

A film by Paweł Łoziński

The Balcony Movie

Everyone's story is unique and life surpasses imagination



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ŁOZIŃSKI HBO MAX POLSKA FILMOWA AKADEMIA FILMOWA



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WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND FILMED BY PAWEŁ ŁOZIŃSKI. EDITED BY PAWEŁ ŁOZIŃSKI, PIASEKAWIŃCZAK. MUSIC COMPOSED AND PERFORMED BY JAN DUSZYŃSKI. SOUND POSTPRODUCTION FRANCISZEK KIELIŃSKI VOHO STUDIO. IMAGE POSTPRODUCTION COLORBFFON. PRODUCTION MANAGER ZOFIA KULAWSKA. PRODUCERS PAWEŁ ŁOZIŃSKI, AGNIESZKA HANKEWICZ IDFX. PRODUCER HBO MAX IZABELA ŁOPUCHI (PSP). EXECUTIVE PRODUCER HBO MAX HANNA KASTELICOMA. PRODUCED BY ŁOZIŃSKI PRODUCTIONS, HBO MAX, HALOZYIA WARSAW FILM FUND. A POLISH FILM INSTITUTE CO-FINANCED PRODUCTION.

The Balcony Movie

Everyone's story is unique and life surpasses imagination

Can anyone be a movie hero? Can the world be locked in one film frame? Maybe if one kept still long enough the world would turn to look into the camera lens?



In his film experiment, director Paweł Łoziński watches people from his balcony and barrages them with questions, provoking conversations about how they cope with life. His genuine interest is rewarded with most intimate stories. The protagonists carry secrets and mysteries, and are not easy to label. Every story is unique, and life always surpasses imagination. Using his colourful cast to narrate life Łoziński created a film that is at the same time shimmeringly kaleidoscopic and harmonious, startling and engaging, by turns cheerful and contemplative.

Revealing a glimpse into the craft of a documentary film-making, he remains deeply curious about his protagonists. Łoziński focuses as much on the exchange that takes place, as on the bond that develops between himself and the passers-by who keep returning to his camera.

The director spent 165 shooting days on his balcony and talked to 2,000 people over 2,5 years. These encounters under the “secular confessional” resulted in a heartfelt portrayal of ourselves, the humankind, Poles, and all the passers-by we meet in our journey through life.

The Balcony Movie is an affirmation of life, a mirror for everyone to see themselves in.

The Balcony Movie

Awards

Grand Prix Semaine de La Critique. Locarno Film Festival, 2021
Nomination. 35th European Film Awards 2022
Nomination. Cinema Eye Honors. New York 2022
Grand Prix. FIPADOC International Documentary Festival, Biarritz 2022
Grand Prix. E Tudo Verdade It's All True International Documentary Film Festival, Sao Paolo 2022
ORŁY. Polish Film Awards. Warsaw 2022
MDR Award. DOK Leipzig International Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, 2021
Audience Award. Millennium Docs Against Gravity, Warsaw 2021
Audience Award. Millennium Docs Against Gravity, Katowice 2021
Special Jury Mention. Millennium Docs Against Gravity, Warsaw 2021
Special Mention The Studio Cinemas Association Award. Millennium Docs Against Gravity, 2021
Grand Prix Golden Castle. Off Cinema, Poznan 2021
Audience Award. Off Cinema, Poznan 2021
Grand Prix White Cobra. Media Festival Man in Danger, Lodz 2021
Grand Prix Golden Grape for the Best Documentary. Lubuskie Film Summer, Lagow 2022
Grand Prix iHuman. DokuBaku International Documentary Film Festival, Baku 2022
iCyborg Award. DokuBaku International Documentary Film Festival, Baku 2022
Audience Award. Trieste Film Festival, 2022
Special Jury Mention. Trieste Film Festival, 2022
Artistic Vision Award. Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Missoula Montana USA 2022
Special Jury Mention. ZAGREBDOX International Documentary Film Festival, Zagreb 2022
The best feature-length documentary. OFSF Prowincjonalia 2022
We Are the World Award. Doc Edge Festival, Auckland New Zealand 2022
Maysles Brothers Award. Docs Ireland Festival, Belfast 2022
Official Selection. Hot Docs Festival, Toronto 2022
Masters Section. International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam IDFA, Amsterdam 2021
Official Selection. True/False Film Fest, Columbia Missouri 2022

Information

100' / 4K / COLOUR / LANGUAGE: POLISH / SUB. ENGLISH
COUNTRY: POLAND / ORIGINAL TITLE: FILM BALKONOWY

World premiere

74 LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL 4-14.08.2021

The Balcony Movie

Credits

Written, directed and filmed by	Paweł Łoziński
Film editor	Paweł Łoziński, Piasek&Wójcik
Music by	Jan Duszyński
Sound design	Franciszek Kozłowski Ucho Studio
Image postproduction	Coloroffon
Production manager	Zofia Kujawska
Producers	Paweł Łoziński, Agnieszka Mankiewicz IDFX
Producers HBO max	Izabela Łopuch PGP Hanka Kastelicova
Partner	IDFX
Produced by	Łoziński Production, HBO Poland, Mazovia Warsaw Film Fund

A Polish Film Festival Institute co-financed production



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The Balcony Movie



The Balcony (...) it's largely an observation of the human condition and a tribute to life. It's a testament to documentaries' power to weave emotionally charged intimate portraits of contemporary life.

LOCARNO' REVIEW

„Perceiving the rhythmic flow of life from a everyday space”, Arun Kumar

9.08.2021

A volte non serve girare il mondo per capire com'è il mondo. A volta basta guardarlo dal proprio balcone. La differenza sta tutta in come ci stai seduto, su quel balcone.

Il Manifesto

„Le vite dei polacchi viste da un balcone”, Mariangela Mianiti

14.02.2022

Un cadre, un film. Du très grand cinéma. Il faut l'avoir vu avec ses propres yeux pour le croire.

Radio France Internationale

“Grand Prix Fipadoc «The Balcony Movie»,

l'incroyable film tourné en haut d'un balcon”, Siegfried Forster 22.01.2022

The Balcony Movie“ ist ein Kinoglücksfall. Eine Idee, die hartnäckig verfolgt wird, und ein Film, der trotz 100Minutennie langweilt. Das Leben, das Pawel Lozinski einfängt, ist dafür viel zu bunt und lebendig, alltäglich, natürlich und besonders.

Leipziger Volkszeitung

„Balkon-Gespräche”, Von Norbert Wehrstedt

28.10.2021

The Balcony Movie

The techniques this documentary applies to achieve its goals are in multiple ways similar to that of some of the greatest auteurs in Cinema"

(...) Łoziński focuses on the mundane and uses snippets of the human experience that would otherwise be taken for granted. Those snippets are later put together to create an impactful tapestry of human experiences (...).

What this documentary does, is giving a voice to all those who have passed you by, who you have exchanged a glance with or who have politely smiled at you for a brief moment, before leaving your field of view, never to be noticed by you again.

Obviously Reviews

„A Tapestry of Human Experiences”, Julian Janssen

8.08.2021

The set-up is simple, but so very human, and heartachingly effective. Most of the time, Łoziński films from a fixed camera position, but sometimes he will track his subject as they walk down the street or even zoom in on occasion. In the process he captures a vast spectrum of humanity (he estimates he had over a thousand exchanges) with a degree of truthfulness and authenticity that is beyond the scope of most fictional filmmakers, even if some of his subjects are on screen for just a few seconds.

Bussines Doc Europe

„Locarno Film Fest: The Balcony Movie by Paweł Łoziński”, Nick Cunningham

14.08.2021

The Balcony Movie goes beyond all that. It is a collective, interpersonal story about specific people and at the same time about society as a whole. Łoziński becomes a character of almost equal importance here. The passers-by are the ones who ask him about the meaning of life, flocking around him and his camera. However, the very fact of his elevation suggestive of a confessional separates him from the others.

Wyborcza.pl

"Tu jestem, na górze! Co słycać?". Nagrodzony w Locarno «Film balkonowy»
to świat na jednej ulicy”, Tadeusz Sobolewski

15.08.2021

The Balcony Movie celebrates the seeming cliché that people with different views, experiences and sensitivities cohabit the same public space, walk the same pavements.

Millennium Docs Against Gravity Pełna Sala

„Strumień świadomości społeczeństwa - „Film balkonowy”,
Jędrzej Sławnikowski

12.09.2021

The Balcony Movie

*The Balcony Movie is a form of a neo-confession; it is also a spiritual séance in the sense that it offers cathartic experience not only to the protagonists, but to the audiences as well. Confession washes away guilt and acknowledges unease. It absolves. Cinema wields this power. Fontana di Trevi in Fellini's masterpiece may become humble rain in *Saska Kępa*, (...) Łoziński doesn't just listen. This plain-clothes confessor tells a girl walking by with a rosary that he won't pray, thanks very much, he prays differently. Paweł Łoziński's prayer is to hear someone else's voice.*

„Kwiatusia zna odpowiedź („Film balkonowy” reż. Paweł Łoziński)”,
Łukasz Maciejewski krytyk filmowy i teatralny,
członek Europejskiej Akademii Filmowej i FIPRESCI
01.2022

Łoziński's examination of the mundane is an interesting concept. Many of the people Łoziński approaches don't believe their stories or lives to be interesting enough to be the subject of a film. However as Łoziński speaks to them, we uncover tales of unrequited love, the exhausting joy of new motherhood, and the perils of inadequacy. This filmic exercise is a wonderful way of capturing life's beauty, but it falls short of having anything meaningful to say.

Point of View Magazine POV, Canada's Documentary Magazine
“The Balcony Movie Review”, Rachel Ho
05.05.2022

Those interactions build the kind of movie critics like to call “deeply human,” whatever that means. In the end, it's a tale of weak ties, and of the joy of simply watching people pass by and engaging them in conversation. You never really know what someone will say, but it's rarely what you're expecting.

VOX
“One Good Thing: Conversations with strangers, which I missed so much”, Alissa Wilkinson
24.04.2022

Paweł Łoziński



Polish director, cameraman and producer of documentaries. Graduate of the Directing Department at the Film School in Łódź. Author of more than 20 award-winning documentaries. He makes distinct and emotionally charged films about people of whom he draws intimate portraits.

Łoziński gained international recognition with his documentary debut Birthplace (1992). His next films Sisters, Chemo, Father and Son, You Have No Idea How Much I Love You and the latest The Balcony Movie are considered innovative as they venture into new thematic areas and explore uncharted spaces within the documentary film genre.

Paweł Łoziński

Selected filmography

The Balcony Movie | script, director, producer, production | 2021

You have no idea how much I love you | script, director, producer, production | 2016

Silver Hobby Horse for the Best Documentary. Cracow Film Festival, 2016

Grand Prix White Cobra. Man in Danger Film Fest, Lodz 2016

Gian Paolo Paoli Award. Festival Dei Popoli, Florence 2016

Grand Prix. International Documentary Film Festival CinéDOC Tbilisi, 2017

Audience Award. International Documentary Film Festival CinéDOC Tbilisi, 2017

What The Doc Award. Docs Barcelona 2017

Official selection. Cinema Eye Honours New York, 2018

Father and son | script, director, producer, production | 2013

Silver George for the Best Documentary. Moscow International Film Festival, 2013

Grand Prix White Cobra. Man in Danger Film Festival, Lodz 2013

Silver Horn for the Best Documentary. Krakow Film Festival, 2013

Official selection. Eagles Polish Film Awards, 2014

Special Jury Award. Iran International Documentary Film Festival Cinema Verite, Teheran 2013

Grand Prix. Minsk International Film Festival Listapad, Mińsk 2013

Grand Prix White Cobra. Man in Danger Film Fest, Lodz 2013

Golden Grape for the Best Documentary. Lubuskie Film Summer, Lagow 2013

Chemo | script, direction, production | 2009

Prix Europa Best European TV Documentary of the Year, Berlin 2009

The Silver Hobby-horse for the Best Documentary. Krakow Film Festival, 2009

Grand Prix FIDA DOC, Maroko 2010

Grand Prix. Iran International Documentary Film Festival Cinema Verite, Teheran 2010

Silver Nanuk. International Documentary Film Festival Flahertiana, Perm 2010

MDR Award. DOK Leipzig International Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, 2009

Gold World Medal. New York Festivals 2010 Tv & Film Awards, 2010

Kos 2nd Health International Festival, 2 prize for Best Documentary, 2010

DOXA Feature Documentary Award, Vancouver 2010

Best director. Annasy Film Festival 2010 Abu Dhabi, Emirates, 2010

Best Director. One World Human Rights Watch Film Festival, Prague 2010

Grand Prix White Cobra. Man in Danger Film Festival, Lodz 2009

Golden Grape for the Best Documentary. Lubuskie Film Summer, Lagow 2009

Sisters | script, direction, cinematography, production | 1999

Grand Prix The Gold Hobby-horse. Krakow Film Festival, 1999

Canal+ Award. Krakow Film Festival, 1999

Paweł Łoziński

Cracow Students Award. Krakow Film Festival, 1999 a
Don Quichote IFFS Prize. Krakow Film Festival, 1999
Kodak Award, Krakow Film Festival, 1999
The Society of Arts Awards, Chicago 1999
2nd Prize. Balticum Film and Television Festival in Bornholm, 1999
Grand Prix (short films). International Festival of Anthropology Cinéma du Réel, Paris 2000
Grand Prix (short films). Visions du Reel International Film Festival Nyon, 2000
No Budget Award. Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg, 2000
Special Jury Mention. Lisbon International Film Festival, 2000

The way it is | script, direction, cinematography | 1999

Silver Dragon for the Best Documentary. Krakow Film Festival, 1999
Grand Prix Golden Taube. DOK Leipzig International Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, 1999
Grand Prix Golden Nanuk. International Documentary Film Festival Flahertiana, Perm 2000
Grand Prix Jańcio Wodnik. Film Art. Festival Prowincjonalia, 1999

Birthplace | script, direction | 1992

TVP Award for the Best Documentary. MFF Europa'92, Cracow 1992
Golden Gate Award. MFF San Francisco, 1992
Special Mention for the Best Documentary. Lubuskie Film Summer, Lagow 1992
Don Quichote IFFS Award. Lubuskie Film Summer, Lagow 1992
Grand Prix White Cobra. Man in Danger Film Festival, Lodz 1992
Grand Prix. Balticum Film and Television Festival in Bornholm, 1993
Grand Prix. Marseille International Film Festival Vue sur les Docs, Marsylia 1993

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