



2025

POLISH
DOCS
PRO

POLISH DOCS PRO
AT CPH:DOX INDUSTRY 19–30.03
PROJECTS & DELEGATION INFO

2025

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.

**POLISH
DOCS
PRO**

THE DELEGATION IS ORGANIZED BY **THE KRAKOW FILM FOUNDATION**
AS A PART OF **POLISH DOCS PRO** PROJECT



PROJECT CO-FINANCED BY **THE POLISH FILM INSTITUTE** AND **THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND NATIONAL HERITAGE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND** FROM THE CULTURE PROMOTION FUND

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
Republic of Poland



PARTNERS:

kbf:

Krakow Film
Commission

2025

PROJECTS

**POLISH
DOCS
PRO**



Birdie
by Aneta Ptak



Isabella
by Joanna Janikowska



My Dear Théo
by Alisa Kovalenko



Riunsurrection
by Łukasz Czajka



Souvenir aus Polen
by Tomasz Wolski



The Chef Suffragette
by Magdalena Szymków



Words We Never Say
by Agnieszka Zwiefka
PRESENTED AT CPH:Forum

2025

POLISH DOCS PRO DELEGATION

PRODUCERS & FILMMAKERS:

**Anna Gawlita**

PRODUCER

KIJORA FILM

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**Katarzyna Kuczyńska**

PRODUCER

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ORGANISER:

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DELEGATION COORDINATOR

KFF INDUSTRY /

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**Małgorzata Staroń**

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STARON FILM

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**Justyna Kluczewska**

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**Agnieszka Zwiefka**

PRODUCER, DIRECTOR

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Birdie

A self-therapeutic intimate film journey of a woman who, after the sudden death of her father and divorce from her husband, is forced to look at her life from a new, different perspective. Are all the people in her life really who they claim to be?

In 2009 young Aneta found love and understanding where she was not expecting it. She discovered the solution to her loneliness in ayahuasca. She left Poland and traveled to New York to move in with her beloved – an ayahuasca shaman 25 years her senior. She was deeply in love. Manuel, her soon to become husband, was a man with a mission bestowed upon him by the elders of American Indian tradition. Her main focus was to support the holy work of this medicine man. Aneta was sure she was living the best version of her life.

Year 2016 brought drastic changes. In March her husband told her: "The Holy Spirit wants me to have a second wife". In August Aneta received the news about her father's sudden death. She hopped on a plane to Poland to bury her father and reexamine her life in New York. For the first time in many years she was free from the influence of ayahuasca and her shaman. Aneta began to use the medium of her camera to understand why things have gone wrong. Soon after she began to experience first symptoms of complex PTSD and had to admit that her once beloved husband is a sexual predator and cult leader. Aneta began the process of reversing brainwashing and overcoming the trauma.



POLISH
DOCS
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DELEGATION AT
CPH:DOX INDUSTRY
2025

ENGLISH TITLE: BIRDIE
ORIGINAL TITLE: PTASZEK
DIRECTOR: ANETA PTAK
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
ANETA PTAK
EDITOR: PIASEK & WÓJCIK
PRODUCER: MAŁGORZATA STAROŃ
PRODUCTION COMPANY: STARON FILM
COPRODUCER: AKKERI FILMS
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 80'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND,
ICELAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH, ENGLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: SHOOTING
SHOOTING PERIOD: TILL NOVEMBER 2025
FILM DELIVERY: JUNE 2026
TOTAL BUDGET: 480 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 150 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM
INSTITUTE, MAZOVIA/WARSAW FILM FUND,
AKKERI FILMS
LOOKING FOR: FESTIVALS, COPRODUCERS,
SALES AGENTS

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Aneta Ptak

DIRECTOR

Aneta is an Academy of Arts graduate and a 4th year student of Directing at Lodz Film School. Aneta is currently working on telling her personal story in her debut

feature length documentary *Birdie*. The project was pitched at festivals in Cannes (Cannes Docs Showcase), Prague (East Doc Platform), Poland (Krakow Film Festival, Millennium Docs Against Gravity). Project *Birdie* won an HBO Max Award, Millennium Docs Against Gravity Award and The Golden Funnel Award for the most significant development within the Ex Oriente Film workshop. Aneta's creative development started from experimental videos and performances in which she explored the role of women in pop culture and female taboos. She used her own body as the medium of her art.



Małgorzata Staroń

PRODUCER

STARON-FILM was set up in 2005 by Małgorzata Staroń and Wojciech Staroń, and is based in Warsaw. Our principal aim is to produce author driven, ambitious fiction films and creative documentaries, sometimes in difficult shooting conditions. Besides international co-productions, we focus on discovering new emerging directors. We present real stories, touching deep human emotions in a poetic way, portraying inner human needs, and fascinations. The most important for us is the artistic level of our productions and their international presence.



Isabella

Isabella, a 91-year-old fortune-teller from Sardinia, 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 a 91-year-old fortune-teller and a staunch catholic who lives alone in a deserted village in Sardinia. Her solitary life is often disturbed by visitors seeking her prophecies. But those who expected a quiet old lady are in for a surprise. She is despotic, witty and — in exchange for her services — she puts her guests to work. Together they clean the village and help her use the computer to write her memoir. Isabella's dream is to publish her book and to protect her village. But she faces many challenges: fires, vandals, and — the biggest of all — time. Isabella's own prophecy says she will die in 2 years. As we follow her stubborn fight, we discover the reason behind it. In the past, Isabella was the mother to a disabled daughter Rita. When Rita died, Isabella dedicated the village to her memory, and now she will do everything she can to save it from oblivion.



**POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
CPH:DOX INDUSTRY
2025**

ENGLISH TITLE: ISABELLA
ORIGINAL TITLE: ISABELLA
DIRECTOR: JOANNA JANIKOWSKA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: JOANNA JANIKOWSKA
EDITOR: NATALIA JACHEĆ
PRODUCER: ANNA GAWLITA, MARTA SZYMANOWSKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: KIJORA FILM
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 76'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND, ITALY
LANGUAGE: ITALIAN
PRODUCTION STAGE: SHOOTING
SHOOTING PERIOD: SUMMER 2024 – AUTUMN 2025
FILM DELIVERY: 2026
TOTAL BUDGET: 328605 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 25 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM INSTITUTE (DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION FUND), MEDIA CREATIVE EUROPE, DOMUS FILMS (CO-PRODUCER, ITALY)
LOOKING FOR: FUNDING, SALES AGENTS, BROADCASTERS, FESTIVALS

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Joanna Janikowska

DIRECTOR

Joanna Janikowska (1992) graduated from Warsaw University's Individual Studies in the Humanities where she studied Italian Philology and Culture Studies. She comes

from Poland but she's connected with Italy for years, first through her studies in Bologna, then through numerous workshops and film projects. She worked as a film director and editor for such institutions as the Fryderyk Chopin National Institute, Polish Television and Caritas Poland. Her debut feature documentary *Comrades*, produced by Kijora Film, received the Visegrad Award Special Mention at the 2024 Jihlava IDFF. She took part in Women Doc Circle Accelerator and Doc Lab Poland programs and was among finalists of Premio Solinas, the most prestigious screenwriting competition in Italy.



Anna Gawlita

PRODUCER

KIA-ORA (KIJORA FILM) was launched in 2007 in Warsaw, Poland. Company produces documentaries and fictions with a strong focus on scripts about 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. Our recent film *In Ukraine* premiers in Berlinale Forum 23. At Karlovy Vary 2022 our co-production Slovo by B. Parkanová was awarded the Best Direction Award.



My Dear Théo

Ukrainian volunteer soldier, filmmaker and mother Alisa Kovalenko creates a testament to the power of love in the time of war – by balancing frontline routines, the horrors of the battlefield and tender poetic letters to her little son, Théo.

February 2022. Ukrainian filmmaker Alisa Kovalenko decides to follow a promise to herself to volunteer in the Ukrainian Armed Forces if the Russian invasion in her country turns full scale. Alisa goes to fight on the frontline, leaving behind her 5-year-old son Théo. Through intimate video diaries and poetic letters addressed to a future grown-up Théo, Kovalenko captures the devastating reality of war while reflecting on her choice to serve. Her camera reveals both the chaos of destruction and the profound humanity she finds among her fellow soldiers – their unwavering friendships, mutual support, and tender connections maintained with distant loved ones. This first-person documentary offers an intense and intimate perspective on the human cost of war and the profound bonds between parent and child that endure even in the darkest circumstances. Through her lens, Alisa Kovalenko honors both the living who serve and those who made the ultimate sacrifice, never to return to their families.



**POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
CPH:DOX INDUSTRY
2025**

ENGLISH TITLE: MY DEAR THÉO
ORIGINAL TITLE: MY DEAR THÉO
DIRECTOR: ALISA KOVALENKO
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: ALISA KOVALENKO
EDITOR: KASIA BONIECKA
PRODUCER: KASIA KUCZYŃSKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: HAKA FILMS
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 100 MINS
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND, CZECH REPUBLIC, UKRAINE
LANGUAGE: UKRAINIAN, POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: FINISHED
SHOOTING PERIOD: MARCH – JUNE 2022
FILM DELIVERY: JANUARY 2025
TOTAL BUDGET: 332 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 50 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM INSTITUTE, CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES, WOMEN MAKE MOVIES, MEADOW FUND, JI.HLAVA & JB FILMS
LOOKING FOR: BROADCASTERS, DISTRIBUTORS, FESTIVALS

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



Alisa Kovalenko

DIRECTOR

Alisa Kovalenko is a Ukrainian award-winning director, based in Kyiv. Alisa's first feature documentaries, *Alisa in Warland* (IDFA 2015) and *Home Games* (IDFA 2018)

played both in over 100 festivals. Her latest film, *We Will Not Fade Away*, premiered at the Berlinale in 2023, won 20 international awards, was selected for the European Film Awards (EFA) and received the Ukrainian Film Academy Award 2023 for the best Ukrainian documentary.



Katarzyna Kuczyńska

PRODUCER

HAKA FILMS – since 2022 we are premiering at least one film a year. Our first documentary, *Boylesque* by Bogna Kowalczyk premiered at the

Main Competition at Hot Docs. Second one, *We Will Not Fade Away* by Alisa Kovalenko, premiered at Berlinale 2023. *Lili* by Sylwia Rosak had its first screening at Santa Barbara IFF in 2024 and the premiere of Alisa Kovalenko's *My Dear Théo* will take place at CPH:DOX 2025 (Main Competition). Acting also as a production service, we participated in such projects as the 95th Academy Awards Nominee EO, directed by Jerzy Skolimowski, *Delegation* by Asaf Saban and *Mr. Jones* by Agnieszka Holland.



Ruinsurrection

Warsaw 1944, soon to be the best city in the world, rising from the ruins, built from dreams by the hands of its people. A film that creates a new myth of recovery, rebuilding, resurrection after the war, which is needed in today's troubled times.

The film portrays the rebuilding of Warsaw as a symbol of rebirth and collective effort. Using archival materials, classic films, and contemporary images, director Łukasz Czajka invokes the myth of ruination – a city rising from the ruins. This is a story of determination and hope from those who returned to the destroyed city and took on the challenge of rebuilding it. The film pays tribute to architects, urban planners, and ordinary citizens who believed that life must triumph over destruction. The film also seeks to spark reflection on the resilience of cities torn apart by war.



**POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
CPH:DOX INDUSTRY
2025**

**ENGLISH TITLE: RUINSURRECTION
ORIGINAL TITLE: OPERA
O ZGRUZOWSTANIU**

**DIRECTOR: ŁUKASZ CZAJKA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
KACPER CZUBAK
EDITOR: NATALIA JACHEĆ
PRODUCER: ANNA GAWLITA, MARTA
SZYMANOWSKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: KIA-ORA
(KIJORA FILM)**

**ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 82'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD: MAY 2025 –
DECEMBER 2025**

**FILM DELIVERY: 2027
TOTAL BUDGET: 315 400 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 280 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM
INSTITUTE (DEVELOPMENT FUND),
POLISH TELEVISION (TVP), EDUCATIONAL
FILM STUDIO (WFO), FIXA FILM
(POST-PRODUCTION), HISTORY MEETING
HOUSE**

**LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS,
FESTIVALS, FUNDING, SALES AGENTS,
BROADCASTERS**

**CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL:
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lukczajka@gmail.com**



Łukasz Czajka
DIRECTOR

Born in 1981. He is an experienced TV journalist, as well as a screenwriter, director, and video game designer. He holds degrees in Political Science and Cultural Studies. He is an alumna of DOK PRO Documentary Directing and screenwriting courses at the prestigious Andrzej Wajda School. His feature-length documentary debut *Of Animals and Men* premiered in 2019, screening in both Polish and American cinemas, and was awarded at numerous film festivals.



Anna Gawlita
PRODUCER

KIA-ORA (KIJORA FILM) was launched in 2007 in Warsaw, Poland. Company produces documentaries and fictions with a strong focus on scripts about 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. Our recent film *In Ukraine* premiers in Berlinale Forum 23. At Karlovy Vary 2022 our co-production Slovo by B. Parkanová was awarded the Best Direction Award.



Souvenir aus Polen

Occupied country captured through the lenses of amateur cameras of Nazi soldiers as they document their leisure holiday visits.

1939-1945, occupied Poland seen from a different angle, observed through lenses of amateur recordings from the cameras of Nazi party members and soldiers. Rather than documenting atrocities, these recordings showcase scenes of leisurely excursions and carefree holidays. On the photos they try to capture enjoyable moments, their wives smiling against the backdrop of war-torn Warsaw, swimming and kayaking on the Vistula River, posing relaxed by the shores of Masurian lakes, skiing trips in Zakopane, alcohol-fueled revelries in Gdansk. They laugh, joke, sunbathe, admire flowers in gardens, explore cities and picturesque Polish landscapes. Jewish ghetto in Warsaw is another 'attraction' for their films. In the background lie the stark realities of destroyed cities and frightened people.



POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
CPH:DOX INDUSTRY
2025

ENGLISH TITLE: SOUVENIR AUS POLEN
ORIGINAL TITLE: SOUVENIR AUS POLEN
DIRECTOR: TOMASZ WOLSKI
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: ARCHIVES
EDITOR: TOMASZ WOLSKI
PRODUCER: ANNA GAWLITA, MARTA SZYMANOWSKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: KIJORA FILM
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 85'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND, NETHERLANDS
LANGUAGE: GERMAN, POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD: N/A
FILM DELIVERY: EARLY 2028
TOTAL BUDGET: 600 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 570 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM INSTITUTE (DEVELOPMENT FUND), HISTORY MEETING HOUSE, CAY WESNIGK (GERMANY)
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS, FUNDING, SALES AGENTS, BROADCASTERS

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Tomasz Wolski

DIRECTOR

Director, scriptwriter, editor, and cameraman of over a dozen films awarded worldwide, he graduated from Wajda School and holds a PhD from the Lodz Film School. He

is a participant of Berlinale Talents and a member of the European Film Academy. His latest feature-length documentary, 1970, has been screened at more than 50 international festivals and has won numerous awards, including those at Visions du Réel, Krakow Film Festival, Zagrebdox, Festival Film Dokumenter, and the Batumi International Art House Film Festival. He is also the editor of Babi Yar. Context, The Kiev Trial by Sergei Loznitsa, and Horse Riders by Anna Gawlita.



Anna Gawlita

PRODUCER

KIJORA FILM was launched in 2007 in Warsaw, Poland. Company produces documentaries and fictions with a strong focus on scripts about 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. Our recent film *In Ukraine* premiers in Berlinale Forum 23. At Karlovy Vary 2022 our co-production Slovo by B. Parkanová was awarded the Best Direction Award.



The Chef Suffragette

This found footage essay explores women's rights through culinary history, using archival footage and historical narratives to create a unique dialogue between past and present. Inspired by Lucyna Ćwierczakiewiczowa's work, which empowered women through her cookbooks.

The Chef Suffragette is a found footage essay, composed of archives dating back to the beginnings of cinema and narrations starting from biblical quotations, Napoleon's Codex, Aristotle's reflections, Karl Marx's speeches to recent feminist statements. By integrating archival footage and contemporary reflections, the film creates a compelling dialogue between past and present, exploring women's rights through the lens of culinary history. At its heart lies the figure of Lucyna Ćwierczakiewiczowa, a Polish writer, activist, and exceptional cook, who first fought for her own independence and then empowered other women through her widely popular culinary books. Its universal themes of gender equality and food culture resonate globally, making it a thought-provoking story for diverse audiences.



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ENGLISH TITLE: THE CHEF SUFFRAGETTE
ORIGINAL TITLE: KUCHARKA
EMANCYPANTKA

DIRECTOR: MAGDALENA SZYMKÓW
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: –
EDITOR: –
PRODUCER: JUSTYNA KLUCZEWSKA,
MACIEJ OSTATEK
PRODUCTION COMPANY: RABAN
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 80'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD: –
FILM DELIVERY: –
TOTAL BUDGET: 511 627 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 432 792 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH
FILM INSTITUTE
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS

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**Magdalena
Szymków**
DIRECTOR

She is an author of documentary films based on archives, also an archival researcher, a curator of artistic projects that creatively use archives, and a PhD academic lecturer, a chief of Experimental Film Department at the Academy of Art in Szczecin, Poland. The creative use of archival film images in visual essays is the subject of her doctoral dissertation. She combines the tradition of documentary with the processing of archival materials, home movies and found footage.



Justyna Kluczewska
PRODUCER

RABAN is an independent audiovisual production studio founded in 2013 by Justyna Kluczewska and Maciej Ostatek. We specialise in producing films and series in collaboration with partners such as Canal+, Netflix, and TVP, ensuring our productions reach a wide audience. While operating in the Polish market, we create projects of high artistic value and continuously explore new opportunities for international cooperation. For us, film is a way of telling unique stories we believe in and want to share with audiences. We take on topics that move us and approach each production individually, with care and passion.



Words We Never Say

Among the rise of the far right, a mother and a daughter on two sides of an increasing political conflict go on a journey through Poland and Europe and recreate their past disagreements in a film studio.

A creative blend of a documentary road movie and fiction.

Ever since my mother became radical in her right-wing vision of the world, we found each other on different sides of the wall that divides contemporary Poland. This film is an attempt to find understanding. Each one of us takes the other one to see places, meet people or witness situations that define who we are and what we stand for. And none of us can reject this invitation. We both have to meet people and participate in events we don't support or are strongly against. From nationalist marches, religious pilgrimages to anti-government

demonstrations, refugee crisis and pride parades. This documentary road movie takes us through Poland, Europe and USA at the same time introducing another form of storytelling. In a film studio, with the help of actresses playing

me and my mom, we direct scenes that show the source of our conflict.

Different actresses play different versions of the same story. This backstage, our conversations with actresses and with each other, comments from the film crew are in the center of this layer of the film. *Words We Never Say* is a tender, yet sometimes painfully harsh portrait of a complicated mother-daughter relationship and a country (world) divided in half.



**POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
CPH:DOX INDUSTRY
2025**

**ENGLISH TITLE: WORDS WE NEVER SAY
ORIGINAL TITLE: PRÓBY**

DIRECTOR: AGNIESZKA ZWIEFKA

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: KACPER CZUBAK

EDITOR: MICHał BUCZEK

**PRODUCER: AGNIESZKA ZWIEFKA,
IZABELA IGEL**

**PRODUCTION COMPANY: CHILLI
PRODUCTIONS**

ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 85'

PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND

LANGUAGE: POLISH

PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT

**SHOOTING PERIOD: APRIL 2025 –
SEPTEMBER 2026**

FILM DELIVERY: JANUARY 2027

TOTAL BUDGET: 400 000 EUR

STILL NEEDED: 140 000 EUR

**CONFIRMED PARTNERS: CREATIVE
EUROPE, POLISH FILM INSTITUTE,
WROCŁAW FILM STUDIO**

**LOOKING FOR: BROADCASTERS,
COPRODUCERS, SALES AGENTS**

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Agnieszka Zwiefka

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Award-winning documentary film director – including Grand Jury Award at Slamdance and Golden Hobbyhorse at Kraków Film Festival. Agnieszka collaborates with leading European broadcasters such as HBO Max and ARTE. Two of her films (*Silent Trees* and *Vika!*) were nominated for the Eagles, Polish Film Awards.

Her latest film *Silent Trees* premiered at CPH:DOX and Hot Docs and received over 15 awards. Member of the European Film Academy and Polish Film Academy. Graduate of DOK.Incubator and Berlinale Talents.



Izabela Igel

PRODUCER

CHILLI PRODUCTIONS

focuses on films that cross the boundaries of a genre combining documentary and fiction storytelling. The company specializes in

international coproductions collaborating with such broadcasters as HBO Max or ARTE. The line-up includes *Silent Trees* (coproduction with Warner Brothers), *The Queen of Silence* and *Scars*. Our last film *Silent Trees* won Grand Jury Award at Slamdance and has been nominated for the Eagles – national Polish Film Awards.

www.polishdocs.pl

