



2025

**POLISH DOCS PRO DELEGATION
AT IDFA INDUSTRY
12-23.11**

2025

THE DELEGATION IS ORGANIZED BY **THE KRAKOW FILM FOUNDATION** AS A PART OF **POLISH DOCS PRO** PROJECT

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.

www.polishdocs.pl

ORGANISER



CO-FINANCED BY

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
Republic of Poland



PARTNERS

kbf:



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

2025

POLISH DOCS PRO **SHOWCASE**

MONDAY / 17 NOVEMBER / 13.30 – 14.45

DE BALIE – SALON, KLEINE-GARTMANPLANTSOEN 10

FOLLOWED BY **ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS / 14.45** – 15.45

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:

Birth Certificate

by Wiktoria Davis
prod. Monika Braid,
BRAIDMADE FILMS

Goodbye Dolls

by Magda Wichrowska
prod. Karolina Śmigiel,
UNI-SOLO STUDIO

I Am One of Them

by Nadim Suleiman
prod. Nadim Suleiman,
PALMYRA FILMS;
Katarzyna Kuczyńska,
HAKA FILMS

Ruinsurrection

by Łukasz Czajka
prod. Anna Gawlita,
Marta Szymanowska,
KIJORA FILM

The Pillar

by Marcin Koszałka
prod. Piotr Kobus,
MAÑANA

2025

MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION

The delegation consists of the producers representing production companies: **Braidmade Films, Haka Films, Uni-Solo Studio, Mañana 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.



Monika Braid

PRODUCER

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Katarzyna Kuczyńska

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Katarzyna Wilk

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Wiktoria

Szymańska Davis

DIRECTOR



Marta Szymanowska

PRODUCER

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Karolina Śmigiel

PRODUCER

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Birth Certificate

A mother, falsely accused of abducting her daughter, is hunted by an ex-partner who weaponizes the law. Trapped in surveillance and endless trials, she spends eight years in hiding — fighting to protect her child, her sanity, and her freedom.

Birth Certificate is a gripping documentary drama chronicling the decade-long ordeal of filmmaker and single mother Wiktoria, thrust into a Kafkaesque nightmare after being falsely accused of abducting her own daughter.

For eight years she lives in legal limbo — trapped under territorial arrest, subjected to constant surveillance, and crushed by arbitrary court rulings as her ex-partner's lawyers weaponize the Hague Convention with fabricated testimonies. Silenced by her own counsel and warned never to speak of the father's violence, Wiktoria is forced to erase her artistic identity and vanish from public life to protect her child. Every step becomes a battle: to be seen as a credible mother, a trustworthy artist, a human being deserving of freedom. The cost is devastating — loss of home, career, and sense of self. Yet through despair, she clings to resilience, finding fleeting beauty in bedtime stories, forest walks, and maternal love. Told through a nonlinear narrative blending reconstructions, memories, and intimate portraits of motherhood, the film immerses viewers in both the brutality and tenderness of her journey.

POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
IDFA INDUSTRY 2025

ENGLISH TITLE: BIRTH CERTIFICATE
ORIGINAL TITLE: ŚWIADECTWO
URODZENIA
DIRECTOR: WIKTORIA SZYMAŃSKA DAVIS
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
PATRYCJA LEWANDOWSKA
EDITOR: TBC
PRODUCER: MONIKA BRAID
PRODUCTION COMPANY:
BRAIDMADE FILMS
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 100'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND, UK
LANGUAGE: POLISH, ENGLISH, FRENCH
PRODUCTION STAGE: IN PRODUCTION
SHOOTING PERIOD: JULY 2026 –
AUGUST 2026
FILM DELIVERY: JANUARY 2027
TOTAL BUDGET: 830 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 800 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: SONJA HENRICI
CREATIVE, UK AND WARBOYS FRANCE
LOOKING FOR: BROADCASTERS, FUNDS,
SALES AGENTS

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**Wiktoria
Szymańska Davis**
DIRECTOR

An activist, director, multi-media artist, and writer known for her poetic visual language and deeply human narratives. A graduate of Wajda Film

School and the Sorbonne, she blends fiction and documentary to explore identity, memory, and unseen forces shaping life. Her short film *7 Sheep* premiered at TIFF, winning awards at 40+ festivals, while documentaries like *Themerson and Themerson* and *The Man Who Made Angels Fly* screened at IDFA, Locarno, Hot Docs, and more. She has collaborated with ARTE, Channel 4, CNC, and PISF, and is a fellow of numerous international labs and residencies.



Monika Braid
PRODUCER

BRAIDMADE FILMS,
founded by Monika Braid in 2006, produces independent films exploring universal human experiences. Based in the UK with a Polish branch

since 2012, the company has created award-winning documentaries, including *The Wall of Shadows* (30+ Grand Prix), HBO's *K2. Touching the Sky*, Arte/ZDF's *Waking Under Water*, and BBC's *Wojtek – The Bear That Went to War*. Its latest, *The Last Expedition*, premiered at IDFA and became a Polish box office hit.



Goodbye Dolls

The daily lives of two teenage girls and the changes taking place in them are observed by their abandoned childhood dolls, which have just come out of the closet.

The daily life of Hania and Matylda, teenagers on the verge of adolescence. Their emotions become more and more intense. Bodies hurt as they grow. What's more, something has eaten the boys' brains lately. Friends and family have different expectations from them. How can they figure out ourselves in all this? It's not easy, but what is known for sure — Hania needs privacy and wants to be a writer, while Matylda needs an audience and wants to be an actress. We are with them at school, when they meet their friends and develop their passions, but the real center of their universe are their private spaces. In the safe cocoons of their rooms they hid keepsakes of their younger selves. These are once beloved dolls that they don't have the heart to throw away or give away. The dolls keep old emotions and dreams, still an important part of who girls are now and who they will be in the future. Will dolls change anything in the lives of these teenage girls when they finally come out of the closet and come to life in animation?

POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
IDFA INDUSTRY 2025

ENGLISH TITLE: GOODBYE DOLLS
ORIGINAL TITLE: GOODBYE DOLLS
DIRECTOR: MAGDA WICHROWSKA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
MAJA KWASIBORSKA
EDITOR: MARTYNA WIŚNIEWSKA
PRODUCER: KAROLINA ŚMIGIEL
PRODUCTION COMPANY:
UNI-SOLO STUDIO
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 75'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: DEVELOPMENT
SHOOTING PERIOD: MARCH 2026 –
JUNE 2027
FILM DELIVERY: 2028
TOTAL BUDGET: 250 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 210 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: –
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS,
BROADCASTERS, FILM FUNDS

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Magda Wichrowska
DIRECTOR

Born in 1980. An assistant profesor at the Department of Audiovisual Studies (Bydgoszcz, Poland), script-writer, author of book *Truth as a Problem of Poetics in Polish Documentary Film after 1989* and articles in the field of film studies. She attended a script training lab Atelier Scenariuszowe, Script Mentoring, Film Spring Open and film training lab Let's Doc. She was a finalist and winner of screenwriting contests – Script Fiesta, Script Wars and Gdańsk Script.



Karolina Śmigiel
PRODUCER

UNI-SOLO STUDIO was founded in 2015 by director Jarek Wszędybył and producer and cultural project manager Karolina Śmigiel. We produced the documentaries: *Dragon Spring* (2017) and *Letters from Wolf Street* (2025), and the co-produced French-Polish *Out from the Shadows* (2023) and the Polish-Romanian documentary *The End of the World in the Valley of Tears*. We are interested in artistic films that address social issues, develop audiences, and raise awareness. We also implement educational projects and organize film workshops. The company is based in Warsaw.



I Am One of Them

A Syrian filmmaker and a Polish nationalist form an unlikely bond, navigating friendship, identity, and the tensions of a divided world.

In 2017, Nadim, a young Syrian film student in Poland, meets Grzesiek, a Polish nationalist and aspiring rapper. Their friendship begins on quiet fishing trips and deepens despite stark political and cultural divides. As Nadim revisits his war-ravaged hometown in Syria, Grzesiek becomes active in Poland's far-right National Movement. Tensions grow around migration, identity, and the meaning of home.

While Nadim works to rebuild his life in Poland, Grzesiek struggles with nostalgia and a fading dream of a music career. Their bond is tested, but not immediately broken — until Nadim obtains Polish citizenship, a symbolic new beginning that clashes with Grzesiek's fears of cultural loss and demographic change. Set against a backdrop of rising nationalism and shifting identities, the film captures a fragile connection shaped by conflict, transformation, and a shared longing for belonging. *I Am One of Them* is a deeply personal portrait of two men on opposite sides of a cultural divide, who try — and sometimes fail — to see each other as they truly are.

**POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
IDFA INDUSTRY 2025**

ENGLISH TITLE: I AM ONE OF THEM
ORIGINAL TITLE: I AM ONE OF THEM
DIRECTOR: NADIM SULEIMAN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
IGNACY CISZEWSKI
EDITOR: FILIP STANISŁAWSKI
PRODUCERS: KASIA KUCZYŃSKA,
NADIM SULEIMAN
PRODUCTION COMPANY: PALMYRA FILMS,
HAKA FILMS
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 90'/52'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND,
QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA

LANGUAGE: POLISH, ARABIC
PRODUCTION STAGE: ROUGH CUT
FILM DELIVERY: NOVEMBER 2026
TOTAL BUDGET: 224 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 94 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: PALMYRA FILMS,
HAKA FILMS, ETTIJAHAT-INDEPENDENT
CULTURE (IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
GOETHE INSTITUTE), CULTURE RESOURCE
(AL-MAWRED AL-THAQAFY), THE ARAB
FUND FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (AFAC),
DOHA FILM INSTITUTE (DFI), RED SEA FILM
FESTIVAL FOUNDATION (RSFFF)
LOOKING FOR: GAP FINANCING, SALES
AGENTS, BROADCASTERS, FESTIVALS

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Nadim Suleiman
DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

A graduate of the film and television directing department at the Lodz Film School. His films have been screened at local and international film festivals. He has worked in the

directing department of productions such as *The Republic of Children* by Jan Jakub Kolski, *Bread and Salt* by Damian Kocur, *The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes* by Francis Lawrence, *Green Border* by Agnieszka Holland and *Freedom at Midnight* by Nikkhil Advani. In 2020, he co-founded Palmyra Films Ltd., producer of *I Am One of Them*, *Living Giants* and *Dollar or Egyptian Pound?* among others.

PALMYRA FILMS, founded in 2020 by Nadim Suleiman and Giovanni Cimarosti, unites filmmakers from diverse backgrounds. Based in Poland with international reach, it produces films on identity, conflict, and overcoming fear. Named after the resilient Syrian city, it produced *I Am One of Them* (WIP), *Living Giants* (WIP), *Dollar or Egyptian Pound?* (Kurzfilm Hamburg 2021), and co-produced *Milk* (GoEast 2025, Short Film Competition).



Katarzyna Kuczyńska
PRODUCER

HAKA FILMS is a dynamic Polish production company specializing in impactful documentaries and high-end scripted content. Its debut

feature *Boylesque* premiered at Hot Docs, followed by *We Will Not Fade Away* at Berlinale 2023, *Lili* at Santa Barbara IFF 2024, and *My Dear Théo* at CPH:DOX 2025. The company also develops fiction films and provides production services for projects like Jerzy Skolimowski's *Eo* and Paweł Pawlikowski's upcoming film *1949*.



Ruinsurrection

Warsaw, 1944 — built from dreams by the hands of its people.
A documentary city symphony tracing the mythic reconstruction of Poland's capital, reborn through bold urbanistic vision.

The film portrays the rebuilding of Warsaw as a symbol of rebirth and collective effort. Using archival materials and images of the city today accompanied by contemporary opera music, director Łukasz Czajka invokes the myth of ruinsurrection — a city rising from the ruins. This is a story of determination and hope from those who returned to the destroyed city and took on the challenge of rebuilding it. The film pays tribute to architects, urban planners, and ordinary citizens who believed that life must triumph over destruction. The film also seeks to spark reflection on the resilience of cities torn apart by war.

**POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
IDFA INDUSTRY 2025**

ENGLISH TITLE: RUINSURRECTION
ORIGINAL TITLE: OPERA
O ZGRUZOWSTANIU
DIRECTOR: ŁUKASZ CZAJKA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
KACPER CZUBAK
EDITOR: NATALIA JACHEĆ
PRODUCER: ANNA GAWLITA, MARTA
SZYMANOWSKA
PRODUCTION COMPANY: KIJORA FILM
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 75'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: PRODUCTION
FILM DELIVERY: JUNE 2026
TOTAL BUDGET: 513 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 170 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: POLISH FILM
INSTITUTE, MAZOVIA FILM COMMISSION
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS,
BROADCASTERS, SALES AGENTS,
FESTIVALS

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Łukasz Czajka

DIRECTOR

Film director, screenwriter, experienced TV journalist and video game designer. He holds degrees in Political Science and Cultural Studies. Alumna of DOK PRO

Documentary Directing and screenwriting courses at Andrzej Wajda School. His feature-length documentary debut *Of Animals and Men* premiered in 2019, screening in both Polish and American cinemas, and was awarded at numerous film festivals. His latest documentary *The Deluge. Postscriptum* is an homage to the great Polish director Jerzy Hoffmann, looking behind the scenes of the Polish historical film, nominated for an Oscar in 1974.



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 Réel, Slamdance, Camerimage and many other festivals.



The Pillar

The Pillar is a story about pushing the boundaries of endurance, set against an aging body and a birth of a new life. A story about growing up to understand the value of friendship and responsibility.

In 2016 we began shooting the documentary film, in which my lifelong friend Andrzej Marcisz was set to climb the Pillar of Kazalnica, the tallest rock wall in Poland, without any safety gear. Fate had other plans though — during the preparations, Andrzej had a blood clot in his lungs. He survived, but the film was left unfinished. Andrzej set the bar as high as possible: it was life or death. He believed that this act would make him a better person, husband, and father. For me, this was to be the ultimate test of my directorial skills, but my wife threatened to file for divorce if I went to the Pillar of Kazalnica with Andrzej. In 2025, Andrzej is 63 years old, and his family situation has changed. Alicja, his youngest daughter, was born in 2023. His son Antoni is 14 years old, and he is fascinated by climbing. Under his father's guidance, he is preparing for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games. This is also a special moment for me. The fears and tensions accumulated over the years led to a severe episode of depression. I spent several weeks in a psychiatric ward. Now that my health is back, I feel strong enough to catch up on life. As a director I have finally reached the end of my narcissism and this film sets different goals for us now, it forces another type of dramaturgy. The Pillar descends from the peaks to the ice cave of Vatnajökull Glacier in Iceland. We no longer seek to overcome fear and death, but to learn to live while giving up euphoria and adrenaline.

POLISH DOCS PRO
DELEGATION AT
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ENGLISH TITLE: THE PILLAR
ORIGINAL TITLE: FILAR
DIRECTOR: MARCIN KOSZAŁKA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
MARCIN KOSZAŁKA
EDITOR: AGNIESZKA GLIŃSKA
PRODUCER: PIOTR KOBUS
PRODUCTION COMPANY: MAŃANA
ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 80'/55'
PRODUCTION COUNTRY: POLAND
LANGUAGE: POLISH
PRODUCTION STAGE: SHOOTING
SHOOTING PERIOD: 2015–2026
FILM DELIVERY: 2027
TOTAL BUDGET: 590 000 EUR
STILL NEEDED: 165 000 EUR
CONFIRMED PARTNERS: TVP, POLISH
FILM INSTITUTE, WFDIF
LOOKING FOR: CO-PRODUCERS,
SALES AGENT

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Marcin Koszałka
DIRECTOR

An outstanding director and cinematographer, graduate of Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School in Katowice, where he now works as a lecturer. Author of a dozen of most emblematic Polish documentaries (*Such a Nice Boy I Gave Birth to*, 1999; *Death With Human Face*, 2006; *Existence*, 2007; *Declaration of Immortality*, 2010; *You'll Be a Legend, Man*, 2012; among others) and two multi-awarded fiction films (*Red Spider*, 2015; *White Courage*, 2024). Member of European Film Academy.



Piotr Kobus
PRODUCER

He graduated with a degree in management and international marketing from Pace University, New York and completed post-graduate studies in Intellectual Property Law at the University of Warsaw. He attended the EAVE Producers Workshop and The European Film Academy Master Class in Sound Design. Between 2002 and 2008, he taught History of Latin American Cinema at the University of Warsaw. Piotr Kobus is a member of the European Film Academy and the Polish Filmmakers Association.

MAŃANA'S mission is to develop outstanding fiction and documentary films for cinema in co-production with foreign partners. *Lasting* by Jacek Borcuch (Cinematography Award at 2013 Sundance); *United States of Love* by Tomasz Wasilewski (Silver Bear at Berlinale 2016); *Walk with Angels* by Tomasz Wysokiński (Golden Hobby-Horse Krakow 2021, Locarno 2021); *Salt Lake* by Kasia Rostanec (Toronto 2022), among other films.



2025