



2021

**POLISH
DOCS
PRO**

**IDFA INDUSTRY
POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION**

2021

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.

**POLISH
DOCS
PRO**

POLISH DOCS PRO SHOWCASE

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

The showcase presents Polish creative documentary projects in progress. It consists of the pitching of the projects and is followed by the individual meetings with the decision makers. These projects include:



5 Pills Away

BY **KAROLINA DOMAGALSKA**

Four women running a support group called Abortion Dream Team when Poland is about to introduce the strictest abortion ban in Europe.



Leon

BY **WOJCIECH GOSTOMCZYK**

A performative artist Leon creating his dream project he finds himself in conflict with society and family, including his boyfriend, Manfred Thierry Mugler.



Base 13

BY **PAWEŁ HEJBUDZKI**

A documentary about ambition and dreams in the world of children's kart racing.



Pianoforte

BY **JAKUB PIĄTEK**

An intimate coming-of-age portrait of young pianists taking part in the legendary International Chopin Piano Competition.

The presentation is followed by individual meetings with the decision makers in order to find partners, sales agents and international festival premieres.

If you would like to set up a meeting, please send the request to: Katarzyna Wilk, katarzyna@kff.com.pl

2021

MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION

PRODUCERS



Katarzyna Ślesicka

MY WAY STUDIO /
DOC LAB POLAND

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Anna Stylińska

FILM METRAGE

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5 Pills Away

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

In October 2020 the Polish government introduces an almost total abortion ban. From now on abortion is impossible even if the fetus is malfunctioned. It causes huge response of Polish women – they walk out on the streets in what is known as the biggest rebellion seen in democratic Poland. All of sudden many women are left alone and they have nobody to turn to. Luckily, there's an abortion hotline +48 222 922 597 run by Abortion Dream Team. The number appears on banners, walls, even churches. Natalia, Karolina, Justyna and Kinga help other women to perform self-managed abortions at home or direct them to the clinics abroad. Natalia is an academic and activism gives her purpose to get up every day. Karolina tries to set boundaries between work and her personal life. Justyna, 10 years their senior, lives in a provincial town, where she's answering the abortion hotline from her apartment while taking care of three kids. Kinga lives in Amsterdam and runs a foundation that is providing women from around the world with abortion pills. Unexpectedly they all find themselves in the middle of the women's rights revolution. For them abortion is a part of life, not a political debate but before they even realize they become the enemies of the state and their lives and safety is being put at risk. What was once a silent help work becomes a dangerous fight against the system which doesn't play fair with its opponents. Will they live up to that huge challenge and survive as a team? Will they go through the fight without being hurt? Or will they step back seeing that the risk is too high? *5 Pills Away* is a human story about team of women who have their own and different reasons to fight for the right of abortion. Each of them is confronted with different dilemmas, challenges or doubts. We will follow them on their path of the fight for human rights but also of self-awareness and self-assurance.

ENGLISH TITLE: 5 PILLS AWAY
ORIGINAL TITLE: 5 TABLETEK STĄD
DIRECTOR: KAROLINA DOMAGALSKA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: MONIKA KOTECKA
EDITOR: BEATA WALENTOWSKA
PRODUCER: KATARZYNA ŚLESICKA, ANNA STYLIŃSKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: MY WAY STUDIO
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 70'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT, EARLY SHOOTING
SHOOTING PERIOD: OCTOBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2022
FILM DELIVERY: MARCH 2023
TOTAL BUDGET: 303 500 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 280 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: HBO EUROPE
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCTION, BROADCASTERS
CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL: katarzyna.slesicka@mywaysudio.pl, stylowa@gmail.com
CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL: karolina.domagalska@gmail.com



Karolina Domagalska

DIRECTOR

Writer, director. She used to work as a journalist up until almost 4 years ago when she met the protagonists of her film. In 2017, she broke a story about the Abortion Dream Team which changed the course of her career. Her publication resulted in a change of the editor-in-chief for a new, conservative one and Karolina resigned from work. She is an author of a non-fiction book about assisted reproduction. Today, she wants to tell important stories that won't be censored.



Katarzyna Ślesicka

PRODUCER

MY WAY STUDIO

was founded in 2015 with the aim to produce high quality films with international potential. Our focus is on films made by female directors with a strong vision, wishing to communicate with their audience. A door-opening project for MWS is a documentary musical *Wika!* directed by Agnieszka Zwiefka, a co-production between Poland, Finland and Germany. Hopefully it will bring international recognition to MWS as a producer of internationally appealing films.



Base 13

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.

Base 13 is a documentary story set in the world of children's kart racing. The film's main protagonists are two 10-year-olds: Mateusz (boy) and Zosia (girl). Mateusz is a professional driver and has been racing for three years. His father, Andrzej, is very upset, when the boy finishes races as one of the last. Racing is his way of turning the gentle boy into a 'real man'.

Mateusz has strong support from his mom Emilia and his younger brother Oliwier. Emilia dedicates every weekend to his training and believes in his talent. Andrzej also loves his son, but he plans a different career for him. Unexpectedly their family has to face Andrzej illness, cancer recurrence. Will this change his attitude towards Mateusz?

Zosia has talent and willingness to race but her mother can't effort to keep her daughter in this extremely expensive sport. Zosia's father – a former kart racer and kick-boxer – strongly believed in his daughter and reinforced her desire for rivalry. He was a driving force behind her racing but now he is serving time for his past sins. During the course of the film we watch our protagonists at the end of the 2020 racing season and during the whole 2021 season. Mateusz changes the team, now he is practicing with talented kids. Also his younger brother, Oliwier, starts racing and it seems he has more talent. Zosia is struggling to get a go-kart professional license, something that can fulfill her ambition and would ease withdrawing from racing. Mateusz mostly craves his father's acceptance. He still can't express his fears or dreams. We follow him in a transitional period – his father's illness, a new team. If he succeeds on the race track, he will satisfy his father, but if he fails, he may win his acceptance and save the last few moments of his childhood.

ENGLISH TITLE: BASE 13
ORIGINAL TITLE: 13 BAZA
DIRECTOR: PAWEŁ HEJBUDZKI
CINEMATOGRAPHER: MICHAŁ MODLINGER
EDITOR: BARTOSZ PIETRAS
PRODUCER: WOJCIECH KARUBIN
PRODUCTION COMPANY: MOVIE MATES
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 80'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: FILMING
SHOOTING PERIOD: JULY 2020 – DECEMBER 2021
FILM DELIVERY: JUNE 2022
TOTAL BUDGET: 180 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 25 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM INSTITUTE, CANAL+ (POLAND), MAZOVIA WARSAW FILM FUND
LOOKING FOR: BROADCASTERS, SALES AGENT, FESTIVALS, FUNDS, CO-PRODUCERS
CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL: wojtek@moviemates.eu
CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL: pawel.hejbudzki@gmail.com



Paweł Hejbudzki

DIRECTOR

Born in 1980. Graduated from movie directing at the Warsaw Film School. In 2006 his short documentary *State of Mind* won the Independent Cinema Competition at the 11th

Summer of Films Festival. His graduation film, the short feature *Charon*, won the Grand Prix for best film school etude at the 40th Feature Film Festival in Gdynia in 2015. In 2020 he made his full-length documentary debut with *Say Yes or No*. It premiered during the 17th Millenium Docs Against Gravity.



Wojciech Karubin

PRODUCER

MOVIE MATES is a Warsaw studio, which aims to produce documentary films and TV series that combine artistic value with attractive narratives. Established in 2012, the

company possesses its own production and (partially) post-production equipment, which allows it to develop top-level film projects. Movie Mates also works in film distribution, mostly among airlines and through VOD.



Leon

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.

A bald guy in his sixties paints his naked body in red, runs around the streets in silver high heels or walks along the beach dressed in colourful feather making weird loud noises. His name is Leon and he is one of the most famous and radical performative artists. He's inspired by drag queens, rituals, cabaret and he introduces these forms of expression to everyday life. For him there are no limits between art and life. Being truthful to his art puts Leon in conflict with his loved ones – children, parents and friends. As a fragile, sensitive person, Leon cares deeply for his family, but at the same time is not able to adjust to the norms of society. The only person who seems to understand him is Manfred Thierry Mugler, famous fashion designer, his boyfriend. Thierry is drawn by Leon's creativity and bravery in exceeding artistic limits. They have been in a happy relationship for the last 6 years but even they have their ups and downs due to economical inequalities. We meet Leon while he is launching his dream project. He sets off on a journey to convince his old colleagues to join his performance, *Opus Magnum*. But it would require from them a lot of sacrifices. Will they be able to do it? *Leon* is not only an intimate portrait of a troubled artist but also a film about passion, determination, love, and bravery to live on your own terms. And above all, about the price one has to pay for that.

ENGLISH TITLE: LEON
ORIGINAL TITLE: LEON
DIRECTOR: WOJCIECH GOSTOMCZYK
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: MARCIN SAUTER
EDITOR: KATARZYNA ORZECZOWSKA
PRODUCER: WOJCIECH GOSTOMCZYK
CREATIVE PRODUCER: ANNA STYLIŃSKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: METRAGE STUDIO
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 54/80'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH, ENGLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: EDITING
SHOOTING PERIOD: MAY 2019 – MARCH 2021
FILM DELIVERY: FEBRUARY 2022
TOTAL BUDGET: 229 600 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 80 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: CITY OF BYDGOSZCZ, SOPOT AND GDAŃSK
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS, SALES, BROADCASTERS
CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL: stylowa@gmail.com
CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL: wojciech.gostomczyk@metrage.pl
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Wojciech Gostomczyk

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Wojciech is a CEO of Metrage Studio, which is a producer of fiction films, including latest Wojtek Smarzowski's movies (*Kler*, *The Wedding Day 2*) and co-producer of Agnieszka's *Holland Charlatan*. Wojciech's background is in business: he is a co-founder and president of the company *Domena.pl*, operating on the Polish market for 15 years. He graduated from Warsaw Film School where he directed short films. *Leon* will be his directing debut.



Anna Stylińska

CREATIVE PRODUCER

METRAGE STUDIO

sets itself ambitious goals and implements them. The company produces and co-produces fiction and documentary films. Metrage Studio is a combination of the business experience of the founders, an efficient organization derived from the success of the Internet advertising industry and the highest quality of film art, which is embodied in the professional path of Wojtek Smarzowski and Janusz Hetman.



Pianoforte

An intimate coming-of-age portrait of young pianists taking part in the legendary International Chopin Piano Competition. A unique chance of the lifetime portrayed from the backstage. An emotional rollercoaster with Chopin's music in the background.

During the preliminary round, there are 160 of them. Then, about 80. And 40. At last, only 10 lucky ones make it to the final. The protagonists of Pianoforte are young people from around the world and participants of the Chopin Competition held every five years in Warsaw. This is the oldest competition of this importance and the only monographic contest dedicated to Chopin's music. Its renown has resulted from a record number of pianist celebrities who participated in the Competition when they were young: from Dmitri Shostakovich awarded with an honourable mention, to Martha Argerich, Maurizio Pollini, Daniil Trifonov, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Dang Thai Son, and finally to Krystian Zimerman. The Competition involves powerful emotions, both on stage and in the audience. It is an exceptional chance that happens once in a lifetime. The protagonists, whose lives have revolved around playing the piano since their childhood, are like athletes at the Olympic Games, in which the stakes are their future. Our story focuses on a few characters. We watch them during the preliminary round, which takes place a few months before Stage 1, the competition struggle in Warsaw in October 2021, and the emotional reverberation after the event's final. We observe the young pianists at home, in private, while they prepare for the Competition.

Some of them will be eliminated, others will get to the final, perhaps someone will win one of the prestigious awards. Yet, everyone's path will be unique. *Pianoforte* is a coming-of-age documentary and an emotional rollercoaster with Chopin's music in the background.

ENGLISH TITLE: PIANOFORTE
ORIGINAL TITLE: PIANOFORTE
DIRECTOR: JAKUB PIĄTEK
CINEMATOGRAPHER: FILIP DRÓŻDŻ
EDITOR: URSZULA KLIMEK-PIĄTEK
PRODUCER: MACIEJ KUBICKI
PRODUCTION COMPANY: TELEMAR
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 70'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH, ENGLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: SHOOTING
SHOOTING PERIOD: MARCH 2021 – JUNE 2022
FILM DELIVERY: SPRING 2023
TOTAL BUDGET: 350 000 EURO
STILL NEEDED: 200 000 EURO
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: THE FRYDERYK CHOPIN INSTITUTE, MAZOVIA FILM FUND, POLISH FILM INSTITUTE
LOOKING FOR: BROADCASTERS, SALES AGENT, FESTIVALS, FUNDS
CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL: maciej.kubicki@telemark.com.pl
CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL: jakub.piatek@e.org.pl



Jakub Piątek

DIRECTOR

Born in 1985. Graduate of Lodz Film School. His directing debut, the short doc *Mother* (2009) was presented at over fifty international film festivals. His mid-length creative doc *One Man Show* (2014) premiered at the Krakow Film Festival and DOK Leipzig in 2014. Author of the screenplay and director of the short feature *Users* (2018), which premiered at the 2019 Slamdance Film Festival. His feature debut *Primetime* (2021) debuted at Sundance Film Festival this year.



Maciej Kubicki

PRODUCER

TELEMAR is a Warsaw (Poland) boutique company focused on creative docs, premium TV drama and art-house features. Company's record includes feature-length creative documentaries *Over the Limit* by Marta Prus (2017, premiered in a Main Competition at IDFA, with numerous awards at festival circuit abroad; international coproduction with ARTE-YLE) and *The Wind. A Documentary Thriller* by Michał Bielawski (2019, premiered at Visions du Reel main competition, with awards at DOK Leipzig, Jihlava, Trento; international coproduction with Slovak Film Fund).

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www.polishdocs.pl



Ministry of
Culture
National
Heritage
and **Sport**
of the Republic
of **Poland**

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