

# 2023



**IDFA**  
8–19.11

**POLISH  
DOCS**

COMPETITION FOR  
FEATURE LENGTH  
DOCUMENTARY

## **Danger Zone**

DIR.: **VITA DRYGAS** • PROD.: DRYGAS FILM PRODUCTION, DOGWOOF, NEXT FILM • POLAND, UK • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY • 93'

*Danger Zone* is an observational film that weaves different perspectives and narratives on the emerging global industry of war tourism, offering a broader picture of contemporary society where two completely different worlds collide. War has become a luxury product, in great demand, and tour operators are desperate to get into the growing business. This morally ambiguous tourist industry, which has turned war into a form of entertainment, leads to the meeting of two very different worlds between these apparent thrill-seeking tourists and the people on the ground in these areas of conflict, who are not afforded the luxury and privilege of choosing to be there.

**INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE**





AVAILABLE AT **DOCS FOR SALE**

COMPETITION  
FOR YOUTH  
DOCUMENTARY

## Girls' Stories

DIR.: **AGA BORZYM** • PROD.: PINOT FILMS, CANAL+ POLAND, MAZOWIECKI INSTYTUT KULTURY, MAZOVIA WARSAW FILM FUND, FIXA FILM, AGA BORZYM, KACHNA BARANIEWICZ • POLAND • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY • 62'

Girls' stories, teenage days. Seemingly nothing happens, and so much changes. Jagoda and Zuzia are friends from the neighborhood. They meet at the local square. Sometimes they go for ice cream or to the playground, and they always have a lot to talk about. Being a girl is a special experience, and they are just entering puberty. Biology, hormones, pimples, first rebellion, first love. The first period – when will it come? Will there be anything else? Adults can't always give support or answers. And the girls see more and more. School absurdities, unwanted rules, dilemmas to be solved.

**INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE**

COMPETITION  
FOR YOUTH  
DOCUMENTARY

## Sister of Mine

DIR.: **MARIUSZ RUSIŃSKI** • PROD.: MUNK STUDIO – POLISH FILMMAKERS ASSOCIATION, PRODUKCJA 316 • POLAND • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY • 30'

Zuzia, a very sensitive teenager with an artistic talent, is struggling with a drug addiction. Her brother, the film director, decides to take a closer look at the family to understand what might have caused this difficult situation.

**INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE**





COMPETITION  
FOR YOUTH  
DOCUMENTARY

## Headprickles

DIR.: **KATARZYNA MIECHOWICZ** • PROD.: POLISH NATIONAL FILM SCHOOL IN ŁÓDŹ • POLAND • 2022 • ANIMATION • 8'

If you are being bothered by intrusive thoughts, such as: How many plastic bags are optimal for packing one banana? What ensures victory in the skeleton competition? Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going? or Should I shower with my socks on? Will I face any consequences? – then – that's great! *Headprickles* will give you an answer to at least one of these questions. The film consists of over a dozen animated enigrams connected by the motif of being trapped in a loop of absurdity.

COMPETITION  
FOR SHORT  
DOCUMENTARY

## Postcards From the Verge

DIR.: **NATALIA KONIARZ** • PROD.: STONE STUDIO • POLAND • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY • 40'

Due to the pandemic, a couple of filmmakers were stuck on the Bolivian-Chilean border for a year and a half. Filmed by the characters, this is a visual story about growing up and trying to stabilise their relationship in a world that is going through a crisis.

**INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE**







## In the Rearview

BEST OF  
FESTS

DIR.: **MACIEJ HAMELA** • PROD.: AFFINITY CINE, PEMPLUN, SANOSI PRODUCTIONS, 435 FILMS • POLAND • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY • 85'

The first days of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. People caught by time and in space, facing an uncertain here and now, choose to abandon what they hold most precious as they climb straight into the dusty van with foreign plates. It traverses tens of thousands of kilometers serving various functions: waiting room, hospital, shelter, zone for confidences and confessions, which are shared among travelers thrown together by chance. *In the Rearview* is a collective portrait composed of experiences of those who have a single goal: finding a safe haven.

## We Will Not Fade Away

BEST OF  
FESTS

DIR.: **ALISA KOVALENKO** • PROD.: TRUEMAN PRODUCTION, HAKA FILMS, EAST ROADS FILMS • FRANCE, UKRAINE, POLAND • 2023 • DOCUMENTARY • 100'

We follow five Ukrainian teenagers growing up in small towns in a coal mining district. Like the teens the world over, they fight against the boredom and the multiple frustrations of finding out who you are, and how to live. But these teens are in Donbas, where the war has been going on for years.





## Close

DOC LAB

DIR.: **HANA UMEDA** • POLAND • 2022 • VR/INTERACTIVE • 18'

*Close* is an attempt to confront the ambiguous position of contemporary traditional Japanese jjutamai dance. By creating an effect of intimate intimacy and giving the dancer / dance protagonist a voice, Hana Umeda attempts to reclaim both for herself and for the entire multi-generational community of jjutamai dancers, agency and subjectivity.

## The School, a World

DOC LAB

DIR.: **IGA ŁAPIŃSKA** • PROD.: VN LAB • POLAND • 2022 • VR/INTERACTIVE

*The School, a World* is an interactive documentary based on observation, annoyance and love. Each chapter is devoted to one of 8 characters. The immersive sound leads the narration. The film's director grew up in the village. The school was her home. She returned after 20 years to seek traces of her past and found a whole, complete world.





## IDFA INDUSTRY

**POLISH  
DOCS  
PRO**

### IDFA FORUM: PITCHED PROJECT



#### **A Hole in the Wall**

DIR.: **ARJUN TALWAR** • PROD.: UNI-SOLO STUDIO,  
INSELFILM PRODUKTION • POLAND, GERMANY •  
DOCUMENTARY • IN DEVELOPMENT • 80'

Filmmaker Arjun observes a single street in central Warsaw, documenting his love-hate relationship with Poland. As a brown-skinned foreigner, he has struggled with his integration into this conservative society. As fear of yet another war in Europe emerges, he captures a country that is still struggling with its past while renegotiating its future.

### IDFA FORUM: ROUGH CUT PROJECT



#### **Flowers of Ukraine**

DIR.: **ADELINA BORETS** • PROD.: GOGOL FILM,  
KOSKINO, DI FACTORY • POLAND, UKRAINE •  
ROUGH CUT • 70'

Natalia lives in her green paradise surrounded by the cement jungle in Kyiv. She defends her Queendom against the developers but the real fight starts when the full-scale invasion breaks out.

# POLISH DOCS PRO SHOWCASE PRESENTATION

MONDAY / 13 NOVEMBER / 14.00–15.00 / THE PLEINFOYER AT ITA

Organized within a frame of Polish Delegation, Polish Docs Pro Showcase presents Polish creative documentary projects in progress:



## Eastern Trees

DIR.: **AGNIESZKA ZWIEFKA** • PROD.: CHILLI PRODUCTIONS • POLAND • 2024 • DOCUMENTARY • 82'

After her mom's tragic death on the Polish-Belarusian border a 16-year-old Kurdish girl Runa has to become a mother for her 4 younger brothers. A partially animated coming-of-age story in the times of a global refugee crisis.



## Go&See

DIR.: **JULIA KUZKA** • PROD.: FURIA FILM • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 2024 • 50'

The story about sisterhood and family bonds. About tightening and loosening them so that they are not broken.



## Hasan's Joy

DIR.: **NATALIA PIETSCH, GRZEGORZ PIEKARSKI** • PROD.: LARMO • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 2024 • 63/72'

How to remain calm in the face of impending disaster? The answer is 'keyf' – the Middle Eastern art of taking pleasure in being 'here and now'.



## Superhumans

DIR.: **MAŁGORZATA SZUMOWSKA** • PROD.: NOWHERE • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 2024 • 72'

In the midst of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, *Superhumans* unveils the war's tragic consequences, contrasting its brutality with the resilience of humanity.





## DOCS FOR SALE

### Radical Move

DIR.: ANIELA GABRYEL • PROD.: KOI STUDIO • POLAND • 2024 • DOCUMENTARY • 77'

A theatre or a sect? Art or violence? For the first time the members of the legendary theatre collective Workcenter founded by Jerzy Grotowski speak so frankly about their experiences related to work using the methods devised by one of the greatest revolutionaries in Polish and international theatre. After Grotowski's death, Thomas Richards, his major collaborator, continues the efforts initiated by the master. In a closed centre, he is working with a group of actors who continue to be put to the test and need to go beyond their boundaries.



## JOIN US FOR GUESTS MEET GUESTS

HOSTED BY POLISH DOCS AND HBO MAX  
**TO CELEBRATE THE PRESENCE  
OF OUR FILMS AT IDFA 2023**

**SUNDAY / 12 NOVEMBER**  
**18.00 – 19.30**  
AT BOOM CHICAGO

Contact: Katarzyna Wilk  
katarzyna.wilk@kff.com.pl

[www.polishdocs.pl](http://www.polishdocs.pl)

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