with a passion for sports, particularly cycling. We've collaborated with world-class athletes and major brands like Oceanic and Kross. Recent projects include work with the European Space Agency (ESA) and international partners like ZDF and Constantin Film AG, marking a new chapter in our creative journey.

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## Basement Love

DIR.: **MARTYNA MAJEWSKA** • FULL-LENGTH FEATURE  
• IN DEVELOPMENT

An unloved boy kidnaps and imprisons two strangers in a basement, hoping to form a loving family with them.



## Coincidence? I Don't Think So!

DIR.: **KARINA KLESZCZEWSKA** • DOC. • IN DEVELOPMENT

Three generations of women from the same family seek love on dating apps, uncovering trauma linked to their great-grandmother's choices.



## Fit for Space Season

DIR.: **TOMASZ BARDORSH** • DOC. SERIES •  
IN DEVELOPMENT

This series follows Polish space tech specialists. The pilot episode, *Space Food*, tells the story of Polish pierogi sent on an orbit mission with astronaut Sławosz Uznański.



## Johnny Blade

DIR.: **KONRAD ŚNIADY, KONRAD TUŁAK** • SHORT DOC.

Johnny Blade, a hardcore wrestling star, dreams of becoming a champion in an underground federation. To achieve his goal, he enrolls in an acting workshop, which unexpectedly confronts him with his difficult past.

# PRODUCER



## Piotr Śmiechowski

### TELEMARK

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## December

DIR.: GRZEGORZ PAPRZYCKI • DOC.

December brings exceptional spells of cold and snowfall to Europe. The existing order is destroyed not only by the harsh weather, but also by 'strangers' who want to get into the territory of the European Union. Some people try to live as if nothing has changed and get ready for approaching Christmas. Others join the battle and, depending on their views, they either fight with the 'strangers,' or try to save their lives. This is December: a documentary manifesto made up of a number of mini stories set somewhere between empathy and indifference. Thirty-one autonomous chapters, create a mosaic that is a mirror image of ourselves. *December* is a creative documentary which focuses on the contemporary perception of migrants from the Middle East and Africa.



## Dekonstrukt

DIR.: MATEUSZ GÓRA, KAMIL WILK • DOC.

Stefa, Mac and Karo, three non-binary artists, founded an art and party collective called 'Dekonstrukt'. The initiative is run by and aimed at transgender people. They are looking for ways to express their aesthetics and find an appropriate channel for the radical art they create. Meanwhile protagonists face final exams at the Academy of Fine Arts and need to decide how to handle their adult lives. At times, this documentary coming-of-age story will transform into a punk road movie, where protagonists set out on a journey, facing their problems by playing their confident on-screen alter egos.



## EMERGING PRODUCER 2024



**Zofia  
Kujawska**

An experienced film producer who has been involved in the production and coordination of film and TV productions for years. She specialises in independent, documentary and fiction productions. Her skills include team management, budgeting, and organising film sets. Zofia Kujawska has collaborated with many acclaimed directors, including Agnieszka Zwiefka (*Silent Trees, Vika!*), Jakub Piątek (*Pianoforte*), Marta Minorowicz (fiction film *Illusion*) and Edyta Wróblewska (*When Harmattan Blows*), gaining recognition for her professional approach to each and every project.

## POLISH PROJECT AT JI.HLAVA NEW VISIONS FORUM: EUROPE 2024



**Alicja Gancarz**  
PRODUCER



rituals, healing practices, and business deals, while politicians offer cases of the drink for votes. Despite this, Chiapas faces a diabetes crisis and water scarcity due to Coca-Cola factories. Journalists Ola and Joel explore the reasons behind this extreme consumption.



**Julia Groszek**  
DIRECTOR

### **Sugarland**

DIR.: JULIA GROSZEK •  
PROD.: ALICJA GANCARZ /  
AUTOGRAF

In Chiapas, Mexico's poorest state, people consume over 2 liters of Coca-Cola daily. It plays a role in church

## POLISH DOCS PRO REPRESENTATIVE



**Barbara  
Orlicz-Szczypuła**

POLISH DOCS PRO  
KRAKOW FILM FESTIVAL  
KFF SALES&PROMOTION

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## 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



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