**BreakThru Films presents in Annecy’s Work in Progress section ‘The Peasants’ directed by Dorota Kobiela, based on the Nobel prize-winning novel by Wladyslaw Reymont. The premiere is planned for late 2022.**

‘The Peasants’ will be produced in the same painting animation technique, that won the hearts of fans around the world during BreakThru Films studio’s previous production – ‘Loving Vincent’, which grossed $42 million at the box office. The story is based upon the Nobel prize-winning novel by Wladyslaw Reymont, who won in 1924 over Thomas Mann, George Bernard Shaw and Thomas Hardy.

In 2022 Penguin Classics, the largest library of classic literature in the world, will publish the first English translation of Wladyslaw Reymont's novel since 1925, written by Anna Zarenko. The book will be introduced by the eminent Professor Ryszard Koziołek, Rector of the University of Silesia in Katowice.

Naturalistic in style but epic in scope, this novel depicts peasants’ everyday reality - their work, customs, culture and spirituality. This unique micro-world is a pretext to tell a universal and current story: a story of tragic love and life in a small community, where rules and tradition dictate everyone’s role. A peasant girl, Jagna, is forced to marry a much older, wealthy farmer, Boryna, despite her love for his son Antek. With time, Jagna becomes the object of envy and hate of the villagers and has to fight to preserve her independence.

”The Peasants” comes to life by hand painting andwill present a wide repertoire of realist and pre-impressionist paintings.

The [Annecy International Animation Film Festival](https://www.annecy.org/) is the biggest global gathering of its kind. The Work in Progress section teases the most exciting projects from the world of animation. ‘The Peasants’ will be presented by Dorota Kobiela, (director, screenwriter), Hugh Welchman, (co-writer, producer) and Sean Bobbit (producer). World sales for the movie are handled by Jan Naszewski’s New Europe Film Sales.

[www.thepeasantsmovie.com](http://www.thepeasantsmovie.com)

[www.facebook.com/thepeasantsmovie](http://www.facebook.com/thepeasantsmovie)

[www.instagram.com/thepeasantsmovie](http://www.instagram.com/thepeasantsmovie)

**The Screenwriter and The Director – Dorota Kobiela**

A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Dorota Kobiela was awarded the Minister of Culture scholarship for special achievements in painting and graphics. Simultaneously with attending the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, she joined the Warsaw Film School, Directorial Faculty in 2004.

Dorota Kobiela is the originator, writer, director and editor of the movie ‘Loving Vincent’; the world’s first and only fully painted feature film, hand painted by over 100 oil-painting animators. ‘Loving Vincent’ won Best Animation Feature Film at the European Film Award, the 20th International Shanghai Film Festival, and over 40 other awards around the world. The film was nominated for an Oscar®, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA and made $42m at the global box office. It is the most successful Polish film of all time at the international box office. Dorota is a member of the American, European and Polish Film Academy. She works at the art commission of the Polish Film Institute. She has been professionally associated with the studio Breakthru Films for 10 years.

**The Producer – BreakThru Films studio**

The Peasants’ is being produced by Breakthru Films (Poland). Founded by Hugh Welchman, BreakThru Films is a prize-winning film and animation production company, based in Gdansk, with offices in Lodz, Warsaw and London. BreakThru established its reputation with its slate of prize-winning shorts which have collected over twenty international awards & nominations, including two BAFTA nominations, an official selection at Cannes, the Annecy Cristal and Annecy Audience awards, Canal+ Prize, TCM prize, the Rose D’ Or as well as an Oscar® for Best Short Animation Film for ‘Peter & The Wolf’.

The latest production of the studio – ‘Loving Vincent’ won worldwide success and picked up 24 Audience Awards at film festivals, including the coveted Annecy Cristal at the world’s biggest animation festival, and was nominated as best feature animation in the world’s most prestigious award events including The Oscars and the Golden Globes.

   
**Breakthru Films - Hugh Welchman (Producer/Co-Writer)**

A graduate of Oxford University, the UK's National Film and Television School, Hugh has produced 16 short films and two feature films for his company Breakthru Films, winning over 60 prizes at international festivals, including the 2008 Best Short Animation Oscar® for ‘Peter and the Wolf’ and a European Film Award for ‘Loving Vincent’.

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