

directed by
DOMINIK HADZIEWICZ

ALTAR BOYO





type

FICTION, SHORT FILM

running time

13' 45"

country of production

POLAND

year of production

2026

LOGLINE

A devout altar boy struggles with his sexual urges toward a red-haired girl he met at a summer parish camp. His heart beats faster and thoughts drift where they shouldn't, all under God's watchful eye.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As a teenager, I used to go on parish summer camps with a group of friends. My parents felt reassured knowing that I was with a priest, while I felt reassured knowing that I was away from my parents. I was very rebellious at the time and had more or less stopped believing in God, yet growing up in a Catholic environment left me with a constant feeling that I was being watched and held accountable for my wrongdoings. At fifteen, I could drink beer and come home late, but whenever I passed a roadside shrine, I still felt the need to cross myself, just in case God actually existed and decided to punish me for that beer.

The film was directly inspired by a particular Sunday I remember from my childhood. When I was twelve, a friend and I were waiting in line for confession at church. He was visibly terrified. He told me that he had masturbated and didn't know how to tell the priest. In the end, he didn't tell him. He went to communion convinced that he had hidden a sin and had now committed another one. For the next two weeks, he dreamed that he was burning in hell.

That story stayed with me for a long time. I became interested in how enormous things can become in a child's imagination, and how easily guilt can become attached to our own bodies and sexuality.

I didn't want to make a film about whether religion is good or bad. I was more interested in what stays with us years later, when we begin to discover our own sexuality and try to reconcile it with the things we were previously taught to be ashamed of.







DOMINIK HADZIEWICZ

(born 31.01.2002) a director, screenwriter and actor from Warmia, Poland. He is a film directing student at the Polish National Film School in Łódź. He creates short fiction films focusing on themes of identity, corporeality, and the experiences of the younger generation. His film DICKFLIP premiered at the Polish Film Festival in Gdynia in 2025 and has since been screened at numerous festivals in Poland and abroad, gaining recognition on the LGBTQ+ film festival circuit. Alongside his artistic work, he is involved in initiatives supporting people struggling with addiction.

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director
DOMINIK HADZIEWICZ

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AGATA TROJAN
PAULINA MURZA

costumes
IZABELA ORZECZOWSKA

ANNA BIELAWSKA

screenplay
MAŁGORZATA TUSIŃSKA
DOMINIK HADZIEWICZ

MUA
ZUZANNA ŚLĄWSKA

MATEUSZ BARANOWSKI

DOP
DAMIAN TROJAN

music
GABRIEL FLIS
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