



SEMAINE  
DE LA CRITIQUE  
CANNES 2018

# FUGUE

A film by Agnieszka Smoczyńska

*She can't recall her life.  
She will live it again.*

Original title: FUGA  
English title: FUGUE  
Poland / Czech Republic /  
Sweden – 2018  
100 min – HD  
1:2.35 – 5.1 – Polish

## Logline

Alicja has no memory of her past, but has managed to build a new life and identity. When her family finds her, she doesn't want her old life, until bits of memories begin to come back. Gradually, her new and old identities merge allowing for an unsettling self-discovery.

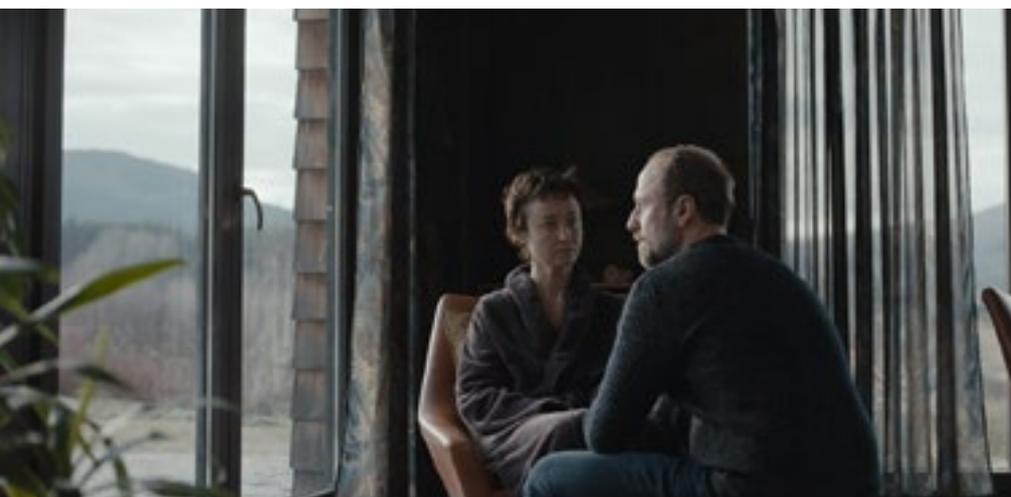
## Synopsis

Alicja has no memory and doesn't know how she lost it. During two years of living with amnesia, she manages to build her new, independent self away from home. She doesn't want to remember what she was before. So when her family finally finds her, she's suddenly forced to fit into the roles of the mother, the daughter and the wife, and relate to people who are now complete strangers.

Similarly, her husband managed to piece a new life back together, because in a way, the former Alicja was "dead" to both him and to their son.

Fugue poses a question: What would happen, if it was me? If given an opportunity to reinvent myself, what would I do? Is love for a child unconditional if, with losing our memory, we also lose our attachment to others? Can a person ever regain the feelings that were lost with memory?

The film also grapples with the cultural taboos around maternity. It looks at the social pressure to accept and desire motherhood unconditionally, just by means of physiology. But does the biological capacity of giving birth mean that every woman is supposed to be willing to become a mother



## Cast

*Alicja/Kinga*

**Gabriela Muskała**

*Krzysztof*

**Łukasz Simlat**

*Ewa*

**Małgorzata Buczkowska**

*Father of Alicja*

**Zbigniew Waleryś**

*Mother of Alicja*

**Halina Rasiakówna**

*Doctor Michał*

**Piotr Skiba**

*Daniel*

**Iwo Rajski**

## Crew

*Director*

**Agnieszka Smoczyńska**

*Scriptwriter*

**Gabriela Muskała**

*Director of photography*

**Jakub Kijowski** PSC

*Art director*

**Jagna Dobesz**

*Editor*

**Jarosław Kamiński** PSM

*Sound*

**Maria Chilarecka**

*Sound designer*

**Niklas Skarp**  
**Marcin Lenarczyk**

*Music composer*

**Filip Mišek**

*Line producer*

**Kamila Kuś**

*Producer*

**Agnieszka Kurzydło**  
**MD4**

*Czech Producer*

**Karla Stojáková**  
**Axman Production**

*Swedish Producer*

**Jonas Kellagher**  
**Common Ground Pictures**

*Co-producers and partners*

**Odra-Film** (Poland)  
**Mazowiecki i Warszawski**  
**Fundusz Filmowy** (Poland)  
**Magic Lab** (Czech Republic)  
Michal Křeček  
**Film i Väst** (Sweden)  
Tomas Eskilsson  
and Katarina Krave

*With the financing support of*

**Polish Film Institute**  
**Czech Film Fund**  
**Eurimages**  
**The Lower Silesia Film**  
**Fund from the funds**  
**of City of Wrocław**  
**and Lower Silesia Region**



## Director's note

*Fugue* is inspired by a true story. A few years back, the main actress Gabriela Muskała (who also wrote the script) and I watched a TV program about a woman who couldn't remember her name or where she was from, nothing. During the broadcast a family member called the studio claiming that he was her father. She didn't recognize the man's voice, she didn't even remember that she had a family. She wasn't sure if she wanted to meet them. We decided to visit this woman and find out how and why her old self and her old life had been erased from her memory. How had it happened that one day she left home and vanished for many months? Why was nobody looking for her? How was it possible that she forgot her own child? How did she manage to go back to her old life after such a traumatic experience? How did she deal with coming to terms with the fact that she had been somebody else and that one day her love for her husband and son vanished and she became a totally new person? We found out that this woman was suffering from dissociative fugue disorder, a rare psychiatric condition that can manifest itself in unplanned travel, leaving the family home, partial memory loss and change of personality. In one moment a life becomes a blank slate again. We took this condition as the starting point for our character Alicja. She has the chance to create life anew and she uses this opportunity to the fullest and then is suddenly thrown back into her forgotten past life. In my previous film, *The Lure*, I explored issues of female identity by means of experimenting with musical and horror genres. In *Fugue*, I focused on recreating the internal world experienced by Alicja, which is often dreamlike, surreal, and uncanny. When I create a movie, a crucial part of my process is taking inspiration from paintings and photography. Here, I was drawing from the works of the Polish painter Alex Urban and American photographers: Brookie Didonato, Cristina Coral and Evelyn Benicova. The archetypes of female subjugation and redefining women's role in society are the core of their work. To me, the story of Alicja touches on the themes of the essence of identity and personal freedom. To what extent is our thinking about ourselves, influenced by our environment and our past.

## Director's biography

**Agnieszka Smoczyńska** is a graduate of the Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School in Katowice, Poland and has also participated in master classes at the Wajda Film School. She received a scholarship from The Minister of Culture and National Heritage for outstanding artistic achievement, the “My Talent for Poland” prize and the Golden Pen, awarded by the President of Poland. In 2015 her first feature film *The Lure* experimented with the musical and horror genres and was recognized as the best debut at the Polish Film Festival in Gdynia. Smoczyńska was hailed as the “Discovery of the year” at the Polish Film Awards. *The Lure* has received numerous awards at festivals worldwide, including Fantasporto, Sofia, Montreal, Vilnius and the Sundance Film Festival, where she received the Special Jury Prize for “a unique vision and design”, and subsequently released in countries such as the US, Japan and Taiwan (including a Criterion Collection Blu-ray release). In 2017, Smoczyńska was invited by the Sydney Film Festival, Variety and European Film Promotion to participate in the “European Cinema: Ten Women Filmmakers to Watch” program. She is a recipient of the Global Filmmaking Award at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

### Selected filmography

2018 – **Fugue**  
2015 – **The Lure**  
2010 – **Viva Maria!** (*Short*)  
2007 – **Aria Diva** (*Short*)  
2004 – **3 love** (*Short*)  
2003 – **The Hat** (*Short*)



Photo: Ohtsuka Kazuhiko

## Gabriela Muskała – actress / writer

**Gabriela Muskała** (born 1969) film and stage actress, writer of plays, multi awarded at various film and theatre festivals by both the critics and the audience. For her performance in *The Courage* by Greg Zgliński she was awarded with the Golden Lions for the best supporting actress at The Polish Film Festival 2011. She was a leading actress in *Tout un hivier sans feu*, which received SIGNIS award at Venice Film Festival. Her last performances include *Volhynia* by Wojciech Smarzowski, *These Daughters of Mine* by Kinga Dębska (awarded with Eagle – Polish Film Academy Award for the Best Actress) and *7 Feelings* the newest film by Marek Kotowski. She is the only writer of the script *Fuga* directed by Agnieszka Smoczyńska.

Her plays *The Trip to Buenos Aires* and *Daily Soup*, co-written with her sister Monika (they use a pen name Amanita Muskaria) were translated into many languages and are regularly in the programs of various theatres in Poland and abroad. Their third play *Silent Night* directed by Paweł Paszta received numerous awards at the theatre competition Teatroteka Fest in Warsaw. In December 2017 she debuted as a director of a stage play at the Teatr Ludowy in Krakow with Amanita Muskaria's last work *Wil's Identity*. She runs a course on improvisation at the Polish National Film, Television and Theatre School in Łódź.



Photo: Pani i Pan Fotograf

## Łukasz Simlat – actor

He graduated from the Theater Academy in Warsaw in 2000. He is Television, film and theater actor recently starred in three high-profile films: *United States of Love* (directed by Tomasz Wasilewski), *Satan Said Dance* (directed by Katarzyna Rosłaniec), *Amok* (directed by Kasia Adamik). He has won numerous awards: for the best supporting male role in the movie *United States of Love* at the Gdynia Film Festival in 2016, for the best supporting role in the movie *Amok* at the Gdynia Film Festival in 2017. For his role in *Magma* directed by Pawel Maslona, he won a award of Jan Machulski's Polish Independent Cinema in the category: best actor. He also played plenty of characteristic roles in Television Theater productions, with the one in the lead- the role of Jan Karski in spectacl *Karski* directed by Magdalena Łazarkiewicz for which he was awarded at the Festival of Two Theaters in Sopot.



Photo: Zuza Krajewska

## Iwo Rajski

Born 28.04.2011, one of the most talented and experienced child actor in Poland. He appeared recently in the feature films: *Fugue* by Agnieszka Smoczyńska and *53 Wars* by Ewa Bukowska, at numerous popular tv series at national tv stations like TVN and TVP. From 2017 he's the actor of the Theatre Guliver which specializes in the repertoire for kids. He speaks English fluently and some Spanish. He plays soccer, chess, piano, swims and sails.



Photo: Dominika Wiśniewska FOTOMORFOZA

## Agnieszka Kurzydło – *producer*

*Fugue* is **Agnieszka Kurzydło**'s 5th film produced by her production company MD4 (Mental Disorder 4), as the leading producer. One of Agnieszka's colleagues said about her that she was constantly proving to the local film industry that sky was the limit. She, herself, says that her main goal is that audience will say after watching films made by MD4 that they have seen something they weren't prepared for, that the film they've just watched has changed something in them. 2013 marked a breaking point in her career with two films selected to Berlinale competitions: Malgoška Szumowska's *In the Name of* to the main competition and *Baby Blues* by Katarzyna Rosłaniec to Generation 14+, which has won the main award - CristalBear. This year, her film *Fugue* will represent Poland in the Critics Week Cannes.

Agnieszka choose the projects which are produced by MD4 carefully and she commits fully to each of them. She aims for keeping independent and boutique character of MD4. She is well known for her "discoveries", new directors that shape the future of Polish cinema. At the moment Kurzydło is finishing the post-production of a debut film *Via Carpatia* by Klara Kochańska, (student Oscar 2016), and Kasper Bajon. She is also in the middle of shooting the newest film by Grzegorz Jaroszuk - *Dear Ones*. Also, together with Kinga Krzemińska and Grzegorz Jaroszuk, she is preparing MD4's next international co-production entitled: *The story of a certain letter*. She's a member of European Film Academy, Producer on the Move 2013, EAVE participant 2014.



# Production company

**MD4 (Mental Disorder 4)** is a film production company based in Warsaw and Kraków. The company was established in 2011 with the Head Producer and CEO Agnieszka Kurzydło. MD4 has produced several feature films which have been very well-received at many international film festivals. The primary mission of MD4 is to work with first and second-time directors, and to create a space for them locally and internationally. MD4 is a creative environment that brings together filmmakers of the up-and-coming generation, who have a passion for making innovative films that deal with contemporary themes.

MD4 is a collective of friends working together with Dagmara Piasecka as the managing director and producer, Kamila Kuś as a line producer and other people, who also belong to the MD4 team: Kinga Krzemińska, screenwriter and script-consultant, Krzysztof Komander, director and editor, Grzegorz Jaroszuk, director.

At the moment we are finishing post-production of *Via Carpatia* by Klara Kochańska (a winner of the Student Academy Award) and Kasper Bajon. We are also in the middle of shooting the newest film of Grzegorz Jaroszuk: *Dear Ones*. In the same time we are preparing our first film for the young audience: *The Adventure Hunters* by Krzysztof Komander.

Together with our German partners, we are also working on a next international co-production: *The story of a certain letter*



# Production company

## MD4 Selected filmography

2021 – **The story of the certain letter**

dir. Grzegorz Jaroszek (*in pre-production*)

2021 – **The Adventure Hunters**

dir. Krzysztof Komander (*in development*)

2019 – **Dear Ones**

dir. Grzegorz Jaorszek (*in pre-production*)

2018 – **Via Carpatia**

dir. Klara Kochańska, Kasper Bajon (*in post - production*)

2018 – **The Fugue**

dir. Agnieszka Smoczyńska

2015 – **The Red Spider**

dir. Marcin Koszałka

*World premiere in Competition at the 2015 Karlovy Vary IFF;*  
*Selected awards: FIPRESCI Prize and Best Director, 16th Go East*  
*Wiesbaden IFF; Best Director, 27th East & West Orenburg FF;*

2014 – **Kebab & Horoscope**

dir. Grzegorz Jaroszek

*World premiere, 2014 Karlovy Vary IFF; Selected awards: Best*  
*Debut Film, 2014 Raindance IFF; Best International Film, 2015*  
*Rome Independent FF; Grand Prix, 2015 Kino Polska FF.*

2013 – **In the name of**

dir. Małgorzata Szumowska

*World premiere in Competition at 2013 Berlinale; Selected awards:*  
*Teddy Award, Silver Lions, Gdynia FF; Best Film,*  
*Dortmund-Koln IFF.*

2012 – **Baby Blues**

dir. Katarzyna Rosłaniec

*World premiere, 2012 Toronto IFF; European premiere, 2013*  
*Berlinale; Selected awards: Crystal Bear and Special Mention,*  
*2013 Berlinale, Generation 14thplus; Special Jury Prize,*  
*Taipei IFF; Best Polish Film, Off Camera IFF.*



## Production contact

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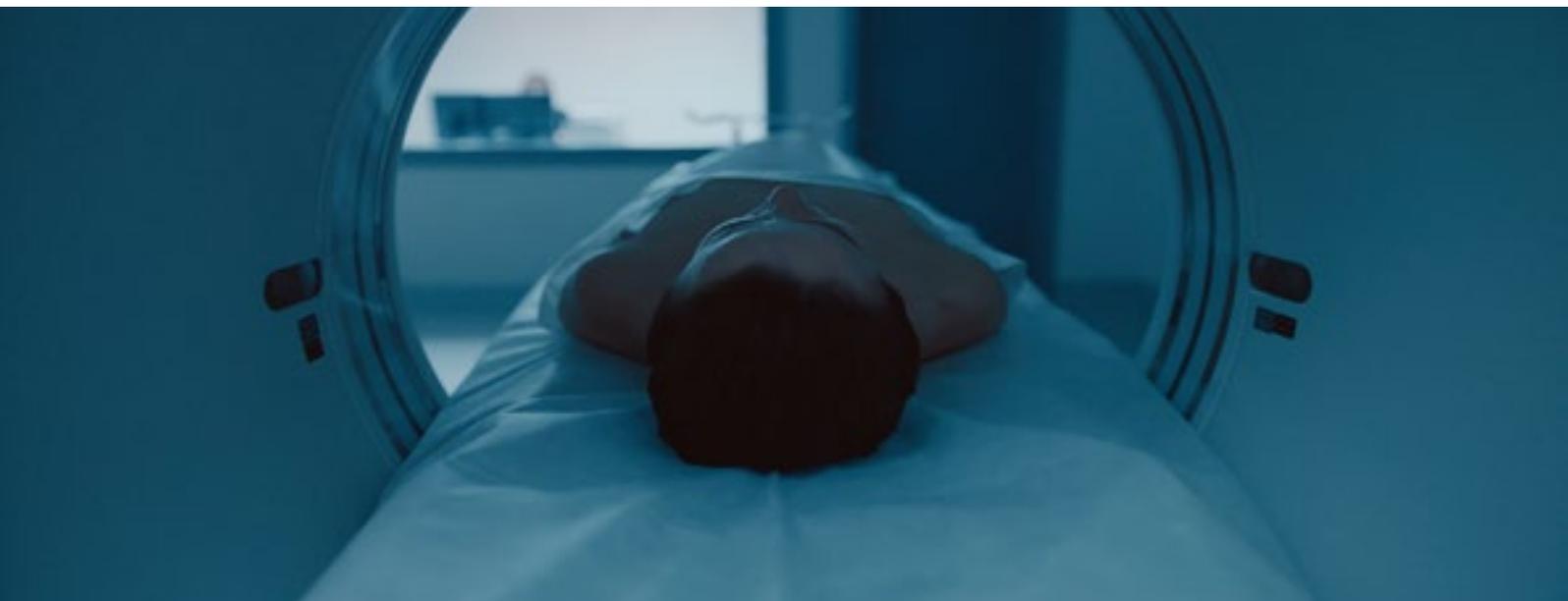
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*Fugue* stills by Jakub Kijowski.

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Title and poster design: Julia Mirny.

Poster designed on the base of work entitled RAW by Alex Urban.



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pictures



Wrocław the meeting place



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KULTURY



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★ LAB

GRUPA  
WARSZAWA



KINO ŚWIAT





SEMAINE  
DE LA CRITIQUE  
CANNES 2018

DIRECTED BY  
**AGNIESZKA  
SMOCZYŃSKA**

# FUGUE

DIRECTED BY AGNIESZKA SMOCZYŃSKA WRITTEN BY GABRIELA MUSKAŁA

STARRING GABRIELA MUSKAŁA LUNASZ SIMLAT MALGORZATA BUCZKOWSKA ZBIGNIEW WALERYŚ HALINA RASIAKÓWNA PIOTR SIBIA IWO RAISKI  
CASTING ŻYWIA KOSIŃSKA LINE PRODUCER KAMILA KUŚ DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JAKUB KJIOWSKI EDITOR IAROSŁAW KAMIŃSKI SOUND & MUSIC SUPERVISOR MARCIN LENARCZYK  
COMPOSER FILIP MIŚEK SOUND MARIA CHILARECKA SOUND DESIGNER NIKLAS SKARP ART DIRECTOR IAGNA DOBESZ COSTUME DESIGNER MAKE UP MONIKA KALETA  
VFX SUPERVISOR MICHAŁ KRĘCEK ASSISTANT PRODUCER POSTPRODUCTION COORDINATOR DAGMARA PIASECKA COORDINATORS PATRYCJA KYCIA HANNA IANOCHA COOPERATION KINGA  
KRZEMIŃSKA CZECH PRODUCTION MANAGER KATEŘINA DOLEŽALOVÁ LOCATION MANAGER MICHAŁ KORYNEK ADMINISTRATOR IOLANTA KŁOSIŃSKA ACCOUNTANT KATARZYNA REDKIE

PRODUCER AGNIESZKA KURZYDŁO CO-PRODUCERS KARLA STOJÁKOVÁ JONAS KELLAGHER  
PRODUCED BY MENTAL DISORDER 4 CO-PRODUCED BY AXMAN PRODUCTION (CZECH REPUBLIC) COMMON GROUND PICTURES (SWEDEN)

CO-PRODUCERS ODRA-FILM MAZOVIA WARSAW FILM FUND LEGAL AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS FILM I VÅST TOMAS ESKILSSON AND KATRINA KRAVE MAGIC LAB MICHAŁ KRĘCEK  
WITH THE SUPPORT OF POLISH FILM INSTITUTE CZECH FILM FUND THE LOWER SILESIA FILM FUND FROM THE FUNDS OF CITY OF WROCLAW AND LOWER SILESIA REGION  
MAZOVIA INSTITUTE OF CULTURE EURIMAGES

WITH PARTICIPATION OF POLISH DISTRIBUTION KINO ŚWIAT INTERNATIONAL SALES ALPHA VIOLET  
POSTER DESIGNED BY IULIA MIRNY ON THE BASE OF THE WORK ENTITLED RAW BY ALEX URBAN

CO-PRODUCED BY  
MENTALDISORDER



COMMON  
GROUND  
PICTURES