

I DANCE FOR YOU

LOGLINE

Wiktor, 12, is being raised by his grandmother in extremely hard conditions of industrialised mining city of Bytom. He dreams about a career as a dancer and of his father attending an upcoming exam at his ballet school.

TREATMENT

Wiktor is 12 and attends 2nd class of Ballet School in Bytom, a poor, traditionally mining-focused city of Bytom. Until recently he was one of the few boys in his class but with time passing the others lost their enthusiasm and one after another left. Wiktor has to practice with older colleagues but in spite of his young age he's still the most gifted one in the group. However it's not all a bed of roses – Wiktor's teachers fear he's too small for his age. His parents should have been examined to analyze Wiktor's biological predispositions. Such examination was impossible, though.

He's getting ready for an annual exam – a crucial event in the school's cycle and in his own life. Students are bound to present both classical and folk dance routines with each of them performing solo act as well. All the teachers are attending and the student's families are also expected to do so. Every year Wiktor invites his father who now lives abroad with his „new family”. But each year he ends up being cheered only by his grandmother who raised him. They live together in a tiny flat in a blocks district. Under her caring eye Wiktor does his homework, practices, plays – basically – grows up. Though sending an invitation to his father to take part in his exam this time is something he must do on his own.

The documentary will focus on Wiktor and present his story from two perspectives. The optics of Wiktor „the student” will tackle his „professional” life – his attitude towards dance, school, teachers and his friends of whom not all are even aware of Wiktor's tuition and plans. The second perspective will bring us the „private” Wiktor closer; his ties with grandmother who must play a role of both parents and whom Wiktor doesn't want to disappoint under any circumstances.

At first glance Wiktor's story sounds a lot like Stephen Daldry's „Billy Elliot”: an adolescent from a poor, traditionally mining family, brought up without a mother by his side, in spite of many adversities fate throws at him begins education at a ballet school that might be his wild card to a career he dreams of. „I Dance For You” will, however, bring into light what „Billy Elliot” passed on: the attempt to make his life a little easier and the everyday efforts to stay on a chosen path. Wiktor already knows those pains all too well - the physical pain resulting from gruelling practice and the psychological one caused by his „grown up” responsibilities and feeling rejected.

COUNTRIES OF PRODUCTION: Poland

LANGUAGE: Polish / English subtitles

ANTICIPATED DURATION: 18' – 20'

PRODUCTION STATUS: Shooting (taking place until October 2017)

DIRECTOR: Katarzyna Lesisz

Short biography:

She's graduated from Sociology at University of Warsaw where she analyzed Polish documentary film in the context of visual sociology as her master thesis.

She's about to graduate from the renowned Lodz Film School where her bachelor was a short documentary and her master thesis will concern directing of non-professional child actors. She's attended a monthly film training in Belgium which resulted in a short documentary about an Iraqi refugee, directed performative reading based on Lem's „Trurl Machines” at Pinokio Theatre in Lodz, lead film course for kids. She's participated in international documentary workshops in Halle and Leipzig.

Filmography:

2016 - „New Tomorrow” – 15’ documentary , prod. PWSFTviT, INSAS

director, co-cinematographer, associate producer

2015 „Little Game of Ours” – 18’ fiction feature, prod. PWSFTviT

screenwriter, director

festivals:

- *International Film Festival Zoom-Zblizenia - Film Critics Festival „Kamera Akcja”*
- *Polish Film Festival in Gdynia*
- *Kameralne Lato in Radom*
- *Students Film Festival – Best Cinematography Award*

2014 „My brother's life” – 18’ documentary, prod. PWSFTviT

director, cinematographer, associate producer

festivals:

- Short Film Corner selection at Cannes Film Festival
- International Film Festival OFF CINEMA
- „Young and Film” Festival in Koszalin
- Polish Film Art. Festival „Prowincjonalia”

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Justyna Koronkiewicz

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Active in the film business for the past 12 years she started off at an all-rights distribution company in Poland where she moved from sales to project management to management. She formed her own company in 2012 to represent Polish feature films internationally both as a sales agent and festival strategy coordinator. Since then she's sold such successful films as „The Lure” (awarded at Sundance in 2016) "Carte Blanche" (Jury Grand Prix in Shanghai), "These Daughters of Mine", "Strange Heaven". After completing Course for Creative Producers at Wajda School she's got into production with a short documentary and 2 web series in development.

PRODUCTION: [MUNK'S STUDIO](#)