



2022

POLISH
DOCS
PRO

POLISH DOCS PRO DELEGATION
CPH:DOX

2022

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**

PRESENTATION OF THE POLISH DOCS PRO DELEGATION DURING MEET THE DELEGATIONS

Polish producers will meet the experts and decision makers and consult their projects during the round table meetings.

30 MARCH, WEDNESDAY / 15:00–16:30 / DELEGATION PRESENTATIONS

30 MARCH, WEDNESDAY / 16:30-18:00 / DELEGATION NETWORKING EVENT

31 MARCH, THURSDAY / 15.00-18:00 / DELEGATION ROUNDTABLES WITH DECISION-MAKERS

ALL THE EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT **KUNSTHAL CHARLOTTENBORG**

PROJECTS



Trust Me



**When the
Harmattan Blows**



**The Bear and
the Piano**



Step by Step



I Want It All



1_City



The Themersons

2022

MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION

FILMMAKERS / PRODUCERS:



Stanisław Zaborowski

SILVER FRAME

s.zaborowski@silver-frame.com



Eliza Kubarska

BRAIDMADE FILMS

eliza@verticalvision.pl



Marta Szymanowska

VNLAB, LODZ FILM SCHOOL

szymanowska.mm@gmail.com



Edyta Wróblewska

SZYMON KUDŁA –
INSPIRATIONS & ENERGY

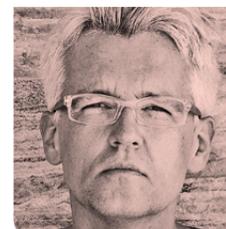
edytawroblewska@protonmail.com



Monika Braid

BRAIDMADE FILMS

monika@braidmadefilms.co.uk



Marcin Borchardt

PINOT FILMS

melopsokot@gmail.com



Ewa Hoffmann

EH! PRODUCTIONS

ewa@ehproduction.pl



Katarzyna Kuczyńska

HAKA FILMS

kasia@hakafilms.com



DELEGATION COORDINATOR:

Katarzyna Wilk

HEAD OF POLISH DOCS
KFF INDUSTRY
KFF SALES & PROMOTION

katarzyna.wilk@kff.com.pl



Trust Me

Alicja and Sebastian are a perfect couple. They have it all: a happy relationship, two wonderful children, money, a large number of friends. But then Sebastian proposes a risky experiment...

Love is simple, a relationship is complicated. Everyone is looking for a happy and fulfilling relationship. But how can one be certain that it will keep its shape – full of love, passion and common interests? How long can it last? How can such a relationship even work in a world where everything seems to be available all the time? and Sebastian seem to have everything. After 15 years together, Sebastian challenges the monogamous marriage model with a radical proposal. Alicja accepts the proposal and the couple embarks on a stormy journey with an uncertain outcome. The film accompanies the couple over several years on their daring, relentless and also destructive search for a new form of togetherness. Their journey develops into an increasingly lonely struggle of each individual coping with the new situation and the difficulties of handling emerging feelings and needs. How much truth can a love bear? *Trust Me* shows both sides of this relationship. It focuses on a woman that loves her husband so much that she sets him free and a husband that wants to feel alive to the max. Is their love strong enough? An intimate story of a couple in search of a new recipe for love – uncompromising and with an astonishing commitment to openness and truthfulness. At the same time, the film dissects in almost surgical precision the great and universal question concerning the success of couple relationships in the 21st century.

ENGLISH TITLE: TRUST ME
ORIGINAL TITLE: TRUST ME
DIRECTOR: JOANNA RATAJCZAK
CINEMATOGRAPHER: JOANNA PIECHOTTA
EDITOR: ALAN ZEJER
PRODUCER: STANISŁAW ZABOROWSKI,
OLIVER STOLTZ
PRODUCTION COMPANY: SILVER FRAME
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 74'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH, GERMAN,
PRODUCTION STAGE: PRE SHOOTING
SHOOTING PERIOD: AUGUST 2021 –
AUGUST 2022
FILM DELIVERY: AUTUMN 2022
TOTAL BUDGET: 583 201 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 400 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: HBO, RBB TV
LOOKING FOR: BROADCASTERS,
SALES AGENT, FESTIVALS, FUNDS,
CO-PRODUCERS

CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL:
s.zaborowski@silver-frame.com
CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL:
laralurex@googlemail.com



Joanna Ratajczak

DIRECTOR

She graduated from University of Humanities in Poznań and Freie Universität in Berlin. As well as with Berlin Radio she worked for Berlin TV, ARD TV and RBB TV. Her radio programme *JazzRIO* was awarded with Brown Medal at the New York International Radio Programme Awards. She has been enrolled on a prestigious course at The Wajda School where she developed *Trust Me*. She lives in Berlin. Her documentary *Brodwin – Village Like No Other* premiered on ARD.



Stanisław Zaborowski

PRODUCER

SILVER FRAME is an independent production house which brings together talented artists. We specialize in the production of documentary and fiction movies with international potential. We are looking for stories and ideas that talk about common people's dreams and life stories in a very universal way. The most important thing about Silver Frame movies is that they give their audience real emotions. Cooperation with foreign partners is one of our priorities. Silver Frame is interested in new projects and co-operations, so we always consider being participants in an interesting productions as a polish co-producer or an executive producer.



When the Harmattan Blows

Barbara, a young woman from Ghana, who was slaved and abused as a child, faces the past. By confronting people who hurt her she tries to regain her dignity to move forward with her life and fight for happiness.

Barbara is 25 and lives in Accra. One day her younger brother, Kins comes from Sunyani to say that there is constant lack of food and money in the house of their parents and six other brothers. None of them has a stable work so the whole family depends on Barbara and her eldest brother, Kweku, who also lives and works in Accra. Barbara and Kweku set off on a journey to their hometown to solve the problem. It will be their first visit for years. Barbara decides to talk to the parents about the past. When she was 8 they gave her away to her aunt who lived far away from home. She reveals traumatic facts about the stay at the aunt's house where she worked as a slave and from later time when she was raped and abused by a school coach. Parents admits that they knew about most of the things that happened there. Will Barbara be able to forgive them? She considers to confront the aunt and to settle things with the coach, but Kweku and a Polish priest Father Piotr, who has supported her for years, advise her against it. Will she decide to such confrontation? Will she reveal all her secrets and protect other girls? Barbara hangs out with her former workmate, who has a wife and three children, but wants Barbara to be his second wife. Will she agree to such a role? Will she be able to trust a man and build her own family? It will be a character-driven story about a woman, who used to be a slave but doesn't want to be a victim anymore, about Barbara's dreams and her attempts to have a fulfilled life despite all the harmful things that happened to her. Some of the past events will be shown with creative impressions recorded on Super 8 camera.



Edyta Wróblewska

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

She completed Development Lab and Dok Pro at Wajda School. Graduated from Warsaw School of Economics and French Institute of Management, where she obtained her MBA. Berlinale Talents alumni, lecturer and PhD student at the Lodz Film School. Her documentaries: *PRL de Luxe*, *The Girl from a Reading Primer*, *Small Instruments* were screened at many film festivals. She also directed a stage play *Mulholland Drive* and a short film *The Road*. A member of the Polish Documentary Directors Guild.

SZYMON KUDŁA – INSPIRATIONS & ENERGY

Company that developed the film project *When the Harmattan Blows*. Previous doc produced by Szymon Kudła and Edyta Wroblewska, *Small Instruments*, received Special Mention at the Chicago International Movies and Music Festival and a Silver Eye Award nomination, was also represented by the East Silver Platform, and screened at many festivals including: Vision du Réel, ZagrebDox, DOXA, Guangzhou, Jakarta IFF, Krakow FF and more.

ENGLISH TITLE: WHEN THE HARMATTAN BLOWS

ORIGINAL TITLE: GDY POWIEJE HARMATTAN

DIRECTOR: EDYTA WRÓBLEWSKA

DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY: MARCIN SAUTER

EDITOR: KATARZYNA ORZECZOWSKA

PRODUCER: EDYTA WRÓBLEWSKA

PRODUCTION COMPANY: SZYMON KUDŁA – INSPIRATIONS & ENERGY

ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 75'

PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH, POLISH

PRODUCTION STAGE: EARLY STAGE OF PRODUCTION

SHOOTING PERIOD: JULY/AUGUST 2021 – JUNE/JULY 2022

FILM DELIVERY: OCTOBER 2023

TOTAL BUDGET: 210 000 EUR

STILL NEEDED: 85 000 EUR

CONFIRMED PARTNERS: MX35 (FILM EQUIPMENT), AGAINST GRAVITY (POLISH DISTRIBUTOR)

LOOKING FOR: FINANCING, CO-PRODUCERS, SALES AGENTS

CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL: edytawroblewska@protonmail.com

CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL: edytawroblewska@protonmail.com



The Bear and the Piano

At 53, the fisherman Tokunaga learnt to play the piano to save his marriage and quit on gambling. The new skill brought him unexpected fame and threatens his marriage once again.

10 years ago Tokunaga Yoshiaki found himself stealing money from his wife, Chieko, to feed his gambling addiction. She threatened to divorce. Tokunaga decided to learn to play the piano much to the amusement of Chieko, a piano teacher herself. A daily regimen of 8-hour practice and a decade later, Tokunaga mastered the piece. The results were amazing even to his skeptical wife. Tokunaga shot to fame and now performs all over Japan. He's addicted to it. But Chieko is now more sensitive to any signs of addiction. Our film mixes two separate points of view: Chieko's and Tokunaga's. A husband and wife story of mutual support and respect despite being seemingly rough and unequal at first glance. The film's narrative line is the internal and physical journey that Tokunaga and Chieko will take. It combines elements of humor, addiction and redemption, but also a deeper reflection over life, purpose and fulfilment.

ENGLISH TITLE: THE BEAR AND THE PIANO
ORIGINAL TITLE: NIEDŹWIEDŹ I FORTEPIAN
DIRECTOR: PIOTR BERNAŚ, CHENG HERNG SHINN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: PIOTR BERNAŚ, CHENG HERNG SHINN
EDITOR: TBC

PRODUCER: EWA HOFFMANN
PRODUCTION COMPANY: EH! PRODUCTION

ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 75'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: JAPAN, POLAND
LANGUAGE: JAPAN, ENGLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT

SHOOTING PERIOD: MID 2022
FILM DELIVERY: THE END OF 2023
TOTAL BUDGET: 250 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 225 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM INSTITUTE (SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT FUNDS)

LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS, BROADCASTERS, PARTNERS

CONTACT:
EWA HOFFMANN, +48 698 030 208
CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL: ewa@ehproduction.pl
CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL: pp.bernas@gmail.com, chengherngshinn@gmail.com



Piotr Bernaś

DIRECTOR

Director, cinematographer, documentalist. Nominated for European Film Award in 2011 for his short film *Paparazzi*. Piotr is also a double winner of the Golden Frog award at the Camerimage Festival for his cinematography in *Paparazzi* and *The Whale of Lorino*.



Cheng Heng Shinn

DIRECTOR

An award-winning documentary filmmaker based between London, Tokyo and Italy. His latest film *Super Cool Wins in the End* was screened to much acclaim in festivals in Europe and around the world.



Ewa Hoffmann

PRODUCER

EH! PRODUCTION was founded by Ewa Hoffmann in 2020, which will ultimately produce documentary films as well as series and feature films. The main goal of the

company is the production of films and series of high artistic value, which also have sales potential. One of the main priorities is also cooperation with Polish artists in the implementation of projects with international potential with foreign partners or creators.



Step by Step

Michał, who suffers from SME (spinal muscular atrophy) and uses a wheelchair, goes to the Himalayas. His fight with his limitations and the hardships of the trip is a pretext for the story of determination.

'The most difficult thing is that you are completely dependent on other people' – says Michał Woroch (36), who has been wheelchair bound for 15 years and is getting weaker every year. Michał, who has extreme expeditions to his credit, such as a one year long journey across the Americas, only feels free when he travels. He chose that route because it was the longest. Now, he is thinking about the Himalayas, because it is the highest. His time is limited. Disease ruthlessly takes his last strength from his muscles and one day he'll be bedridden forever. He draws his mental strength from expeditions, but the exhaustion accelerates the moment when Michał will be condemned to others. This is the price he is willing to pay. His companion is Bartosz (45), a paralympian who is also a wheelchair user. Brought up in the Tatras, he created a vehicle, a rover, which can be used to navigate mountain trails. Michał and Bartosz will set out on an expedition to the Himalayas, with the aim to cross the steep Annapurna trail. The trip will take several weeks, and on the way they will have to overcome cold, moving bridges hanging high above the precipice or steep passes over 5000 m. The film is narrated by Michał, who writes a diary during the trip.

The story begins in Poland during preparations: constructing rovers, Michał's rehabilitation and meetings with his family. The spectacular landscapes of the Himalayas will be the backdrop to the story of the struggle for dreams and a dignified life.

ENGLISH TITLE: STEP BY STEP
ORIGINAL TITLE: KROK PO KROKU
DIRECTOR: ELIZA KUBARSKA, MICHAŁ WOROCH
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: MARCIN SAUTER
EDITOR: TBC
PRODUCER: MONIKA BRAID
PRODUCTION COMPANY: BRAIDMADE FILMS
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 80'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH, ENGLISH, NEPALI
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD: AUGUST – DECEMBER 2022
FILM DELIVERY: AUTUMN 2023
TOTAL BUDGET: 340 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 320 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: PFI DEVELOPMENT, MX35
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS, BROADCASTERS

CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL: monika@braidmadefilms.co.uk
CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL: eliza@verticalvision.pl



Eliza Kubarska

DIRECTOR

Film director and alpinist, graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Wajda Film School in Warsaw. An author of world wide awarded documentary films: *What Happened on Pam Island* (2010) made in Greenland; *Walking Under Water* (2014), Hot Docs Jury Prize; *K2. Touching the Sky* (2015), one of the most awarded Polish mountain films in the history, and *The Wall of Shadows* (2020), premiered at Hot Docs, winner of many awards including Zürcher Filmpreis for best directing.



Michał Woroch

DIRECTOR

Born in 1984. An artist, graduate of Graphics and Intermedia at UA in Poznań. He works with documentary and conceptual photography. Photos from his expeditions have been presented at collective and individual exhibitions and published by renowned publishers. He implements projects that activate people with disabilities. As a person in a wheelchair, he travels all over the world, drawing inspiration from his expeditions to create constantly.



Monika Braid

PRODUCER

BRAIDMADE FILMS was set up in London by Monika Braid in 2006 in order to develop and produce independent films. Based in London and in St Leonards, UK we are keen to work with international talents to produce films of high quality: fiction, documentaries, and experimental. We are interested in films that relate to a universal human experience and appeal to viewers from various cultural backgrounds. In 2012 Braidmade Films opened its outlet Braidmade Film PL in Krakow, Poland.



I Want It All

Yara's mother is a world boxing champion. The teenager wants to bond with her through their passion for the sport. A sudden shift in their family dynamics will make this more difficult than ever.

Seemingly, the van Ghyseghems are an ordinary family living in Brussels. Meanwhile, Yara is actually a promising teenage boxer, a discipline in which her mother, Sanae, won a world championship and her father, Jean-Christophe is their endurance coach. Being an athlete herself, the young girl understands why Sanae is often absent, spending her days on the ring in preparation for the Olympics, but sometimes wishes she could spend more time with her mother. She seeks her approval and wants to impress her. They share a complicated but strong bond, which they describe as 'having the same blood'. Meanwhile, as a witness to his wife's impressive career and accomplishments, Jean-Christophe performs most of the household chores. He takes great care of Yara, but understands that he will never be able to replace a mother to his young daughter. The trio form a unique structure, in which people seem to exist very close to each other, but still end up feeling lonely, craving attention and missing one another.

ENGLISH TITLE: ONE FOR THE TEAM
ORIGINAL TITLE: ONE FOR THE TEAM
DIRECTOR: KATARZYNA WIŚNIEWSKA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:

JOANNA KAKITEK

EDITOR: SABINA FILIPOWICZ

PRODUCER: TOMASZ MORAWSKI,
KASIA KUCZYŃSKA, MARCIN KUPIECKI
PRODUCTION COMPANY: HAKA FILMS,
AGENT DOUBLE

ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 70'

PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND,
BELGIUM

LANGUAGE: FRENCH

PRODUCTION STAGE: PRODUCTION

SHOOTING PERIOD: JUNE 2021 –
DECEMBER 2022

FILM DELIVERY: SEPTEMBER 2023

TOTAL BUDGET: 263 133 EUR

STILL NEEDED: 140 000 EUR

CONFIRMED PARTNERS: AGENT DOUBLE
(CO-PRODUCER), POLISH FILM INSTITUTE

LOOKING FOR: BROADCASTERS, FUNDS,
FESTIVALS, DISTRIBUTORS

CONTACT:

KASIA KUCZYŃSKA, +48 506 841 433

CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL:

kasia@hakafilms.com

CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL:

wisniowska.kat@gmail.com



**Katarzyna
Wiśniowska**

DIRECTOR

She is a graduate of Directing Department at Łódź Film School as well as Contemporary Film and Video course at Manchester School of Art. She

wrote and directed several short documentaries and fiction films. Her third year film *For You* was presented at various festivals such as Polish Feature Film Festival in Gdynia, Kaohsiung Film Festival or Watersprite Student Film Festival in Cambridge. *Quiet Now*, her graduation fiction film, had its world premiere at Oscar Qualifying Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival.



**Katarzyna
Kuczyńska**

PRODUCER

HAKA FILMS is a production company focused on artistic productions as well as commercial content (TV ads and shows). Its goal is

to produce deep, moving documentaries with protagonists of flesh and blood as well as thrilling fiction films based on amazing scripts and produced with highest care. The company currently has 3 documentaries in production: *Lili* by Sylwia Rosak, *Boylesque* by Bogna Kowalczyk and *One for the Team* by Katarzyna Wiśniowska. Haka Films is also a co-producer of Alisa Kovalenko's documentary film *Expedition 49*.



The Themersons

An intimate story of childhood and love in the face of the Holocaust. Wartime fate of the pioneers of the Polish cinematic avant-garde, reconstructed on the basis letters, memories and artefacts from the artists' private archives.

1939 in Warsaw. Jasia is six years old. She is cheerful and shy. She loves books by aunt Franciszka and uncle Stefan Themerson. She dreams that she will go to Paris with them and she will study at Sorbonne. The Themersons are an artist couple in love. They are crazy about cinema and Paris is a melting pot of art for them. The war breaks out. Franciszka works for the Polish government, Stefan goes to the front. After the capitulation, Franciszka is evacuated to England and Stefan escapes from the Gestapo to shelter in Voiron. In Warsaw, their relatives are deported to the ghetto. A desperate Franciszka sends them countless parcels of food. She writes letters to Stefan. Hunger reigns in the ghetto. Jasia doesn't leave her room. Grandma secretly takes her to a psychiatric hospital in Otwock. She teaches her prayers and the catechism. In her sweater she sews a list of addresses and two coins. Jasia goes through the wires alone. Someone finally takes her to her relatives. She wanders from place to place. She doesn't smile as it betrays her Semitic features. Her father's friends arrange a new identity for her. She is baptized. In London, Franciszka moves heaven and earth to save her husband. She obtains documents and Stefan reaches England. Their anti-war film *Calling Mr. Smith* is shelved. In a bombed convent nuns save the children. The war comes to an end. Franciszka is looking for her family. Except for Jasia, everyone is dead. In England she goes to boarding school. The Themersons publish beautiful books. 'One can live either in the past or in the future' – Jasia recalls Stefan's words – 'the future is my enduring passion'.

ENGLISH TITLE: THE THEMERSONS
ORIGINAL TITLE: THEMERSONOWIE
DIRECTOR: MARCIN BORCHARDT
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: JAKUB WRÓBLEWSKI
EDITOR: MATEUSZ JANISZEWSKI
PRODUCER: MARTA DUŻBABEL, AGNIESZKA ROSTROPOWICZ-RUTKOWSKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: PINOT FILMS
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 75'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND, UK
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2022 – MARCH 2023 (ARCHIVAL MATERIALS – EDITING PHASE)
FILM DELIVERY: 2023/2024
TOTAL BUDGET: 250 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 225 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM INSTITUTE (DEVELOPMENT GRANT), FIXA FILM, NATIONAL LIBRARY IN WARSAW
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS, BROADCASTERS, FUNDS, GRANTS

CONTACT / PRODUCER'S E-MAIL: mduzbabel@pinotfilms.pl
CONTACT / DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL: melopsokot@gmail.com



Marcin Bochardt
DIRECTOR

Director, screenwriter, film scholar, doctor of humanities of art sciences. Author of documentaries, among others the award-winning *Beksińscy. A Videophonic Album* (2017), *Tony Halik* (2020), commercials, music videos, television programs. Academic lecturer, author of scientific monographs: *The Avant-Garde of 20th Century Music. A Guide for Beginners. Volume 1* (2014) and *Angels Know No Shame. Transgression in New York Cinema* (2018).



Agnieszka Rostropowicz-Rutkowska
PRODUCER



Marta Dużbabel
PRODUCER

PINOT FILM – creative production company set up in 2020. We have experience in the production, promotion, and distribution field. We provide professional production service for filmmakers and support them from the development until the distribution phase. We work with TV series, documentary and fiction films. We mainly focus on human themes and universal topics but told through the eyes of individuals – both adults and children's stories, as well as content for youth audience and archival materials.

2022

www.polishdocs.pl

The Themersons by Marcin Borchardt



Ministry of
Culture
and National
Heritage of
the Republic
of Poland

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