



2025

POLISH
DOCS
PRO

**POLISH DOCS PRO
AT VISIONS DU RÉEL
VDR-INDUSTRY 4–13.04
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
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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 PRESENTED AT VDR-INDUSTRY

**POLISH
DOCS
PRO**



Arctowski

by Katarzyna Dąbkowska



On My Own Terms

by Tadeusz Chudy



Sandro

by Kamil Dobrosielski



The Tuner

by Paweł Chorzępa



Theory of Survival

by Paweł Chorzępa



Victory Day

by Wojciech Węglarz

2025

POLISH DOCS PRO DELEGATION

PRODUCERS & FILMMAKERS:



Joanna Chorzępa
PRODUCER
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PRODUCER
SMART FILMS
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Kamil Dobrosielski
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ORGANISER:



Katarzyna Wilk
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Arctowski

A story lasting over 130 years, beginning with the Belgica expedition (1897-1899), the first to winter in Antarctic ice. Its scientific leader was 26-year-old Polish Henryk Arctowski. This experience changed his life forever.

In 1897, the ship Belgica sails from Antwerp to Antarctica with an international crew, including future South Pole conqueror Amundsen, Romanian zoologist Racovitza, American Cook, and two Poles: Arctowski and Antoni Dobrowolski. Through voiceover readings of Arctowski's diaries, we learn about his journey and how he joined the expedition. The film focuses on the Belgica's struggle as the crew is trapped in ice for over a year. How did they survive? What happened to them? Did everyone make it? Animated scenes show desperate escape attempts, while disease, darkness, and a plague of rats drive the crew toward madness. The film also includes documentary footage of the reconstruction of the Polish Antarctic station, fulfilling Arctowski's dreams. Through archival materials, animation (using the unique under-camera scattering technique), and interviews with "people of Antarctica" and descendants of the Belgica crew, we explore human endurance and the connection to Antarctica.



**POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
VDR-INDUSTRY
2025**

**ENGLISH TITLE: ARCTOWSKI
ORIGINAL TITLE: ARCTOWSKI
DIRECTOR: KATARZYNA DĄBKOWSKA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: VACANT
EDITOR: VACANT
PRODUCER: EWA ŻUKOWSKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: STUDIO ŻUK**

**ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 50/70'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH, ENGLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD: SUMMER 2025 –
AUTUMN 2026**

**FILM DELIVERY: BEGINNING OF 2027
TOTAL BUDGET: 450 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 230 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM
INSTITUTE, TVP – POLISH NATIONAL
BROADCASTER
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCTION
PARTNERS, PRE-SALE**

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**Katarzyna
Dąbkowska**
DIRECTOR

Author of documentaries, including *Polar Fever*, about scientists in Spitsbergen, and *Between Worlds*, about suicides among Inuit in

Nunavut in the Canadian Arctic. She directed the award-winning documentary *Sky Without Stars*. She is also a director of theater performances and radio plays. Co-author of the first biography of the Polish polar explorer Henryk Arctowski: *In the World of Thoughts*. For her artistic projects, she has received, among others, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage Scholarship and the Young Poland Scholarship.



Ewa Żukowska
PRODUCER

STUDIO ŻUK – in 2014, after nearly 10 years of experience in documentary, feature, and TV productions, Ewa Żukowska founded her own company, Studio Żuk. She

worked as executive producer and production manager for numerous documentaries and TV programs. The studio also produces corporate, promotional, and social films. Building on her previous experience, Studio Żuk aims to produce Arctowski in collaboration with both domestic and international partners.



On My Own Terms

Paweł, a young boxer, and his half-sister inherit a flat, giving them hope of leaving the orphanage for their first real home. Their quest for stability will test sibling bond and make them face the problems of adulthood.

Paweł (18) and Julka (16) are half-siblings living in an orphanage. Paweł is starting his boxing career. He calmly plans every move in his life. His sister, on the other hand, has a thousand ideas per minute. Despite the differences, they shared dream is to move out of the orphanage. Unexpectedly Julka inherits an apartment from her grandmother. To formally become her property, she must pay off debt. Paweł helps to renovate the apartment and settle the dues. Julka finally moves out from the orphanage and offers Paweł to join her, but he refuses – he's not ready. While Paweł focuses on his sports career and studies, Julka struggles to find her purpose in life. When she becomes pregnant and the baby's life is at risk, Paweł realizes he cannot leave his sister alone. 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.



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POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
VDR-INDUSTRY
2025

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
MARTA WIERZBICKA
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 52'/67'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: ROUGH CUT
FILM DELIVERY: APRIL 2025
TOTAL BUDGET: 195 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH
TELEVISION (TVP), DJ FILMS, POLISH
FILM INSTITUTE
LOOKING FOR: BROADCASTER, SALES
AGENT, FESTIVAL PREMIERE, FESTIVAL
DISTRIBUTION

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WATCH THE TRAILER:



Tadeusz Chudy

DIRECTOR

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.



Marta Wierzbicka

PRODUCER

SMART FILMS is a rapidly growing company specializing in the production of documentaries and features films. Our mission is to deliver high-quality content and

services, built on an optimized production process. At the same time, we are dedicated to enhancing the artistic value of each project we undertake. We focus on innovation and creativity and we are open to international collaboration, aiming to expand our reach and build lasting partnerships across borders.



Dominika Pałka

CO-PRODUCER

Sound recordist and documentary film producer. A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków. Her social interests led her toward filmmaking, and co-produc-

tion became a natural path of development. She records sound on the sets of documentary and feature films. She has collaborated with Canal Plus, Netflix, TVP. She owns high quality sound equipment and has extensive experience. Her approach to documentary protagonists is based on honesty, openness, and trust.



Sandro

While seeking a breakthrough as a non-binary artist in a male-dominated Hip-Hop scene Sandro, an artist from the impoverished Comuna 13 district of Medellin, still grapples with the aftermath of their brother's murder.

Even 20 years later Sandro still deals with the consequences of their brother's murder. Juan, Sandro's sole friend and confidant, was killed for his refusal to join a local gang. This event led Sandro down a path of vengeance and criminal activities, resulting in their incarceration. While in prison, Sandro underwent a profound transformation and decided to redeem themselves through artistic expression. They resumed writing HipHop lyrics, a skill passed down from their late brother. We'll follow Sandro as they navigate the harsh realities of being an ex-convict, trying to help their community, and seeking a breakthrough as a non-binary artist in a male-dominated Hip-Hop scene. Their attempts to move on with their life, amplified by their unique circumstances, will resonate with viewers on a universal level. While Sandro's metamorphosis may not be fully realised, their experiences will offer valuable insights into the obstacles that hinder the pursuit of a meaningful and fulfilling life.



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DELEGATION AT
VDR-INDUSTRY
2025

ENGLISH TITLE: SANDRO
ORIGINAL TITLE: SANDRO
DIRECTOR: KAMIL DOBROSIELSKI
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
KAMIL DOBROSIELSKI
EDITOR: VACAT
PRODUCER: MICHAL BIAŁOŻEJ
PRODUCTION COMPANY: NPSP.FILM
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 72'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: SPANISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD: 2026
FILM DELIVERY: LATE 2027
TOTAL BUDGET: 200 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 200 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS:
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS,
BROADCASTERS, SALES AGENTS

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Kamil.Dobrosielski@me.com



Kamil Dobrosielski

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Kamil Dobrosielski had edited a number of fiction shorts. Most recently he has produced short docs for BBC Reel. In addition to developing of *Sandro*, his feature-length

documentary debut, Kamil is also finishing a short doc *Don Fabio of the Hill* with release set for the Autumn 2025. He is a Golden Trailer Award nominee and has been editing film and festival trailers for Polish Cultural Institute in London and for the ICA London; an independent distributor of arthouse films in the UK and Ireland.

NPSP.FILM specialises in documentaries and multimedia content that focuses on human stories, cultures, and natural history. Currently, our workload includes documentary projects centred around Latin America, specifically Brazil and Colombia, as well as Poland. Our ongoing projects include: *Don Fabio of the Hill* (post-production), *Through the Atlantic Forest* (post-production), *Sandro* (development), *The Most Important Thing* (development), *Apostasy* (development).



The Tuner

It is a story about people who eternally stand in the shadow, piano tuners who fight to have their instrument played by the future winner of the Chopin Competition.

It is 3 a.m. Mid-October. For the last two hours, there has been no one at the National Philharmonic in Warsaw except the janitor and a group of men dressed in suits and white flannel slippers. They are the tuners. In the centre of the Concert Hall's stage, one of them plays several notes every now and then, which sound differently in different parts of the hall. All that can be heard is silence and three sounds that reverberate against the walls. Crunch, a slight turn of the key and again a slow passage. The same, but different. More subtle. The piano tuners prepare the instrument for the morning's selection of participants in the Competition. Every piano that is on stage is great. However, simply perfecting the precision of its tuning may not be enough. You have to give something more from yourself so that the piano captivates with its colour. There are many participants, and pleasing everyone is rather impossible. The dream of this tuner is for his piano to be selected by the winner of the competition.



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Paweł Chorzępa

DIRECTOR

Polish director and cinematographer who has worked as a director and director of cinematography for documentary and feature films. His film was awarded

and presented at the most prestigious festivals around the world (IDFA, Visions du Reel, Berlinale, Dok Leipzig, Hot Docs, Camerimage, and others).



Joanna Chorzępa

PRODUCER

BEES FILM HOUSE

company was established in 2019 out of the need for film director and cinematographer Paweł Chorzępa and producer Joanna Chorzępa

to create documentary films. The first project realized by the company as an executive producer and co-producer is the medium-length documentary "Sonny" by Paweł Chorzępa. Currently, as part of the company's activities, three documentary projects are being produced (Gobi, The Tuner, Theory of Survival).

ENGLISH TITLE: THE TUNER
ORIGINAL TITLE: STROICIEL
DIRECTOR: PAWEŁ CHORZĘPA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
PAWEŁ CHORZĘPA
EDITOR: KOSMA KOWALCZYK,
JAKUB DAREWSKI
PRODUCER: JOANNA CHORZĘPA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: BEES FILM
HOUSE SP. Z O.O.
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 20'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: POSTPRODUCTION
SHOOTING PERIOD: 2021-2022
FILM DELIVERY: 2025
TOTAL BUDGET: 120 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 10 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM
INSTITUTE, MAZOVIA WARSAW FILM FUND,
THE FRYDERYK CHOPIN INSTITUTE,
ADAM MICKIEWICZ INSTITUTE
LOOKING FOR: FESTIVALS, DISTRIBUTORS,
SALES AGENT, COPRODUCERS

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Theory of Survival

The indomitable palaeontologist Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska and her team discover the first dinosaur and mammal fossils in Mongolia.

Prof. Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska is certainly one of the most eminent palaeontologists in the world, and her 8-year series of expeditions to the Gobi Desert was groundbreaking in broadening our knowledge of mammals and dinosaurs. Steven Spielberg himself, when looking for a consultant with the greatest expertise on dinosaurs for the filming of *Jurassic Park*, chose her.

In order to evoke memories of past journeys as faithfully as possible, a significant part of the film will consist of archival audiovisual materials. This film is the story of a woman full of passion and curiosity for the world, for the history of Earth. A woman who survived escaping from the train to concentration camp and as a nurse during the Warsaw Uprising. A woman who discovered how mammals survived climate catastrophe 66 millions years ago. Maybe this will give us an answer how we can survive today.



**POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
VDR-INDUSTRY
2025**

ENGLISH TITLE: THEORY OF SURVIVAL
ORIGINAL TITLE: TEORIA PRZETRWAŃIA
DIRECTOR: PAWEŁ CHORĘPA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: ARCHIVES,
PAWEŁ CHORĘPA
EDITOR: AGATA CIERNIAK
PRODUCER: JOANNA DOBRZAŃSKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: BEES FILM HOUSE
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 71'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH, ENGLISH,
MONGOLIAN
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD: 1960–1971, 2023–2024
FILM DELIVERY: 2026
TOTAL BUDGET: 500 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 450 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM
INSTITUTE,
LOOKING FOR: COPRODUCERS, SALES
AGENTS

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



Paweł Chorzępa

DIRECTOR

Polish director and cinematographer who has worked as a director and director of cinematography for documentary and feature films. His film was awarded and presented at the most prestigious festivals around the world (IDFA, Visions du Reel, Berlinale, Dok Leipzig, Hot Docs, Camerimage, and others).



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Victory Day

Dmytro, a young Ukrainian from the Donetsk region, came to Svalbard in search of a livelihood. In Barentsburg, a Russian enclave on the Arctic island, he took a job in a coal mine on a two-year contract.

Svalbard, and in particular its largest island – Spitsbergen – is an amalgam of languages, and cultures, concentrated in just a few settlements. The islands are harsh and inhospitable to humans: icy winds rush through frozen hills and valleys, avalanches occur regularly, while anyone venturing beyond human settlements must be mindful of polar bears. In Barentsburg, a settlement built to serve a Soviet-era coal mine, two nationalities dominate: Russians and Ukrainians, usually employed on two-year contracts. The film's subject will be the relationship between these two groups: people who, despite the ongoing war, are forced to cooperate in the unforgiving reality of the Arctic Ocean. The Ukrainian community on Spitsbergen tries to keep a distance from their Russian coworkers, avoiding unnecessary conflicts. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore signs of Russian nationalism, especially during the annual parade organized to commemorate Russia's Victory Day.



POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
VDR-INDUSTRY
2025

ENGLISH TITLE: VICTORY DAY
ORIGINAL TITLE: DZIEŃ ZWYCIĘSTWA
DIRECTOR: WOJCIECH WĘGLARZ
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: VACAT
EDITOR: VACAT
PRODUCER: JAKUB ORŁOŚ
PRODUCTION COMPANY: FALA FILM
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 75'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: UKRAINIAN, NORWEGIAN,
RUSSIAN
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD: SUMMER 2025 –
WINTER 2026
FILM DELIVERY: AUTUMN 2027
TOTAL BUDGET: 300 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 300 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: –
LOOKING FOR: NORWEGIAN
CO-PRODUCER

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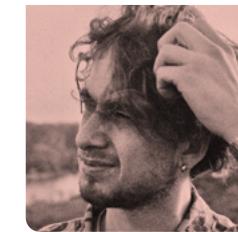


Wojciech Węglarz

DIRECTOR

Director, screenwriter, and cinematographer. He studied at the Film School in Thessaloniki, the Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School, and the Polish National Film

School in Łódź. He was nominated for *Bloodline* at festivals such as IDFA, FIPADOC, TiDF, DOCAviv, and KFF. He received an award for the best pitching at SFPitch during the Młodzi i Film festival for his documentary project *Marzyciele*.



Jakub Orłos

PRODUCER

FALA FILM is a Central European-based company focused on creating documentary cinema about contemporary social and geopolitical issues from the perspective

of an individual. We have developed numerous projects on the war in Ukraine, the crisis at the Polish-Belarusian border, and environmental issues.

www.polishdocs.pl

