

In the last quarter of century, we can observe a significant increase in the number of documentary films about popular music, including Polish jazz. These films attempt to acquaint the viewer with the history of the genre, place its development in the social and political context, and introduce the biographies of the most prominent and influential artists. However, they also create certain mythologies and ideologies. This is because, in cultural studies, media representations are not merely neutral reflections of depicted phenomena, but rather actively attribute specific meanings to co-create them and their value. Documentary films about jazz, then, are an important part of the discursive field within which a certain image of the genre as a cultural phenomenon is produced. In the project, these representations will be systematically scrutinized, in order to determine what kind of ideas about Polish jazz they convey and how, as well as what do they contribute in terms of determining the value of the music, its place in history, and cultural legacy. Overall, the research intends to provide a unique retelling of the story of Polish jazz as seen through its onscreen life in these documentaries.