
EXOTIC
FIRST FEATURE COMPETITION
TALLINN BLACK NIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL 2026
PRODUCER MOZAIKA FILMS FILM CO-FINANCED BY THE POLISH FILM INSTITUTE CAST JAŚMINA POLAK, BARTOSZ BIELENIA, MAGDALENA KOLEŚNIK, MONIKA FRAJCZYK, KAROLINA KOWALSKA, HUBERT MIŁKOWSKI
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ADAM SUZIN EDITING TOMASZ KAJETAN NARUSZEWICZ PSM SOUND MARTA WERONIKA WERONSKA MUSIC TYMEK PAPIOR PRODUCTION MANAGERS ANNA ZAJĄCZKOWSKA, MAGDALENA SZTORC
PRODUCERS MAGDALENA SZTORC PGP, ANNA ZAJĄCZKOWSKA WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SONJA ORLEWICZ-ZAKRZEWSKA
POLISH FILM INSTITUTE
MOZAIKA
PLUTO FILM

EXOTIC

COUNTRY	Poland
YEAR	2025
LENGTH	93 min.
GENRE	Drama
DIRECTOR	Sonja Orlewicz-Zakrzewska
PRODUCERS	Magdalena Sztorc, Anna Zajączkowska
PRODUCTION	Mozaika Films
WORLD SALES	Pluto Film

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

PÖFF Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival

FIRST FEATURE COMPETITION
TALLINN BLACK NIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL 2026

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE 14.11.2026 — 20:45 PM — 2nd Hall Apollo Kino Plaza

2nd SCREENING 15.11.2026 — 20:00 PM — Church Hall Electric Cinema, TARTU

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DIRECTOR Sonja Orlewicz-Zakrzewska

GENRE Drama

FORMAT Feature Fiction

ORIGINAL TITLE EXOTIC

ENGLISH TITLE EXOTIC

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION Poland

YEAR OF PRODUCTION 2025

LENGTH THEATRICAL 93 min.

COLOR Color

SHOOTING FORMAT 4K

SCREENING FORMAT DCP 2K (2048X858), (2.16:1; 5.1., UN-ENCRYPTED)

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE Polish, English

SUBTITLES English

PROTAGONISTS Jaśmina Polak, Magdalena Koleśnik, Monika Frajczyk, Karolina Kowalska, Hubert Miłkowski, Bartosz Bielenia

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Adam Suzin

EDITOR Tomasz Kajetan Naruszewicz

MUSIC Tymek Papior

SOUND DESIGN & MIX Marta Weronika Werońska

PRODUCERS Magdalena Sztorc, Anna Zajączkowska

PRODUCTION COMPANIES Mozaika Films

FINANCIAL SUPPORT Polish Film Institute

WORLD SALES Pluto Film



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LOGLINE

Transformation is not a weekend trip.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

At a Polish beach resort, a writer's quest to master pole dancing evolves into something far more profound, when the community of dancers and the enigmatic coastal village reveal the person she's meant to become.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Mila (Jaśmina Polak) is a 30-year-old woman, insecure, prone to overthinking, and far more tender toward others than she is toward herself. When her friend cancels their holiday at the last minute, Mila decides—despite her fears—to travel alone to a pole-dance camp. Surrounded by athletic dancers in revealing outfits and towering platform heels, she feels out of place from the moment she arrives. She watches those around her with a mixture of irony and detachment: they seem too confident, too talented, too "exotic." Yet here, outside her bubble and away from her controlling boyfriend, Mila slowly begins to reclaim herself. Through exhausting pole-dance training, awkward encounters, laughter, and late-night conversations, Mila discovers that courage does not always require a dramatic transformation. Sometimes, it simply means learning to stop apologizing for her body.

EXOTIC is a tender, energetic story about self-acceptance, female solidarity, and the longing for freedom. It is also a portrait of a generation exhausted by the pressure of unrealistic expectations, searching for its own voice and trying to feel at home in its own skin. Sonja Orlewicz-Zakrzewska's debut reminds us that strength does not always look like self-confidence—and that courage sometimes begins with accepting our own imperfections.

THE PROTAGONISTS



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JAŚMINA POLAK (Mila)

Jaśmina Polak is a Polish film, theatre and television actress and graduate of the National Academy of Theatre Arts in Kraków. In 2026, she won Best Actress at the Gdynia Film Festival for her performance in EXOTIC by Sonja Orlewicz-Zakrzewska. She previously received the Best Acting Debut award at Gdynia in 2014 for Hardkor Disko. Her notable credits include The Art of Loving, Fucking Bornholm, Green Border by Agnieszka Holland, and the Netflix series The Hound's Hill.



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MAGDALENA KOLEŚNIK (Sandra)

Magdalena Koleśnik is a Polish actress and graduate of the National Academy of Theatre Arts in Kraków. She gained international recognition for her leading role in Magnus von Horn's Sweat (2020), winning Best Actress at the Polish Film Festival in Gdynia and the Zbigniew Cybulski Award. Her notable credits include Klangor, Kruk, Other People and Hidden Network. Her recent projects include EXOTIC, Pojedynek and Stairway to Earth (2026).



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BARTOSZ BIELENIA (Aleks)

Bartosz Bielenia is a graduate of the Ludwik Solski Theatre Academy in Kraków and an actor at Teatr Nowy in Warsaw. His screen credits include On the Border, Prime Time, 25 Years of Innocence and the Netflix series 1983. He achieved widespread international acclaim for his lead role in Jan Komasa's Oscar-nominated Corpus Christi (Boże Ciało), winning multiple Best Actor awards and the Polish Film Award Eagle, alongside recognition for On the Border and Paweł Maślona's Kos.



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MONIKA FRAJCZYK (Lucy)

Monika Frajczyk is a Polish actress and graduate of the National Academy of Theatre Arts in Kraków. Since 2018, she has been a member of TR Warszawa. In 2026, she won Best Supporting Actress at the Gdynia Film Festival for her performance in EXOTIC. Her notable credits include Lalka by Paweł Maślona and Good Boy by Jan Komasa, alongside Stephen Graham and Andrea Riseborough. She also appears in the second season of Netflix's The Mothers of Penguins (2026).



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HUBERT MIŁKOWSKI (Waiter)

Hubert Miłkowski is a Polish actor and graduate of the National Film School in Łódź. He gained recognition for his leading roles in Netflix's The Woods and Operation Hyacinth, followed by Braty, which earned him a Zbigniew Cybulski Award nomination. His performance in Norwegian Dream won him Best Actor at the Iris Prize. His recent credits include HBO's Women's Hell, Song of the Night, EXOTIC, Mroki and Netflix's Less of a Stranger.



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DIRECTOR

Sonja Orlewicz-Zakrzewska is a film director, screenwriter, writer, and visual artist. She graduated from the Łódź Film School. Her first short film, Cross'n'Carry (2019), was screened at international film festivals, including Nowe Horyzonty and Hollyshorts. She attended Script Atelier 2021 and Midpoint Feature Launch 2022, where she developed the screenplay for the feature film Dolphin. The project received two awards at the pitching sessions in Karlovy Vary 2022, as well as the Audience Award and the Project Development Award at Connecting Cottbus 2022. With mentorship from Torino Film Lab Next 2023, she began developing her next project, a series That's Why She Doesn't Ski Anymore. She is also currently working on two new feature films. Sonja writes song lyrics for the band WSPÓŁGŁOSY, occasionally writes poetry, and exhibits her visual art. EXOTIC is her feature-length debut, and it has already won three prizes at the Gdynia Film Festival, including the awards for Best Lead Actress and Best Supporting Actress.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

2025 *EXOTIC* (Feature Fiction)

2019 *Cross'N'Carry* (Short Fiction)



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I discovered Exotic Pole Dance, I immediately fell in love with this sport and the sense of strength it gives. I've always been a girl who struggled a lot with her feminine side, and it was only pole dance that finally helped me realize that what I had truly always been afraid of was the judgment of the patriarchal gaze.

After training for only a month, I set off for the ExoStars Camp. Besides eight hours a day of physically exhausting training, a ton of unexpected social observations awaited me there. We, adults who were strangers to one another, suddenly crammed together in small spaces, began doing everything we could to avoid revealing our sensitive inner selves, often full of insecurity and shame. I found this especially fascinating in context of the setup: we all came there to dance Exotic, a dance as uninhibited, bold, and provocative as can be.

It reminded me that finding yourself in a new group forces you to answer certain questions: how do I see myself, and how do I want to be perceived? Am I actually that person in my everyday life? It quickly became clear that the camp creates ideal conditions for confronting fears, stepping out of your comfort zone, and expressing yourself shamelessly in ways that are hard to carry out in the daily grind.

There was one more contrast that fascinated me: it all took place in an absurd socialist-era guesthouse in a tiny seaside town. Watching colorful, provocatively dressed, incredibly fit dancers stroll through this setting, I knew right away that I would return with a camera. And I did: exactly one year later, we came to shoot EXOTIC at the next edition of the ExoStars camp, including real camp participants and instructors in the film, so that the world of pole dance could become an authentic, living backdrop for telling Mila's story.

SONJA ORLEWICZ-ZAKRZEWSKA



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PRODUCTION COMPANY

Mozaika Films is a production company founded in 2023 by Magdalena Sztorc and Anna Zajączkowska. We combine our experience and vision of cinema. Magdalena Sztorc brings expertise gained from years of work as a programmer at the New Horizons International Film Festival and from her production activities. For many years, she ran the production company Before My Eyes. Anna Zajączkowska is a production manager, line producer, and executive producer with nearly 20 years of experience in film production. She gained her experience primarily in international productions, leading projects for producers from the United States, India, Germany, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and, of course, Poland.

Our goal is to produce ambitious, distinctive films aimed at an international audience. We collaborate with filmmakers who want to develop the language of cinema and are eager to explore.
We are committed to creating valuable cinema that asks questions and brings positive change. Our mission is to create a mosaic of stories showcasing the diversity of human experience. To achieve this, we seek new voices and perspectives.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

2026 EXOTIC — Feature Fiction by Sonja Orlewicz-Zakrzewska

2026 The Chosen One — Feature Fiction by Tomasz Mielnik



BEHIND THE SCENES PHOTO ©MOZAIKA FILMS

WORLD SALES

PLUTO FILM

Pluto Film is an international sales, festival distribution, production and consultancy based in Berlin. We are committed to engaging global cinema and devoted to feature films, so they reach and engage audiences globally. Our focus is on arthouse and cross-over films, especially those by emerging talents, but our lineup also includes charming family films, elevated genre films, and documentaries.

Across all our activities, we work closely with the filmmakers to package and position their films effectively. In a collaborative practice, we develop fitting Audience Design strategies that maintain the soul of the film while maximizing its distribution potential. This creates a distribution network that spans from filmmakers and producers to distributors across all territories and platforms, facilitating collaboration throughout the film value chain.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

2026 THE MATRIARCH — Crime, Thriller by Alison Kuhn

2026 SICK — Horror by Agata Trzebuchowska

2026 I MATTER — Drama by Alina Șerban

2026 CHICA CHECA — Comedy by Šimon Holý

2026 SUMMER WAR — Psychological Thriller by Alicia Scherson

2026 EXTRAORDINARY — Children, Adventure, Animation by Marina Andree Škop, Vanda Raýmanová

2026 ATLAS OF THE UNIVERSE — Adventure, Road-movie, Family, Children by Paul Negoescu