

ROMAN POLANSKI: ODD MAN OUT



Ein Film von Marina Zenovich
USA, 2012, 87 Min.

Verleih:
Agora Film

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SYNOPSIS

In her follow-up to the Emmy-winning *Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired*, Marina Zenovich explores the recent legal battle to bring Roman Polanski back to the United States after more than 30 years.

Called "one of the longest running sagas in California criminal justice history," the drama plays out over two continents and touches the highest levels of government in the United States and Europe.

As the legal battle drags on, Zenovich examines how the lives of Polanski and Samantha Geimer have been changed forever.

With Polanski once again a free man and the prosecution's case seriously compromised, *Odd Man Out* will try and bring some kind of closure to this hugely controversial case.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

After my 2008 documentary film, *Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired* was used as evidence of judicial and prosecutorial misconduct by Polanski's legal team; I had to keep filming to see this story to its end. I planned for the follow-up to be a short film which looked at how the two central characters -- Roman Polanski and Samantha Geimer -- felt about the incident today. I was planning on going to Hawaii to film Samantha and her mother. I had an interview scheduled with Polanski, but he was busy editing *The Ghost Writer* so the interview was pushed to November of 2009. I was excited to finally be interviewing him. I never could have imagined what was about to happen.

Two months before my scheduled interview, Polanski was arrested in Switzerland on his way to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Zurich Film Festival.

Suddenly everything changed. My short follow-up turned into a much bigger story, for which I somehow felt partly responsible. Had my film somehow reopened a case which both sides preferred to keep in eternal limbo?

The film turned into a geopolitical thriller which touched the highest levels of government in the United States and Europe. This was very different than the first film. This time, I was following an international news story as it unfolded. When Polanski was first arrested I asked a filmmaker friend, Igor Bauersima, who lives in Zurich, to film the initial reaction at the festival. Shortly thereafter, my producer and I were on a plane heading to Zurich to try to interview the players and get to Polanski.

No one would go on camera -- Polanski's Swiss lawyer, Polanski's American lawyers, Polanski or his wife. The only Swiss government official who would talk was a spokesperson!

Days turned into weeks which turned into months. No one knew what was going to happen. The subject matter became very sensitive. I went from being the celebrated director of *Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired* to the woman who "made the film that got him arrested." This public pressure made me even more determined to get to the truth. I had to move behind the headlines, to explore the hidden connections, the ironies and idiosyncrasies of one of the longest-running cases in US legal history. And then there was Switzerland. Why neutral Switzerland? And why now?

During the edit, we decided the film needed a narrator to pull together all its threads. At an early screening, my friend and fellow director, Shari Springer Berman suggested I do the narration -- as I had become an unwilling character in this drama. Everyone at the screening agreed.

I never thought I would spend so many years on this story. Meanwhile, its 37 years since the original offense and this endlessly controversial case remains no nearer to resolution. *Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired* was intended to answer the question of why he fled. I never intended it to serve as an apology for him. I have always disapproved of his actions, but I've also asked, how long does Roman Polanski have to pay for his crime?

---Marina Zenovich

MARINA ZENOVICH: BIOGRAPHY

Marina Zenovich's (Director/Producer/Writer) last film was her Emmy award-winning documentary, *Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired* (HBO/BBC, 2008). *Wanted and Desired* premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival -- where it won the Best Documentary Editing Award and was then chosen as an official selection at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival. It was selected by the National Board of Review as one of the Best Documentaries of 2008. The film won Emmys for Outstanding Directing for Nonfiction Programming and Outstanding Writing for nonfiction Programming (shared with Joe Bini & P.G. Morgan.)

Zenovich's past work includes *Who is Bernard Tapie?* about the French former politician convicted criminal turned actor and her fascination with him; *Independent's Day* about the struggles of independent filmmakers set in Park City, Utah at the Sundance and Slamdance Film Festivals; and *Estonia Dreams of Eurovision!* about the wacky world of Tallinn, Estonia as they prepare to host the Eurovision Song Contest.

Other credits include the Gallery HD series Art in Progress series where she profiled Julian Schnabel, Takashi Murakami, David Lynch, Tim Noble & Sue Webster and Vanessa Beecroft among others.

Other current directing projects include a documentary film about Richard Pryor for Showtime and the BBC. She is developing several projects including a documentary based on Mark Harris's book, *Pictures at a Revolution: Five Movies and the Birth of the New Hollywood*.

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2008 ROMAN POLANSKI: WANTED AND DESIRED
 - Official Selection, Sundance Film Festival
 - Official Selection, Cannes Film Festival
 - Best Documentary - 2008 National Board of Review
 - Emmy, Outstanding Directing, Nonfiction Programming
 - Emmy, Outstanding Writing, Nonfiction Programming
 - Best Editor, Sundance Film Festival 2008

- 2002 ESTONIA DREAMS OF EUROVISION!
- 2001 WHO IS BERNARD TAPIE?
- 1998 INDEPENDENT'S DAY

CREW

Directed by	Marina Zenovich
Written by	P.G. Morgan, Chris A. Peterson Marina Zenovich
Produced by	Lila Yacoub Marina Zenovich
Executive Produced by	Steven Soderbergh Randy Wooten Michael Roban Justin Moore-Lewy Charlie Mason Kyle Jackson Stephan Paternot Jimmy Balodimas David Milch Barry Silbert Lori Silbert Zachary Aarons Jason Hirsch Alan Pao
Co-Produced by	Sara Hutchison Michelle Sullivan
Director of Photography	Tanja Koop
Edited by	Chris A. Peterson Scott J. Gill
Music by	Mark degli Antoni
Consulting Producer	P.G. Morgan

Additional Photography by
Bernie Forster
Philip Millard
Michael Negrin
Ian Serfontain
Thaddius Wadleigh
Christine Burrill

Additional Interviews by
Igor Bauersima

Production Sound by
Tyler Bender
Alex Hamm
Daniel Hobi
Ivo Schlapfer
Marco Teufen

Key Speakers
Samantha Geimer
Susan Gailey
Hervé Temime
Bernard Henri-Lévy
Danielle Thompson
Hervé de Luze