

POLISH FILMS IN TORONTO

SEPTEMBER 7-17 | 2023



POLISH
FILM
INSTITUTE

The Peasants



In the Rearview



The Zone of Interest



Irena's Vow



The Green Border





The Peasants

DK WELCHMAN & HUGH WELCHMAN

drama

The Peasants tells the story of Jagna, a young woman determined to forge her own path within the confines of a late 19th century Polish village - a hotbed of gossip and on-going feuds, held together, rich and poor, by pride in their land, adherence to colourful traditions and deep-rooted patriarchy.

When Jagna finds herself caught between the conflicting desires of the village's richest farmer, his eldest son, and other leading men of the community, her resistance puts her on a tragic collision course with the community around her.

The Peasants

Directed by: DK Welchman & Hugh Welchman

Written by: DK Welchman & Hugh Welchman

Photography by: Radek Ładczuk, Kamil Polak, Szymon Kuriata

Editing by: DK Welchman, Patrycja Piróg, Michał Węcel

Cast: Kamila Urzędowska, Robert Gulaczyk, Mirosław Baka, Sonia Mielielica, Ewa Kasprzyk, Cezary Łukaszewicz, Małgorzata Kożuchowska, Sonia Bohosiewicz, Dorota Stalińska, Andrzej Konopka, Mateusz Rusin, Maciej Musiał

Produced by: Chłopi Sp. z o.o., Breakthru Films (*Loving Vincent*)

Producers: Sean Bobbitt, Hugh Welchman

Co-produced by: Digitalkraft, Art Shot, Breakthru Productions, Canal+ Polska, Narodowe Centrum Kultury, Mazowiecki Instytut Kultury, SKP Ślusarek Kubiak Piecyk

Co-producers: Ivan Pribicevic, Jelena Angelovski, Agne Adomene

Co-financed by: Polish Film Institute, New Europe Film Sales, Film Center Serbia, Lithuanian Film Center, Polish National Foundation

World Sales: New Europe Film Sales

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

PREMIERE

September 8 | 6:00 PM
TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

September 9 | 2.30 PM
Scotiabank 4

September 16 | 5:45 PM
Scotiabank 3

PRESS & INDUSTRY SCREENINGS:

September 9 | 12:00 PM
Scotiabank 8

September 11 | 6:40 PM
Scotiabank 5





In the Rearview

MACIEK HAMELA

documentary

In the Rearview is an authentic, intimate observation of war as it unfolds, following multiple generations of Ukrainian civilians as they abruptly abandon their homes and rely on the help of director Maciek Hamela's volunteer aid van to escape the life-threatening conflict. As he steers through minefields to leave Ukraine and tries to get through numerous military checkpoints, Hamela offers us a seat in his car, guiding the documentary from behind the wheel and behind the camera, crisscrossing the roads of Ukraine to transport uprooted refugees safely to Poland. The van traverses tens of thousands of kilometers and

serves as a waiting room, hospital, shelter, and zone for confidences and confessions among compatriots thrown together by chance. *In the Rearview* is a collective portrait composed of an array of experiences of Ukrainians who share a single goal: finding a safe haven in the throes of conflict. With temporary asylum granted to all passengers, their differences in gender, age, skin tone, physical condition, origin, identity, worldviews and faith become irrelevant. While the war itself remains in the backdrop, its reflection and impact are evident and raw.

In the Rearview

Directed by: Maciek Hamela

Written by: Maciek Hamela

Photography by: Yura Dunay, Wawrzyniec Skoczylas,
Marcin Sierakowski, Piotr Grawender

Editing by: Piotr Ogiński

Produced by: Affinity Cine, Pemplum

Producers: Piotr Grawender, Maciek Hamela

Co-produced by: SaNoSi Productions, 435 FILMS

Co-producers: Jean-Marie Gigon, Anna Palenchuk

Co-financed by: Polish Film Institute

World Sales: Cinephil

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

PREMIERE

September 12 | 12:05 PM

Scotiabank 9

September 14 | 3:45 PM

Scotiabank 9

September 16 | 9:05 PM

Scotiabank 8

PRESS & INDUSTRY SCREENINGS:

September 11 | 3:05 PM

Scotiabank 8





The Zone of Interest

JONATHAN GLAZER

drama

The commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Höss, and his wife Hedwig, strive to build a dream life for their family in a house and garden next to the camp.

The Zone of Interest

Directed by: Jonathan Glazer

Written by: Jonathan Glazer

Photography by: Łukasz Żal

Editing by: Paul Watts

Cast: Christian Friedel, Sandra Hüller

Produced by: Jw Films, Extreme Emotions

Producers: James Wilson, Ewa Puszczyńska

Co-produced by: Silesia-Film

Co-financed by: Polish Film Institute

World Sales: A24

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

September 10 | 8:30 PM

Royal Alexandra Theatre
Premium

September 11 | 8:45 PM

Scotiabank Theatre Toronto

PRESS & INDUSTRY SCREENINGS:

September 7 | 11.45 AM

Scotiabank 3





Irena's Vow

LOUISE ARCHAMBAULT

drama

Through the eyes of a strong-willed woman comes the remarkable true story of Irena Gut Opdyke (Sophie Nélisse) and the triumphs of the human spirit over devastating tragedy. 19-year-old Irena Gut is promoted to housekeeper in the home of a highly respected Nazi officer in Poland when she finds out that

the Jewish ghetto is about to be liquidated. Determined to help 12 Jewish workers, she decides to shelter them in the safest place she can think of – the basement of the German Major's house. Over the next months, Irena uses her wit, humour and immense courage to hide her friends as long as possible.

Irena's Vow

Directed by: Louise Archambault

Written by: Dan Gordon

Photography by: Paul Sarossy

Editing by: Arthur Tarnowski

Cast: Sophie Nélisse, Dougray Scott, Andrzej Seweryn, Maciej Nawrocki

Produced by: Beata Pisula (K&K Film Selekt), Tim Ringuette (Entract Studios), Nicholas Tabarrok (Darius Films)

Producers: Beata Pisula, Tim Ringuette, Nicholas Tabarrok, Berry Meyerowitz, Jeff Sackman

Co-produced by: FINA - National Film Archive - Audiovisual Institute (co-financed from the funds of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland), TVP S.A. - Polish Public Television

Co-producers: Robert Kaczmarek, Małgorzata Matuszewska (FINA), Andrzej Burakowski (TVP)

Supported by: Québec Film and Television TAX Credit, The Canadian Film or Video Production TAX Credit

Co-financed by: Polish Film Institute, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, Téléfilm Canada, Sodec Québec

World Sales: Westend Films, Quiver Distribution

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

PREMIERE

September 10 | 3:15 PM

TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

September 11 | 3:35 PM

Scotiabank 11

PRESS & INDUSTRY SCREENINGS:

September 11 | 9:30 AM

Scotiabank 4

September 13 | 6:05 PM

Scotiabank 8





The Green Border

AGNIESZKA HOLLAND

drama

In the treacherous and swampy forests that make up the so called “green border” between Belarus and Poland, refugees from the Middle East and Africa trying to reach the European Union are trapped in a geopolitical crisis cynically engineered by Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko. In an attempt to

provoke Europe, refugees are lured to the border by propaganda promising easy passage to the EU. Pawns in this hidden war, the lives of Julia, a newly minted activist who has given up her comfortable life, Jan, a young border guard, and a Syrian family intertwine.

The Green Border

Directed by: Agnieszka Holland in collaboration with Kamila Tarabura and Katarzyna Warzecha

Written by: Maciej Pisuk, Gabriela Łazarkiewicz-Sieczko, Agnieszka Holland

Photography by: Tomasz Naumiuk PSC

Editing by: Pavel Hrdlička

Cast: Jalal Altawil, Maja Ostaszewska, Behi Djanati Atai, Tomasz Włosok, Mohamad Al Rashi, Dalia Naous, Agata Kulesza, Maciej Stuhr

Produced by: Metro Films, Astute Films, Metro Lato

Producers: Marcin Wierzchosławski, Fred Bernstein, Agnieszka Holland

Co-produced by: Blick Productions, Marlene Film Production, Beluga Tree

Co-producers: Maria Blicharska-Lacroix, Damien McDonald, Šárka Cimbalová, Diana Elbaum, David Ragonig, Dominika Kulczyk, Małgorzata Seck, Beata Ryczkowska, Emir Külal Haznawi, Mike Downey

Supported by: Czech Film Fund, Aide aux cinémas du monde - CNC - Institut Français

Co-financed by: Czech Television, CANAL+ Polska, Mazovian and Warsaw Film Fund, ZDF/ARTE, VOO-BE tv, TRT Sinema, dFlights, Volapuk, Downey Ink, Saudade Film, Sofica La Banque Postale Image 17, Centre du Cinéma et de l'Audiovisuel de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles

World Sales: Films Boutique

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

September 12 | 6:00 PM

TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 2

September 13 | 5:50 PM

Scotiabank 4

September 15 | 12:30 PM

Scotiabank 4

PRESS & INDUSTRY SCREENINGS:

September 7 | 9:35 AM

Scotiabank 14



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