18 April 2024

#### **Vanishing Acts in the International Documentary Competition of the 64th Krakow Film Festival**

##### **If the Japanese company specializing in making people disappear operated in Romania, Alice would probably use its services. A young lost woman could receive the support she needs from a mature Japanese woman who has devoted her entire life to working for people who wish to vanish into thin air. *Alice On & Off* by Isabela Tent and *Johatsu – Into Thin Air* directed by Andreas Hartmann and Arata Mori are two completely different documentaries, telling different stories, that unexpectedly share a common theme. Both titles have been invited to the International Documentary Competition of the 64th Krakow Film Festival.**

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The Romanian production ***Alice On & Off*** by Isabela Tent will have its world premiere at the 64th Krakow Film Festival. Meanwhile, the German-Japanese co-production ***Johatsu – Into Thin Air*** by Andreas Hartmann and Arata Mori will enjoy its Polish premiere.

**Unexpected**

In her directorial debut, **Isabela Tent** has been following the fate of her colourful protagonist for 10 years. A teenage, aspiring artist becomes pregnant with a much older man. Coming from a dysfunctional family, the girl quickly decides to create her own. However, sharing a home and raising a son starts overwhelming her. Alice's relationship with her partner is incredibly complex and dynamic. Despite the man giving her a lot of freedom, she feels overpowered by everyday routine and begins to seek her own path, abandoning her newfound family with increasing regularity.

The director of ***Alice On & Off*** becomes part of an unusual arrangement in which the protagonist keeps leaving her loved ones only to return a few months later. Sometimes she accompanies Alice, other times she stays with the child and her faithful partner, who patiently endures all of the mother's misbehaviours. The documentary turns into a record of Alice's disappearances – a sensitive girl and artist fleeing from her demons.

**Pre-planned**

*Jōhatsu*, or *jouhatsu* is a term used to refer to Japanese men and women who deliberately vanish from their lives, leaving no trace behind. The documentary by Andreas Hartmann and Arata Mori lets us see what happens to people who vanish into thin air and who those responsible for aiding in their escapes are.

In Japan, there are specialized companies that help people disappear. Some choose this path because of debts, some out of fear of their boss or family, and others out of shame. Thanks to their services, *Jōhatsu* leave everything behind and start completely new lives somewhere else. The film ***Johatsu – Into Thin Air*** follows several such disappearances – from the perspective of the escapees, their loved ones, and those who organise it. We delve into the mysterious world of double identities, withheld family dramas, unfulfilled desires, and ambitions.

You can find the list of all films qualified for the International Documentary Competition [**here**](https://www.krakowfilmfestival.pl/en/international-documentary-competition-of-the-64th-krakow-film-festival/).

Passes for the 64th Krakow Film Festival are [on sale now!](https://www.krakowfilmfestival.pl/en/64th-kff/tickets-and-passes-64th-kff/)

The Krakow Film Festival is on the exclusive list of qualifying events for the Oscars® in the categories of short film (live action, animated, documentary) and documentary feature, as well as a recommending event for the [European Film Awards](https://europeanfilmawards.eu/?p=1) in the same categories.

The Kraków Film Festival is organised with the financial support of the Municipality of Kraków, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the European Union's Creative Europe program, the Lesser Poland Province, the Polish Film Institute. The festival is co-organised by the Polish Filmmakers Association.

The 64th Krakow Film Festival will be held in cinemas from 26 May to 2 June 2024 and online across Poland on the KFF VOD platform from 31 May to 16 June 2024.