

young docs
horizons 

documentary project development programme

1st and 2nd edition 2022/2023

**Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants** 



**Ministry of
Culture
and National
Heritage of
the Republic
of Poland**

The Young Horizons Docs programme is co-financed
by the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Polish Ministry
of Culture and National Heritage.

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about

It's time for docs!

Young Horizons Docs* programme is a space dedicated to documentary films and series for young audiences at development and pre-production stages.

In 2022 and 2023, 12 filmmakers from Poland and Norway, under the guidance of international tutors, worked on film and documentary series projects for young audiences. During this time, 2 parallel editions of the Young Horizons Docs programme took place. Each took 15 months.

The reason behind the programme is to exchange knowledge and experience between filmmakers from Poland and Norway and to create conditions for their creative work. The overarching goal of the programme is to promote documentaries for young viewers and increase the number of documentary projects aimed at this age group.

The realisation of this goal was possible thanks to financial support from the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the co-financiers of the New Horizons Association's "Kino Dzieci Docs i Białe Noce" programme.

In each edition, during four stationary sessions in Poland and Norway and between sessions, participants worked on their projects at the development and pre-production stages.

As part of the process, our participants worked on a variety of aspects: improving their ideas, collecting documentation, preparing for filming, filming itself, and finally, editing. All stages were supervised by experienced tutors from the film industry.

Many thanks to our tutors, experts, co-financing institutions and our Norwegian partner South Norwegian Film Centre (Sørnorsk filmsenter). **Special thanks to our participants - we are keeping our fingers crossed for you!**

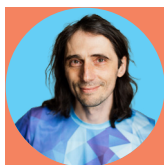
*formerly known as Kids Kino Docs (the programme changed its name due to rebranding process - LINK: <https://industry.younghorizons.pl/news/a-new-chapter-begins-young-horizons/>)

tutors



Kirsten Bonnén Rask

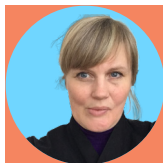
Script consultant with 40+ years of experience. Decision maker, teacher and project developer. Her services span all production types and formats, with multiple best script/film awards. Kirsten has also worked with Lars von Trier, Lone Scherfig and Bille August just to mention some. During the 40+ years she has read and advised on many hundred stories – shorts, series, features, documentaries.



Paweł Ziemilski

Graduate of Film Directing at PWSFTviT, DOK PRO at Wajda School and Sociology at Warsaw University. Paweł is a film director, producer and co-owner of MX35 studio. His films ("In Touch", "Urban Cowboys", "Rogalik") received wide publicity at numerous film festivals around the world and won prestigious prizes (IDFA, Thessaloniki IFF, ZagrebDox, Oberhausen ISFF). Paweł is also a lecturer at The Polish National Film School in Łódź where he runs an experimental documentary lab.

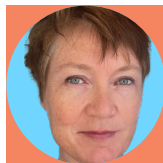
guests



Christina Ramse Thomsen

→ Commissioning Editor |
New Danish Screen

Christina started her professional career directing documentaries in the Children and Youth Department at DR (the Danish Broadcasting Corporation) and continued in the years to come working with documentary/factual formats at DR. She is a head of the talent development scheme "Talentværkstedet" at DR. Alongside, she has been teaching dramaturgy in the Nordic countries and working with various artists as a consultant on art film projects. Since 2017, she has been Commissioning Editor at New Danish Screen at the Danish Film Institute.



Line Hatland → Director |
Medieoperatørene

Line has worked as a director of documentaries, teacher, and writer since 2000. For 2017 and 2018 Line received the National Work Grant for established artists in film. She is a member and head of the selection committee for production grants for short and documentary films, Arts Council, Norway for 2020-2022. She works as a director at Medieoperatørene, Oslo Norway. Line's selected works include: "Kids Cup", "Beyond the Pale", "Dear Mum", "The Shadow", "The Good Capitalist", "How Happy can You be", "Blitz - Out of Control", "Out of Africa", "My unknown Great Grandmother".



Jon Bang Carlsen → Director

Jon graduated from the Danish Film School in 1976. Jon worked as a writer, director, performer with the groundbreaking Danish theatre group "Solvognen" from 1971 to 1978. He has published poetry, essays and a novel apart from his main profession of writing, directing and producing movies.



Kenneth Elvebakk → Director

Kenneth is primarily known for his documentaries but has also made several short films and TV series. His work includes the award-winning documentaries "Hello World", "Ballet Boys", "3269 Daisy", the TV series "Hullabaloo" and "The Secret Club". He has worked five years for The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) - both in TV and radio. For the past 20 years, he has worked freelance as a director, focusing on LGBTQ+ and coming-of-age stories.

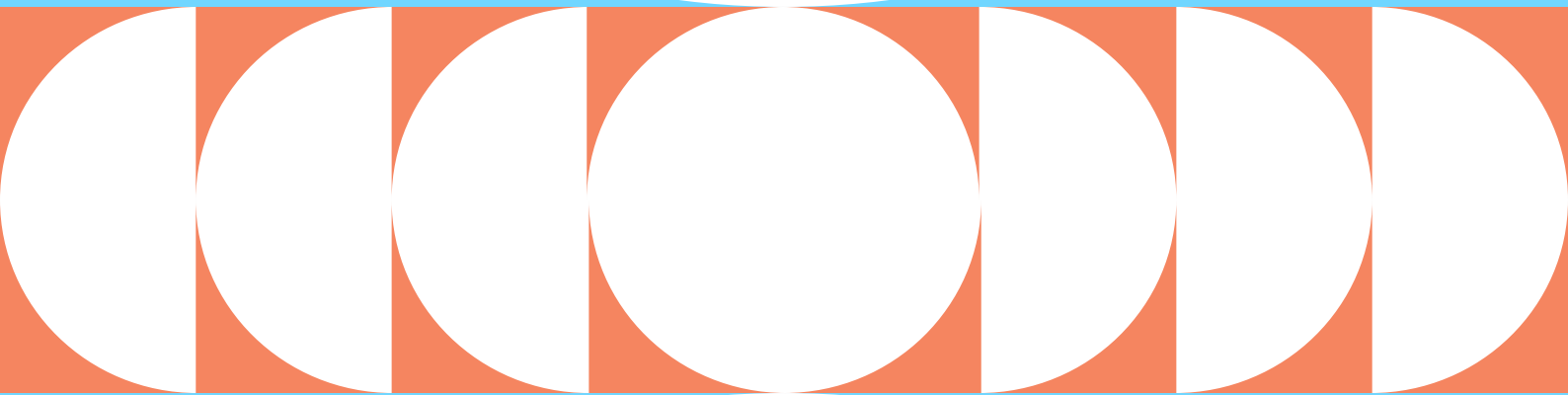


Ilze Burkovska Jacobsen → Director |
Scriptwriter

Ilze works as a director and scriptwriter. She has made several documentaries as well as TV animation and documentary series for children. Her work includes "My Favorite War" (world premiere at Annecy International Animation Film Festival where it received one of the main prizes), or "My Mother's Farm" (screened at IDFA). Her company's animated series "My Body Belongs To Me" about their body, boundaries and sexual abuse won an Emmy award together with NRK Super in 2019.

projects

1st edition



Animal Tails

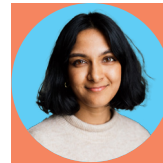
Format: Full-length film

Country of production: Norway



Together with the dog Salto and the cat Pus, Tuni gets to share her innermost thoughts. But it is mostly with the dog Salto. In the documentary we meet Tuni, a 13-year-old girl who lives in Lillehammer in Norway. In September 2021, Tuni's half-brother died by suicide. After her brother's passing, Tuni's mother decided they needed a little joy into the home, and that's how the dog Salto entered their lives. It didn't take long before Salto became Tuni's very best friend. He even gets to sleep in her bed. In her free time, we see her do ballet, cheerleading and bead bracelets. Tuni likes to talk about her brother and share good memories. Salto is Tuni's companion and it's nice to share memories of her brother with him. Tuni Sofie's mother has incurable cancer. The family tries to do nice things together and they remind us how important it is to appreciate life and the time we have together.

With great courage, humour and energy, the film embarks on a journey with Tuni and her family. The film shows a brave girl who faces grief and illness. The film is a tribute to life and how animals help us deal with difficult emotions.



Nora Nivedita Tvedt

Nora graduated from the Norwegian Film School with a BA in creative documentary directing in 2020. Her graduation film "Fucking Adopted" was nominated for the Student Academy Awards. It won the New Nordic Voice Award at the Nordisk Panorama Film Festival, the Nymfeprisen at the Norwegian Documentary Film Festival, and the Special Mention Jury Award at DokuArt Bjelovar. After graduation, she directed a music video aired on NRK and two episodes of a documentary series "Mattias Sprenger Grenser". She is also developing a documentary series "Hooked".

Girls' Stories

Format: Full-length film

Country of production: Poland



Jagoda and Zuzia are friends from the neighbourhood. They meet at the local square and always have a lot to talk about. Biology, hormones, pimples, first rebellion, first love. Adults don't always know how to give support or answers. Jagoda and Zuzia are great commentators: contradictory, ironic, independent, scared. With a great appetite for life! They introduce us to the girlish world that every woman remembers. And any boy who watches the film will finally be able to get to know it.

As part of the workshops Aga Borzym has several editor consultations with Anders Refn and Andrzej Dąbrowski. The film premiered at the Millennium Docs Against Gravity in 2023, and it was also screened at Young Horizons International Film Festival and IDFA.



Aga Borzym

Aga has been professionally editing and producing short and long films for many years, working for Kino Polska Television and Stopklatka TV. She graduated from the Photography Department at the University of the Arts in Poznań and the Faculty of Mechatronics at the Warsaw University of Technology. In her personal life, she is a mother of two children.

Hunting Down The Beast

Format: Series

Country of production: Norway



Jimmy Donaldson (born May 7, 1998), better known by his online alias MrBeast, is an American YouTuber, Internet personality, businessman, and philanthropist. He has been credited with pioneering a genre of YouTube videos that centre on expensive stunts. He is known for giving away money for different kinds of stunts.

The director's 11-year-old nephew Mikkel has been a great fan of MrBeast since he was eight. He is now aiming to become a famous YouTuber as well, to get a lot of exposure and earn a lot of money. Together, they are going to discover the lies and the facts about the social media industry that the youth aged 10 to 14 are exposed to. They are going to explore this issue from the Norwegian and the Polish point of view, as understood by kids living in this media culture. The main focus will be to tell and discover the media industry story behind Jimmy Donaldson as MrBeast, heading towards a final meeting with him in the US, to interview him and understand his project.



Geir Bergersen

Geir worked as a TV producer from 1990 to 1998. He participated in a variety of projects as an investigative reporter for Norwegian TV2 and TV3. He also created late night shows, reality shows, and magazine programmes. Since 2010, he has worked as a film producer making different kinds of commercial, corporate, and information movies. His latest film as a director is "Our block" produced for The Tenancy Organization in 2018. In 2020–2021, Geir produced the following projects: "The Art of Sin" by Ibrahim Mursal, "Baby Boom" by Thomas Lunde, "The Portal. Headless Soprano" by Thomas Lunde, "Man's Best Friend" by Marcus Støren, and "Revenge" by Anders Jørgensen and Anders Olsen.

My Imaginary Friend

Format: Series

Country of production: Norway



Children's imagination is magical! And although more than half of all children have had an imaginary friend, it is not often that we have seen it documented. Imaginary friends are personal and intangible, and they only exist inside people's heads and in encounters between people. As soon as you try to capture them on camera or paper, it is in danger of disappearing. What happens when you grow up, do you leave your imaginary world behind you? And with today's society with screens and less unstructured play, are imaginary friends on the verge of extinction? In "My imaginary friend" we meet Arne at the age of 9 and 13 where he, with the help of a children's book illustrator, tries to visit his imaginary world one more time before it's too late. Does his imagination end when he grows up? Of course not! We need imagination to make the world go forward. "My imaginary friend" is a defense for imagination in all ages.



Ellen Morgenstjerne

Ellen has been a part of Hacienda Film since 2020. Hacienda was established in 2014 to make stories that matter and has produced several award-winning documentaries and series, in addition to national and international campaign films. Ellen has been involved in many projects with different roles, from copywriting and concept development to scriptwriting and co-directing. She has a bachelor in marketing communication and several years experience from marketing and the communication industry.

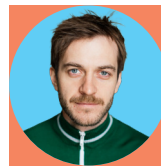
Where's Africa?

Format: Mid-length film

Country of production: Poland



In this documentary, we follow a five-year-old boy on a trip to Africa to fulfil his dream to see a lion. He grew up with stories of the director's travels to Africa as a documentary filmmaker. He loves adventures, creates fantasy worlds on a daily basis, and starts every day by waking up his parents with a sword and a mask of a luchador. For the last three years, the director of the film has shared with him only those experiences from Africa that match the image the boy knows from pop culture – wild nature and primitive tribes. This narrative has little in common with reality. Africa has the highest urbanisation degree of all continents and struggles with poverty and consequences of colonialism. The boy will need to confront this real-life image with his own.

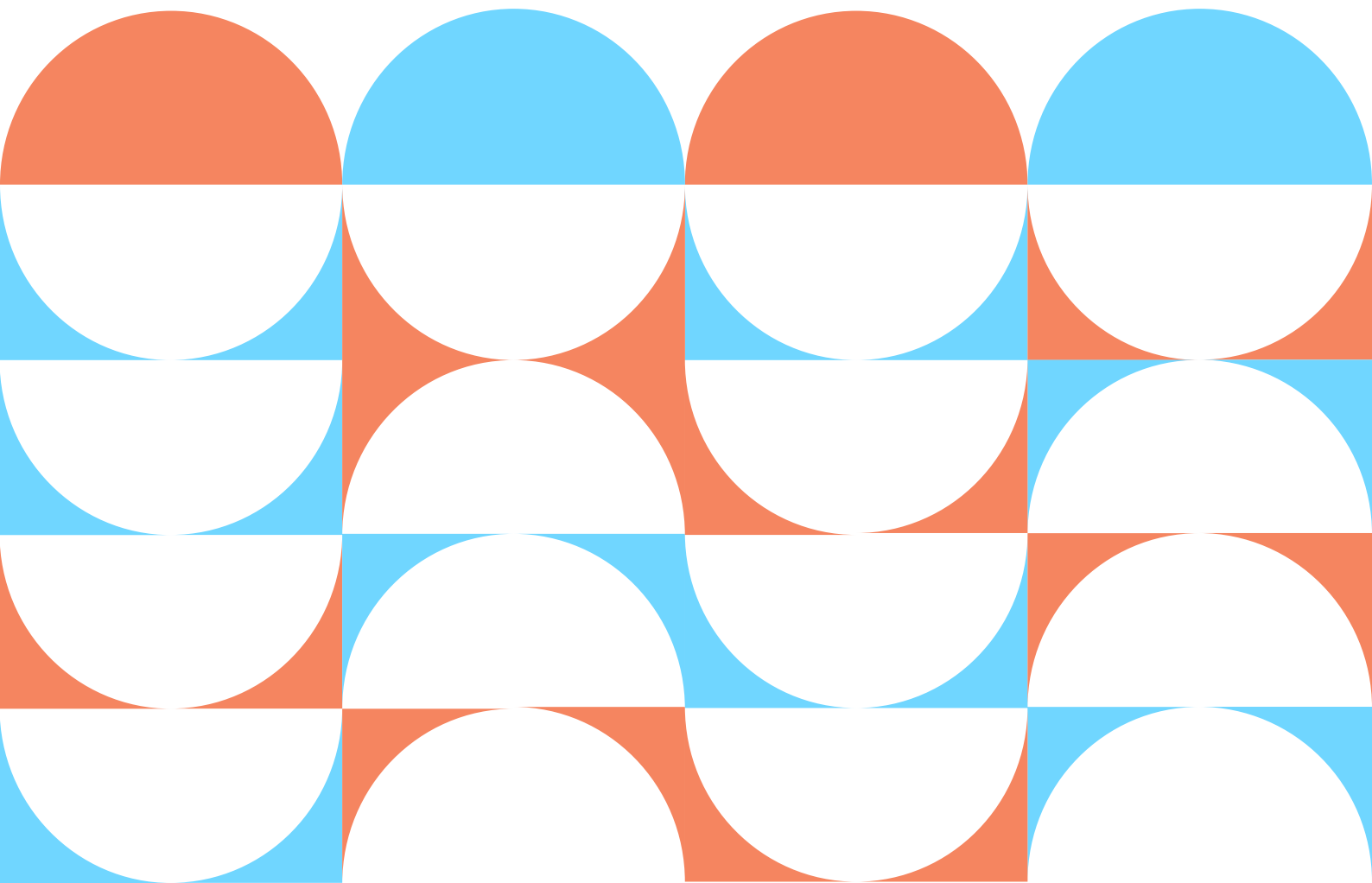


Mateusz Miszczyński

Mateusz is a former scientist. He has travelled to more than 70 countries, made documentaries about refugees in Iraq, and joined medical missions in Ethiopia, India, Uganda, and South Sudan. He has a weak spot for all projects that are close to humans, especially those who are underrepresented. Having worked with many NGOs, he has directed videos about people with physical and intellectual disabilities as well as with refugees and victims of violence. He has collaborated with many influential artists such as Tricky or Hania Rani.

projects

2nd edition



Armed with Drums

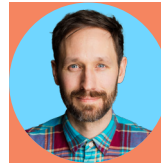
Format: Full-length film

Country of production: Norway



"Armed with Drums" is an uplifting coming-of-age story about dealing with loss, the power of music to express difficult feelings and daring to believe in yourself against the odds. The film's main character is Bruno (13). Bruno lives with his grandparents and 9 children in the favela hillside of Santa Marta, Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. When his beloved Grandad dies from Covid, Bruno is heartbroken and restless. His neighbour and drummer Caliquinho has first-hand experience of the dangers of the drug cartels in the favela. Worried for Bruno, he invites him to learn drums after school.

Observationally we have followed the friends for two years. We see how Bruno expresses his feelings, makes new friends and starts to dream of an unlikely future as a professional drummer and to play in the world famous Rio Carnival. We also see how he struggles with school, expectations on how to live and battles to regain belief in his future.



Øyvind Aamli

Øyvind is a Norwegian film director who focuses on creative character-led documentaries. His short documentary "Being Someone Else" was nominated for several awards including ECFA, CIFF, Zlín, won Best Short Documentary at Children's IFF Seattle and the Iris Award for Best Non-Fiction Film at UNICEF Innocenti IFF in 2021. Øyvind has an 18 year career in the music, film and TV industry and holds an MA in documentary film from Raindance Film. He has developed his directorial voice through films about young people's journeys with belonging, neurodiversity and the effects of drug misuse.

Being a pART

Format: Short film

Country of production: Poland



The documentary is directed towards younger viewers. It will take us into the depths of children's imagination and emotions. Our guide through this world will be 10-year-old Jędrzej. The boy loves art. He paints, draws, loves to sing and learns playing instruments (piano and accordion). He would like to be an artist in the future. He has his own idea of the painter's work. Does it correspond to the reality of adults?

The film will be a story about the world from Jędrzej's perspective, kept in a humorous tone. There will be 2 interwoven parts. The first, is Jędrzej's reflections on being a painter, an artist, supported by reenactments of his imagination, expectations and plans. The second part is observation. Jędrzej will be shown in everyday situations (routine, duties – eg. practicing playing the accordion). One day, the opportunity to meet an artist appears on the horizon. Will this meeting confirm what he thought about being a painter so far?



Aleksandra Bielska

Aleksandra is a film expert, educator, graduate of the University of Łódź (cultural studies – specialisation in film studies and knowledge of media), and also Film School in Łódź (postgraduate studies – Organisation of Film and Television Production). Currently, she is in the process of preparing a doctoral dissertation at the University of Gdańsk.

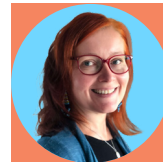
Elliot

Format: Series

Country of production: Norway



Meet Elliot, a five-year-old adventurer who left the coastal serenity of Hitra, Norway, for the wild, mysterious landscapes of rural Kenya! His new home? The Eco Moyo Education Center, where learning is an exciting safari, filled with the unknown. School isn't just books and pencils for Elliot – it's a whirlwind of new words, alien customs, and even the thrilling danger of an actual lion charging across the savanna! But it's not the beasts outside that terrify him the most; it's the fears within. Far from home, facing a world where everything is strange, Elliot's story isn't just about going from kindergarten to school. It's about courage, the strength of childhood, and a magical ability to transcend cultural divides. This isn't just a tale of a child's growing pains. It's a riveting journey of overcoming the unknown and a celebration of how children's hearts find a way to connect, no matter how far apart their worlds may seem.



Maida Eirheim

Maida has made short documentaries, short fiction and music videos. Amongst her work is the short documentary "The National Day" which was also made about kids for kids, it has been screened in festivals around the world and broadcast on NRK. Currently she is developing two documentaries, both set in Norway and Africa (Kenya and Malawi).

A Layup

Format: Short film

Country of production: Poland



Selection camps for the basketball National Team of Poland are held several times a year. The best basketball players from all over the country are called up. The camps are intensive: – two or three trainings a day, interspersed with biological regeneration and lectures. The ability to be in a group, discipline and precise execution of the coaches' orders: they know that this will determine who gets into the permanent squad of the Polish national team. Each of the girls has the same goal – to show their best side and get noticed. However, this is not the only thing they have in common. The girls want to become professional basketball players, but they are first and foremost teenagers. They have their own worlds, hidden behind the doors of their rooms. They snack on sweets forbidden to them, record TikToks, and talk about crushes. There, they style their hair before practice, and tape their earrings with plasters so they don't have to pull them out. They compete, but they know that no one will understand them as well as they understand each other.



Olga Papacz

Olga was born in Wrocław, Poland. She graduated from the faculty of Liberal Arts at the University of Warsaw and Wajda School where she made her first documentary short movie "Her Painting". She was working in the TR Warszawa theater as an assistant of a streaming director. Currently working on her second short documentary about teenage professional basketball players.

Patterns of Being

Format: Full-length film

Country of production: Poland



“Patterns of Being” is about discovering the possibility of change in the personal dimension. The intimate story is intertwined with conversations with scientists, psychologists, and thinkers who are obsessed with seeing more. Together we dive into human nature, trying to understand the impact of unconscious beliefs that keep us from becoming what we want to be. We are trying to find out if there is a destiny in different layers of our being. Is it possible to modify the patterns that have become part of ourselves?



Małgorzata Wabińska

Małgorzata is a graduate of the National Film School in Łódź, Wajda School, National Music School (piano class). Alumna of the programs: Berlinale Talents (2020), Camp4Science (2020), Eurodoc (2016). Her previous productions were screened internationally. In 2020 she was nominated as a producer for the Polish Academy Awards. Since 2015 she has worked on creative documentaries that combine relevant subjects with sophisticated visual style in a frame of Entertain Pictures.

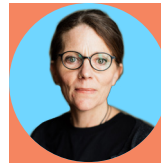
We Keep Them in Our Hearts

Format: Series

Country of production: Norway



Seven children who have lost a parent or a sibling talk about their experiences. What thoughts do they have about death and how do they deal with the loss? A documentary series with 5 episodes of approximately 8-12 minutes each. The films will mix documentary, animation and family pictures. We meet children with different experiences, backgrounds and age, and their stories give us a nuanced and rich insight on how children experience grief and loss.



Julie Engaas

Julie is educated at the National College of the Arts in Oslo, Norway, as well as studies in animation at Volda University College. She has directed several animated shorts, as well as animated documentaries, screened at numerous international festivals such as the Sundance festival and Clermont-Ferrand and sold to several TV-networks. Some of her films are "Without Us" (2022), "In a few years, everything will be different" (2017), "Blame it on the Seagull" (2013), "Sound-Shadows" (2008) and "Leonid-Shower" (2004).



Cecilie Bjørnaraa

Cecilie has worked as a producer in True Fiction AS since 1997. She has produced a number of documentaries and short films, some of the titles are "Without Us" (2022), "In a few years, everything will be different" (2017), "Blame it on the Seagull" (2013) and "Sound Shadows" (2008) by Julie Engaas, "The Ego" (2022) and "Blind Dancer" (2018) by Maria Lloyd.

photo gallery

photo credit: Norma Ilnicka, Zosia Horszczaruk, Magda Wylężałek





team



Maciej Jakubczyk

Industry Projects Strategic Director



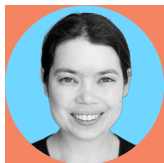
Zosia Horszczaruk

Head of Young Horizons Industry



Maja Banasiak

Industry Projects Producer



Magda Wylężałek

Industry Projects Promotion Coordinator

organiser

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More information: <https://industry.younghorizons.pl/docs/>

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