

LET'S DOC. LAB & FORUM 2025

SKOK W DOK. LABORATORIUM POMYSŁÓW DOKUMENTALNYCH
FORUM FILMU DOKUMENTALNEGO DLA MŁODEJ WIDOWNI 2025

catalogue of projects

MDAG INDUSTRY.

A SPACE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOCUMENTARY INDUSTRY.

Welcome to this year's MDAG Industry. Our main aim is to connect Polish and other Eastern European filmmakers with foreign festival representatives, distributors, producers, sales agents and contemporary cinema stars. We started in 2021 with a single event, since 2022 we are creating an expanded module of industry events under the banner of MDAG Industry. The MDAG Industry program is grooving organically and is being developed in response to the current needs of the audiovisual market, following trends, staying ahead of changes in the market.

For the fourth time, we have prepared for you a carefully selected set of projects that testify to the power of documentary film as a mean of expression that builds civil society. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to showcase films that boldly explore urgent issues, ranging from human rights and minority rights violations to climate crises, as well as local and personal narratives that resonate with everyone. It is this thoughtful filmmaking that fosters empathy, bridges gaps, and drives change.

In our program, we emphasize fostering a ,networking' culture - cultivating connections, exchanging ideas and dialogue, and learning from each other through shared knowledge and experience. We aim not only to support film production but also to create a community of open-minded filmmakers and industry representatives. We aspire for participants to feel valued, inspired, and uplifted through the exchange of thoughts among MDAG Industry participants. We want to encourage you to talk to each other, meet, and share experiences and ideas not only related to the industry.

We hope you have a productive time in Warsaw at the Millennium Docs Against Gravity Industry event.

On behalf of the MDAG Industry Team

Anna Szczypińska
Head of Industry

6TH DOCUMENTARY FILM FORUM FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

LET'S DOC: Documentary Ideas Lab

The LET'S DOC program is an innovative educational initiative aimed at creative individuals looking to produce documentaries centered on the experiences and stories of children and young people. This initiative stems from the necessity to develop media that enhances our ability to communicate with younger audiences, particularly during challenging times. In countries like the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, and other Nordic nations, there is a growing demand for documentaries targeted at young audiences in festivals, educational settings, and on television. We aspire to cultivate a similar environment in Poland, which is why since 2020, we have been conducting the LET'S DOC development program along with annual gatherings styled as the Documentary Film Forum for Young Audiences. Each edition of this program spans approximately one year, during which filmmakers, children, and tutors collaborate to refine ideas for documentaries that we showcase to the Polish and international film communities, aiming to collectively foster the production, financing, and dissemination of youth-oriented documentaries in Poland.

To date, we have completed five editions of the LET'S DOC development program. Some of the concepts developed in our workshops are currently in production (e.g., "Jest G." by Marek Głuszcak, "Last Summer" by Eleonora Iadkouskaya & Jan Jurczak), while others have already premiered, including "Girls' Stories" by Aga Borzym, "Pinki" by Ewa Martynkien and Wojciech Szczupak, and "King Matt the First" by Jaśmina Wójcik.

We are also part of the international D4K (Docs For Kids) working group, where we collaborate on strategies for advancing documentary filmmaking for young audiences in Europe.

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6TH DOCUMENTARY FILM FORUM FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

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INDUSTRY

Dear friends,

We are delighted to unveil the new documentary film projects for young audiences developed during the fifth edition of the LET’S DOC: DOCUMENTARY IDEAS LAB, organized by the Wajda Film Centre. We are meeting at the Documentary Film Forum for Young Audiences on May 8th, as part of the Millennium Docs Against Gravity festival, where these projects are presented to representatives from both the Polish and international film industries as well as festival-goers. Our aim is to facilitate connections for the creators of these projects with potential partners, particularly producers, and to inspire the Polish film sector to embrace and support documentaries designed for young audiences. We believe that, similar to feature films aimed at children, the Polish film industry will recognize the untapped potential in this area. Our experience shows that non-fiction content serves as a valuable educational and emotional development resource for children and youth, which is why we also advocate for the appreciation of documentaries among parents and educators. We launched a festival at the Centre focused exclusively on documentary films for young audiences—LET’S DOC. In March 2025 took place 3rd edition of the event. This festival serves as a platform for all those invested in our collective future and in supporting youth as they shape it. Let’s collaboratively cultivate an informed audience for tomorrow and inspire one another to lead lives rooted in empathy, respect for others, and a belief in our capacity to navigate crises.

Katarzyna Ślesicka
deputy Director of the Wajda Film Centre, director of the LET’S DOC Documentary Film Festival for Young Audience, film producer

Karolina Śmigiel
author and program coordinator of the LET’S DOC program and the Documentary Film Forum for Young Audiences, artistic director of the Documentary Film Festival for Young Audience LET’S DOC, film producer

The 6th Edition of the LET’S DOC Program Includes:

Seven documentary projects for young audiences currently in development

Thirteen workshop sessions with mentors, including directors Katarzyna Lesisz, Jaśmina Wójcik, and Maciej Cuske

Consultations with both Polish and international experts such as Astrid Bussink (director of “Listen”), Martijn Blekendaal (director of “Invisible Ones”), Niki Padidar (director of “Ninnoc”), Weronika Adamowska, Anna Bławut, Agnieszka Borzym, Marek Głuszcza, Ireneusz Grzyb, Joanna Szymańska, Patrycja Rzepecka, Katarzyna Ślesicka, Karolina Śmigiel, Jarosław Wszędybył, Paweł Ziemilski

Five joint workshops for filmmakers and young experts, culminating in pitching sessions aimed at a young audience (April 2025)

The Documentary Film Forum for Young Audiences

Katarzyna Lesisz

A graduate of directing from the Film School in Łódź. The author of the short documentary film "Tańczę dla ciebie" (2018), which won the main prize at the IDFA festival in the Kids & Docs Competition. A recipient of the Małopolska Film Award at the Gdynia Film Festival and the Grand Prix at the Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival in Venice for the film "Saszka" (2018). She is the author of short documentary films such as "My Brother's Life", "A New Tomorrow", and the feature film "Taka nasza gra", which have been shown at numerous international and national festivals.

Jaśmina Wójcik

A visual artist, director, and author of participatory socio-artistic actions focused on listening. She works on incorporating and granting subjectivity to communities deprived of visibility and the ability to express themselves. Director of the full-length creative documentary "Symfonia fabryki Ursus" (2018). For several years, she has been engaged in empathic education by developing her own practices in creating artistic expressions for children. She empowers and acknowledges children's agency, treating them as co-creators and inviting them to dialogue. Currently, she is mainly focused on grassroots educational practices, with her new film based on Janusz Korczak's novel "King Matt the First" being a result of this work

PLN 7,000 - Financial award for the best documentary project for young audiences from the Millennium Docs Against Gravity Festival

Maciej Cuske

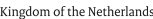
A graduate of the Master's School of Film Directing of Andrzej Wajda in Warsaw. He began as an amateur ("I co wy na to, Gałuszko?", "12 000 kilometrów") and during his studies participated in the making of "Cisza" (2003). "Kuracja" (2004), "Antykwariat" (2005), and "Elektryczka" (2007) were awarded at the Krakow Film Festival. He is also the author of documentary films such as "Ahoj" (2006), "Katyń. 60 dni na planie" (2007), "Na niebie i na ziemi" (2007), and "Daleko od miasta" (2011). A laureate of festival awards in Győr, Paris, Cieszyn, Łagów, Wrocław, and Toruń. For his film "Wieloryb z Lorino", which he made in Chukotka over many years, he received the Polish Film Award Orzeł in 2021 and numerous awards at festivals in Poland and abroad.

Karolina Śmigiel

A film producer, cultural project manager, film educator, and board member of UNI-SOLO Studio, where she produced the documentaries Spring of the Dragons (dir. Jarosław Wszędybył), Letters from Wilcza (dir. Arjun Talwar), and co-produced The End of the World in the Valley of Tears (dir. Jarosław Wszędybył) and Out from the Shadows (dir. P. Seraudie). She is a co-founder of the Dzikie Bez Association and co-creator of the Festival of Abstract Thought. Currently associated with the Wajda Film Centre, where she is the Artistic Director of the LET'S DOC Documentary Film Festival for Young Audiences, the author and programme coordinator of the SKOK W DOK. Documentary Ideas Lab, and coordinator of the international FilmED project. She also leads media education programmes at the Creative Initiatives Association "ę". From 2016 to 2023, she lectured at the Warsaw Film School's Film Production Department. As a curator, she created a collection of Polish films for children for the National Film Archive – Audiovisual Institute.

PLN 5,000 - Financial award for the best documentary project for young audiences from the Polish Film Association

PLN 7,000 - Financial award for the best documentary project for young audiences from the LET'S DOC Festival organized by the Wajda Film Center



Focus → Producer, Funds, Co-producers, Sales agent,
Distributors, Broadcasters, Festivals, VOD platforms

In development



BŁOŃCZAK Brothers

Bracia

The dream of three teenage brothers is to become professional footballers. On their way to success, they must face mounting pressure and emotions they've never felt before. Will they manage to hold on to the joy of the game – and their childhood?

Notes / Notatki:

Three teenage brothers have been training in professional football academies since they were very young. Fifteen-year-old Wojtek is a rising star, about to sign his first professional contract with his club. Twelve-year-old Janek plays for a different, supposedly weaker club than his brothers. Even though he is successful, he still feels the need to catch up to them. The youngest, eleven-year-old Antek, takes training very seriously and sees football not as a game, but as a way of life. We follow their daily routines: constant training, weekly matches, and school duties. The camera shows their lives in two different worlds – at home, where there is fun, freedom, and honest talks between brothers, and on the pitch, where there are rules, discipline, and adult expectations. At the beginning of the season it didn't seem difficult, but with each match the pressure increased. Each brother deals with wins and losses in his own way. As the season comes to an end, the pressure gets stronger – not only from coaches, but mostly from themselves, as they try to meet their own high expectations. The brothers face new emotions and for the first time confront their dreams of professional football with reality.

directed by : Dariusz Janiczak

estimated budget : 100.000 EUR

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB program run by:



30 min
Poland 2026

Contact
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Focus → Producer, Funds, Co-producers, Sales agent,
Distributors, Broadcasters, Festivals, VOD platforms

In development



Goodbye Dolls

A day of life of two teenage girls who are dealing with adolescence very differently. The changes taking place in them are observed by their abandoned childhood dolls which have just come out of the closet.

Notes / Notatki:

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB program run by:



30 min
Poland 2026

An ordinary day of 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 girls love talking about it! And 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 rooms. That is where they have dates with themselves and fall into spirals of endless pondering. In the safe cocoons of their rooms they also 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 Hania and Matylda 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?

directed by : Magda Wichrowska

estimated budget : 150.000 EUR

Contact
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Focus → Funds, Co-producers, Sales agent, Distributors, Broadcasters, Festivals, VOD platforms

In development



Generation: Nika

War took their homes, their safety, and their childhood — but it won't take their voice.

Notes / Notatki:

GENERATION: NIKA is a documentary series (10×13 min), where teenagers from Kharkiv and Kherson tell their own stories — with their own eyes, their own cameras, and their own voice.

Created in collaboration with the teens themselves, this isn't just a series about them — it's by them. Through filmmaking workshops, they capture everyday life in a country at war: moments of fear, yes — but also friendship, laughter, and creativity.

It's a coming-of-age story shaped by conflict, but driven by imagination. Combat boots and first-aid kits. Lip gloss and phone cameras. A voice that refuses to be silenced.

And they're not just telling it for themselves — they're speaking to teenagers across Europe.

As the war drags on, this generation refuses to disappear from the world's view.

GENERATION: NIKA is raw, funny, and heart-breaking — sometimes all in the same scene.

directed by	:	Vojtěch Hönig
cinematography	:	Vojtěch Hönig, Zdeněk Chaloupka
producer	:	Punk Film, Jakub Pinkava

estimated budget	:	250.000 EUR
confirmed budget	:	180.000 EUR

Contact
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Focus →

In development



How To Get a Whale's Tooth

Jak zdobyć kieł wieloryba

After losing his adventurous grandma at a young age, the director tries to go back to the past to ask her fundamental questions about life – what really matters and from where to get courage, to live as bravely as she did.

Notes / Notatki:

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB program run by:



30min
Poland 2026

Krystyna Maciejewska was an explorer and a marine biologist who fearlessly ventured into the seas and oceans, even in her later years. Coming from a small village, her journey to becoming a scientist was long and full of adventures. But she was also the grandmother of this film's director. Sadly, she passed away when he was just nine years old. To this day, she remains his greatest inspiration. Through this film, he seeks to understand what truly matters in life, by looking at Krystyna's eventful story.

Over the course of the film, the director begins by asking his family: Who was Krystyna, really? Then, he searches for traces of her story in her old apartment. Next, he delves into her scientific work and explores the world of marine animals. Finally, he retraces her footsteps by going on the same expeditions she once did.

In the end, the director must face the truth: there are no simple answers to life's biggest questions – and even someone like his grandmother didn't have them. He embarks on his own search now. The film will have a form of an expressive essay. It will use archival footage and creative, symbolic scenes.

directed by : Ignacy Ziarkiewicz

estimated budget : 100.000 EUR

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Focus → Producer, Funds, Co-producers, Sales agent,
Distributors, Broadcasters, Festivals, VOD platforms

In development



Our Boxing

Nasz boks

17-year-old girl-boxer fights for gold in boxing, her younger brother - for attention and his own path. Their worlds are divided by ambition, but what unites them is a bond stronger than the hardest blow.

Notes / Notatki:

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB program run by:



71 / 52 min
Poland 2027

A 17-year-old boxer Nikola loses the Polish Cup due to an unfair decision by the judges. She is devastated. Despite this, she continues training and takes part in next fights. She wins but she is never fully satisfied. We get to know her world through the eyes of Dominik, her younger brother and the biggest fan.

We see their everyday life: household quarrels, shared breakfasts, dinners, walks with the dog, but also a different approach to many things. Dominik chooses an artistic path and meetings with friends, Nikola - the toil of training and systematic learning. Dominik strives to renew contact with their biological father, Nikola does not want to rebuild this relationship.

We watch the siblings for almost two years - how they change, how they grow up, how they try to understand themselves and the world and - finally - how Nikola becomes an adult who must make a decision: whether to fight in the senior, more risky and dangerous category or give up boxing. At her eighteenth birthday party, she talks about her dreams. In the final scene, she competes in the Polish Cup again - this time as a senior. Her younger brother is supporting her in the corner.

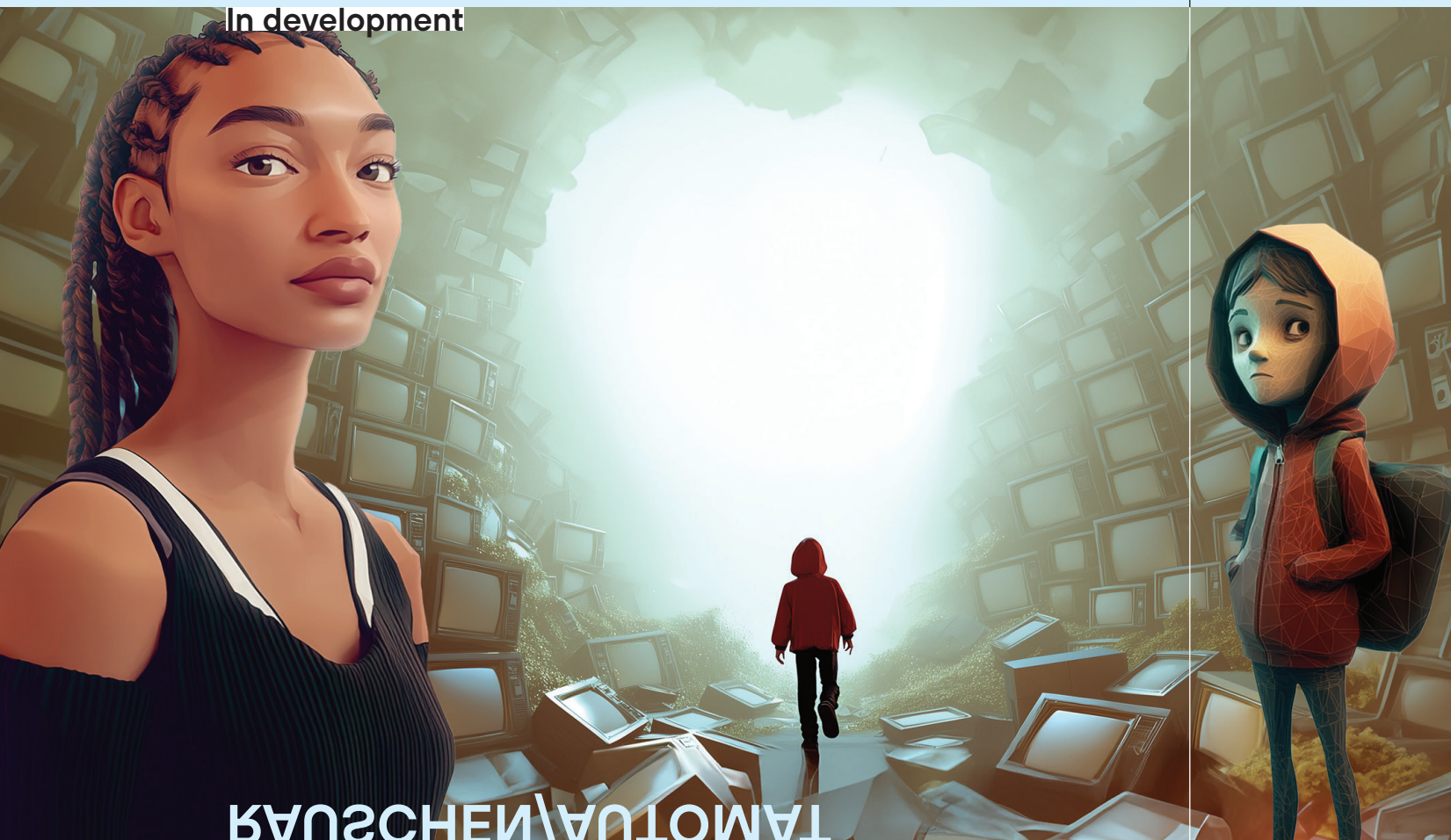
directed by : Agnieszka Żądło
cinematography : Magdalena Seweryn

estimated budget : 350.000 EUR

Contact
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Focus → Funds, Co-producers, Sales agent, Distributors, Broadcasters, VOD platforms

In development



RAUSCHEN/AUTOMAT

6th Documentary Film Forum
for Young Audiences

AUTOMAT is an interactive VR journey for kids through a futuristic AI museum. A glitch in the system turns an ordinary school trip into an adventure. Guided by Ella, the avatar from the series **RAUSCHEN**, players solve puzzles and uncover the secrets of artificial intelligence.

Notes / Notatki:

Rooted in the award-winning documentary **UNCANNY ME**, the hybrid projects **RAUSCHEN** and **AUTOMAT** explore what happens when fiction, technology, and documentary collide.

In **RAUSCHEN**, a hybrid dramedy series, found-footage fragments and scripted storytelling intertwine in a docu-fictional spiral. When a beloved kids' show faces cancellation, the team creates a digital twin of their host **Lale**: the AI avatar **Ella**. As **Ella** rises to fame for her wit and empathy, the real **Lale** is cast aside—until she fights to reclaim her voice. **Ella** becomes both savior and threat, raising urgent questions about authorship, identity, and control.

Meanwhile, **AUTOMAT**, a VR spinoff set in the same world, invites young audiences on an interactive journey through a futuristic AI museum. What starts as a regular school trip turns into a high-stakes adventure when exhibits vanish. Guided by **Ella**, players solve puzzles and explore the history of artificial intelligence—learning to question, play, and think critically.

As fiction meets reality, who's really in control—and does anyone even care?

directed by	:	Elke Lehrenkrauss
cinematography	:	Christoph Rohrscheidt
producers	:	Sven Otto, Christoph Rohrscheidt

estimated budget	:	2.900.000 EUR
confirmed budget	:	180.000 EUR

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Focus → Producer, Funds, Co-producers, Sales agent,
Distributors, Broadcasters, VOD platforms

In development



Spiky Stories

Historia z kolcami

A small hedgehog finds refuge in a wildlife rehabilitation center. Its journey back to freedom is filled with challenges. The film narrative, featuring POV and creative documentary elements, lets us follow its story from the hedgehog's perspective. Hedgehogs face significant obstacles due to climate change and urbanization. This is a massive challenge for these remarkable, spiky creatures.

Notes / Notatki:

„Spiky Stories” is a creative documentary about a young hedgehog who wakes too early from winter hibernation and is taken to a wildlife rescue center. We closely follow his journey back to health and freedom, seeing the world through his eyes. The film combines quiet observation with creative storytelling. The camera almost always stays low, close to the floor or table, as if we observe through the hedgehog's eyes. Off-screen voices and subtle sound design keep us inside the hedgehog's world. We observe the rehabilitation center staff in their struggle to restore their patients to health from an animal's point of view.

For hundreds of years, the hedgehogs slept in a rhythm dictated by the seasons. When leaves fell, they disappeared—nestled in a moss nest, safe in winter's embrace. But now winter comes late, or sometimes not at all. The rain smells different, the wind carries unfamiliar songs. Something has broken in the melody of the world.

directed by : Maciej Gryzełko
cinematography : Mariusz Rychłowski
editing : Maciej Gryzełko

estimated budget : 100.000 EUR

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB program run by:



30 min
Poland 2026

Contact
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Focus → Producer, Funds, Co-producers, Sales agent,
Distributors, Broadcasters, Festivals, VOD platforms

In development



Stay Toxic

6th Documentary Film Forum
for Young Audiences

Natalia (19) - a rebellious girl from a small town dreams of becoming an actress and getting into a theater school at the other end of Poland. Along the way she will have to face a traumatic past, leaving loved ones and her difficult character.

Notes / Notatki:

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB program run by:



52 min
Poland 2026

Natalia (19) from a small town near Szczecin, dreams of getting into the Theater Academy. She studies acting and teaches theater classes, infecting others with her passion. In everyday life she plays the role of a tough and confident girl that might seem mean and rude on the outside. It is on stage that she shows her sensitive inner self, which is hard to see at first glance. In her daily duties she supports her grandmother, who has been raising her since her parents were gone. Natalia also mothers her younger brother. Sometimes she recalls her difficult past, which has shaped her. She worries whether her loved ones will cope without her when she leaves to study at the other end of Poland. She is supported on this journey by Bartek, whom she has been dating for several months. The boy is madly in love with her and can't imagine life without her. Natalia is preparing for the exams for her dream studies, which will determine her future. She tries to reconcile her numerous household duties with her studies. After the entrance exams are over, the day comes to check the results. Natalia finds out if the months of preparation have paid off.

directed by	:	Paweł Olearczyk
cinematography	:	Bartłomiej Grajewski
editing	:	Konrad Strama

estimated budget	:	190.000 EUR
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Focus → Producer, Funds, Co-producers, Sales agent,
Distributors, Broadcasters, Festivals, VOD platforms

In development



Zoopolis

In cracks of concrete and abandoned lawns, wild life pulses. Zoopolis follows the daily struggle of urban wildlife trying to survive in the heart of the city. Animals and plants fight to find their place in a world built by and for humans.

Notes / Notatki:

Zoopolis is a documentary impression that follows the rhythm of a single day in the life of Warsaw's urban wildlife. Cracks in concrete, forgotten lawns, and gaps in the cityscape become a stage for thousands of organisms—birds, insects, and plants—who are the true protagonists of the film. Like us, they want to build homes, raise families, exist. But their everyday reality is a struggle for survival—for space, silence, and food. Their greatest obstacle is the human world: noise, machines, traffic, tree cutting, and omnipresent concrete. The camera follows nature's rhythm: bird choirs at dawn, insect wanderings, life beneath the soil, and dramas near dumpsters and lawns. The sounds of animals form an immersive layer of the film—offering sensory calm in contrast to the city's noise. Zoopolis won't just tell a story — it'll be an experience. The movie reveals the city from the perspective of those we usually overlook. It is a cinematic story about an invisible society of non-humans, and a question about the possibility of coexistence. Is there still room for others in a city built for humans?

directed by : Stanisław Tarnowski

estimated budget : 100.000 EUR

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB program run by:



10 min
Poland 2025 / 2026

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LET'S DOC. LAB & FORUM 2025



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