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nollendorfstrasse 1
10783 berlin

0049 178 653 35 60

mailme@jozopr.com
www.jozopr.com

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Biography

Patrycja Ziolkowska

Actress

Patrycja Ziolkowska was born in Sokółów Podlaski, Poland, the daughter of a social worker and a metal worker. Her parents initially fled from Wojciech Jaruzelski's regime to Belgium before finding asylum in West Germany. Early on, the actress sought a way to express these experiences, turning to photography and painting as creative tools. She also found refuge in literature. Her art instructor and her German teacher Stefanie Luczak understood Patrycja Ziolkowska's wide-ranging artistic potential, which they both supported and fostered. Encouraged by her teachers, she joined the school theater club and, at the age of 17, applied and was immediately accepted at the Westphalian Drama Academy in Bochum, today the Folkwang University of the Arts. Throughout her entire school and university education, she stood out both for her exceptional and physical talents as well as for her sheer joy in performing. Early on, she also developed her skill for absolute commitment in her portrayals. Always with the objective of giving her characters a credible emotional life and a malleable physicality, Patrycja Ziolkowska has worked from the very beginning with crossing physical boundaries. Her speed and her powerful performances enable her to create the most disparate emotional states in her characters, both precisely and changeably.

Since the beginning of her career, she has sought out the peculiarity, the subtlety, but also the fragility of her characters. With her classical, passionately devoted way of acting, she is always instinctively driven to create a fascinating contrast to productions that often border on performance art. She wants to capture the brightness, but also the destructive energy of human behavior holistically in order to create complex images and counter-images of the characters. In the process, from the very beginning, she has worked with directors who transcend conventional boundaries and thus make an impact on contemporary theater, including Adena Jacobs, Dimitar Gotscheff, Jan Bosse, Jette Steckel, Jossi Wieler, Karin Beier, Luk Perceval, Nicolas Stemmann, Stefan Pucher, Thirza Bruncken, and Ulrich Rasche.

In film, too, she strives toward the limits of truthfulness in her performances, but also toward what is poignant and human. In so doing, as an actress she constantly examines the balancing of the human and the inhuman and probes the limits of both. Here, especially, in collaborations with directors such as Andreas Kleinert, Fatih Akin, Lars Becker, Lukasz Barczyk, Maris Pfeiffer, Martin Enlen, Mathias Glasner, Nina Grosse, Thorsten Näter and Till Endemann. They value Patrycja Ziolkowska's courageous and multifaceted abilities to bring her characters intelligently to life, and engage her for their ambitious film and television productions. Audiences and the press celebrate her presence and uniqueness. The trade magazine Theater der Zeit writes: 'Patrycja Ziolkowska has both: the courage for ecstasy as well as for distance. To sweat from the cold and to freeze from the heat - this is the game of contradictions that she is constantly taking aim at.'

Patrycja Ziolkowska works as an actress throughout Europe and lives in Frankfurt am Main.

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Press Reviews | Selection

'Patrycia Ziolkowska is a fantastic protagonist, who knows how to act intensely and thrillingly.'

Berliner Morgenpost, Germany

'Patrycia Ziolkowska is a powerful, almost brazenly self-confident performer, who knows how to draw out ever new facets of her characters.'

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany

'Patrycia Ziolkowska, the stage powerhouse.'

Hamburger Abendblatt, Germany

'Patrycia Ziolkowska is also well-suited to comedy and for lots more: boyish and lascivious, buddy, hussy, and Lolita. The results are often extreme but always eye-catching.'

K-West, Germany

'Patrycia Ziolkowska is grandiose. As a prop, her voice serves as an erotic tool of seduction.'

Nachtkritik, Germany

'How can a god not fall in love with this woman. Light steps, lithe body, unruly curls. And the voice. Full and powerful, and a tone that does not inevitably reduce the high language of Kleist to everyday language, but allows it to sound strong and natural, as just conceived. Hardly an actress commands such verbal ability and power of seduction as the Polish born Patrycia Ziolkowska. An exceptional artist.'

Stuttgarter Zeitung, Germany

'Like almost no other, Patrycia Ziolkowska can develop a drastic, aggressive, and, in individual passages, a thrillingly suggestive panorama.'

Tagesspiegel, Germany

'Patrycia Ziolkowska is quite simply an event.'

TAZ, Germany

'Patrycia Ziolkowska is, at first glance, a kind of enigma from next door. Cautious in the midst of gentle affection. Lightening flashes brightly time and again on a melancholic foundation. She plays with the unexplainable inevitability of coincidence, takes immense pleasure in the double perspective, the paradoxical knot.'

Theater der Zeit, Germany

'Patrycia Ziolkowska's fine nuances of facial expression remain in your memory beyond the end of the film.'

Tittelbach, Germany

'Patrycia Ziolkowska is always a discovery; she performs brilliantly.'

Westfälische Nachrichten, Germany

'The great Patrycia Ziolkowska.'

Zeit, Germany

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Film

(Cinema | Television)

2026

Außer Kontrolle | 'Out of Control'
Tini Tüllmann | Germany

Frankfurt Files
Franziska Margarete Hoenisch | Germany

Gentle Monster
Marie Kreutzer | Austria and Germany

2025

Wenn es blutet | 'When It Bleeds'
Daniel Sager | Germany

2024

Es grünt so grün, wenn Frankfurts Berge blüh'n - Tatort | 'It's so green
when
Frankfurt's mountains bloom' - Tatort
Till Endemann | Germany

2022

Alles vom Leben | 'Everything from Life'
Martin Kinkel | Germany

Die Luft, die wir atmen | 'The Air We Breathe'
Martin Enlen | Germany

Die Stunde des Pan | 'The Hour of Pan'
Nina Grosse | Germany

Kanalratten | 'Canal Rats'
Simon Ostermann | Germany

Sievers und das mörderische Türkis | 'Sievers and the Deadly
Turquoise'
Berno Kürten | Germany

2021

Rhythm & Love - Tatort
Brigitte Maria Bertele | Germany

2018

Am Ende ist man tot | 'In the End, You're Dead'
Daniel Lommatzsch | Germany

Demokratie stirbt in Finsternis | 'Democracy Dies in the Dark' -
Polizeiruf
Matthias Glasner | Germany

Der Mann für die Sünde | 'The Man for Sin'
Joachim Jung | Germany

Spätwerk | 'Late Work'
Andreas Kleinert | Germany

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2016	Borowski und das verlorene Mädchen 'Borowski and the Lost Girl' - Tatort Raymond Ley Germany Ladies First Lars Becker Germany Treffen sich zwei 'Two Meet Here' Ulrike von Ribbeck Germany
2015	Hiszpanka 'Influence' Lukasz Barczyk Poland Schnee 'Snow' Maris Pfeiffer Germany
2014	The Cut Fatih Akin Germany Willkommen im Klub 'Welcome to the Club' Andreas Schimmelbusch Germany
2012	Der schwarze Mann 'The Black Man' Irina Alexandrowna Germany Sneakerfieber 'Sneaker Fever' Klaus Wirbitzky Germany
2011	Das Geile Geld 'The Cool Money' Daniel Lommatzsch Germany
2010	Wunden der Vergangenheit 'Wounds of the Past' Dagmar von Chappuis Germany
2009	Das Fenster 'The Window' Silke Christina Engler Germany Ein Schnitzel für drei 'Schnitzel for Three' Manfred Stelzer Germany Häuserkampf 'Urban Warfare' - Tatort Florian Baxmeyer Germany Im toten Winkel 'Blind Spot' - Stubbe Bodo Fürneisen Germany Wölfe und Lämmer 'Wolves and Lambs' Johannes Grieser Germany
2008	Auf der Sonnenseite 'On the Sunny Side' - Tatort Richard Huber Germany

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- 2007 Auf der anderen Seite | 'The Edge of Heaven'
Fatih Akin | Germany
- Schmutzige Geschäfte | 'Dirty Business' - Stubbe
Thomas Jacob | Germany
- Underdogs
Jan-Hinrik Dreves | Germany
- 2006 Vergiss sie | 'Forget Her'
Lale Nalpantoglu | Germany
- Verhängnisvolle Freundschaft | 'Fatal Friendship' - Stubbe
Maris Pfeiffer | Germany
- 2005 Die Russenbraut | 'The Russian Bride'
Christoph Schnee | Germany
- Harte Kerle / 'Tough Guys' - Stubbe
Bernhard Stephan | Germany
- Wege zum Ruhm | 'Paths to Glory'
Reinhard Münster | Germany
- 2004 Der Ersatzmann | 'The Substitute'
Klaus Wirbitzky | Germany
- Die Hand der Fatma | 'The Hand of Fatma'
Christine Kabisch | Germany
- Rien ne va plus
Gusztáv Hámos and Katja Pratschke | Germany
- Tödliches Schweigen | 'Deadly Silence' - Stubbe
Hans Werner | Germany
- 2003 Das große Schweigen | 'The Big Silence'
Maris Pfeiffer | Germany
- Der Traum vom Glück | 'The Dream of Happiness'
Peter Fratzscher | Germany
- Hühnchen rupfen | 'Pick a Bone'
Gudrun Falke | Germany
- Im Visier | 'In Sight' - Tatort
Peter Fratzscher | Germany

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| 2002 | Morgen 'Tomorrow'
Nanny Karius und Veit Schnetker Germany |
| | Schatten 'Shadows' - Tatort
Thorsten Näter Germany |
| | Schlaf, Kindlein, schlaf 'Sleep, Little Child, Sleep' - Tatort
Peter Fratzscher Germany |
| | Solino
Fatih Akin Germany |
| 2001 | Anam
Buket Alaku Germany |
| | Mein Vater, die Tunte 'My Father, the Drag Queen'
Uwe Janson Germany |
| | Othello - Ein blue Movie 'Othello - A Blue Movie'
Samuel Schwarz Germany |
| 2000 | Schimanski muß leiden 'Schimanski Must Suffer' - Schimanski
Mathias Glasner Germany |

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Theater

* - 2026	Prinz Friedrich von Homburg - Heinrich von Kleist as Friedrich Wilhelm, Kurfürst von Brandenburg Ulrich Rasche Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus Germany
	Trophy - Gaea Schoeters as Hunter White Roger Vontobel Bühnen Bern, Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen and Theater Winterthur Germany and Switzerland
* - 2022	Oedipus Tyrannus - Sophocles as Player Nicolas Stemann Schauspielhaus Zürich and Volkstheater Wien Austria and Switzerland
2025	The Last Days of Mankind - based on Karl Kraus by Patrick Hahn, Philippe Manoury, and Nicolas Stemann as Player Nicolas Stemann Oper Köln Germany
2025 - 2024	Biedermann und die Brandstifter - Max Frisch als Biedermann Nicolas Stemann Schauspielhaus Zürich Switzerland
2025 - 2024	The Oresteia - after Aeschylus, Euripides and Sophocles by Nicolas Stemann as Athena, Helena, Clytemnestra and Menelaus Nicolas Stemann Salzburger Festspiele and Thalia Theater Hamburg Austria und Germany
2025 - 2024	Women of Trachis - Sophocles as Deianeira Jossi Wieler Schauspielhaus Zürich Switzerland
2025 - 2011	Faust I and II - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe as Gretchen, Faust, Helena and Mephisto Nicolas Stemann Salzburger Festspiele, Schauspielhaus Zürich and Thalia Theater Hamburg Austria, Germany and Switzerland
2024 - 2022	Sonne, los jetzt! 'Sun, Go Now!' - Elfriede Jelinek as Sun Nicolas Stemann Schauspielhaus Zürich Switzerland
2024 - 2021	The Visit - Friedrich Dürrenmatt as Player Nicolas Stemann Schauspielhaus Zürich Switzerland
2023 - 2022	The Trojan Women - Euripides as Helen Adena Jacobs Burgtheater Wien Austria
2020	Captcha - Michel Clees and Philippe Manoury as Player Michel Clees Théâtre National du Luxembourg Luxembourg

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2020 - 2019	The Rats - Gerhart Hauptmann as Frau John Felicitas Brucker Schauspiel Frankfurt Germany
2020 - 2019	No Exit - Jean-Paul Sartre as Inès Johanna Wehner Schauspiel Frankfurt Germany
2020 - 2019	Vor Sonnenaufgang 'Before Sunrise' - Ewald Palmetshofer as Martha Roger Vontobel Schauspiel Frankfurt Germany
2019 - 2018	Lab.Oratorium - Philippe Manoury as Player Nicolas Stemmann Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and Philharmonie de Paris Germany and Frankreich
2019 - 2014	Ich bin wie ihr, ich liebe Äpfel 'I Am Like You, I Love Apples' - Theresia Walser as Leila Friederike Harmstorf Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2019 - 2009	Die Kontrakte des Kaufmanns. Eine Wirtschaftskomödie 'The Merchant's Contracts. An Economic Comedy' - Elfriede Jelinek as Player Nicolas Stemmann Schauspiel Köln and Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2019 - 2018	Amphitryon - Heinrich von Kleist as Alkmene Andreas Kriegenburg Schauspiel Frankfurt Germany
2019 - 2018	The Persians - Aeschylus as Atossa and Queen Mother Ulrich Rasche Salzburger Festspiele and Schauspiel Frankfurt Austria and Germany
2019 - 2018	Grace and Grit - Ken Wilber as Her Luk Perceval Schauspiel Frankfurt Germany
2018 - 2017	Zola - Trilogy of My Family Love/Money/Hunger - Émile Zola as Clémance, Denise and Severine Luk Perceval Ruhrtriennale and Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2018 - 2017	Hunger - Émile Zola as Severine Luk Perceval Ruhrtriennale and Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany

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2018 - 2016	Money - Émile Zola as Denise Luk Perceval Ruhrtriennale and Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2018 - 2015	Love - Émile Zola as Clémance Luk Perceval Ruhrtriennale and Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2017 - 2016	A Streetcar Named Desire - Tennessee Williams as Stella DuBois Lars-Ole Walburg Ruhrtriennale and Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2017 - 2015	Kasimir and Karoline / Faith Love Hope - Ödön von Horváth as Hermine Prantl-Speer and Sanitäterin Jette Steckel Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2017 - 2015	Winterreise 'Winter Journey' - Elfriede Jelinek as Player Anne Lenk Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2015 - 2013	The Brothers Karamazov - Fyodor Dostoyevsky as Grushenka Luk Perceval Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2014 - 2013	Hedda Gabler - Henrik Ibsen as Hedda Gabler Jan Bosse Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2014 - 2013	Kommune der Wahrheit. Wirklichkeitsmaschine 'Commune of Truth. Reality Machine - Carl Hegemann as Player Nicolas Stemann Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2014 - 2013	Leeres Theater, Heiner Müller: Träume, Witze, Atemzüge 'Empty Theater, Heiner Müller: Dreams, Jokes, Breaths' - Heiner Müller as Heracles 2 or the Hydra Dimitër Gotscheff Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2013 - 2012	Platonov - Anton Chekhov as Sofia Yegorovna Jan Bosse Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2013 - 2012	Quijote Trip zwischen Welten 'Quijote Trip between Worlds' - Diedrich Diederichsen, Ginka Steinwachs, Jörg Albrecht, Juli Zeh and Roland Schimmelpfennig as Dulcinea del Toboso Stefan Pucher Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2013 - 2011	Antigone - Sophocles as Antigone Dimitër Gotscheff Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany

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2013 - 2011	Penthesilea - Heinrich von Kleist as Penthesilea Christine Ratka and Michael Maierhof Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2012 - 2011	Die Krönung der Poppea 'The Coronation of Poppea' - David Marton as Octavia David Marton Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2012 - 2009	Nathan the Wise - Gotthold Ephraim Lessing with the Secondary Drama Spoil Heap - Elfriede Jelinek as Daja, Sittah and Knight Templar Nicolas Stemmann Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2011 - 2010	Children of the Sun - Maxim Gorky as Lisa, sister of Protassov Luk Perceval Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2011 - 2009	Oedipus, Tyrant - after Friedrich Hölderlin by Heiner Müller as Chorus Leader and Priest Dimitar Gotscheff Thalia Theater Hamburg Germany
2010 - 2008	The Golden Fleece - Franz Grillparzer as Absyrtus and Creusa Karin Beier Schauspiel Köln Germany
2009 - 2008	Faust I - Wolfgang von Goethe as Gretchen Laurent Chetouane Schauspiel Köln Germany
2009 - 2007	The Nibelungen - Friedrich Hebbel as Kriemhild Karin Beier Schauspiel Köln Germany
2008 - 2007	Molière - A Passion by Feridun Zaimoglu, Günter Senkel and Luk Perceval after Molière as Célimène Luk Perceval Salzburger Festspiele and Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz Austria and Germany
2007 - 2006	Faith Love Hope - Ödön von Horváth as Elisabeth Antoine Uitdehaag Volkstheater Wien Austria
2006	The Last Ones - Maxim Gorky as Nadeshda Markus Dietz Theater Bonn Germany
2006 - 2005	Anarchie in Bayern 'Anarchy in Bavaria' - Rainer Werner Fassbinder as Marriage/Car Michael Neuwirth Theater Bonn Germany

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2006 - 2005	The Threepenny Opera - Bertolt Brecht as Polly Thirza Bruncken Theater Bonn Germany
2006 - 2005	The Bald Soprano - Eugène Ionesco as Mary Stefan Heiseke Theater Bonn Germany
2006 - 2005	Unser Lied. Gesang vom Untergang Burgands - Nibelungendestillat 'Our Song. Song of the Downfall of the Burgundians - Nibelungen Distillate' - Helmut Krausser as Kriemhild Kay Voges Theater Bonn Germany
2006 - 2005	Woyzeck - Georg Büchner as Marie Stefan Otteni Theater Bonn Germany
2005 - 2004	The Dispute - Pierre Carlet de Chamblain de Marivaux as Eglé Matthias Kaschig Theater Bonn Germany
2005 - 2004	The Lady from the Sea - Henrik Ibsen as Ellida Wangel Thirza Bruncken Theater Bonn Germany
2005 - 2004	Phaedra - Jean Racine as Arikia Klaus Weise Theater Bonn Germany
2005 - 2003	The Maid of Orleans - Friedrich Schiller as Joan Stefan Otteni Theater Bonn Germany
2004 - 2003	Petterson and Findus and der Hahn im Korb 'Petterson and Findus and the Chicken in the Basket' - Sven Nordqvist as Caruso the Rooster Titus Georgi Theater Bonn Germany
2003	Playing with Fire - August Strindberg as Kerstin Andreas Kebelmann Schauspielhaus Hamburg Germany
2003 - 2002	The Winter's Tale - William Shakespeare as Dorcas, Emilia and Perdita Klaus Weise Theater Oberhausen Germany
2003 - 2002	Königsberg - Andrei Nekrasow as Eva Andrei Nekrasov Volksbühne Berlin Germany

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2002	Auf dem Weg zur Hochzeit 'On the Way to the Wedding' - John Berger as Ninon Brigitte Landes Schauspielhaus Hamburg Germany
2002	Roberto Zucco - Bernard-Marie Koltès as The Girl Matthias Kaschig Kampnagel Hamburg Germany
2002 - 2001	Dem Herz, die Arbeit, den Händen, die Liebe 'The Heart, the Work, the Hands, the Love' - Robert Woelfl as Sonja Andre Bücken Schauspielhaus Graz Austria
2002 - 2001	Othello - A Blue Movie by Lukas Bärfuss after William Shakespeare as Desdemona Samuel Schwarz 400 ASA and Schauspielhaus Hamburg Germany
2001	Don Juan and Faust - Christian Dietrich Grabbe as Donna Anna Andreas Kebelmann Zeisehallen Hamburg Germany
2001 - 2000	Haarmann - Marius von Mayenburg as Dörchen Michael Talke Schauspiel Hannover Germany
2000 - 1999	The Optimistic Trajedy - Vsevolod Vishnevsky as Babushka Uwe Dag Berlin Schauspielhaus Bochum Germany
2000 - 1999	Measure for Measure - William Shakespeare as Isabella Leander Haußmann and Uwe Dag Berlin Schauspielhaus Bochum Germany

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Awards

2023	Gertrud-Eysoldt-Ring for Outstanding Performance for 'Ödipus Tyrann'
2012	Rolf Mares Prize 2012 for Outstanding Performance for 'Faust I' and 'Faust II'
2008	German Theater Prize the Faust for Acting Performance (Nomination) for 'Die Nibelungen' NRW Critics Survey, Best Actress for 'Faust I', 'The Golden Fleece' and 'The Nibelungen' NRW-Theatertreffen Westwärts for Best Actress for 'The Nibelungen'
2007	Undine Award (Nominierung) for Best Actress in 'The Edge of Heaven'
2006	NRW Critics Survey, Best Actress for 'The Threepenny Opera'