

A film by Anna Zamecka

communion

“Anna Zamecka's doc masterpiece Communion took my breath away, brought me to tears, left me contemplating mysteries of family”

Joshua Oppenheimer, dir. „The Act of Killing”

“A perfect ten in drawing out viewer empathy”

Variety

“One of the strongest Polish documentaries of recent years”

Senses of cinema

“Transcendent and highly accomplished film!”

Filmmaker Magazine

“The film’s willingness to let small moments play out pulls us into this story with relentless grace”

Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times

“A filmmaker to watch”

John Defore, The Hollywood Reporter

“An astonishing directorial debut”

Sheila O'Malley, RogerEbert.com

“STUNNING...It’s a delicate, fragile work that balances the fates of those involved so beautifully that you might forget to breathe”

Steve Prokopy, Third Coast Review





about

Living amid domestic instability and teenaged volatility, a sister and brother play out their lives on camera. At fourteen, Ola is already functioning as the woman of the house, cooking and cleaning for her lethargic father and helping her energetic autistic brother, Nikodem, prepare for his first Holy Communion. Throughout, she longs for her mother, whose absence is never explained, yet always deeply felt. As the date of Communion nears, it becomes an opportunity for the family to meet up and Ola is entirely responsible for planning the perfect family celebration. “Communion” is a portrait of young womanhood and crash course in growing up that teaches us that no failure is final, and that change is possible and needed, especially when love is in question.



WINNER
European Academy Award
Best Documentary

WINNER
**Festival del Film
Locarno**
Critic's Week Award

Cinema Eye Honors
Outstanding Achievement
in a Debut Feature Film
Unforgettables

WINNER
Polish Academy Award
Best Documentary

WINNER
Yamagata IDFF
Grand Prix

WINNER
Warsaw Film Festival
Best Documentary

WINNER
Minsk IFF Listapad
Best Documentary

WINNER
Bratislava IFF
Best Documentary

WINNER
Trieste IFF
Best Documentary

WINNER
DOK Leipzig
Young Eyes Award

WINNER
DOK Fest München
SOS-Kinderdörfer
Weltweit Award

WINNER
**International TRT
Istanbul**
Grand Prix

WINNER
It's All True IFF
Grand Prix

WINNER
Free Zone Film Festival
Grand Prix

WINNER
IDFF
White Goose Award
Grand Prix

WINNER
Ânû-rû Âboro IFF
Grand Prix

WINNER
Astra Film Festival
Best Documentary
Central & Eastern Europe

WINNER
Jihlava IDFF
Silver Eye Award

WINNER
Off Cinema
Golden Castle Award
Grand Prix

WINNER
FilmPolska Festival
Grand Prix

WINNER
Zagreb Dox
Honourable Mention

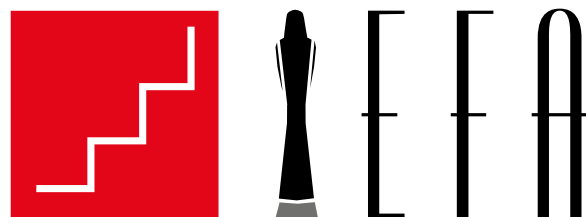
WINNER
Flaheritana Film Festival
Honourable Mention

OFFICIAL SELECTION
IDFA
Best of Fest

OFFICIAL SELECTION
HOT Docs
World Showcase

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**True/False
Film Festival**

EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS 2017



W I N N E R
EUROPEAN DOCUMENTARY

director

Anna Zamecka

Anna Zamecka is a Polish film director, screenwriter and producer. She has studied cultural anthropology, journalism and photography in Warsaw and Copenhagen. Her 2016 debut feature film „Communion” received over 40 awards, including the European Film Award for Best European Documentary 2017 and the Critic’s Week Award at Locarno IFF, amongst others. She is a member of the European Film Academy.



director's note

After several meetings with Ola, Nikodem, and their father, I knew I wanted to make a film: about the power of unconditional family love, about bonds securing it forever. Inside a cramped apartment – where everything gets lost, deteriorates, or falls apart – I saw three people connected so strongly that a mere gesture of one of them led to an avalanche of reactions: anger, fear, concealed emotions.

Communion is not a film about the preparations to the first communion ceremony in a Polish family (though this is the narrative). It is an existential tale about the impossible communion – seen as a bond, a loving family united. I was just like any child when it came to fairy tales – I loved them. Hansel and Gretel was one of my favourites. Communion is a realistic, non-black-and-white version of the tale about Hansel and Gretel looking for their path in the forest of the world, where parents cannot perform their roles.

How much can a child bear? Just as much as hope enables them to – their hope that mother will return, that family can be brought together again; and most of all, hope that someone will finally absolve them from responsibility.



info

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© Wajda Studio, Otter Films, HBO Polska 2016



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