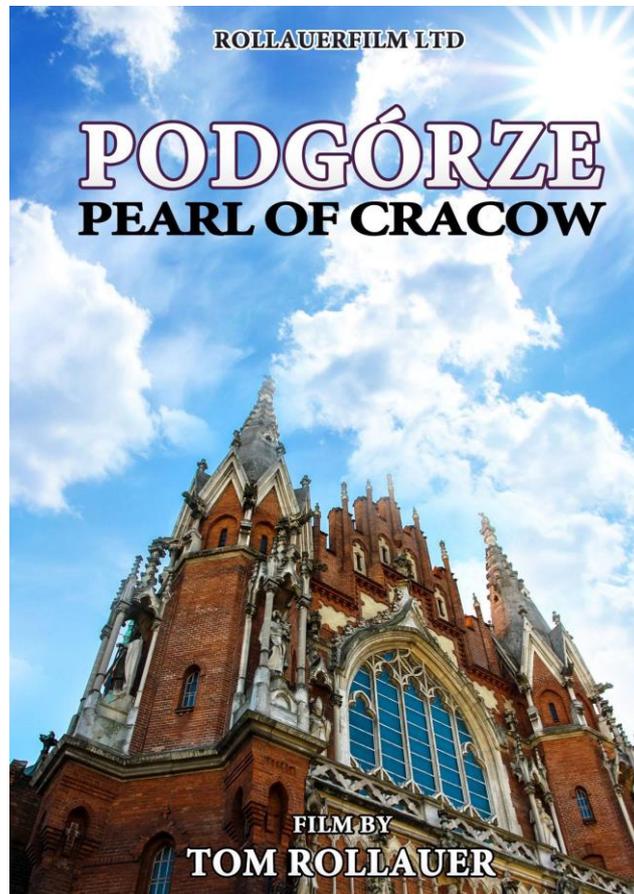


# TOM ROLLAUER Interview

## Film maker using Bebop drones



**Hi Tom, can you tell us a little bit about you? Who are you and what you are doing for a living?**

In my job I deal with law in transport. I am also the editor-in-chief of quarterly „Magazyn Transportwy”. But first and foremost my full-time job is being a dad ☺

**Can you quickly describe us your Podgorze film and the reason why you made it?**

I am the VHS child. Since I was 8 years old I have always dreamt of making films. However, my professional career was different. But my love and passion for cinema remained. I tried to make films in 1990s, but the equipment that would help me make my films was extremely expensive then. And so there was year 2014 when cameras and drones with full HD cameras became available for common people. And that is how I came back to my passion. The movie ‘Podgorze – the pearl of Cracow’ is my documentary debut. It presents a beautiful and magnificent district of Cracow, which is not explored by tourists. The district has a great potential which so far has not been used. The place is one big museum. Here there used to be a Cracow’s Ghetto, Oscar Schindler’s enamel factory or the Plaszow concentration camp. It is the place of Steven Spielberg’s movie ‘Schindler’s List’. So far the district was also not popular among filmmakers. That is the reason why I decided to take the viewers for a walk to these places. I just wanted to show the most beautiful spots of the district and I think I managed to do so. The fact that Podgorze is the place where I spent my childhood is also very significant, the district is my little homeland.

## Can you tell us about your gear and drone setup?

Nowadays drones give filmmakers new possibilities and what is important – no big funds are necessary. Thanks to drones we can take breathtaking photos or create fantastic films, we can present the world from a totally different perspective. While making films I use Parrot Bebop 2 which complements Canon 7D. That is enough to make a film such as 'Podgorze'. From the very beginning of my movie making I believe that the moviegoer is the most important. The viewer will forgive any technical mistakes or inadequacy if you involve him into the story. I don't make films for professionals. I make films for people who want to experience some kind of a story. If the story is really good, they will buy it. It seems to me that we achieved the goal with our film. Over 25 thousand people watched it within 3 months. There were no bad comments, people responded to the film with enthusiasm. Many people sent congratulations via e-mail. Such small things give us energy and make us believe we did our best.

My first meeting with the drone was funny (maybe not for me at that time) as it flew too far away and I lost contact with it. Fortunately it came back within a few minutes. Since then I have learnt a lot and now using Bebop is just pleasure.

## How helpful was your Parrot Bebop for your Podgorze film?



Most of the shots for 'Podgorze' were taken with Bebop 1, which I named the Blue Thunder. It's a magnificent machine.

## What do you like the most about the Bebop?

Bebop is small. I can take it anywhere. Bebop 2 is equipped with a good battery, which enables me to fly and film for 25 minutes – that is a big step forward. The video quality is also very good which is achieved thanks to the camera stabilizer. The Flight plan with its new functions (e.g. point of interest) complements the drone's possibilities fantastically. I could speak about Bebop just with superlatives.

## Can you tell us about the success of your Podgorze movie? Which media & newspapers broadcasted it?

The film was published at Youtube and within 3 months was watched by more than 25 thousand people. Knowing that Youtube is popular for short movies (3-5 minutes) I think our film is a great success as it is more than 30 minutes long. Most of the local newspapers and web portals wrote articles about the film among them Gazeta Wyborcza, Dziennik Polski, lovekrakow.pl, ekrakow.net, krakow.pl. We visited the local tv station to present the film and to talk about filmmaking with drones. The film will be broadcast by Telewizja Polska. The success of our film was a big surprise to us.



## What advices would you give to others who want to get started at flying drones?

Being sensible is the most important thing. I suggest reading manuals and tutorials or guidebooks for the beginner users of drones. A drone is an airship and together with stupidity can be a deadly mixture. I strongly advise to familiarize with drone flying regulations in your country.

## What advances in drone technology are you excited about?

As a filmmaker I am interested in everything that is new about cameras and the technology in creating films. I follow the Flight Plan development regularly. I like its new functions. I am also more and more enthusiastic about the Parrot drones. I can see that Parrot is going in the right direction and I hope Bebop will surprise me even more.

## Is there anything else that we haven't touched on that you would like to share?

Right now we are creating a new movie 'Nowa Huta – stara historia' (New Huta – old story), which is going to be a 60-minute documentary. So far we can say that we will use Moby's music in the film. After the success of 'Podgorze' the president of the Cracow city took a honourable patronage over the film we are making now. We hope the premiere is going to be this year.