

2021

FIPADOC



POLISH DOCS AND POLISH DOCS PRO
WITHIN A FRAME OF FOCUS ON VISEGRAD COUNTRIES

CATALOGUE OF FILMS, PROJECTS AND PARTICIPANTS OF POLISH DELEGATION



POLISH DOCS AT FIPADOC 2021 FOCUS ON VISEGRAD COUNTRIES



INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION



An Ordinary Country

DIR. TOMASZ WOLSKI, POLAND, DOCUMENTARY, 2020, 53'

Controlled conversations, recording with hidden cameras, dirty records of interrogations and recruit-ment attempts as well as video tutorials for the officers of the security service – all of these materials are employed to portray the monitored life in Poland under communism.

Sometimes grotesque, this picture is underpinned by horror, escalating intuitively with every minute. The dramatic culmination is when the Big Brother is not just watching but violating the intimacy of an ordinary citizen. Before us, there is a terrifying communist panopticon which keeps spying on and recording itself.

POLISH DOCS AT FIPADOC 2021 FOCUS ON VISEGRAD COUNTRIES



SHORT FILM COMPETITION



A Little Bit of Paradise

DIR. ANDRZEJ CICHOCKI, POLAND, DOCUMENTARY, 2020, 18'

A documentary story from the borderlands of realism and fairy tale, *A Little Bit of Paradise* is a film about a Silesian family. In an out-of-the-way corner of a metropolis, they reveal their world to the watcher and share moments from their lives, which are inextricably bound up with the nature around them.



We Have One Heart

DIR. KATARZYNA WARZECHA, POLAND, DOCUMENTARY/ANIMATED, 2020, 11'

After his mother dies, Adam comes across some letters his parents exchanged years ago. This is an opportunity for him to find out more about his father, who he never knew. The juxtaposition of animated drawings and archival material takes us back forty years and enables us to uncover an extraordinary family secret.

POLISH DOCS AT FIPADOC 2021 FOCUS ON VISEGRAD COUNTRIES



NEW TALENT COMPETITION



A Tale of Two Sisters

DIR. JAKUB PRYSAK, POLAND, DOCUMENTARY, 2020, 16'

Two elderly sisters, Bożena and Zofia, live next to each other in two flats in the housing block. There are two things that divide them — the wall and completely different political views.



Hide and Seek in a Peaceful Valley

DIR. MACIEJ BIAŁORUSKI, POLAND, DOCUMENTARY, 2019, 14'

In the idyllic world of Israeli kibbutzim everything has its own pace. There's a time for work and for rest. There's a time for fun too, which is when 9-year-old Tom and his friends play hide-and-seek or attack each other with a drone. Then there are moments when you have to hide and you only get 15 seconds. Eeny, meeny, miny, moe, lose a life if you're too slow. The film is a documentary observation of life in closed-off settlements located in a military zone less than 5 kilometres from the Gaza strip.

POLISH DOCS AT FIPADOC 2021

FOCUS ON VISEGRAD COUNTRIES



FOCUS ON VISEGRAD



The Whale from Lorino

DIR. MACIEJ CUSKE, POLAND, DOCUMENTARY, 2019, 60'

The Whale from Lorino is a film about the descendants of the oldest of Siberian tribes on the far away land of Chukotka. For them, the yearly hunt for the endangered whale is not only a tradition, but a necessity for surviving winter in a fragile place devastated by Soviet influence. The clash of two disappearing worlds; Chukchis civilisation and the universe of monumental and majestic whales in a story about the paradox of history and a harsh fight for survival.



Festival

DIR. TOMASZ WOLSKI, ANNA GAWLITA, POLAND, DOCUMENTARY, 2017, 85'

There is a classical music festival going on. The camera takes a look at the backstage, captures the last rehearsals, follows the work of the technical crew, costume preparations and the banter between the signer and the pianist. Backstage, fans are collecting autographs and take photographs with artists. This is the festival microcosm as seen from all possible perspectives. The stage seems to be somewhere far away as the process of music creation and the commotion that accompanies it is more important.



POLISH DOCS PRO DELEGATION AT FIPADOC INDUSTRY DAYS

Addressed to film professionals, Polish Docs PRO 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.

ROUND TABLE: HOW TO COPRODUCE WITH THE VISEGRAD GROUP COUNTRIES

20.01, Wednesday, 11.00–12.30 (English speaking channel)

With the participation of **Maciej Kubicki**, producer (Telemark)

SESSION: PANORAMA OF FESTIVALS AND MARKETS IN CENTRAL EUROPE

20.01, Wednesday, 12.30–13.30 (English speaking channel)

With the participation of **Katarzyna Wilk** (Polish Docs, KFF Industry)

CASE STUDY:

DOCUMENTARY IN CENTRAL EUROPE – HYBRID FORMS AND INNOVATION

20.01, Wednesday, 16.00–17.30 (English speaking channel)

With the participation of **Jaśmina Wójcik**, director
of *Symphony of the Ursus Factory*





POLISH DOCS PRO DELEGATION AT FIPADOC INDUSTRY DAYS

HANGHOUT: APERO DOC POLAND

20.01, Wednesday, 18.30–19.30 (English speaking channel)

Have a drink, come and discuss with the Polish delegation

CASE STUDY: FROM THE VAULTS – DEALING WITH THE (ARCHIVAL) PAST IN CENTRAL EUROPE

21.01, Thursday, 16.00–17.30 (English speaking channel)

With the participation of **Tomasz Wolski**, director of *An Ordinary Country*

ROUND TABLE: BROADCASTERS IN THE VISEGRAD COUNTRIES – AND BEYOND

22.01, Friday, 14.30–16.00 (English speaking channel)

With the participation of **Magdalena Borowska**, commissioning and programming editor for documentaries (TVP) and **Anna Różalska**, director of original production and co-production (Canal+ Poland)

PROJECTS AT INTERNATIONAL PITCHING

Candidates of Death dir. Maciej Cuske, prod. Ewa Hoffmann (Fundacja Bydgoska Kronika Filmowa)

Harley Unknown Mission dir. Andrzej Miękus, prod. Olga Bieniek (Filmicon)

PRODUCERS MEET PRODUCERS PARTICIPANTS

Anna Gawlita, Kijora Film (*The Big Chief, White Queen*)

Agnieszka Rostropowicz-Rutkowska, Pinot Films
(*Nina Gets Married, King Matt The First*)





Candidates of Death

DIR. MACIEJ CUSKE

Candidates of Death is a story about four friends who make an extraordinary horror every summer.

The film shows ten years of their adventures, mutual worries, overcoming problems and joy.

Three of the twenty-year-olds, along with the forty-year-old father of one of them, set off an old camper for a holiday adventure. They intend at the end of summer, like every year, shoot the next part of the horror film *Candidates of Death*. It is a very turbulent time, full of unexpected events. The characters will first learn about the place and try to make friends with the local inhabitants. The fate of the film largely depends on them. When, after a stormy meeting, they finally come up with an idea, they will change a quiet place so far, into a movie plan full of laughter and horror. During many situations on the set, we will be returning to the past of boys, thanks to archival materials from previous trips. We will be able to look at the changes that have happened in characters for ten years since they started their crazy project. In the evenings, during breaks, the four characters will try to detach from film reality for a moment. In conversations around the campfire, during dinner, they will talk about their lives. About what they managed to achieve, what they went through, what they dream about and what they would never like to repeat. They will consider whether the Earth will be going around for a long time and if there was any clear reason that they came into the world. Of course, all this will have to be thoroughly discussed before they set off next year.

ENGLISH TITLE: CANDIDATES OF DEATH
ORIGINAL TITLE: KANDYDACI ŚMIERCI
DIRECTOR: MACIEJ CUSKE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: TOMASZ PAWLIK
EDITOR: KATARZYNA ORZECZOWSKA
PRODUCER: EWA HOFFMANN
PRODUCTION COMPANY: FUNDACJA BYDGOSKA KRONIKA FILMOWA
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 54'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: PRODUCTION
SHOOTING PERIOD: JUNE 2019 – AUGUST 2021
FILM DELIVERY: MID 2022
TOTAL BUDGET: 208 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 59 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: MIEJSKIE CENTRUM KULTURY W BYDGOSZCZY
LOOKING FOR: PRE-SALE, BROADCASTERS, SALES AGENTS, FINANCING
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PRODUCER'S E-MAIL: FUNDACJABKF@GMAIL.COM
DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL: MACIEJ.CUSKE@WP.PL

Maciej Cuske DIRECTOR

Born in 1972 in Bydgoszcz. He creates amateur movies from high school. In 2004, he completes the Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing. Since then, he has been making documentary films. His films were screened in Poland and abroad. Filmography: *The Whale from Lorino* (2019, in production) *Warsaw Station* (2013, feature film) *Far from the City* (2011, documentary film) *Andrzej Wajda: Lets Make a Picture!* (2009, documentary film) *On Heaven on Earth* (2007, documentary film).

Ewa Hoffmann PRODUCER

Coordinator of many cultural and film events (International Film Festival Tofifest, Art of Fact Festival, Bydgoszcz on Tape) person managing the Foundation. She works as a production manager for Discovery Channel Poland and Tvn Turbo. Filmography: *Now Is Good* – production manager (short film, 2018); *Relatives* – II production manager (in production); *For One Night* – production manager (short film, in production); *Grandparents* – producer (short film, premiere on KFF 2019).

BYDGOSKA KRONIKA FILMOWA produces documentary shorts of young filmmakers (*Under the Sail* by Stanisław Cuske, *Black Sunday* by Jarostaw Piskozub and Maciej Jasiński and *Unexpected* by Mateusz Butawa). Films produced by BKF have been winning many awards at Polish and foreign festival for years. Besides amateur shorts BKF produced Marcin Sauter film *Rodnik* and the newest production of the director *I Grew Up as You Slept*, which premiered at the EnergaCamerimage 2018.



Harley Unknown Mission

DIR. ANDRZEJ MIĘKUS

Over 50 years ago, in communist Poland, in a rural shed near Wałbrzych, two students from Warsaw found the remains of the legendary Harley-Davidson motorcycle. They rolled over the motorcycle to a nearby train station. The 1942 military HD WLA model was abandoned here 23 years earlier by the Red Army returning from Berlin. According to the intentions of the American HD designers the motor-cycle would serve in the military for just one year. Eventually, it would serve for decades and became the Trojan horse for the communist system.

The events of August 68 marks the beginning of a forgotten Harley's story. Left by the Red Army in Po-land, Harley initially joined the ranks of the Polish Army. Then, due to its imperialist past Harley was outlawed. However he was saved from death by... a Polish peasant. Solid military vehicles with wheels perfect for carts could be used for farming. Harley began his mission of breaking up the System. Harley was loud, consumed a lot of fuel, and looked different from the others. Its possession was ideologically suspicious. The unknown pop-culture story of the Harley movement, which was created behind the Iron Curtain 50 years ago, is the history of the last 70 years of Poland. Since the creation of the Polish communist state to the round table talks in 89, the elections of June 4th, the fall of the Berlin Wall and to current times. It allows to un-derstand how the communist system eroded from inside and eventually collapsed.

ENGLISH TITLE: HARLEY UNKNOWN MISSION
ORIGINAL TITLE: NIEZNANA MISJA HARLEYA
DIRECTOR: ANDRZEJ MIĘKUS
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: ROBERT LIS
PRODUCER: OLGA BIENIEK
PRODUCTION COMPANY: FILMICON SP. Z O.O.
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 90'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD: 2020-2021
FILM DELIVERY: 2021
TOTAL BUDGET: 220 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 220 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: —
LOOKING FOR: FINANCING, BROADCASTERS
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Andrzej Miękus DIRECTOR

Andrzej Miękus is a creative producer, director and scriptwriter of independent documentary movies. His current documentary projects include: *The Quest* – a full-length documentary, the story of an American scientist Howard Urnovitz and his path to find a 'cure for cancer'. *Angels of Sinjar* – a full-length documentary done with Hanna Polak, Polish filmmaker, scheduled for premiere (HBO) in 2020. Andrzej has created the idea and is a co-producer and associate director of the movie.

Olga Bieniek PRODUCER

Olga Bieniek graduated National Film School in Łódź. She worked as TV producer and production manager. Since 2010 she is independent producer. Her films, such as *The Closed Circuit* by Ryszard Bugajski and *The Butler* by Filip Bajon were awarded all over the world. Her own work was also ap-preciated with awards for best producer. In 2019 she directed her first documentary film *Kult Film* which premiered at Warsaw Film Festival.

FILMICON was created in 2010 by Olga Bieniek (producer and production manager) and Mirosław Piepka (producer and scriptwriter) to produce feature film and documentaries. They produced fea-tures: *The Closed Circuit* by Ryszard Bugajski, *The Butler* by Filip Bajon and documentaries: *Black Box* by Krzysztof Kowalski and *Kult Film* which is Olga Bieniek's first film as director. Currently they're working on feature film *The Hunt* and documentary *Harley Unknown Mission*.

PROJECTS AT PRODUCERS MEET PRODUCERS



**Agnieszka
Rostropowicz-Rutkowska**

Pinot Films

Festival and marketing strategist and creative producer. She has worked for the Wajda School & Studio for 9 years. She has co run many promotional campaigns for short fiction and documentaries, such as the Oscar campaign for *Joanna* by Aneta Kopacz, the EFA campaign for *Paparazzi* by Piotr Bernas and EFA winner *Communion* by Anna Zamecka in 2017. She supports documentary filmmakers with marketing and festival strategies for their projects. She has been working with many independent documentary and fiction projects, such as *Call Me Marianna* by Karolina Bielawska, *Hugo* by Wojciech Klimala, *Symphony of the Ursus Factory* by Jaśmina Wójcik, and currently with the feature fiction *Marygoround* by Daria Woszek. She graduated from EPI Distribution 2.0 and EAVE Marketing Workshop.

PINOT FILMS is a creative production company set up by Marta Dużbabel and Agnieszka Rostropowicz-Rutkowska in 2020. It provides professional production service for filmmakers and also support them with marketing, distribution and promotion packages from the development until the distribution phase. Producers have experience in working with TV series, documentary and fiction films.





Nina Gets Married

DIR. ANDRZEJ SZYPULSKI, POLAND, 2022, 75'/52'

Nina is a 68-year-old widow, a Jehovah's Witness. She unexpectedly falls in love with Krzysztof – a dozen years younger Catholic. This love turns her life upside down.

Nina lives in a small town and has been a widow for a couple of years. Her worldview and moral principles are shaped by her religion – she is a Jehovah's Witness. She was always a perfect mother and a housewife. She took care of others while sometimes forgetting about herself. One day she meets Krzysztof, a 15 years younger Catholic from a big city. Although they come from the totally opposite backgrounds and even more importantly, they believe in completely opposed "truths", they got married. For Nina this marriage becomes some kind of a mission. She wants to convert Krzysztof so he could be saved and so they could live together in paradise, live through the Armageddon... Krzysztof would like to see Nina out of the church. Will their love endure all those adversities? Nina's story is told from the perspective of her son, director of the film. Thanks to the intimate atmosphere of the filming, he gets to know his mother better. This is going to be a tender tale about Nina and her love. About mother, grandmother, loving woman and woman of faith. About staying between the love for Jehova and love for a man. Will Nina decide which world is more important for her or maybe she can happily be part of both of them?



King Matt the First. Documentary for Children

DIR. JAŚMINA WÓJCIK, POLAND, 2021, 75'

***King Matt the First. Documentary for Children* is a hybrid with documentary and fiction elements that draws a collective portrait of contemporary children and presents an issue of alternative education.**

King Matt the First is a full-length documentary film for children with feature elements. The film draws a collective portrait of contemporary children and presents an issue of alternative education in the light of a search for most accurate approach to working with children against the background of crisis of democracy and growing authoritarian tendencies within societal and political spaces. The creators want the film to play an educational role – to inspire little viewers to explore the world in its wealth and diversity and to sensitized them to such values as empathy, solidarity and cooperation. Bearing in mind the desire to address the film to children viewers, the creators will reach for feature film instruments, by putting a documentary narrative into the framework of a story about little king named Matt. The film is based on the motifs of the novel *King Matt the First*, published in 1923, written by Janusz Korczak – Polish educator, journalist, social activist and writer of Jewish origin, a precursor of many contemporary solutions in the field of alternative education and pedagogy.

PROJECTS AT PRODUCERS MEET PRODUCERS



Anna Gawlita
Kijora Film

Producer and production manager for films of Tomasz Wolski, Piotr Stasik, and Aleksandra Maciuszek which were awarded at Jihlava FF, Krakow FF, Palms Springs FF, Margaret Mead FF and many others. In 2018 she had finished her director documentary debut, *Horse Riders*, which got two Oscar selected Awards – the Golden Frog at Camerimage and Grand Prix at Cork FF. Awarded as best producer at Krakow FF. A member of the European Film Academy.

KIJORA FILM was established by Anna Gawlita in 2007. It creates a creative environment to develop and produce an author-driven documentary and fiction films. Anna was a participant of Berlinale Talents, EKRAN+ and Emerging Producers and was named the best producer of shorts and documentaries in Poland at Krakow Film Festival. Kijora is also a coproducer and executive producer of shorts and feature fictions.





The Big Chief

DIR. TOMASZ WOLSKI, POLAND, 2022, 85'

Was he a Polish or a Jew, a Soviet spy working for Alliance, for Gestapo or Moscow? Was he a James Bond of that time or spy dilettante? Was he a hero or a traitor? Who Trepper really was?

In 1972 a team of French TV journalists came to Poland to secretly interview Leopold Trepper – Polish Jew, head of the legendary Red Orchestra – the most powerful espionage network during World War II. After the anti-semitic campaign of 1968 in Poland, Trepper lost his job, his sons immigrated from the country. Trepper was ill, and he decided to join them. Several times he requested communist authorities for permission to leave the country, but he got only negative responses. He had to stay in Poland. The Secret Services followed his every step. He was not allowed to meet journalists. French TV crew managed to record a more than hour interview with the legendary spy. The video material was meant to be a part of an international campaign, assumed in Western Europe, which aimed to allow Trepper to leave Poland. However, the French crew returned home empty-handed.

The whole video material was confiscated at Warsaw Airport. They were told the film's reels would be destroyed. After 45 years, it turned out that undestroyed and unreleased reels remained in Polish archives. The journalist who interviewed Trepper in the 70s is now 80-years old French TV celebrity. He is surprised that the footage remained. The screening of this interview will serve as a pretext and first step to tell a part of the story of this controversial man Leopold Trepper?



White Queen

DIR. GRZEGORZ PIEKARSKI, POLAND, 2022, 70'

Manuela and Jules live torn between their European and African realities. Jules' inheritance of power means the native-German Manuela is the white queen of the Ewe Mina people of Togo. Formally Jules holds the power, but it is Manuela who rules.

Jules is tired of exercising power remotely from Germany. He is tormented by guilt for abandoning his people in Togo, yet he can't go back. Due to the conflict with the president, he is wanted by the local head hunters. Seeking peace, he gladly relinquishes power to his pragmatic German wife, Manuela. She makes decisions concerning their daily life and critical issues of the African community. The first part of the film concerns their life in Europe, which can be boiled down to a cycle of work, solving African problems via instant messengers, de-stressing through their social life and working again. Manuela is the key decision-maker. Even as she prepares an outfit for Jules, she expects him to act in a certain way as he wears it. Despite his royal heritage, Jules works in an organic slaughterhouse, where he humbly performs the simplest of tasks, such as washing meat crates. At home, he is confronted with the demands of his African subjects, who picture the life of their leader quite differently. Despite having lived in Germany for 25 years, Jules has still not become accustomed to the European way of life and is unable to be pragmatic. This is where Manuela completes him. With her difficult personality, she is temperamental, and does not always get along with people. Jules is able to calm her down and support her. The second part of the film presents Manuela's preparations for her solitary trip to Togo as well as the trip itself. She has been struggling with health problems and requires medical consultations before every journey. Jules is concerned how she will manage in Africa with her temperament while he remains in Germany. Their symbiotic relationship will be severed.



POLISH DOCS PRO DELEGATES



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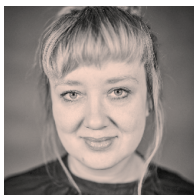


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POLSKI INSTYTUT SZTUKI FILMOWEJ
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