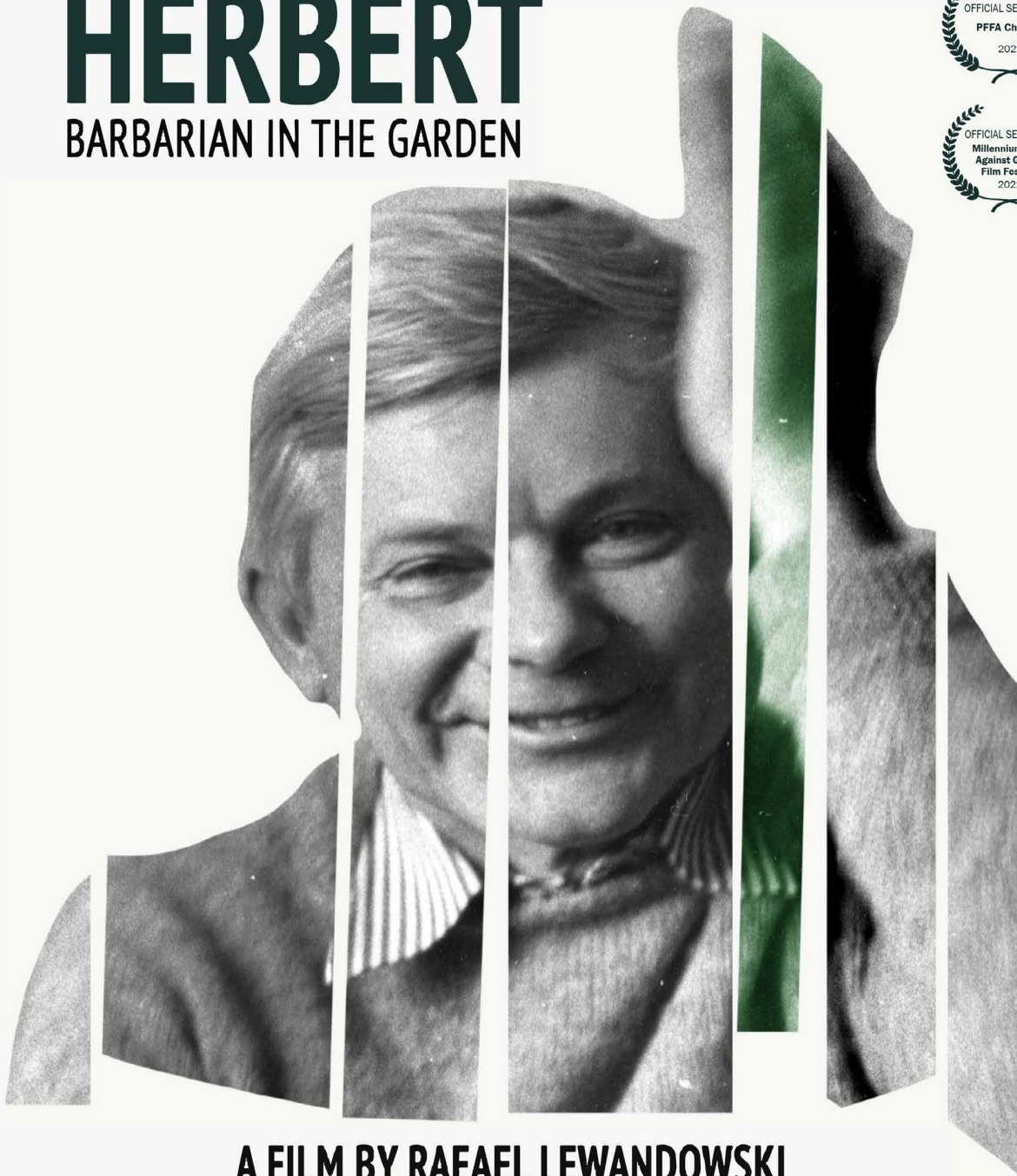


DONTEN & LACROIX FILMS  
LUTETIA ARABIANS PRESENT

# 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 MIŁOŚZ 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+



Herbert

DOC LAB

KINOWY  
INSTITUT  
POLSKI

MAZOWIEC  
INSTITUT  
KULTURY



TVP

Mazowsze

MW

MAZOVIA  
WARSAW  
FILM FUND

*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 ever to highlight the heritage of such a work and its author.*

Rafael Lewandowski

Director of HERBERT. BARBARIAN IN THE GARDEN



[LINK TO THE TRAILER](#)

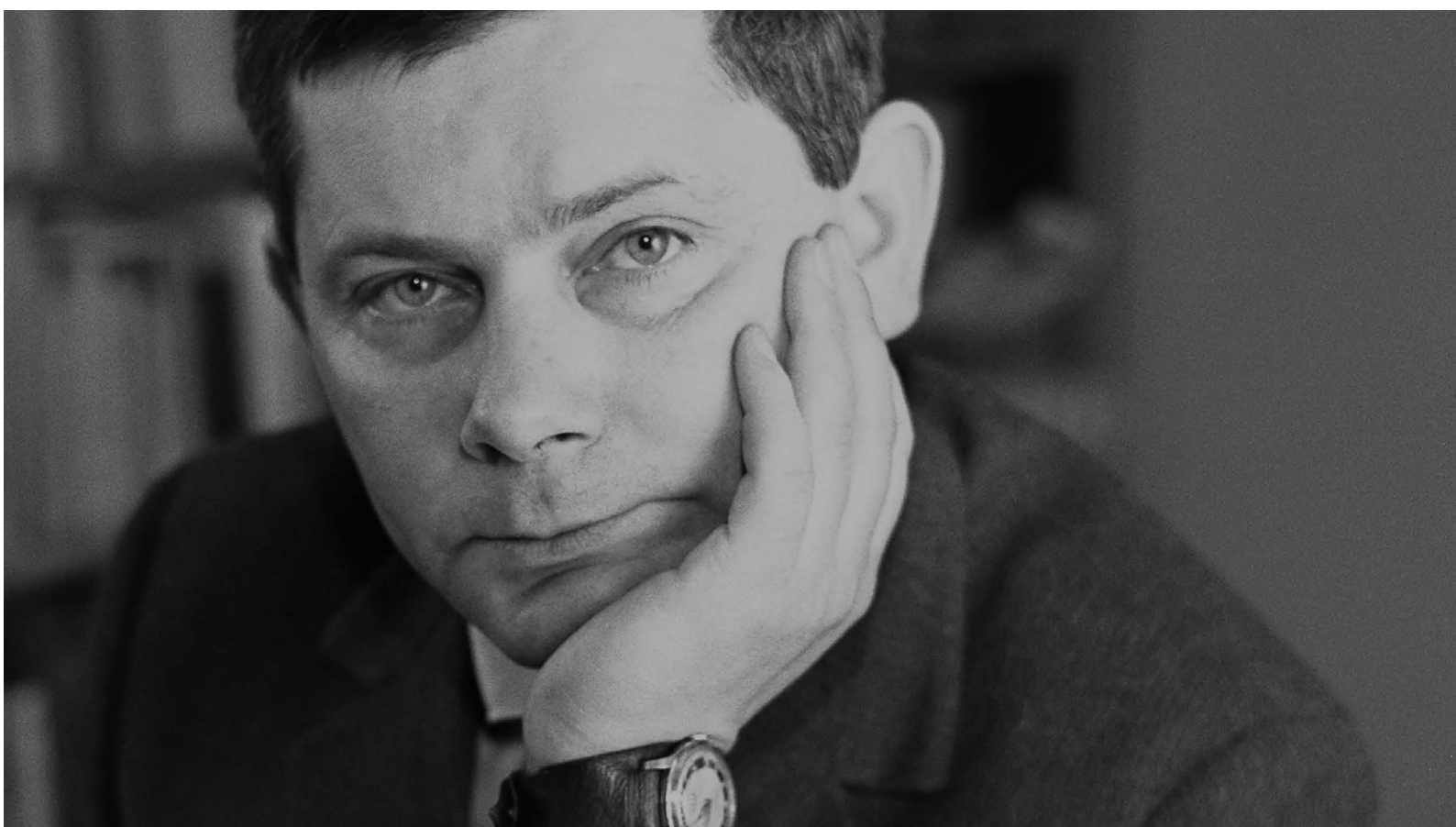
**Zbigniew Herbert is one of the major humanist figures in the Europe of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.**

**2024 marks his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary.**

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

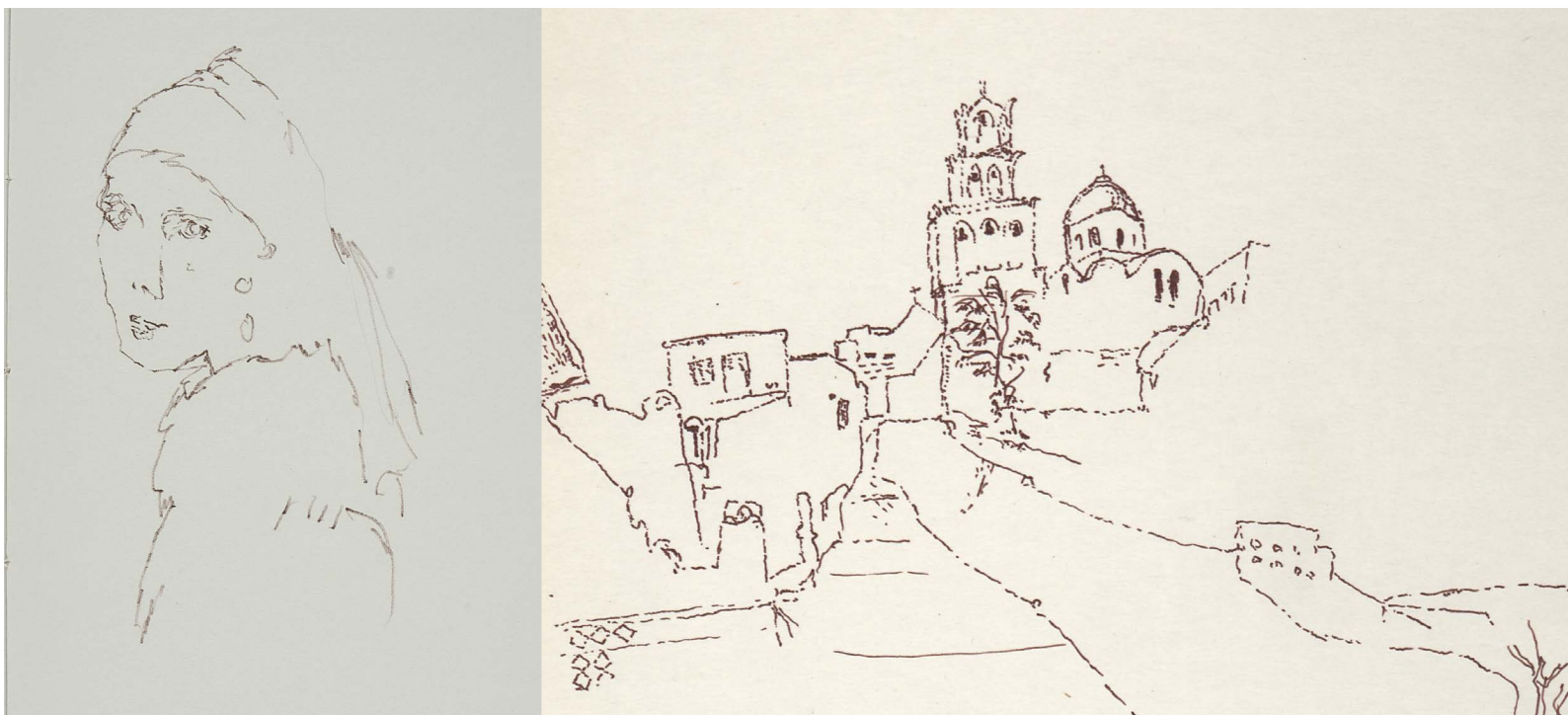
**HERBERT. BARBARIAN IN THE GARDEN** is a film composed of several different voices, nourished by exclusive and intimate interviews of close relations of the artist. Among them **Katarzyna Herbert**, the poet's wife, who had so far refused to take part in any documentary or report dedicated to her husband.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

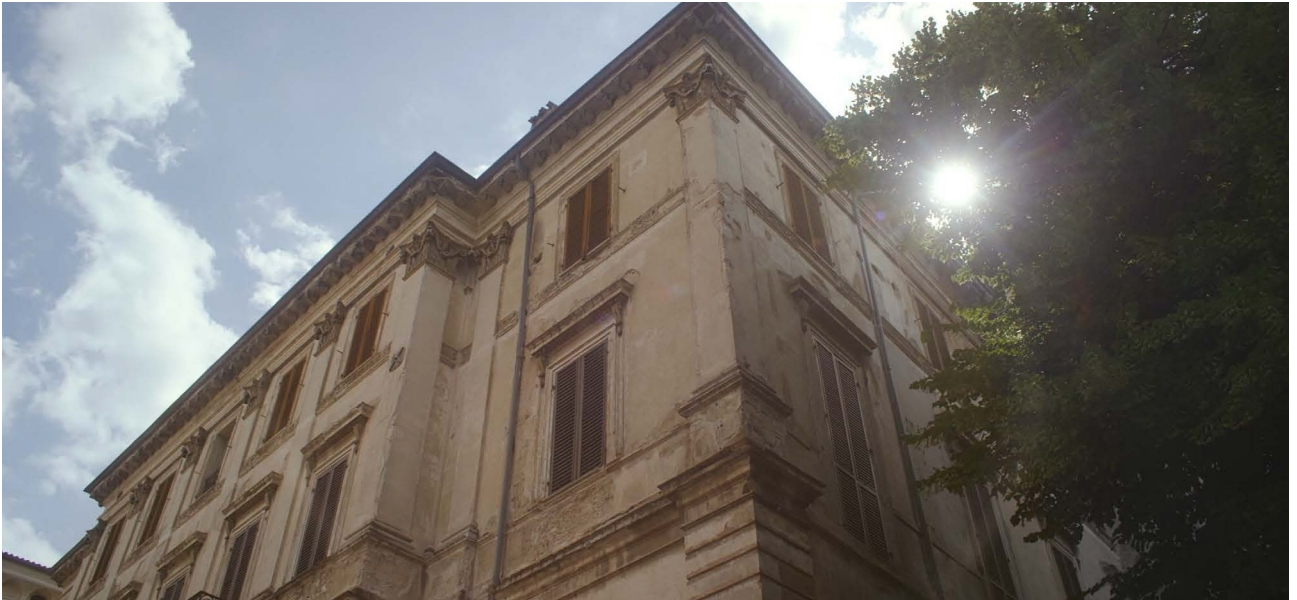
Also: rich interviews with Literature and History specialists, among which the essayist and critic **Alfred Alvarez**, the Swiss poet **Philippe Jaccottet**, the writer and poet **Edward Hirsch**, the publisher **Dan Halpern**, the journalist **Michael S.Cullen** or the historian, journalist **Adam Michnik**.

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 travelled in a wheelchair in the twilight of his life to see with his own eyes the masterpieces by Velázquez.





# INTERVIEWS



**Al 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 (1923 - 2017)**

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**

AMERICAN POET AND CRITIC

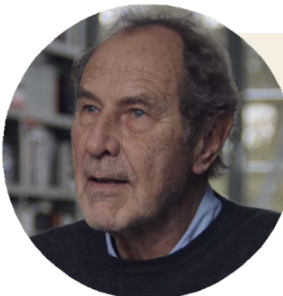
*« We read him because we thought he had a lot to teach us about the difficulty of describing things, about the importance of objects, about the relationship between objects and human beings, about the nature of the imagination, about the precision of thought, about poetry's relationship to suffering. 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**

WRITER, EDITOR AND TRANSLATOR

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



### **Adam MICHNIK**

HISTORIAN, JOURNALIST, 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

[www.rafaellewandowski.com](http://www.rafaellewandowski.com)

French and Polish film director. Graduated from La Sorbonne in film studies and from the Directing department of the French film school **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 Poland, in France and in a few European countries in 2011-2012. 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. In 2022, he directed for ARTE of a 6 x 52' documentary

series on the Algerian war: *At War(s) for Algeria*. In 2011, he received the Polityka weekly's Passport ("Paszport Polityki"), and in 2015 he was awarded the Knight of the Order Arts and Letters by the French Government. *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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CYWIA AND RACHELA (2024 / 90' / Zadig Prod. & France TV)

AT WAR(S) FOR ALGERIA (2022 / 6 x 52' / INA & ARTE & BBC Arabic)

OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT (2017 / 86' / Vertigo & Zygmunt Zaleski Stichting)

MINKOWSKI | SAGA (2013/ 85' & 58' / Vertigo & Fido Film)

THE MOLE (2010 / PL /FR. 108' / Metro Films, Kuiv Productions, Silesian Films, Le Fresnoy, Traffic, Non Stop, Vertigo)

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, Lafémis & Cités Télévision)

A SHADOWED GAZE (1999 / 52' / S.16mm / Porte Rouge, Images Plus & Rougemarine)

CELA [TSÈLA] (1996 / 52' / 35 mm / La fémis & FidélitéProductions)

# 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, H�el�ene Zaleski, Monika Szaniawska-Szafranska
CO-PRODUCERS	TVP, Canal +, Mazovia & Warsaw Film Fund
CO-FINANCED BY	The Polish Film Institute
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH	The Zbigniew Herbert Foundation
WORLD SALES	The Moonshot Company (Kasia Karwan)
US & CANADA DISTRIBUTION	Grasshopper Film
ORIGINAL TITLE	Herbert. Barbarzy�nia w ogrodzie
DURATION	90'
MASTER COPY	DCP
SUBTITLES	English, Polish, French, German
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, Jerusalem (Israel), New York, Los Angeles, New Hampshire (USA)
RELEASED DATE	18. Millenium Docs Against Gravity Festival (4.09.2021).
AWARDS	Special Award at the 33th Polish Film Festival in America (USA) Special Award at NURT 2022 Film Festival (Kielce, Poland).

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