

OLGA DINNIKOVA

mail@olgadinnikova.com
www.olgadinnikova.com

DIRECTOR - SCREENWRITER



BIOGRAPHY

Olga Dinnikova is a Swiss-Latvian filmmaker based in Zurich. She was born in Riga in 1985 and grew up in Latvia and Israel before moving to Switzerland at the age of fifteen. She first trained as an actress at the European Film Actor School in Zurich and appeared in numerous film and television productions, including *Marija* (dir. Michael Koch), *Ispansi!* (dir. Carlos Iglesias), and *Nightfall* (dir. Simon Aeby), as well as the SRF television series *Tag und Nacht*.

In 2011, she began studying film at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), where she completed her Bachelor's degree in 2014 with the short film *Luftschloss*, later nominated for the Studio Hamburg Newcomer Award. She continued her studies at ZHdK, earning a Master's degree in Screenwriting in 2016. During this time, she wrote screenplays for several short and feature film projects, including *Aquarium* (dir. Cosima Frei) and *Peripherie*, which premiered at the Zurich Film Festival. Her debut feature film *Behind the Glass*, a Swiss-Latvian co-production, premiered at the 60th Solothurn Film Festival, where it was nominated for the Prix du Public. The film went on to win the Best First Time Filmmaker award at the Toronto Women International Film Festival and was released in Swiss cinemas in 2025.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Citizenship

- Switzerland & Israel

Family

- Married, two children

Date and Place of Birth

- February 5th, 1985, Riga, Latvia

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Directing
- Screenwriting
- Script Editing
- Acting

LANGUAGES

- German – Native
- Russian – Native
- Swiss German – Very fluent
- English – Fluent
- Hebrew – Basic knowledge

LINKS & ASSOCIATIONS

- swissfilms.ch
- imdb.com
- arf-fds.ch
- filmmakers.eu

FILMOGRAPHY (selected)

MIRROR (WT) | CINEMA | Fiction | in Development 2029

WAVES (WT) | CINEMA | Fiction | in Development 2027

- Zurich Film Festival Academy (ZFF Academy 2025), selected project

BEHIND THE GLASS | CINEMA | Fiction | 94' 2024

Screenplay and Directing - Snakefilm GmbH, Tasse Film & Swiss Television

- Los Angeles Women in Film Festival | Official Selection | 2026
- NÖFF - Women Nights Film Festival, Official Competition | 2026
- WINNER best first time filmmaker - Toronto Women International Film Festival | 2026
- BARCIFF - Barcelona Indie Filmmakers Fest, Official Competition | 2026
- 60. Solothurner Filmtage, 'Prix du Public', Nomination | 2025

PERIPHERIE | CINEMA | Fiction | 81' 2016

Screenplay Episode "Sonja" (Directed by Yasmin Joerg) – Zurich University of the Arts

- Fünf Seen Filmfestival, in Competition „Perspektive Junges Kino“ | 2017
- Mostra Internacional del Cinema de Sao Paulo, „Int. Perspective“ 2017
- Solothurn Film Festival, 'Prix du Public', Nomination | 2017
- Zurich Film Festival, Focus Competition | 2016 a.o.

AQUARIUM | SHORT | Fiction | 16' 2015

Screenplay (Directed by Cosima Frei) – Zurich University of the Arts, Swiss Television

LUFTSCHLOSS | SHORT | Fiction | 18' 2014

Screenplay, Directing & Editing – Snakefilm GmbH & Zurich University of the Arts

- Studio Hamburg Newcomer Award, Nominated for Best Short Film | 2016
- Max Ophüls Preis | Saarbrücken | 2016
- Basel Short Film Festival, WINNER best Actor for Sofija Stavinskaja | 2015
- Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur | 2015
- SWIKOS Kurz Film Festival, Best Actor für Sofija Stavinskaja | 2015 a.o.

PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES AND ACTIVITIES

ZFF ACADEMY	2025
Participant, Zurich Film Festival Academy	
FILMKIDS.CH	since 2024
Film coach for children and adolescents in acting, filmmaking, and screenwriting	
STOFFWECHSEL	since 2024
Co-founder screenplay development group, Zurich	
WORK GRANT	2024
for Artistic Continuity, Aargauer Kuratorium	
SCRIPT CONSULTANT	since 2016
Consulting on screenplays and treatments for fellow writers alongside own writing practice.	
ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS (ZHDK)	2014–2016
Tutor and head of the screenwriting atelier (Bachelor program)	
HIRSCHMANN SCHOLARSHIP	2015
Awarded for outstanding academic achievement and social engagement	

FILM & ARTS EDUCATION

Movement Psychology Method Zurich	2017-2018
Master Classes by Barbara Fischer	
Master of Arts in Film (Screenplay) Zürich	2014-2016
Zurich University of the Arts	
Bachelor of Arts in Film Zürich	2011-2014
With a focus on Script Editing, Zurich University of the Arts	
• Production funding for the graduation project "Luftschloss" from the Catholic Church of Zurich, the Vontobel Foundation, and the Federal Office of Culture.	
European Film Actor School Zürich	2004-2007