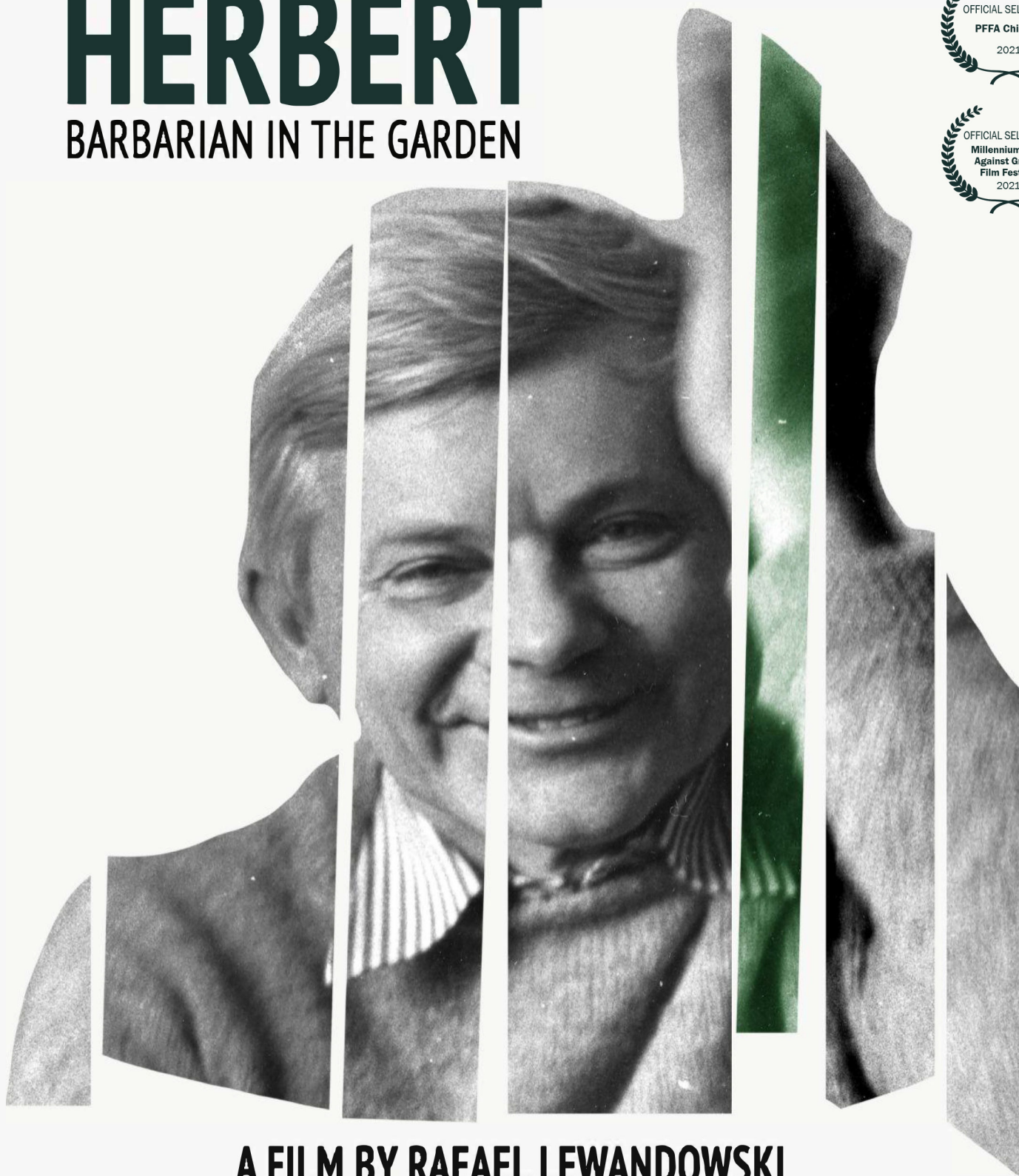


DONTEN & LACROIX FILMS  
LUTETIA ARABIANS PRESENT

# HERBERT

BARBARIAN IN THE GARDEN



A FILM BY RAFAEL LEWANDOWSKI

TEXT READ BY **ANDRZEJ CHYRA** SCREENPLAY **ANDRZEJ FRANASZEK, RAFAEL LEWANDOWSKI** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **JAKUB BURAKIEWICZ**  
ANIMATION **OLIVIER PATTÉ** EDITOR **MIŁOSZ HERMANOWICZ** ORIGINAL MUSIC **ADAM WALICKI** SOUND **TOMASZ WIECZOREK (STUDIO UFO)**  
PRODUCTION **DONTEN & LACROIX FILMS / MARIA BLICHARSKA, MONIKA SAJKO-GRADOWSKA**  
CO-PRODUCTION **LUTETIA ARABIANS / HÉLÈNE ZALESKI, MONIKA SZANIAWSKA-SZAFRAŃSKA,**  
**CANAL PLUS, TVP, THE MAZOVIA INSTITUTE OF CULTURE, BLICK PRODUCTIONS**  
PARTNER **THE ZBIGNIEW HERBERT FOUNDATION / MARIA DZIEDUSZYCKA**  
CO-FINANCED BY **POLISH FILM INSTITUTE** DISTRIBUTION **AGAINST GRAVITY**



BLACK

CANAL+



TVP



“

*I never had the ambition to make an encyclopedic film about Zbigniew Herbert. What interested me is that this great humanist has always been deeply rooted in Polish culture, viscerally attached to his country, while strongly affirming his European identity. When Poland is unfortunately becoming one of the most openly nationalist countries and one of the least open to the idea of a community of shared values, it seemed to me more important than never to highlight the heritage of such a work and its author.*

”

Rafael Lewandowski

Director of HERBERT. BARBARIAN IN THE GARDEN

**Zbigniew Herbert is one of the major humanist figures in the Europe of the 20th century.**

In 1956, from the publication of his first collection “Collected Poems”, he became one of the most appreciated poets in Europe and in the USA. His work, which draws on the heritage of ancient civilizations to highlight the links of a common European identity, has played a colossal role in the awakening of the mentalities of Eastern and Western Europe at that time separated by the Iron Curtain.

Translated in more than 40 languages, his poems, many times awarded around the world, stand as hymns to freedom, human dignity and humanist values. Several times approached for the Nobel Prize, Herbert bequeathed us an immense, universal work which even today remains a great inspiration for artists and writers around the world.

**More than 20 years after the disappearance of the poet, HERBERT. A BARBARIAN IN THE GARDEN is the first feature-length documentary dedicated to Zbigniew Herbert.**









# THE FILM

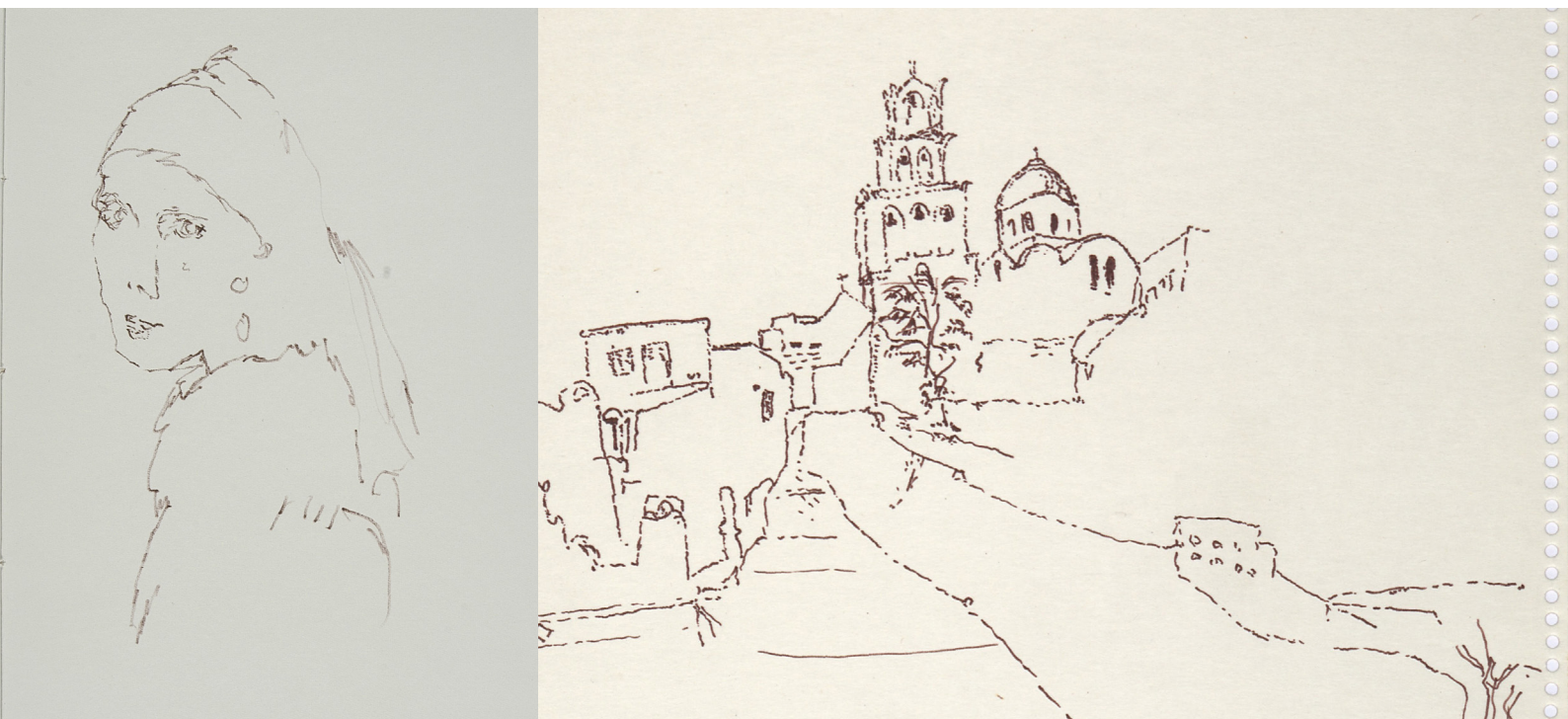
**HERBERT. BARBARIAN IN THE GARDEN** is a film composed of several different voices, nourished by exclusive and intimate interviews of close relations of the artist. Among them Katarzyna Herbert, the poet's wife, who had so far refused to take part in any documentary or report dedicated to her husband. The words collected are the result of long conversations with the director.

Also: rich interviews with Literature and History specialists, among which the essayist and critic **Alfred Alvarez**, the Swiss poet **Philippe Jaccottet**, the writer and poet **Edward Hirsch**, the publisher **Dan Halpern**, the journalist **Michael S. Cullen** or the historian, journalist **Adam Michnik**.

These interviews are supplemented with extracts from Herbert's work, read in Polish by the actor **Andrzej Chyra** (which can be found in *Dekalog IV* by Krzysztof Kieślowski or *Dług* by Krzysztof Krauze), as well as numerous unpublished archives : photographs, video archives, manuscripts of the poet.

Passionate about painting and ancient art, Herbert made all his life numerous sketches and drawings. Under the direction of Olivier Patté, animated film director, Herbert's works come to life in the animated parts of the documentary.

The documentary is also exploring the major places that marked Zbigniew Herbert's life and art: the Scottish island of Iona, the Israeli fortress of Masada, Athens, Spoleto, Paris... Without forgetting the impressive rooms of the Prado in Madrid, which the poet traveled in a wheelchair in the twilight of his life to see with his own eyes the masterpieces by Velázquez.







# INTERVIEWS



**AI ALVAREZ (1929 - 2019)**

## **ENGLISH POET AND LITERARY CRITIC**

*« He was one of the people I was most keen on when I was writing a lot about poetry. Just kind of a marvellous poet. Not just the greatest European, but the greatest of the 20th century. »*



**Francesco CATALUCCIO**

## **ITALIAN ESSAYIST**

*« The Ancient Roman and Ancient Greek civilisation was to him a paradise lost of sorts, just like Lviv [poet's hometown]. »*



**Dan HALPERN**

## **AMERICAN EDITOR AND POET**

*« What I loved about Herbert's poetry is that there were no rules except language that surprised you, subject matter that was unpredictable, and he made you look at the world in a way that you'd never thought possible. »*



**Katarzyna HERBERT**

## **POET'S WIFE**

*« If you want to understand Herbert the poet, you need to understand what life was to him. Otherwise, you won't be able to discover all there is to him. »*





Halina HERBERT-ŻEBROWSKA

**POET'S SISTER**

*« We loved playing together. After being taken to the theatre, we organised our own theatre at home. (...) When our father took us to a painting exhibition, we began painting. (...) He felt cheerful, happy, loved, and loving. »*



Edward HIRSCH

**POET AND AMERICAN CRITIC**

*« We read him because we thought he had a lot to teach us about the difficulty of describing things, about the importance of objects, about the relationship between objects and human beings, about the nature of the imagination, about the precision of thought, about poetry, poetry's relationship to suffering. For me, it was a very, very powerful example of how to think about certain issues and the responsibilities and obligations of poetry. »*



Philippe JACCOTTET (1925 - 2021)

**SWISS POET**

*« Herbert wrote poems I myself would like to have written but unfortunately wasn't able to. He had such a firm, raw, sober way of talking about emotions that pertain to all humanity. »*



Michael KRUGER

**WRITTER, EDITOR AND TRANSLATOR**

*« He was a very, very, very good worker. He was reading, making notes, reading, reading, reading... His fantasy, his imagination was constantly at work. »*



Adam MICHNIK

**HISTORIAN, JOURNALIST AND FORMER POLISH OPPOSITION ACTIVIST**

*« He was considered the most outstanding poet of his generation. (...) In his poetry, there are no traces of compromise with the reality that surrounded us. His voice was a voice of a free writer. »*



**Michael S. CULLEN**

**AMERICAN JOURNALIST**

*« [In Berlin] We had poetry readings all the time, every place. I had an art gallery and Zbigniew I met mostly socially. Basically, we sat down at my friends' place and we would talk about politics, art. »*



**Wojciech SIKORA**

**ARCHIVIST AT THE KULTURA LITERARY INSTITUTE**

*« In 1990, Jerzy Giedroyc, the editor of the press, promoted the idea of awarding Herbert with the Nobel Prize. He contacted the Stockholm Academy. Here's their reply : "(...)I kindly inform you that Zbigniew Herbert has long been on the list of possible candidates for the Prize". »*



**Barbara TORUNCZYK**

**POLISH LITERATURE HISTORIAN**

*« He was interested in the very roots of European culture. He wanted to understand the origins of the huge eruption of this marvelous culture that can unite and give inspiration. »*



**Alissa VALLES**

**AMERICAN POET AND TRANSLATOR**

*« I heard him read once. That's the only time I've been in a room with Herbert. (...) He had such a marvelous voice, sort of powerful barytone. »*



**Adam ZAGAJEWSKI (1945 - 2021)**

**POLISH WRITER, POET AND ESSAYIST**

*« Everywhere in the world, there are poets who have a sense of mission, but his was a twofold mission : poetical and somehow also political, but in a much deeper, more important sense than the realm of everyday politics has. »*









## RAFAEL LEWANDOWSKI

Graduated from La Sorbonne in film studies and from the Directing department of La Fémis, Rafael Lewandowski directed numerous documentaries and short films widely distributed internationally. His first feature film *La Dette* (original title: *Kret* - international: *The Mole*) was released in France in 2012. The movie won, among others, the Male Interpretation Award at the 35th Montreal International World Film Festival, as well as the Press and Public Prize at the Arras Film Festival. He is currently finishing the production for ARTE of a 6 x 52 min documentary series on the Algerian war (called *En Guerre (s) pour l'Algérie*) which will be broadcast in March 2022. *Herbert. A barbarian in the garden*, was selected for the Millennium Docs Against Gravity in Warsaw, the PFFA in Chicago and the Mescalito FF in Rome.

### Selective filmography

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#### **THE MOLE** (2010)

(PL/FR)

(108' / Metro Films, Kuiv Productions, Silesian Films, Le Fresnoy, Traffic, Non Stop, Vertigo)

Awarded at Montreal IFF, Arras IFF, Los Angeles IFP ...

### Documentaries

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#### **THE ALGERIAN WAR** (2022)

(6 x 52' / INA & ARTE)

#### **OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT** (2017)

(86' / Vertigo & Zygmunt Zaleski Stichting)

#### **MINKOWSKI | SAGA** (2013)

(85' & 58' / Vertigo & Fido Film)

#### **BYE, BYE DUBLIN!** (2010)

(45' / Studio Filmowe Kalejdoskop, TVP 2)

#### **THE ART OF SILENCE** (2008)

(55' / Eureka Media, TVP Kultura)

#### **CHILDREN OF SOLIDARNOŚĆ** (2006)

(74' & 52' / digital beta / Kuiv Productions & Studio Filmowe Kalejdoskop)

#### **DON GIOVANNI; BEHIND THE SCENE** (2003)

(75' / digital beta / Canal + Polska)

#### **HEARINGS** (2000)

(90' / digital beta / Yenta Production, La fémis & Cités Télévision)

#### **A SHADOWED GAZE** (1999)

(52' / S.16mm / Porte Rouge, Images Plus & Rougemarine)

#### **CELA [TSÈLA]** (1996)

(52' / 35 mm / La fémis & Fidélité Productions)

# MARIA BLICHARSKA

## PRESENTATION

Producer specialized in European co-productions, founder of Blick Productions in Paris in 2015. In parallel, Maria directs a Polish company, Donten & Lacroix Films, she has founded in 2006.

Maria has two Master's degrees in Cultural Management and Literature, a diploma of the European School of Business in Strasbourg and post-graduated studies at three European film schools : in Poland, Germany and France.

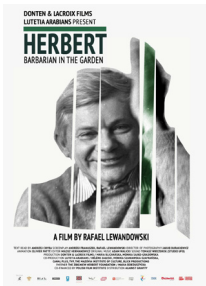
She started working in the film industry in 2002 as line producer for independent European companies, ARTE, Canal + Poland, TVP, TVN as well as documentary producers of S.Spielberg Shoah Foundation USA. She participated in more than 35 projects (feature films, documentaries and animations) acclaimed and awarded at many international film festivals.

After completing the french-german workshop at La Femis in 2005, Maria settled in Paris and worked for French and international producers. Between 2006 and 2008, she notably worked alongside Margaret Menegoz (Films du Losange) on projects of A. Wajda, M. Haneke and A. Riahi.

She continues to improve her skills in European producers trainings (EAVE, Eurodoc, ACE) gradually becoming creative producer.

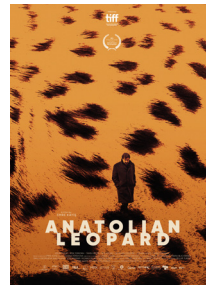


## FILMOGRAPHY INTERNATIONAL COPRODUCTIONS



### **HERBERT. BARBARIAN IN THE GARDEN (DOC)** **Raphael Lewandowski (2021)** **90min PL**

Shooting in 11 countries.  
Official Selections : Millenium Docs Against Gravity 2021, PFFA Chicago 2021 (Award for Outstanding Approach), Rome Mescalito Biopic Fest...



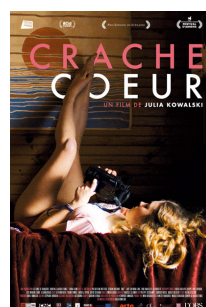
### **ANATOLIAN LEOPARD (LM)** **Emre Kayis (2021)** **100min PL/DE/TQ/DM**

Fipresci Award Toronto IFF, Best Debut Film and Best Artistic Direction Anyatalya IFF.  
Official Selections : Denver IFF and Ankara IFF



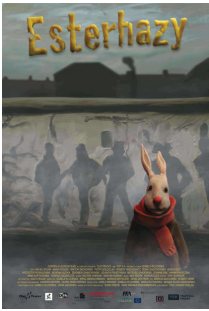
### **FROST (LM)** **S.Bartas (2017)** **119 min LT/UKR/FR/PL**

Official selections :  
La Quinzaine des réalisateurs in Cannes, Pusan IFF, Lisboa IFF, Best Director Award Minsk IFF 2017, Special Award Istanbul IFF, New Horizons Wroclaw 2017  
International Sales : LUXBOX



### **CRACHE-COEUR (LM)** **J.Kowalski (2015)** **80 min PL/FR**

Selected: ACID Cannes, Pusan IFF, Rome IFF, Taipan IFF, Awarded at the Premier Plan Angers IFF, Amiens IFF, Cottbus IFF Festival.  
Released February 17, 2016



**ESTERHAZY (Animation)**  
**I.Plucinska (2009)**  
**25 min PL/DE**

Opening film of the Warsaw Festival 2009.  
 Selected at more than 100 international festivals, 14 awards.



**AGNIESZKA (Animation)**  
**I.Bartosik-Burkhardt (2012)**  
**10 min PL/FR**

Selected at more than 50 international festivals,  
 Best Polish Debut PFF 2013,  
 Best Anima 2013 film,  
 César shortlisted for best animated short in 2013.

## SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY - LINE PRODUCER



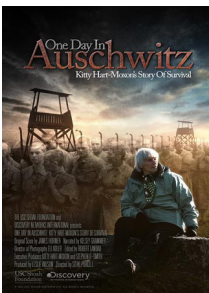
**THE LAST GOODBYE**  
**(Doc VR)**  
**Gabo Arora (2017)**

Shooting in Europe for S. Spielberg Shoah Foundation in Los Angeles  
 Festival premiere : Tribeca IFF, Venice IFF.



**DRÔLES D'OISEAUX (LM)**  
**E.Girard (2017)**  
**70 min FR**

Shooting in France for Kinoelektron, Arte Cofinova,  
 Festival premiere : Berlinale IFF, Rio IFF and BAFICI.  
 Currently broadcasted by Arte FR  
 Released May 31, 2017.



**ONE DAY IN AUSCHWITZ**  
**(DOC)**  
**Steve Purcell (2015)**  
**45min USA**

Shooting in Europe for S.Spielberg Shoah Foundation, Los Angeles/ Discovery Channel  
 Broadcasted on 250 channels in 45 languages.



**POUR UN INSTANT, LA LIBERTÉ (LM)**  
**Arash T. Riahi (2009)**  
**110 min FR/AT**

Shooting in Turkey and Austria for Les Films du Losange/ Wega Films  
 Awarded at more than 25 international festivals  
 Broadcasted on Arte FR



**FROM WHERE WE STOOD**  
**(DOC)**  
**Christophe Cagnet (2021)**  
**90min FR/DE**

Official Selections : Berlinale 2021  
 Shooting in France, Germany for Documentary Workshop



# BLICK PRODUCTIONS

Head Office : 26, rue des Trois Bornes 75011 Paris  
Office : 71, rue des Martyrs 75018 Paris  
[www.blickproductions.fr](http://www.blickproductions.fr)

## PRESENTATION

With 14 years of experience in production, in parallel and in the continuity of her Polish company Donten and Lacroix Films, Maria Blicharska creates Blick Productions in 2015 in Paris, with the aim to develop and produce high quality movies of European authors and promoting their talents internationally.

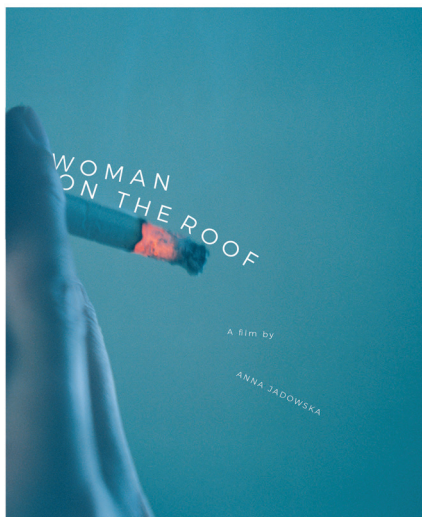
In 2017, Damien McDonald joins the company. The two producers graduated from La Fémis in 2005, with their complementary experiences, wish to bring the films of tomorrow into existence by accompanying them towards methods of writing and distribution in constant evolution.

Member of :



## EXECUTIVE PRODUCTION

IN POST-PRODUCTION



### WOMAN ON THE ROOF (LM)

Anna Jadowska

95 min, FR/PL/SE

In co-production with Donten & Lacroix Films (PL), GarageFilm (SE)

With the support of Polish Film Institute, Arte France Cinema, Canal +, Swedish Film Institute, SVT, Media Creative Europe, Mazovia Warsaw Film Fund, Eurimages

Awarded at Polish Days WIP 2021

## IN DEVELOPEMENT

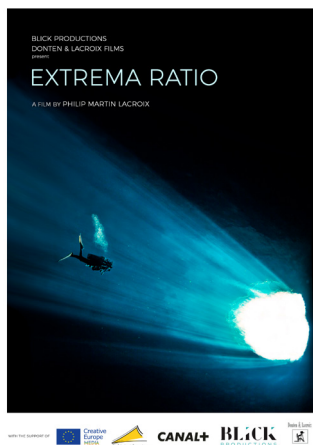
### COMRADES

**Written by Olivier Patté, Anita Doron, Antoine Germa and Rafael Lewandowski**

**Animated feature film - 90 min FR/PL/BE/DE**

With the support of Media Creative Europe, CNC / FFA, Nipkow Foundation, CVS / CNC, ACLA Aquitaine, ACE Producers, Mikros Images

Selected : Locarno Alliance for development, Polish Days, Cartoon Movie 2019, ACE Animation Special 2021



### EXTREMA RATIO (LM)

**Philip Martin Lacroix**

**FR/PL**

In co-production with Donten & Lacroix Films (PL)

With the support of Occitanie, Procirep, Media Creative Europe, Reunion Region, Canal + Reunion

### SOUS TERRE (LM)

**Corinne Garfin**

**co-writer : Thomas Rio**

**90 min, FR/BE/PL**

In co-production with Donten & Lacroix Films (PL), Savage Film (BE)

With the support of CNC, Procirep, Media Creative Europe



### POLONAIS DU NORD (DOC)

**Raphael Lewandowski**

**52 min, FR/PL**

In co-production with Donten & Lacroix Films (PL)

With the support of PICTANOVO, Media Creative Europe, Institute Mickiewicz

## RELEASED IN 2022

### HERBERT. BARBARIAN IN THE GARDEN (DOC)

**Raphael Lewandowski**

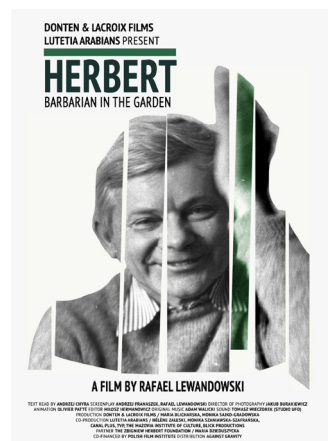
**90 min, PL**

In coproduction with Donten & Lacroix Films (PL) and Lutecja, TVP

With the support of PISF, DOC LAB, KFF, Multilab, Against Gravity

Official Selections : Millenium Docs Against Gravity, PFFA Chicago, Mescalito Biopic Fest

Award for Outstanding Approach to a subject in documentary film at PFFA 2021



# HERBERT. BARBARIAN IN THE GARDEN

DIRECTOR	Rafael Lewandowski
SCREENWRITERS	Rafael Lewandowski, Andrzej Franaszek
VOICE - OVER	Andrzej Chyra
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Jakub Burakiewicz
PRODUCTION COMPANY	Donten & Lacroix Films, Lutetia Arabians
PRODUCERS	Maria Blicharska, Hélène Zaleski, Monica Szaniawska-Szafranska
CO-PRODUCERS	TVP, Canal +, Mazovia Institute of Culture,
CO-FINANCED BY	Polish Film Institute
IN COLLABORATION WITH	The Zbigniew Herbert Foundation
WORLD SALES	Blick Productions (info@blickproductions.fr)
DURATION	90', 52'
MASTER COPY	DCP
FILMING TECHNOLOGY	Camera footage, archival materials, animation, special effects
NUMBER OF SHOOTING DAYS	21
LOCATIONS	Warsaw, Cracow, Wigry Lake (Poland), Paris (France), Madrid (Spain), Athens (Greece), Spoleto (Italy), Iona Island (Scotland), Masada (Israel), Jerusalem (Israel), New York, Los Angeles, New Hampshire (USA)
RELEASED DATE	18. Millenium Docs Against Gravity Festival - 4.09.2021
TRAILER	<a href="https://vimeo.com/399927473">https://vimeo.com/399927473</a>



# CONTACT

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