

# ANTHOLOGIA



a  
prequel  
manifesto

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

We set up OFF\_ as an on-line bi-lingual literary magazine in 2009, launched OFF\_Lit'Comp'09 as part of POLSKA!YEAR and have now published the ten best entries in a dual-translation anthology. The book contains prose and poetry from some of the most promising literary voices from around the world - England, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland and the US – all available in both English and Polish.

We printed a test batch of 50 copies in October '09 and took them on the road - Sam Taradash from the US, Lilian Tietjen from Germany and Marek Kazmierski from Britain went on a seven-day trip, covering the whole of Poland, meeting all five Polish writers in the book, holding literary events in different parts of the country, all to discover the heart of this fascinating land.

The DVD of the film is added to every copy of the book, thereby helping to enhance the readers' enjoyment, increase cultural understanding between writers and readers around the world and show OFF\_ really does speak more than one language – film, music, still image and more.

*The world of OFF\_ opens here...*

### **included in this press release;**

- *info about the book*
- *info about the film*
- *info about book/film launch – 25th March 2010*
- *extract from interview with Marek Kazmierski, MINIMALBOOKS 2010*

# ANTHOLOGIA

award winning prose/poetry from **England, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland and the USA**, in English / Polish translation... laureaci konkursu literackiego z **GB, Nowej Zelandii, Pakistanu, Polski i USA**, w tłumaczeniach na angielski i polski... **Phil Boiarski, Agnieszka Czachor, Marta Gorska, Farhan Jamalvy, Maria Jastrzebska, Marcin Jurzysta, Paul McGuire, Piotr Makowski, Tomasz Ososinski, Barbara Zaragoza...**

*Rocked by the motion of the train, we'll be sleeping as we cross the border. Polite young guards will shine a torch in our faces, hand over our papers. But they'll keep something back. Some detail, without us noticing. For no reason, we'll be woken by stops and starts in the middle of a forest, as if reality were snow, unreliable, melting. In the distance our dearest friends and witnesses will grow smaller till they're points of light.*

*At the border, Maria Jastrzębska*

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<b>Phil Boiarski</b>	<i>Doing two things at once</i>	(poem)	
<b>Agnieszka Czachor</b>	<i>Under a sky</i>	(prose)	
<b>Marta Gorska</b>	<i>Walrus Man</i>	(prose)	
<b>Farhan Jamalvy</b>	<i>Comma</i>	(prose)	
<b>Maria Jastrzebska</b>	<i>At the Border</i>	(prose poem)	WINNER
<b>Marcin Jurzysta</b>	<i>Three Poems</i>	(poems)	
<b>Piotr Makowski</b>	<i>Prequel Manifesto</i>	(prose)	WINNER
<b>Paul McGuire</b>	<i>T for Two</i>	(prose)	
<b>Tomasz Ososinski</b>	<i>Ten Prose Poems</i>	(prose poem)	
<b>Barbara Zaragoza</b>	<i>Soup Bowls</i>	(prose)	

ISBN 978-0-9563946-0-6  
PAGES 176  
LANGUAGE English / Polish  
PUBLISHER OFF\_PRESS, London  
LAUNCH March 2010



# Through The Grey Zone



**GENRE** documentary  
**LENGTH** 40 mins  
**FORMAT** HDV, DVD  
**LANGUAGE** English

## INTRODUCTION

*Books are often seen as a window to the world. Through them we can see both our immediate environment and also distant worlds increasingly connected to our own. However, statistics suggest that in the UK and US only 2 – 3% of the literary market is made up of translations from other languages into English.*

*OFF\_Press, an indie publishing project based in London, was created by a diverse group of migrant artists to see if those odds could be bettered. Starting with a book of stories and poems translated from English into Polish and vice versa, we thought it would be a good idea to visit the country whose language and literature we were hoping to share with the wider world.*

**Lilian Tietjen, director**

## CONCEPT

In October 2009, Lilian Tietjen (GER), Marek Kazmierski (UK) and Sam Taradash (US), in just seven days, planned to visit seven cities, from the Baltic coast in the north to the southern Carpathian mountains, to discover Poland through meetings with various writers and the places they live/create in. Staying in hotels, friends' houses and farms, holding literary events in bars, bookshops and basements, meeting locals from as far afield as Australia, France and the USA, the aim was to see if OFF\_ cameras could capture some aspect of this fascinating part of Europe, if people there would welcome the OFF\_ concept and whether our inexperienced crew could survive the journey.

**To see whether we managed any or all of the above, watch “Through the Grey Zone”, available on DVD free with every copy of ANTHOLOGIA.**



*Marek, Piotr Makowski (author), Lilian and Sam in Wrocław*

# ANTHOLOGIA

## *book & film launch programme*



In partnership with the Deconstruction Project, the event includes;

- selection of readings from the book
- preview screening of "Through the Grey Zone"
- discussion with director Lilian Tietjen and assistant director Sam Taradash
- short acoustic set by Pawel Gawronski,



### ***BEDROOM BAR***

**25th of March 2010 8p.m.**

**62 Rivintgton Street  
London EC2A 3AY**



All are welcome. Entry is free.

The readings and discussion will take place in English.

[www.off-press.org](http://www.off-press.org)

## **BEYOND CONRAD AND CHOPIN AND COMMUNIZM**

*PIOTR SIWECKI, Minimalbooks, Poland: OFF\_PRESS origins...*

MAREK KAZMIERSKI, *editor*: Like so many memorable things in the world, OFF\_ was born of bad blood. Marcin Piniak and myself (Marcin writing in Polish, I in English) met writing for Nowy Czas, a newspaper printed in London which had ambitions of being the highbrow choice for the emigre Polish community in the UK. Too bad it didn't happen. We both quit the paper and kept on drinking, moaning, dreaming. But that gets tiresome after a while, so this time last year Marcin, Kinga Pilich (a young publishing student) and myself set up OFF\_Magazine, an on-line bilingual literary journal. It was meant to tell as many stories in as many languages (literal, visual, multi-sensory) as we could find, but such big nets are hard to handle. We got submissions from all over the world, some great stuff, some worse than woeful. Then we decided to run an international writing competition, then publish an anthology of the short-listed writers, then make a film to go with it, then run some literary events to publicise the whole shebang...

By the end of 2009, the wheels had come off. So, in 2010, we decided to relaunch as OFF\_PRESS, focusing on contemporary Polish writing in translation – our aim to put out one good book, DVD of the film we made last year attached, and only then move on to publish more, still focusing on the translation business.

Whereas in most EU countries anything between 10-30% of all new literature being published is in translation, in the UK it's two, maybe three. OFF\_, focusing on translating the most interesting voices in contemporary Polish writing, both in Poland and from abroad, will hopefully help close that gap...

Looking at the start of 2010, we're not doing too bad. Daily injections of ambitious literature, in the planet's most accessible language, are a healthy thing. I've studied linguistics, visual arts, psychology, dance, comparative religion, fighting techniques, acting and sales. There's far more languages surrounding us than we care to acknowledge. Ignoring that fact is deadly, as seen by the state of the British publishing industry, which is staffed by lovely Oxbridge types who... let's just say they don't teach marketing or boxing in either town. Which hurts the business. Books will sell for a few decades more, before being almost exclusively replaced with i-Pods. The dinosaurs which move the quickest will survive longest.

**PS: OFF\_people...**

MK: I rely on the opinions of those who are better at judging quality than me. Justyna Daniluk, Pawel Gawronski, Kinga Stanczuk, to name but a few. They feed me recommendations, I get converting.

*PS: Plans...*

MK: Promoting books needs effort, needs people to put miles on the clock. We want to come back to Poland in 2010, bring more books, shoot more film, see the friends we made in October, Gdansk to Krakow, from Poland, Australia, France, the States... I know both Lilian Tietjen and Sam Taradash liked Polska well enough, for different reasons. We have to come back, for us as people, and for us as OFF\_People... Then we plan to film in Ukraine and the USA, for future OFF\_ projects.

*PS: Polish literature...*

MK: We met mostly young writers on our recent journey across Poland, but they all said the same things – we don't care about fame, don't care about being widely read. The world is changing quickly, too quickly to grasp with big statements. They only care about their own, local Poland. Own visions, own experiences, own streets. That's where miracles happen every day, away from the world of business, of politics, of media. Some of it is pose, but I think they care about language, care about people, and about beauty, and in that respect are post-post-modern. Pop culture, nihilism, etc, all sorts of movements sort of missed them, and even if influenced by some of the world writing which was banned from Poland for a long time, they have developed their own, wild voice. I like experiencing it, dwelling in it, and then reproducing it in English... For the benefit of those who want to go beyond Chopin and Conrad and Communism.

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