

# 2021



**IDFA**  
17–28.11

**POLISH  
DOCS**

IDFA MASTERS

## The Balcony Movie

DIR.: PAWEŁ ŁOZIŃSKI • 2021 • DOCUMENTARY • 100'  
• PROD.: ŁOZIŃSKI PRODUCTION, HBO MAX

Can anyone be a movie hero? Can the world be locked in one film frame? Director Paweł Łoziński is watching people from his balcony as they are passing by: sad, thoughtful, glued to their phones, young and old. Neighbours, random visitors or simply passers-by. The filmmaker accosts them, asks questions, talks about how they deal with life. Standing there with his camera for over 2 years he has created a space for dialogue, a lay confessional of sorts, where everyone can stop by and tell their story. The protagonists carry secrets and mysteries, and are not easy to label. Every story is unique, and life always surpasses imagination. *The Balcony Movie* is a radical comeback to the beginnings of cinema, when man approached the camera. Maybe it's enough to stop for a moment to get a deeper insight?

18.11 / 20:30 / Munt 13  
20.11 / 15:00 / DLM: Mary Dresselhuys Zaal  
22.11 / 10:30 / Tuschinski 1  
25.11 / 21:30 / Munt 13  
27.11 / 10:00 / Ketelhuis Zaal 2

**DUTCH PREMIERE**  
AVAILABLE AT **DOCS FOR SALE**





## IDFA BEST OF FESTS

**NOMINATION BEELD EN GELUID IDFA REFRAME AWARD  
FOR BEST CREATIVE USE OF ARCHIVE**

### 1970

DIR.: **TOMASZ WOLSKI** • 2021 • DOCUMENTARY/ANIMATION • 70' • PROD.: KIJORA FILM, POLISH TELEVISION, INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE

In 1970, protests broke out in several coastal cities in Communist Poland. Workers went on strikes to object to price increases. Growing numbers of protesters walked out onto the streets. As the situation became tense, a crisis team gathered in the capital. With the help of animations combined with telephone recordings, we can peek behind the closed doors of dignitaries' offices. Hundreds of cigarettes are smoked. Conversations get cut off. Strategies to break up protesters and future repressions are planned. Propaganda activities are thought up. However, the protests get out of control. We can witness the fear, confusion, and brutality of the decision-makers. The militia makes use of their batons. Shots are fired and people die. Our film *1970* is a story about a rebellion but told from the perspective of the oppressors.

18.11 / 14:15 / Munt 12

22.11 / 16:00 / Munt 9

25.11 / 11:00 / Eye Cinema 1

26.11 / 17:00 / Kriterion 1

28.11 / 16:30 / Munt 13

**DUTCH PREMIERE**  
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## IDFA FRONTLIGHT

### Judges Under Pressure

DIR.: **KACPER LISOWSKI** • 2021 • DOCUMENTARY • 87' • PROD.: LOLLIPOP FILMS

*Judges Under Pressure* tells the story of defiant judges who stand in defence of the Constitution and the separation of powers. One of these judges is Igor Tuleya who withstands the pressure and issues verdicts that are unfavourable to those in power. For the government he is public enemy number one; for protesting citizens – the face of the judges' resistance. In the film we see the consequences of his uncompromising stance, we look at how political pressure affects his life. At the same time, we witness the remarkable solidarity that is shown to him both by other judges and ordinary people. Meanwhile, a cruel illustration reveals the extent to which the rule of law has been dismantled. After the politicised Constitutional Court decides to severely restrict access to abortions, Poland is swept over by the largest wave of demonstrations in its history. Judges take to the streets hand in hand with ordinary people to defend of the rule of law.

**17.11 / 09:50** / Tuschinski 1 / **Collection of the best IDFA films selected by VPRO**

**20.11 / 14:30** / Carré / **IDFA Hit: *Judges Under Pressure* + Talk hosted by European Cultural Foundation**

**23.11 / 20:45** / Rialto VU 4

**25.11 / 15:15** / Tuschinski 6

**26.11 / 09:50** / Tuschinski 1 / **Collection of the best IDFA films selected by VPRO**

**28.11 / 10:15** / Munt 11

**WORLD PREMIERE**

AVAILABLE AT **DOCS FOR SALE**



# PROJECTS PRESENTED AT **POLISH DOCS PRO** SHOWCASE

POLISH DOCS PRO **DELEGATION**

**POLISH  
DOCS  
PRO**

## **5 Pills Away**

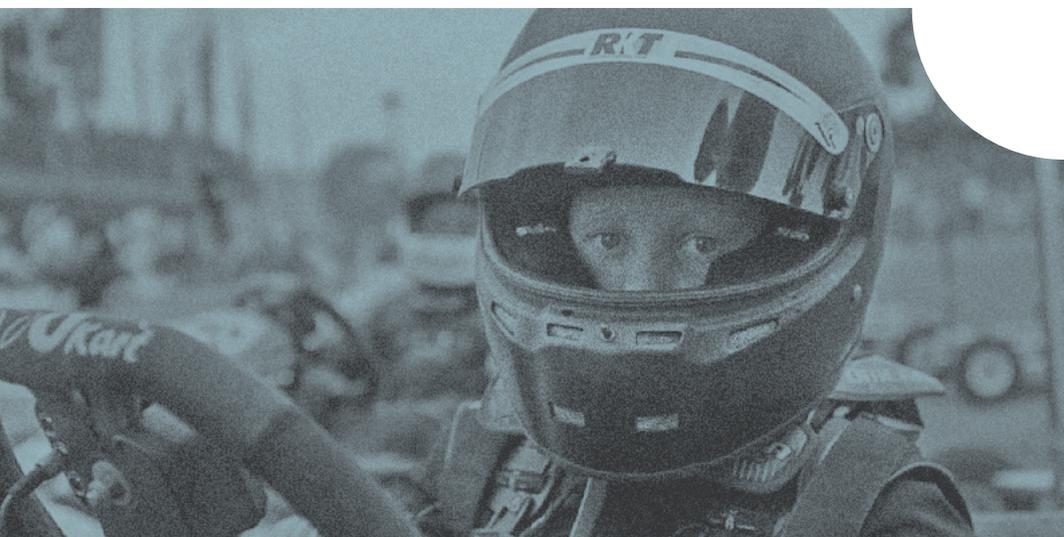
DIR.: **KAROLINA DOMAGALSKA** • 2022 • DOCUMENTARY • 70'  
• PROD.: MY WAY STUDIO

When Polish government introduces a near-total abortion ban, four women friends from Abortion Dream Team step in and lead a revolution. What will it bring to them personally and as a team?

## **Base 13**

DIR.: **PAWEŁ HEJBUDZKI** • 2022 • DOCUMENTARY • 80'  
• PROD.: MOVIE MATES

Children's kart racing is a high-risk sport. Kids as young as 7 sit behind the wheels of go-karts speeding at 80 km/h (50 mph). Although the chance for success is thin, the pressure is enormous.





22 NOVEMBER / 16:00–17:30 / BRAKKE GROND TUINZAAL

## Leon

DIR.: **WOJCIECH GOSTOMCZYK** • 2022 • DOCUMENTARY • 54/80'  
• PROD.: METRAGE STUDIO

A performative artist Leon rejects limits between art and life. Creating his dream project he finds himself in conflict with society and family, including his boyfriend, Manfred Thierry Mugler.

## Pianoforte

DIR.: **JAKUB PIĄTEK** • 2022/2023 • DOCUMENTARY • 70' • PROD.: TELEMARX

The Chopin Piano Competition is the oldest contest of this importance in the world. Extreme emotions are shared by both: the audience and the young pianists for whom it's a unique chance that happens once in a lifetime. *Pianoforte* is a coming-of-age creative doc with Chopin's music in the background.



# POLISH DOCS AT DOCS FOR SALE



## No Hero at All

DIR.: **MICHAŁ KAWECKI** • 2021 • POLAND •  
DOCUMENTARY • 77' • PROD.: UNLIMITED FILM  
OPERATIONS, WAJDA STUDIO, TVP

Let's meet Mishka – a boy with many faces. This petty criminal and promising alpine skier enjoys life to its fullest despite his physical disability. What is more, he has an extraordinary sense of humour. He is captured at a key moment when he enters adulthood and receives the last opportunity to take part in the Paralympics. But above all he needs to make a decision about his future. Despite his limitations, he takes up consecutive challenges in his life.



## Only the Wind

DIR.: **ZOFIA KOWALEWSKA** • 2021 • POLAND •  
DOCUMENTARY • 58' • PROD.: SILVER FRAME, TVP

A 92-year-old Zdzisław and his 25-year-old granddaughter set out on a 5000 km journey to a remote village in Kazakhstan. For him, this marks a return to where he was exiled as a teenager by the Soviets during WWII. After 70 years, he once again travels to the land of his childhood, in search of his first love, which he was forced to leave behind. The granddaughter is looking to support him through his arduous journey while discovering the reality behind the bedtime stories she heard as a child.



## The Soil

DIR.: **ZUZANNA SOLAKIEWICZ** • 2021 • POLAND  
• DOCUMENTARY • 71' • PROD.: KIJORA FILM, TVP,  
ENDORFINA, KBF

A beautifully illustrated story of a contemporary village and its unconventional dwellers who are of different age but have one thing in common – their strong attachment to folk culture. In this film, music is as important as images, since it accompanies the protagonists during key events in their lives.

## POLISH DOCS AT **DOCS FOR SALE**



### **@miriamfrompoland**

DIR.: **PIOTR SZCZEPAŃSKI** • 2021 • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 77' • PROD.: ANAGRAM FILM, EC1, KBF

Miriam is a strong woman in a patriarchal society. She is struggling for her identity as an orthodox Jewess wanting to live in contemporary Poland. She is a mother of five who has a mission. She wants to prove that Jewish life is still possible in Poland. Coming from an assimilated Polish family, she is a third generation Holocaust survivor. And she believes that Poland is not a big cementary.



### **Light Years**

DIR.: **MONIKA PROBA** • 2021 • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 28' • PROD.: MUNK STUDIO – POLISH FILMMAKERS ASSOCIATION, SQUARE FILM STUDIO

Vitali has always wanted to be a priest. There is only one thing left to do – according to the rules of the Eastern Orthodox Church, he needs to find a wife. Waiting for the change to come, he rents a flat with a friend from the seminary. They turn the two tiny rooms filled with books and icons into their own world, living beyond time and mundane rules. Years go by and Vitali's family is still waiting for the return of the priest.



### **Backstage**

DIR.: **ADA SMYK** • 2021 • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 10' • PROD.: MUNK STUDIO – POLISH FILMMAKERS ASSOCIATION, KIKA

The backstage of the Polish National Opera in Warsaw. Craftspeople from workshops and wardrobe are preparing costumes and set design for the upcoming premiere of one of the most important shows of the season. The film sheds light on the invisible work of dozens of people who are usually overshadowed by the artists performing on stage.

## POLISH DOCS AT **DOCS FOR SALE**



### **The Way**

DIR.: **WOJTEK KOZAKIEWICZ** • 2021 • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 23' • PROD.: PROJEKTOROWNIA WOJCIECH KOZAKIEWICZ

The Krakow climbing scene has always been full of personalities from the edge of science, culture and art. For many, sport was a window to the world. The invisible force that draws you into sport is like a drug. Sometimes it doesn't seem to make any sense, but without it everything else loses its meaning as well. Whether you represent the country internationally, climb rocks, or do it just to push your boundaries – it sets the rhythm of your life.



### **Silence Heard Loud**

DIR.: **ANNA KONIK** • 2022 • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 71' • PROD.: ANNA KONIK

London 2020 – here the paths of seven asylum seekers cross. Their stories reveal the plight of all those fighting a desperate battle for freedom and dignity. They list their own problems: alienation, racism, loneliness, endless asylum procedures with no permission to work in the meantime, uncertainty about the future, and longing for family and home. So they are faced with self-doubt and begin to question the meaning of life. No one can tell what the future holds for them.



### **Boylesque**

DIR.: **BOGNA KOWALCZYK** • 2022 • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 70' • PROD.: HAKA FILMS

After the suicide of his best friend, Lula, an 80-year-old drag queen decides to take matters in his own hands and, once again, search for love.