

2024



POLISH
DOCS
PRO

POLISH DOCS PRO
AT IDFA INDUSTRY
PROJECTS & DELEGATION INFO

2024

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
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POLISH DOCS PRO SHOWCASE

MONDAY / 18 NOVEMBER / 13.30–14.30

KONIKLFOYER, INTERNATIONAAL THEATER AMSTERDAM (ITA)

FOLLOWED BY **ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS / 14.30–16.00 / ITA GIJSBRECHT BORDES**

POLISH DOCS PRO 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:



Child of Dust

dir.: Weronika Mliczewska
prod.: Weronika Mliczewska
YA MAN STUDIO



December

dir.: Grzegorz Paprzycki,
prod.: Piotr Śmiechowski
TELEMARK



Home Movie

dir.: Anu Czerwinski
prod. Anna Stylińska,
Katarzyna Ślesicka
MY WAY STUDIO



On My Way

dir.: Natalia Dołgowska
prod.: Anna Gawlita,
Marta Szymanowska
KIJORA FILM

2024

The delegation consists of the producers representing production companies: **Ya Man Studio**, **Telemark**, **My Way Studio** and **Kijora Film**. The key event is the showcase presenting four the most interesting Polish creative documentary projects in progress. The session is followed by individual meetings with the decision makers.

The delegation is organized by the Krakow Film Foundation as a part of Polish Docs PRO 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. It is co-financed from the state budget from the funds of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland.

POLISH DOCS PRO DELEGATION



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Anu Czerwiński

DIRECTOR
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Katarzyna Ślesicka

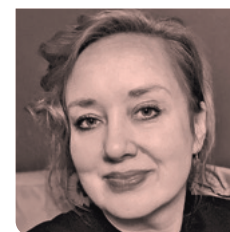
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Weronika Mliczewska

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DELEGATION ORGANISERS



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Child of Dust

After a lifetime of longing, Sang, an unwanted child from the Vietnam War, finally meets his newly found father in the U.S., leaving his beloved family behind — but nothing goes as expected.

Sang is one of countless children left behind by American soldiers after the Vietnam War — unwanted, discriminated against, and scarred by a war that took more than just his father. When Sang unexpectedly locates his gravely ill father in the U.S., he becomes determined to meet him, even though it comes at a price. The only way to fulfill this need is to move to the U.S. permanently, leaving behind his beloved wife, daughter, and grandson. In this foreign land, he struggles to find his place — not only in a society that sees him as an outsider but also within an American family that never knew of his existence. Cultural barriers and unspoken pain collide when the past catches up with the present.

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POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
IDFA INDUSTRY 2024

ENGLISH TITLE: CHILD OF DUST
ORIGINAL TITLE: DZIECKO Z PYŁU
DIRECTOR: WERONIKA MLCZEWSKA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
MIKAEL LYPINSKI
EDITOR: MARCIN SUCHARSKI
PRODUCER: WERONIKA MLCZEWSKA,
CHI-MINH DE LEO
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: BAO NGUYEN,
JIM STARK
PRODUCTION COMPANY: YA MAN STUDIO
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 90/52'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND,
VIETNAM, SWEDEN, CZECH REPUBLIC
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH, VIETNAMESE
PRODUCTION STAGE: ROUGH CUT STAGE
SHOOTING PERIOD:
APRIL 2023 – SEPTEMBER 2024
FILM DELIVERY: JANUARY 2025
TOTAL BUDGET: 390 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 90 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM
INSTITUTE, SWEDISH FILM INSTITUTE,
CREATIVE VOUCHERS (CZECH REPUBLIC),
GINESTRA FILM AB., CLUBHOUSE
FILMS LTD., LONELY PRODUCTION,
FIXA FILM, MX35
LOOKING FOR: FINANCING, FESTIVALS,
BROADCASTERS

**CONTACT / PRODUCER'S AND
DIRECTOR'S E-MAIL:**
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**Weronika
Mliczewska**

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Weronika studied anthropology and filmmaking in England, Poland and the USA. This background, combined with vast travel experience, gives her unique skills to tell timeless stories from different cultures. She is director and producer. Her documentaries *Long Way*, *Speechless in Japan* and *Catalan Dream* have been screened at international festivals and TV. *Child of Dust* is her feature-length documentary debut.

YA MAN STUDIO specializes in documentary films on female empowerment, cultural diversity, indigenous cultures and minorities. Its mission is to spot a human condition in day to day aspects of most pressing cultural topics. The company produces deep, touching documentaries on human stories and topics that are an important voice in the contemporary culture such as indigenous wisdom or forgotten voices.



December

The arrival of December destroys current order. With snow and frost, it brings to Europe travelers who are not offered any gifts or welcome. A battle between empathy and indifference ensues.

December brings exceptional spells of cold and snowfall to Europe. The existing order is destroyed not only by the harsh weather, but also by 'strangers' who want to get into the territory of the European Union. Some people try to live as if nothing has changed and get ready for approaching Christmas. Others join the battle and, depending on their views, they either fight with the 'strangers' or try to save their lives. This is December: a documentary manifesto made up of a number of mini stories set somewhere between empathy and indifference. Thirty-one autonomous chapters, create a mosaic that is a mirror image of ourselves. *December* is a creative documentary which focuses on the contemporary perception of migrants from the Middle East and Africa. People's indifference is juxtaposed with hostility and empathy, creating a tapestry of modern European society. The month of December it is a harbinger of winter, not only in literal terms. Might be also associated with tragedies related to the migrant crisis as well as the 'coldness' symbolizing the lack of sympathy towards refugees. Significantly, December is the month when Christian feast celebrating the birth of Jesus is held, it is a period dedicated to helping people in need. This is why we chose December, along with its unique narrative arc, to found the structure of the film upon: thirty-one chapters plus the key days as milestones. The film consists of a patchwork of scenes that differ in both the message and form. Poetic impressions are intertwined with amateur phone footage and 'conventional' observational scenes. Each scene is usually an autonomous mini story. Additionally, main plots, such as the progress of destructive winter, activists fighting and speaking up for migrants, the struggle of the refugees, or Christmas preparations, are continued or reflected in a contrasting or symbolic manner in other, seemingly different scenes.

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DELEGATION AT
IDFA INDUSTRY 2024

ENGLISH TITLE: DECEMBER
ORIGINAL TITLE: GRUDZIEN
DIRECTOR: GRZEGORZ PAPRZYCKI
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
GRZEGORZ PAPRZYCKI
PRODUCER: PIOTR ŚMIECHOWSKI,
MACIEJ KUBICKI
PRODUCTION COMPANY: TELEMAR
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 60'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH, ENGLISH, ARABIC,
PASHTO
PRODUCTION STAGE: POSTPRODUCTION
SHOOTING PERIOD:
NOVEMBER 2021 – SEPTEMBER 2024
FILM DELIVERY: 2025
TOTAL BUDGET: 211 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 146 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: LITHUANIAN
FILM CENTRE, COPRODUCER LITHUANIA –
JUST A MOMENT, COPRODUCER POLAND –
MX35, COPRODUCER – AL JAZEERA
DOCUMENTARY
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS,
FESTIVALS, SALES AGENT, BROADCASTERS

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Grzegorz Paprzycki

DIRECTOR

Director, screenwriter, director of photography. Graduated from the Film and Television Directing Department at the Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School in Katowice in 2019 and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań in 2007. Won more than thirty awards/honorary mentions at Polish and foreign film festivals, including the award for the Best Short Documentary in the International Competition at the 2020 It's All True International Documentary Film Festival in São Paulo and the Golden Hobby-Horse for Best Polish Film at the 2019 Krakow Film Festival. His short film *My Country, So Beautiful* was long listed for the American Academy Awards.



Piotr Śmiechowski

PRODUCER

TELEMAR is a Warsaw based boutique company which focuses on creative docs, premium drama, and arthouse features. Telemark seeks to develop and produce projects with creators of a distinctive narrative and cinematic language. Company's record includes creative docs *Over the Limit* (2017), *Pianoforte* (2023), *The Wind. A Documentary Thriller* (2019), and premium drama series *High Water* (2022), *Glitter* (2022), *Illegals* (2018), *The Pact* (2016-2017), *In Treatment* (2013-2015) produced for HBO Max, Netflix, and Canal+ among others.



Home Movie

Anu is a transmasculine director. But when he visits his family he shaves off mustache and plays the role of beloved daughter and sister, Anna. By filming his family he hopes to overcome the fear of coming-out, longing to restore authentic ties.

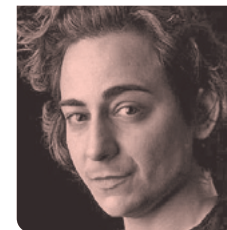
Anu is a first Polish transgender person to perform in the theater and TV. However, out of a fear of rejection, he also performs in front of his family, pretending he's still a girl and that his transition never happened. This bourgeois performance continues uninterrupted during family celebrations and communal holidays. In this setup, everyone has a role from which they can hardly leave. The narcissistic father communicates to the world with his poems. The elegant mother spreads an aura of care and tries to hide the anguish of domestic duties. Older brothers, Romek (36) and Rafał (50) both live with their parents. Rafał, is a 5-year-old boy trapped in an aging body. He suffers from cerebral palsy but is actually the only one in the family who dares to tell the truth. To break the silence, Anu settles his documentary camera into the Czerwiński family's row house in Poznań. It is with its help that the director tries to shatter the system of silence that has always organised life in his home. But even if the family is ready to transition together, they still need to play the final act. Poland has one of the most cruel yet most absurd gender reassignment procedures in the world. An adult trans person who wants to legally transition must sue their parents in court. The trial takes place in front of a judge and pits family members against each other. The final act of *Home Movie* will take place in the courtroom. After years of silence, will his family support Anu's right to become his true self?

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ENGLISH TITLE: HOME MOVIE
ORIGINAL TITLE: SCENY RODZINNE
DIRECTOR: ANU CZERWIŃSKI
PRODUCER: ANNA STYLIŃSKA,
KATARZYNA ŚLESICKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: MY WAY STUDIO,
TONDOWSKI FILMS
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 85'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: PRODUCTION START
SHOOTING PERIOD:
DECEMBER 2023 – JUNE 2025
FILM DELIVERY: JANUARY 2026
TOTAL BUDGET: 443 805 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 275 270 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM
INSTITUTE, CANAL+ POLAND
LOOKING FOR: FUNDS, PRE-SALES,
SALES AGENTS, FESTIVALS

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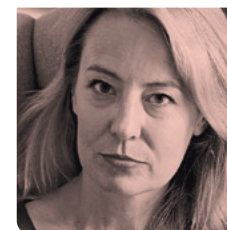


Anu Czerwiński
DIRECTOR

Graduated in documentary film directing from Université Paris VII Diderot and from documentary programme at the Wajda School in Warsaw. As an assistant director, he collaborates on documentaries and feature films in Poland and France. He was the 2nd director for the first Polish featurelength documentary produced by Netflix. *We Are Perfect* tells the story of transgender youth in Poland. He is a first Polish transgender actor to perform in film and theater.



Anna Stylińska
PRODUCER



Katarzyna Ślesicka
PRODUCER

MY WAY STUDIO Warsaw based production company which helps original, brave and underrepresented voices to be heard worldwide. Studio is committed to projects capturing zeitgeist and exploring individual stories of protagonists in search of timeless messages. We look for unique, resolute voices which previously often lacked representation on screen, were considered taboo or simply irrelevant. Recent documentary productions: *Vika!* by Agnieszka Zwiefka (PL/DE/FI, in coproduction with HBO, NHK, YLE / 2023) and *Abortion Dream Team* by Karolina Domagalska (Viaplay production / 2024).



On the Way

Amid the serene beauty of the Polish mountains, an asphalt road leads to a breathtaking yet heavily overcrowded lake. Every day, thousands of tourists tread the same narrow asphalt path, much to nature's dismay. How far can you be from nature while trying to be in the middle of it?

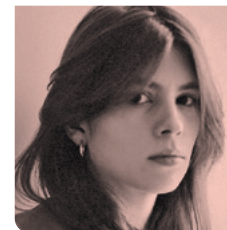
On a summer day over 15,000 people converge on Morskie Oko ('Eye of the Sea'), a glacial lake in the Polish Tatra Mountains, drawing crowds akin to those at a packed football stadium. Known as the most popular hike in Poland, the journey spans 8 km on an asphalt road designed for easy access, taking around two hours to complete. Horse-drawn carriages offer an easyway up for those unmotivated to walk, while the path is lined with food stalls and souvenir shops. This sets a stark contrast between the tourists, the unspoiled wilderness, and the destination — Eye of the Sea, one of Europe's most stunning lakes and the focal point of our story. The film's dramatic engine sets off with a seemingly harmless vibe of selfies and holidays, where nature is barely noticeable amid the asphalt and noise of the crowds. However, harsh environmental conditions and unpredictable weather introduce a growing sense of danger. This tension escalates through innovative sound design and editing, creating an abstract feeling of imminent threat. The film ultimately resolves this catastrophic atmosphere, leaving viewers both hopeful and aware of the need for action. The film's narrative revolves around three character types: locals and scientists, the lake itself, and tourists. The locals and scientists, like Mr. Grzegorz who collects trash daily and a limnologist studying water changes, serve as the story's anchor, highlighting their dedication to preserving the lake. Tourists, each with their own reasons for visiting Eye of the Sea, offer brief contrasting microstories. Through these perspectives, global issues such as mass tourism, environmental challenges, and climate change become visible. The film will be a cinematic journey exploring the modern face of tourism and humanity's complex relationship with nature. Set across changing seasons, the film uses a mountain trail as a microcosm to examine human impact on the environment and more mindful ways to engage with nature amid the climate crisis.

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DELEGATION AT
IDFA INDUSTRY 2024

ENGLISH TITLE: ON THE WAY
ORIGINAL TITLE: DROGA DO
DIRECTOR: NATALIA DOŁGOWSKA
PRODUCER: ANNA GAWLITA, MARTA
SZYMANOWSKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: KIJORA FILM
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 75'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: LATE DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD:
JANUARY 2025 – DECEMBER 2025
FILM DELIVERY: MARCH 2026
TOTAL BUDGET: 310 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 250 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: BELLOTA
FILMS (FRANCE, CO-PRO DOMINIQUE
BARNEAUD), CINEDOKKE (SWITZERLAND,
CO-PRO MICHELA PINI)
LOOKING FOR: SALES AGENTS,
BROADCASTERS, IMPACT CAMPAIGN
PARTNERS, PITCHING, FESTIVALS,
FINANCING

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Natalia Dołgowska
DIRECTOR

A versatile artist and filmmaker with academic credentials from Jagiellonian University, University of Warsaw and the esteemed Wajda Film School. Her work spans art exhibitions, publications, and captivating hybrid documentaries. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Kosciuszko Foundation scholarship holder. Alumna of UnionDocs, IDFAcademy, and CPH:Dox Academy. Her project *It Is All America* was exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw.



Anna Gawlita
PRODUCER



Marta Szymanowska
PRODUCER

KIJORA FILM was launched in Warsaw in 2007 by Anna Gawlita. The company produces documentaries and fiction films with a strong focus on social and ethical issues of contemporary relevance and intimate, local stories. Kijora's productions have been selected for Berlinale, Busan, Visions du Reel, Slamdance, Camerimage and many other festivals.



www.polishdocs.pl

ORGANISED BY



CO-FINANCED BY

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
Republic of Poland

PARTNERS:

kbf:



CO-FINANCED FROM THE STATE BUDGET,
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OF CULTURE AND NATIONAL HERITAGE