
FIONA GELSOMINA ZIEGLER



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NATIONALITY
Swiss

LANGUAGES
Level C2 (proficiency)

German (native), English,
Italian, French & Czech

PROFIL

Fiona Ziegler grew up in Basel and Bern. She studied literature, history and international politics at the University of Fribourg, Bologna and Geneva, where she graduated with a Master degree in International Studies from the Graduate Institute IHEID. She worked as a freelancer for the newspaper “Der Bund”, was assistant director at the “Theater Hebbel” in Berlin and studied “Method Acting” at the “Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute” in NYC. She completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in screenwriting and directing at FAMU in Prague. Her feature film debut “Lost in Paradise” premiered at the Prague International Film Festival in 2021 and was nominated for the “Prix du Public” at the Solothurn Film Festival in Switzerland. Fiona's previous short films “Home” (2013), “2:1” (2013), “God Particle” (2015) and “Thank You Ben” (2016; Award: Best Film “New Delhi Short Film Festival”) were shown and awarded at international festivals. Now, she works on her second and third feature films “Ingeborg Bachmann's Dealer, My Grandmother” and “Frames of Freedom - Věra Chytilová”. Fiona has been a jury member at film festivals (including Miskolc Int. Film Festival in Hungary & ZFF, Switzerland) and is an alumni of the ZFF Academy 2016, MIDPOINT and MFI. She taught at FIOFA, teaches at FAMU; since 2024 she is President of the Bern Film Fund.

FILMOGRAPHY - Screenplay and Directing (selection)

Ingeborg Bachmanns Dealer, my Grandmother — 2022 - Present
Docu-Fiction, Frame Film (in Development)

Frames of Freedom: Věra Chytilová — 2024 - Present
Documentary, Catpics ZH / Analog Films Prag (in Development)

The Fassbinds — 2023 - Present
6 x 45' / Mini Series (in Development) *Pitching* at PÖFF 2023, MIDPOINT Series
Launch 2023 (in Development)

Lost in Paradise, 2021
75 min, Fiction, Swiss-German & Czech, Catpics (CH) / Cinématiffilms (CZ).
Distributors: Frenetic (CH), CineMart (CZ), Streamer: Netflix CZ & SK, Apple TV
(CZ), PlaySuisse CH. Award: Premio del Pubblico 2022, CinÉst Fest, Catania (IT)

A Second Life / Druhý Život, 2018
30 min, Documentary for the Exhibitions of the Swiss Embassy in Prague,
Czech & German; Exhibited in Praha, Brno, Plzen, Zlín, Bratislava and Zürich.

Toda Raba Ben / Thank You Ben, 2016
30 min, Fiction, Hebrew & English, FAMU and Fiona Ziegler, Awards: Best Film -
Delhi Shorts Int. Film Festival / Best Editing - Int. Mumbai Shorts Int. Festival

Božská částice / God Particle, 2015
20 min, Fiction, Czech, FAMU, Award: Chinese Student Film Festival Hong Kong
2015 (CHN)

PUBLICATIONS

Master Dissertation, University of Geneva, Graduate Institute of
International and Development Studies — Master of Arts, 2009

MA-Thesis

Debating Serbia: The controversy over Emir Kusturica's film *Underground* and
the image of Serbia

Master Dissertation in Film Directing at FAMU (Film and TV Academy of
Performing Arts in Prague) - Master of Arts, 2020

MA-Thesis

The New Swiss Film and Rolf Lyssy

Bachelor Dissertation in Film Directing at FAMU (Film and TV Academy of
Performing Arts in Prague) - Bachelor of Arts, 2015

BA-Thesis

Women in the European "journey film" on the example of Agnès Varda's films
"Cléo from 5 to 7" and "Vagabond"

ARTICLE

"Mein Aufbruch nach Prag/Praha und weiter zur Tragikomödie", in: Cinema 68:
Humor, Schweizer Filmjahrbuch 2021/22, Hrsg. Benjamin Eugster, Anna Dafne
Alessi, Noemi Daugaard, Milos Lazovic, 2022.
