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The Krakow Film Festival returns to cinemas… in July

A review of the best Polish documentary films launches in Krakow arthouse cinemas.

**Thanks to the Krakow Film Foundation, 6 of the most interesting Polish documentaries will be screened in 7 art-house cinemas as part of a project co-financed by the City of Krakow and organised in response to the needs of viewers and filmmakers longing for truly cinematic experiences. We will get to see the winner of the Polish Oscar – “The Whale from Lorino” – and the audience favourite of this year's Krakow Film Festival – “Polański, Horowitz. Hometown”. A great opportunity to catch up on anything you might have missed!**

“Polish documentary films rarely see wide distribution.” – explains Barbara Orlicz-Szczypuła, President of the Krakow Film Foundation – “The project is a way to meet the expectations of Krakow cinema goers and simultaneously extend the festival's cooperation with Krakow's art-house cinemas, which have hosted Krakow Film Festival screenings for many years.”

The films will be screened for one week out of every month for six months, from July to December 2021. Each of the 6 selected films, the festival's creme de la creme, will hit all art-house cinemas in Krakow: Kino Pod Baranami, Agrafka, Kiki, Paradox, Kijów, Mikro and Sfinks – moving to a different screen each day.

This way, during the documentary week, viewers from various parts of the city will be able to experience the most interesting Polish documentaries and catch up on anything they've missed. The first screening of each of the 6 titles will be accompanied by a meeting with the creators or protagonists, or a discussion about the film led by film scholars and experts in selected fields, who will allow you to dive deeper into the subject of the film.

“For the review programme we have selected 6 films that were the most popular among the audience of the Krakow Film Festival, as well as those that were appreciated by the jury.” – explains Krzysztof Gierat, festival director. - “We include both a variety of cinematic portraits of well-known and lesser-known characters, as well as stories about man's inextricable bond with nature.”

The review will be inaugurated by a unique screening of Maciej Cuske's famous “The Whale from Lorino”, the undisputed winner of last year's Krakow Film Festival and winner of the Polish Oscar – Eagle 2021 for best Polish documentary film. The anniversary festival took place entirely online and the film has not had a single cinema screening in Krakow before! The screening – with the filmmakers' participation – will take place on 22 July in the largest auditorium of the Kijów cinema. In the following days (until 27 July) the film will be screened in other cinemas in Krakow.

In August (12-17.08) you will get to see the documentary “Polański, Horowitz. Hometown” by Anna Kokoszka-Romer and Mateusz Kudła, which received this year's Audience Award at the Krakow Film Festival. In September (9-15.09) viewers will be able to see “No Hero At All” by Michał Kawecki, one of the two Polish films presented in KFF's prestigious International Documentary Competition. Maciej Kowalewski and Piotr Konstantinow's “An Actress in Wonderland” is a magical story about the colourful life of one of the most outstanding Polish actresses. This documentary will be screened in October (14-20.10).

In spite of the autumn weather, between 18 and 24 November viewers will have an opportunity to immerse themselves in the summer landscapes of Marek Gajczak's film “Nature is my Homeland”, who was this year's winner of the Maciej Szumowski Award for Remarkable Social Awareness funded by MEDICINE. The review will close in December (16-21.12) with the film “@miriamprompoland” by Piotr Szczepański – an impressive observational virtuosity of a story about a family – traditional, though atypical, and connected to Krakow.

The Krakow Film Festival is one of the world's most important events presenting documentary and short films. As the only one in Poland and one of the few in the world, it is on the exclusive list of the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) qualifying events for the Academy Awards® in the categories of short film (live action, animated, documentary) and documentary feature and a recommending event for the European Film Awards in the same categories.

The project is organised by the Krakow Film Foundation with financial support from the City of Krakow. There is a special ticket price for the film screenings: PLN 10. All screenings will take place under the highest safety procedures and rules related to the COVID-19 pandemic.