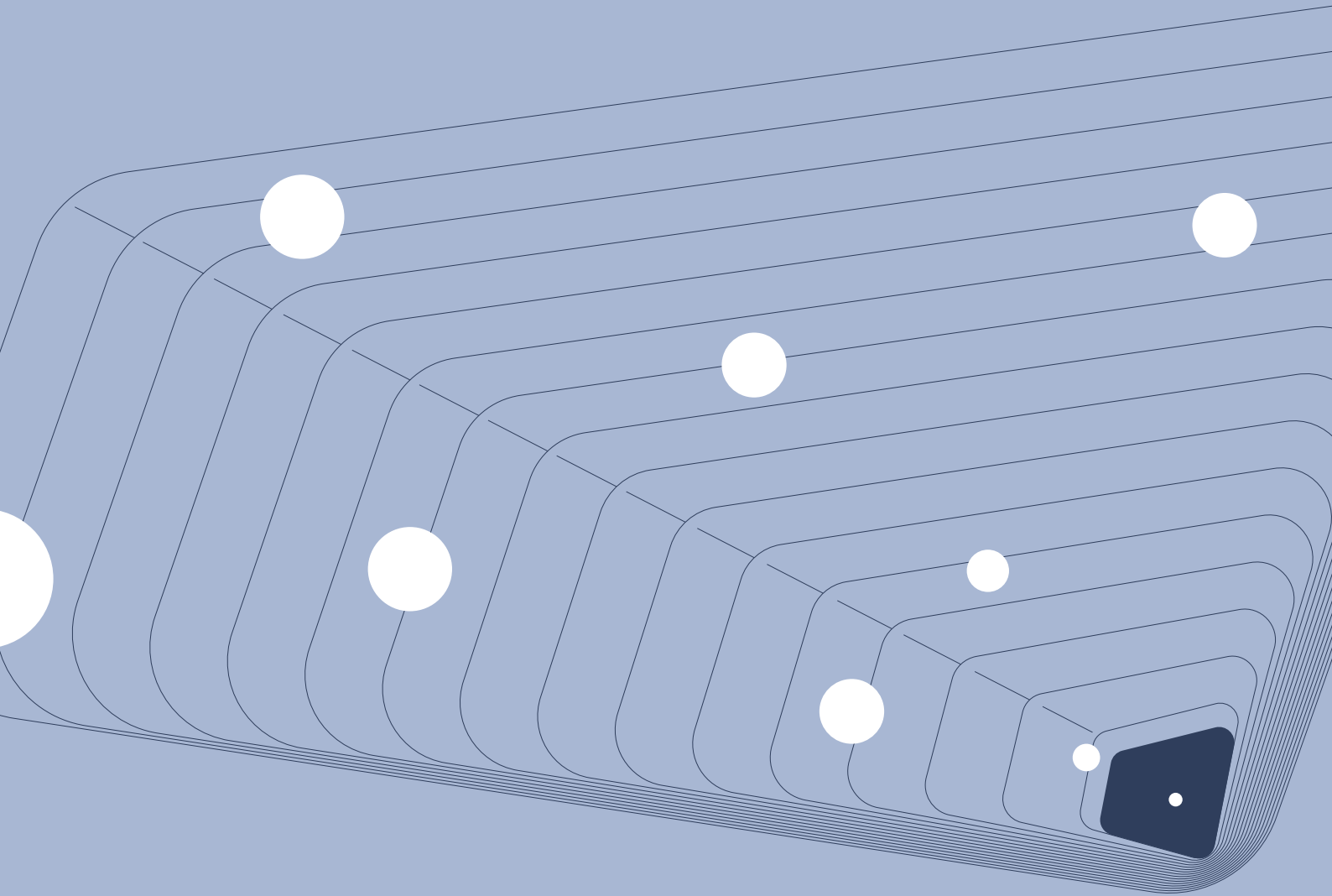


LET'S DOC. LAB & FORUM 2026

SKOK W DOK. LABORATORIUM POMYSŁÓW DOKUMENTALNYCH
FORUM FILMU DOKUMENTALNEGO DLA MŁODEJ WIDOWNI 2026



WAJDA
FILM
CENTRE

MDVIndustry



MDAG Industry. A space for the development of the documentary industry

Welcome to this year's MDAG Industry. Since 2021, we have aimed to connect Polish and Eastern European filmmakers with international festival representatives, distributors, producers, sales agents, and prominent figures in contemporary cinema. What started as a single event has, since 2022, grown into a vibrant and expanding series of industry meetings under the MDAG Industry banner. The programme continues to evolve organically, responding to the changing needs of the audiovisual market and anticipating future developments.

From working with personal and family archives, through giving voice to communities living in the shadow of political change, to developing practical accessibility tools - this year, the Industry programme brings together filmmakers, producers, and institutions who treat inclusivity not as an add-on but as a foundation of contemporary documentary cinema. The guiding theme of this year's MDAG Industry programme is voices that have been kept on the margins for far too long.

Our goal is not only to support film production, but also to foster an open and inclusive community of filmmakers and industry representatives. Across panels, workshops, curated meetings, and pitching sessions, we celebrate documentary filmmaking as an ever-evolving genre that thrives on diversity, solidarity, and the courage to tell stories that matter. We hope participants will feel valued, inspired, and encouraged to engage in thoughtful dialogue.

We wish you a productive and inspiring time in Warsaw at the fifth edition of MDAG Industry.

On behalf of the MDAG Industry Team

Anna Szczypińska

Head of Industry

7TH

Young Audiences

Documentary

Film Forum

LET'S DOC: Documentary Ideas Lab

The LET'S DOC. LAB 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 and on streaming platforms. 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 Young Audiences Documentary Film Forum. 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 six 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 Głuszczyk, "Last Summer" by Eleonora Iadkouskaya & Jan Jurczak), while others have already premiered, including "Girls' Stories" by Ağa 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.

SATURDAY

9.05 ** 10:00

The State Ethnographic Museum,
Kredytowa 1

7TH

Young Audiences Documentary Film Forum

Dear friends,

We are delighted to unveil the new documentary film projects for young audiences developed during the sixth edition of the LET'S DOC. LAB: DOCUMENTARY IDEAS LAB, organized by the Wajda Film Centre. We are meeting at the Young Audiences Documentary Film Forum on May 9TH, 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 2026 took place 4TH 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, film producer

Karolina Śmigiel

author and program coordinator of the LET'S DOC. LAB program, director of the Documentary Film Festival for Young Audience LET'S DOC, film producer

The 6TH Edition of the LET'S DOC. LAB

Program Includes:

- ✦ Five 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 Martijn Blekendaal (director of "Invisible Ones"), Niki Padidar (director of "Ninnoc"), Anna Bławut, Agnieszka Borzym, Eliza Kubarska, Patrycja Rzepecka, Katarzyna Ślesicka, Karolina Śmigiel, Jarosław Wszędybył, Karolina Sienkiewicz, Anna Wydra and Adriek van Nieuwenhuijzen
- ✦ Five joint workshops for filmmakers and young experts, culminating in pitching sessions aimed at a young audience (April 2026)
- ✦ The Young Audiences Documentary Film Forum



Awards on the Forum:

Financial award for the best documentary project for young audiences from the Millennium Docs Against Gravity Festival

Financial award for the best documentary project for young audiences from the Polish Film Association

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

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

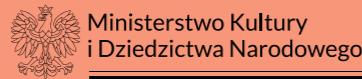
A visual artist, director, and author of participatory socio-artistic actions focused on listening. She works on incorporating and granting subjectivity to communities deprived of visibility and the ability to express themselves. Director of the full-length creative documentary "Symfonia fabryki Ursus" (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.

Maciej Cuske

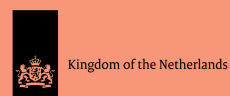
A graduate of the Master's School of Film Directing of Andrzej Wajda in Warsaw. He began as an amateur ("I co wy na to, Gałuszko?", "12 000 kilometrów") and during his studies participated in the making of "Cisza" (2003), "Kuracja" (2004), "Antykwariat" (2005), and "Elektryczka" (2007) were awarded at 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 Wolf Street (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 Dziki Bez Association and co-creator of the Festival of Abstract Thought. Currently associated with the Wajda Film Centre, where she is the Director of the LET'S DOC Documentary Film Festival for Young Audiences, the author and programme coordinator of the LET'S DOC. Documentary Ideas Lab. 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.



Dofinansowano ze środków Ministra Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego pochodzących z Funduszu Promocji Kultury – państwowego funduszu celowego.



Tutors LET'S DOC. LAB Program



15 min
Poland
2027

7th Young Audiences
Documentary Film Forum

In Development

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB
program run by the Wajda Film Centre

A Head Full of Sky

Głowa pełna nieba

Twelve-year-old Ignacy lives in Międzybrodzie Żywieckie, a Silesian mecca for glider pilots. Since his first flight years ago, aviation has become a passion consuming every spare moment. He dreams of becoming a pilot, spending hours on simulators and building models, but primarily working at the local airfield. Having only observed gliders from the ground, the upcoming season offers a breakthrough: his first flight with Kuba, a flight instructor and his idol.

Every weekend, Ignacy rises at dawn to help at the airfield, mastering aerodynamics and flight nomenclature. His determination stands out as peers do not share his passion and visiting pilots often doubt his skills. To find his place in this community, the shy boy must undergo a test of character and step out of his comfort zone.

In the background is the declining Mountain Gliding School. For this aging center, ambitious Ignacy represents a chance for a new beginning in an increasingly commercialized sport. This documentary fable uses creative elements to visualize the boy's inner world, allowing the viewer to lift off the ground and soar over the peaks of the Beskids.

Directed by **Jerzy Poniatowski**
Cinematography: **Jerzy Poniatowski**
Editing **Marta Grzegorek**

Estimated budget (in total, EUR)

80 000

7th Young Audiences
Documentary Film Forum

15-20 min
Poland,
2027 – 2028

In Development

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB
program run by the Wajda Film Centre

Directed by **Aleksandra Kubisa**
Producers **Kuba Orłoś**
Cinematography: **Aleksandra Kubisa**
Editing **Emilia Ładak**

Estimated budget (in total, EUR)

81 700

Contact

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Co-producers



Almost at Home

Tam, gdzie prawie jest dom

An animated documentary about three young migrant women – Yana, Diana, and Sayumi – who work in a Norwegian bar and try to find their place in a new reality. They struggle with feelings of alienation, language barriers, and difficulties in integrating. Their main source of support comes from their relationships with each other.

The Norwegian language exam becomes a symbolic boundary separating them from a happy life. The protagonists have attempted to pass it many times, but without success. Yana, Diana, and Sayumi want to believe that passing the exam will bring them happiness – social advancement, their dream jobs, the opportunity to study, and better relationships with Norwegians.

As they prepare for another exam, the women confront themselves and ask what home and happiness truly mean to them, and whether actually passing the exam will finally make them feel at home in Norway.

12

7th Young Audiences
Documentary Film Forum90 min
Germany
2027 – 2028

In Development

Girls On Fire

Run. Pass. Kick the ball between the posts with full force. Emma, Viktoria and Julie love soccer more than anything.

The dribbling, the feints, the way they dance past opponents, leaving them standing confused. The 11-year-olds chase the ball and their dreams on the soccer field.

Shining trophies. Packed stadiums. A life as a pro. On the soccer field, everything seems possible. Yet in every match, they're not only up against their opponents, but often against clichés too. Of course girls can play soccer — and they're damn good at it. The three want to prove it to themselves as they fight for a place in the youth team of a major German pro club.

Off the soccer field, real life hits. Viktoria struggles at school because she isn't a native speaker. Julie deals with her parents' divorce. Emma shares a room with her older brother because her family can't afford a bigger apartment.

Just three ordinary girls. One extraordinary drive. And a passion that gives them the courage to keep things going: soccer.

Directed by **Dinah Münchow,
Stephan Liskowsky**

Producers **Farbfilmer Filmproduktion GmbH**

Cinematography: **TBD**

Editing **Dinah Münchow**

Estimated budget (in total, EUR)

550 000

7th Young Audiences
Documentary Film Forum52 min
Poland
2028

In Development

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB
program run by the Wajda Film Centre

Directed by **Kamil Dobrosielski**

Cinematography: **Michał Białożej**

Editing **Kamil Dobrosielski**

Estimated budget (in total, EUR)

225 000

Homeleaving

To, co najważniejsze

Michał, in his final year before uni, lives with his parents and younger brother in a tiny village in eastern Poland. Both boys are homeschooled. Michał plays games online and helps his father in the garden. In the evenings dad lowers the shutters — the interior fills with lamplight and the sound of mum reading aloud to the family. His parents built a home nobody wants to leave, giving up work to devote themselves to bringing their sons up.

But Michał is already edging out. In autumn he meets a girl online. In winter, despite his nerves, he travels to a prom organised by the online school — into a crowd of peers he barely knows. In early spring he signs up for driving lessons, and after months spent inside, he now vanishes from home every day. Finally he sets off for Warsaw to sit his final exams — alone. His father's cousin, who he stays with, encourages him to hang on a few days once the exams are done.

Summer — the results come through. Now everyone feels that something's ended. The family packs the car for one last holiday together — to the seaside. Dad takes out the car keys and hands them to Michał. Michał gets behind the wheel. They pull away. The house stays behind, empty.

Focus

Funds ✳ Sales Agent ✳ Distributors ✳ VOD
Platforms ✳ Festivals ✳ BroadcastersContact info@farbfilmer.deContact **Kamil Dobrosielski**
kamil.dobrosielski@me.com

Producer ✳ Funds ✳ Co-producers

Focus

13



71 min
Poland
2029

7th Young Audiences
Documentary Film Forum

In Development

The ball never dies!

Niech żyje bal!

Ewa, a 25-year-old transgender woman, lives between two worlds. By day, she works a dull corporate job that provides stability and helps her save for her transition, but leaves her unfulfilled. At night, she finds freedom in Warsaw's underground ballroom scene, where dance and fashion allow her to express herself and feel truly seen.

Ballroom becomes her safe space and chosen family. She joins a house and trains under her mentor, Bożna, who supports her growth and confidence. Still, outside this world, Ewa feels isolated, with little support from her everyday life.

Dreaming of competing internationally, she takes a risk and travels with Bożna, but loses her first major battle. Instead of giving up, she pushes herself harder and prepares for a big event in Warsaw. When two friends finally come to support her, she realizes her worth goes beyond winning – it lies in her strength and dedication.

Ewa's journey shows that chasing dreams requires sacrifice and resilience. Though her job holds her back, her passion and talent help her gain recognition, and she begins to believe she can one day live freely through her art.

Directed by

**Ewa Szulgacz,
Karolina Chrzanowska**

Estimated budget (in total, EUR)

333 000

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB
program run by the Wajda Film Centre

7th Young Audiences
Documentary Film Forum

79 min
2027 - 2028

In Development



The Orchid Quest

Telling somebody that you are being bullied can be hard. In cyberspace – a virtual reality (VR) cosmos where users become avatars – this could be undone. Four strangers embark on a quest-like journey and open up about their bullying experience.

Four strangers – that makes three adults and one brave teenager She's at the core of the film: We observe her everyday life in the real world and with her we jump into the cyberspace. She leads us through seven quests. Some of these quests are: The temple of fear, the bridge of shame, the mountain of the oracle, a letter to the bully, a guided tour through the reconstructed school and the confrontation of the bullying demon.

Throughout the sessions, the hero:ines gather ingredients to deconstruct their experience: Each gets a digimon-like spirit animal companion (a psychologist), finding courage through shared vulnerability and insights through conversations and reflection.

Beneath the playful form lies a deeper aim: to find words for what's happened – and is happening. The Orchid Quest searches for nuanced answers to the question of how to deal with a bullying experience. It uses heroic tropes and fantasy pop culture references that 11 to 13-year-olds are familiar with, building a game-like hero:ines journey but also breaking it, as it clashes against the complex reality of bullying.



80 min
the Netherlands
2026

7th Young Audiences
Documentary Film Forum

In Development

Via Gladiola

De Dood of de Gladiolen

Via Gladiola follows four teenagers in a pre-military training program. They are part of a generation that were teenagers during COVID, and that is now increasingly volunteering for the military. Could the army be a manifestation of a deeper, universal desire that defines this Gen-Z generation? A desire for connection, friendship, stability, meaning.

As the training pushes them to their physical and mental limits, doubts grow and tensions with home begin to surface.

On their way to the Nijmegen Four Days Marches, they must decide not only if they can make it to the finish, but who they want to become, and what they want to stand or fight for.

Directed by **Geertje Hadderingh**
Producers **A Family Affair**
Cinematography: **Jeroen Kiers**

Estimated budget (in total, EUR)

350 000

7th Young Audiences
Documentary Film Forum

30 min
Poland
2028

In Development

Developed in the LET'S DOC. LAB
program run by the Wajda Film Centre

Directed by **Mateusz Buława**
Cinematography: **Mateusz Buława**

Estimated budget (in total, EUR)

95 000



Where the forest ends

Tam, gdzie kończy się las

Wild boars, wolves, and bears are slowly losing their mythical status and are increasingly becoming a common sight in both cities and rural areas. Growing tourism, deforestation, and improper waste management are causing wild animals to appear near people more and more often.

One such animal is Kacper. This six-year-old bear male has spent most of his life in the Tatra Mountains. An accidental encounter with a human triggered a series of unfortunate incidents. Over time, he began to wander closer and closer to human homes. He quickly became a local sensation: fed, photographed, and became a star on social media. For some, he was an attraction, for others, a growing threat. A fierce public debate raged over the unaware Kacper, with the threat of a death sentence ahead.

This mockumentary combines elements of true crime, nature films, and found footage, reconstructing Kacper's story while attempting to answer the question of whether his fate was inevitable. At the heart of this story lies the question: who is the real threat in this tale—the bear locked behind a fence or the human standing on the other side of it?

LET'S DOC. LAB & FORUM 2026

WSPÓLFINANSOWANIE



WSPÓLFINANSOWANIE



PARTNER GŁÓWNY



ORGANIZATOR



PARTNERZY



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MDAGIndustry