



ACID FOREST

15th International Documentary Festival of Kraków
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DIRECTION:

Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė

PRODUCTION:

Neon Realism

PRODUCERS:

Dovydas Korba

Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė

DURATION:

61 min

GENRE:

documentary

LANGUAGES

English, German, Lithuanian,
French, Finnish, Russian,
Mandarin Chinese, Estonian,
Japanese, Spanish

SUBTITLES AVAILABLE IN 6 LANGUAGES:

English, Spanish, Russian,
Italian, Polish, Lithuanian

SYNOPSIS:

Can you imagine a tourist attraction where people come to see a dead forest? Where they are not only observers, but also the ones being observed and heard by the black birds? Once there was an ancient pine forest, but then several cormorants landed there. Now there are thousands of them and they kill pine trees by...shitting. This place has become one of the most macabre tourist destinations in the world.

WATCH TRAILER

"Cleverly made, cinematically brilliant
documentary essay."

Tue Steen Müller

"As fascinating and comical as surrealistic and
frightening – documentary about man's absurd
approach to both human existence and nature."

Josef Kullengård

"Beguiling, beautiful and informative."

Kaleem Aftab, CINEUROPA

"It is astonishing how Barzdžiukaite's very simple
dispositive is able to allow the emergence of
greater themes such as the ecological challenges
and the constant renegotiation of the relationship
between man and nature, but is also able to single
out layers of emotion, from the joy of nature to the
fear of nature, and even to social fear."

Giuseppe Di Salvatore, FILMEXPLORER

"*The Birds* for the new millennium."

BERGEN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

"Swinging between hilarious, horrifying
and Hitchcockian."

Angie Driscoll, HOT DOCS

"*Acid Forest* was the best film I watched in 2019.
I was smiling or laughing all the time, and of
course thinking how terribly harmful men can be
with the planet we all share. A true delight."

Geromino Elortegui, SENSES OF CINEMA

"Film that works across nature documentary,
thriller, comedy and horror movie."

Sergio Fant, LOCARNO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

"*Acid Forest* is an impressive film as it frames
reality that seems to belong to a ghostly tale,
and is one of the most timely anti-narrative
representations of life, death and reincarnation
cycle of Samsāra in the cinema world."

Nicola Settis, CINELAPSUS



PRIZES:

Locarno International
Film Festival
Swatch Art Peace
Hotel Award

Zinebi International Festival of
Documentary and Short Film
First Film Grand Award

Baltic Wave Film Festival
Main Prize, Audience
Favourite Film

Dokufest
Special Mention

FESTIVALS:

The film was screened in almost 40 prestigious festivals in 5 continents including the Locarno International Film Festival, Hot Docs, AFI FEST, Portland Film Festival, Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, Art of the Real at the Film Society of Lincoln Center and many other international film festivals in the USA, Australia, Canada, South America and almost all European countries. *Acid Forest* was a closing film of Vilnius IFF (Lithuania), where it was screened for a record number of audiences in 19 cities simultaneously. *Acid Forest* is occasionally shown at special screenings of cinematheques and museums (including the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Cinematheque of the Danish Film Institute and many others).



DIRECTOR'S BIO:

Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė (b. 1983, based in Vilnius) works as a film and theatre director. She completed her studies in theater directing and cinematography at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre and screen documentary at Goldsmiths, University of London. She is a winner of the Golden Lion for the best national pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Arts in 2019, for the collaborative work, *Sun & Sea (Marina)*, a contemporary opera that she directed. Rugilė and this collaborative performance were listed among the most influential artists and works of art of 2019 by Artsy and The Guardian, receiving dozens of positive reviews in many other leading world media channels. In parallel to this, Rugilė has continued to work in cinema and her most recent documentary, *Acid Forest*, was premiered and received an award at the Locarno International Film Festival in 2018 after 5 years of production. The film continues to circulate extensively in festivals around the world.

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