

OLGA DINNIKOVA

FILM DIRECTOR | SCREENWRITER

mail@olgadinnikova.com
www.olgadinnikova.com



Olga Dinnikova is a Swiss-Latvian filmmaker based in Zurich. Born in Riga in 1985, she grew up in Latvia and Israel before moving to Switzerland at fifteen. She initially trained as an actress and appeared in various film and television productions, including *Marija* (dir. Michael Koch).

She studied film at the Zurich University of the Arts (BA 2014, MA Screenwriting 2016). Her graduation short film *Luftschloss* was nominated for the Studio Hamburg Newcomer Award.

Her debut feature *Behind the Glass* premiered at the Solothurn Film Festival and received the Best First Time Filmmaker award at the Toronto International Women Film Festival.

FILMOGRAPHY (selected)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Citizenship

- Switzerland & Israel

Date and Place of Birth

- February 5th, 1985, Riga, Latvia

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Directing
- Screenwriting
- Acting
- Script Editing

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

BEHIND THE GLASS | Feature film | Fiction | 94' 2024

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

- 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 a.o.

PERIPHERIE | Feature film | 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.

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

WAVES (WT) | Feature film | Writer & Director

- Intimate father-daughter drama set during a holiday

MIRROR (WT) | Feature film | Writer & Director

- Told from the perspective of a mirror in a hotel room

NINA (WT) | Feature film | Writer & Director

- A portrait of a woman navigating loneliness and late love

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ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

FILMKIDS.CH	since 2025
Film coach for children and adolescents (acting, filmmaking, screenwriting)	
STOFFWECHSEL	since 2024
Co-founder of a screenplay development group, Zurich	
WORK GRANT	2024
for Artistic Continuity, Aargauer Kuratorium	
SCRIPT CONSULTANT	since 2016
Script consultant for screenplays and treatments, alongside own writing practice	
ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS (ZHDK)	2014–2016
Tutor and head of the BA screenwriting atelier	
HIRSCHMANN SCHOLARSHIP	2015
Awarded for outstanding academic achievement and social engagement	

FILM & ARTS EDUCATION

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

FURTHER EDUCATION

Goldener Spatz Talent Lab Erfurt	2026
Selected Participant	
Zurich Film Festival Academy	2025
Selected Participant	
Movement Psychology Method Zurich	2017-2018
Masterclasses with Barbara (3 cycles)	