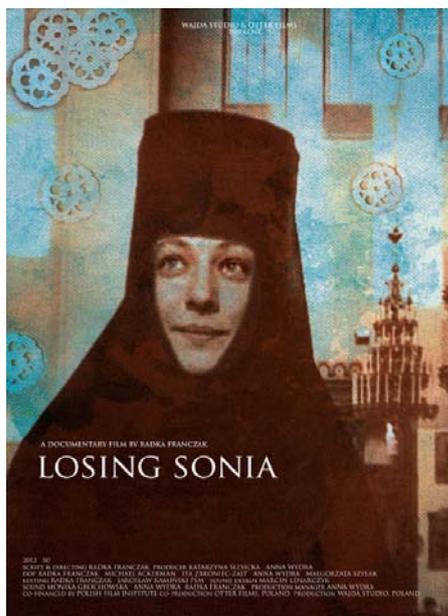


LOSING SONIA

mid-length documentary by RADKA FRAN CZAK



world premiere
18. visions du reel
international film festival 2012



national premiere
52. krakow film festival 2012



young cinema competition
55. DOK leipzig film festival 2012



LOSING SONIA tells the story of an unusual woman who, within the walls of the Orthodox Church, is trying to rebuild the values that Russian society has lost under successive political regimes.

LENGHT 50'
LANGUAGE Russian

FORMAT HD & Blu-ray
PRODUCTION Wajda Studio, Otter Films | Poland | 2012

LOSING SONIA shows how a seemingly rigid monastery can be a place full of life, beauty and artistic expression. Sonia, a young nun, paints icons in the night and then sleeps until noon. She has a dog, cats, exotic birds, and a body that rebelled against the strict rigour of the monks. Trying to understand her and the meaning of her life choices, we come to Sonia's family, marked with the history of Russia. At the same time, the film is a journey inside the Orthodox church, showing that the deep spirituality of the nation is being reborn. LOSING SONIA tells the story of an unusual woman who, within the walls of the monastery, is trying to rebuild the values that Russian society has lost under successive political regimes.

script&directing Radka Franczak | producer Katarzyna Ślesicka, Anna Wydra | DOP Radka Franczak, Michael Ackerman, Ita Zbroniec-Zajt, Anna Wydra, Małgorzata Szyłak | editing Radka Franczak, Jarosław Kamiński psm | sound design Marcin Lenarczyk | sound Monika Grochowska, Anna Wydra, Radka Franczak | production manager Anna Wydra | co-financed by Polish Film Institute | co-production Otter Films | production Wajda Studio, Poland

www.wajdastudio.pl PR & Festivals: JOANNA SOLECKA,
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shortcut

LOSING SONIA is Radka Franczak's debut mid-length film production. The director alludes to the topic of her previous short documentary film – "Stiepan" (produced by Wajda Studio, 2006), which was a record of a conversation with a random traveller at the train station in Terespol. In 13 minutes, a 75-year-old Russian recounts his life story – the story of a deeply religious man who, despite severe persecutions, refused to renounce his beliefs.

One of the five cameramen is Michael Ackerman, an American photographer known for his radical and unique approach to photography.



director's note

I remember well when I saw Sonia for the first time. It was while I was searching for characters for my documentary about Russian women. I found myself in a monastery in Ivanovo. By chance we were brought to the workshop of "the artists" - nuns who paint icons. Although there were many women, I saw only one. She was sitting in front of an easel and licking her lips intently, while painting an icon. A black Rotweiler was lying next to her and two cats were sleeping on her lap. She was constantly looking through the window and smiling to herself. After a while she began telling me how, at the age of 15, she discovered a great hunger for beauty. And from that moment all her choices were focused on that "something" that she wanted to be close to. I wanted to know what that "something" was, that Sonia couldn't live without. That is how my film came about.

director

Director, scriptwriter, film editor and photographer. Graduated from Film Editing and New Media Department at Polish Film School in Łódź and DOK PRO Documentary Programme at Wajda School in Warsaw. She took a part in international workshops such as: Dragon Forum, Laboratory, Mobile Academy, Berlinale Talent Campus, Ex Oriente Film, EAVE. She has directed short documentary "Stiepan" and mid-length documentary "Losing Sonia" (international premiere at Visions du Réel 2012; polish premiere at 52. Krakow Film Festival 2012).

Selected films and projects:

"Losing Sonia" - directing, cinematography, editing "No Peace Without War", dir. Adam Cohen, Lorenzo Castore - editing "Stiepan" - directing, editing "Black Daughter", dir. Anna Skorupa - editing "Wojna Polsko-Ruska Pod Flagą Biało-Czerwoną"- Teatr Wybrzeże, editing of multimedia projections "Disappearing Circus", dir. Rafał Milach - editing of multimedia "Empire", dir. Ingrid Vigo - editing "Article 567", dir. Agnieszka Smoczyńska - editing "Ponad Chodnikami", dir. Piotr Stasik - cooperation "My Norwegian Grandfather", dir. Leiv Igor Devold - editing "Błędne Koło", dir. Elżbieta Wąsik - editing "Sieroty", dir. Agnieszka Smoczyńska - editing

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LOSING SONIA

mid-length documentary by RADKA FRANCAZAK

production



WAJDA STUDIO | more than a film studio

Wajda School has over 10 years. Was founded in Warsaw by Andrzej Wajda and Wojciech Marczewski. It's based on film groups tradition and experience – method of group working and co-operation of different generations. We offer a unique combination of production and education for film professionals.

Since 2011 Wajda and Marczewski have also started the production company - Wajda Studio. The main Studio's and School's mission is to search for new talents among debutants. The most interesting young directors from Poland, but also from the whole Europe, has developed and produced their films here.

We focus on development stage and support our directors with artistic supervision from the best Polish and European filmmakers. We are looking for author-driven feature, documentary and short film projects which bring up contemporary issues. We are concentrated on international cooperation and co-productions.



OTTER FILMS started operating in 2009. Production company based in Warsaw, focused on creative documentaries and arthouse films for cinema and TV, with an emphasis on the international market. Otter Films is a creative team of people devoted to good stories, artistic qualities and professional handling of our projects at all stages of their production.

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