

2023

**EAST DOC
PLATFORM**
24.03–30.03

**POLISH
DOCS
PRO**

EAST DOC FORUM

Insurance Against Meteorites

DIR.: **NATALIA ŚLIWOWSKA, JORIK GALAMA** • PROD.: HAKA FILMS • POLAND •
DOCUMENTARY • 2025 • 72'

When Natalia (28) was eight years old, her 24-years old brother died in a frontal car crash near their family home in the village of Psary, Poland. Bartek was blamed for causing the accident, and the family was never allowed to see his body. Natalia's mother, Wanda (63), suspected the selling of Bartek's organs for profit and a police cover-up of safeguarding the other driver, an ex-policeman and a son of a prosecutor. Natalia grew up with a mother who was consumed by a ten-year-long and unsuccessful legal battle to prove Bartek's innocence, which coincided with the bankruptcy of the family's rose nursery. Twenty years later, as a filmmaker, Natalia returns to Poland and sees how her mother, father Henryk, and sister Zusa keep each other in a frozen state of mourning. To end this, Natalia wants to find out what happened to Bartek and fulfill her mother's wish to confront the other car's driver.





EAST DOC FORUM

December

DIR.: **GRZEGORZ PAPRZYCKI** • PROD.: TELEMARCK • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 2024 • 80'/2x40'

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 the 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 scenes, varying in form and content, create a mosaic that is a mirror image of ourselves.

EX ORIENTE PARTICIPANT





EAST DOC FORUM

Maomi – Larger Than Life

DIR.: **JUDIT OLÁH** • PROD.: PI PRODUCTION • CO-PROD.: MAJMUN FILM, MY WAY STUDIO • HUNGARY, GERMANY, POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 2025 • 85'

Maomi was gradually othered as a child for her behaviour and in response, she turned her adult life into a big adventure. Today, at the age of 80, she still lives extravagantly with her husband Daidai. Their outstanding story is accompanied by Maomi's artwork and a huge amount of Super8 films shot by herself.

EX ORIENTE PARTICIPANT





EAST DOC MARKET

Hasan's Joy

DIR.: **NATALIA PIETCH, GRZEGORZ PIEKARSKI** • PROD.: LARMO FILMS • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 2024 • 70'

The entire city of Hasankeyf went under water due to the construction of the dam at Ilisu on the Tigris River, ending the 10000-year history of settlement. Two kilometers away, New Hasankeyf, an estate of identical houses, was built. The most important monuments were moved. Many ordinary buildings had to be demolished to create space for transport, even before the city was flooded. The flooded city becomes an attraction for underwater sightseeing, and the castle protruding above the surface becomes a destination for noisy tourist ships.





EAST DOC MARKET

Four Winters in Edificio Cuba

DIR.: **ALEKSANDRA MACIUSZEK** • PROD.: NEW PLOT FILMS, LITTLE BIG STORY •
POLAND, FRANCE, CUBA, MEXICO • DOCUMENTARY • 2025 • 90'

Edificio Cuba is an overcrowded, five-story apartment building located in the historic district of Old Havana. For six-year-old Yeison and the other children who live there, the open corridors of Edificio are a fascinating, though sometimes dangerous, space for growing up and socializing. The film tells an eight-year-long story of Yeison and his friends growing up, marked by turbulent and uncertain times in the Cuban capital. The action returns to their lives every two years, always during winter when Yeison celebrates his birthday. The rituals, preparations and expectations associated with this date – different and surprising every year – serve as the dramaturgical axis for this intimate and emotional chronicle about family, friendship, and social cohesion in changing times.





EAST DOC MARKET

Until the Wedding

DIR.: **DANIEL STOPA** • PROD.: KIOSK FILMS • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY •
2023 • 54/70'

Dorota and Kazik are getting ready for the wedding of their eldest son, Łukasz. The list of attractions that they are preparing for this ceremony is impressive. During the preparations the differences between them are highlighted, sometimes funny, other times – deadly serious. Kazik believes that he knows everything best and constantly commands and teases his wife. Dorota, on the other hand, entrusts her entire life and preparations to God's providence on a pilgrimage to Jasna Góra Monastery, the most important place for Polish Catholics. 40 years together. Traditional Polish-Catholic family. A retired miner and a teacher. Throughout their lives they have always walked together. They share an edifying and destructive force, cooperation and struggle, joy and bitter regret. Until the Wedding is a bittersweet story of a marriage that reflects on the strength that unites couples for so many years.





EAST DOC MARKET

Towards the Sun

DIR.: **AGNIESZKA KOKOWSKA** • PROD.: WARSAW PRODUCTION TEAM • POLAND • DOCUMENTARY • 2024 • 80'

Kasia and Robert lived in a comfortable house in Warsaw with their three kids. The Covid-19 pandemic showed them how distant they had been from each other as a family, triggered them to give up the status quo and social norms, and start to look for new ways to build deeper relations within the family. Inspired by the idea of living here and now, they sold the home where they had raised their kids, quit their corporate jobs, bought an RV, and started the journey of their life to become closer to each other. While traveling in the RV with very limited space and a lack of personal space, the parents begin to doubt the rightness of their decisions and miss their old home, where they can no longer return. They live through moments of happiness and fulfillment, but also friction and conflict in their family. The story is full of warmth and everyday life humor cinematic portrayal, which asks fundamental questions about family and its inner dynamic. Will they find the freedom and closeness they have dreamed of?

OBSERVER PROJECT

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Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
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