

KINOTEKA

THE 20TH POLISH FILM FESTIVAL



9 MARCH —
3 APRIL 2022

THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF POLISH CINEMA IN LONDON
AND BEYOND. AT THE BFI, EDINBURGH FILMHOUSE, ICA,
JW3, PRINCE CHARLES CINEMA & MORE

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Organised by:



WELCOME TO KINOTEKA 20!

In the face of pandemic-related setbacks, Polish cinema has proven to be resilient across the past year. In spite of an initial three-month closure of film sets in early 2020 – as well as a near three-quarter drop in cinema admissions and gross box office – films continued to be produced in Poland. By the end of 2020, a total of 72 full-length films were completed. At the 20th Kinoteka Polish Film Festival, it is our pleasure to present an exciting programme full of new productions, alongside curated Polish classics and a singular cinematic journey into the virtual world.

The festival gets underway at the ICA with our Opening Night Gala screening of *Silent Land*, a mysterious, slow-burning portrait of guilt and denial. This confident debut feature opens up a complex dialogue about morality and incorporates the migrant crisis in Europe.

Our New Polish Cinema strand takes place at Riverside Studios, the ICA, JW3, Edinburgh Filmhouse and The Prince Charles Cinema. This year, a wide-ranging assortment of nine films brings together true and fictional stories in a display of the emotional strength of the contemporary cinema landscape in Poland. Nostalgia – both for the communist era and the 1990s – is on the mind of the directors of *Back Then and Back to Those Days*, while the theme of injustice drives *Leave No Traces*, *25 Years of Innocence* and *The Death of Zygielbojm*. Meanwhile, comedy of characters *The In-Laws* and dark thriller *A Woman at Night* highlight the sheer of creativity of the Polish film industry.

The programme continues with our long-standing partner the BFI. After its success at last year's online festival, BFI Player will

once again host a selection of 20th-century Polish film. The Polish Cinema Classics strand showcases well-established, classic films as *The Maids of Wilko* (1979) and *How to Be Loved* (1963) alongside the likes of *Sexmission* (1984) and *Pigs* (1992), cult films in Poland that have only had a limited overseas release. The importance of Poland's women directors is also foregrounded, with Agnieszka Holland's lesser-known sophomore feature *Fever* (1981) and the outstanding but underappreciated Barbara Sass's debut *Without Love* (1980).

As part of our commitment to interactive events that push the boundaries of film, we present *VR Nightsss* in collaboration with the ICA. This immersive, sensory-kinetic experience brings together poetry, dance and nature via virtual reality. The ICA also screens the documentary *1970*, a unique combination of archival photography, telephone conversations and stop-motion animation, which explores the violent events that took place in Poland in December 1970.

Our Closing Night Gala draws the curtain on this year's festival with a screening of the 1924 silent film *Forbidden Paradise*, accompanied by an atmospheric live score led by composer Marcin Pukaluk.

After this difficult period for cinema-goers, we are delighted to welcome you back to the festival. We encourage you all to delve into the best of Polish cinema and culture with us.

Marta de Zuniga
Polish Cultural Institute Director

Marlena Lukasiak
Kinoteka Artistic Director and Producer

SCREENINGS & EVENTS





OPENING NIGHT GALA

SILENT LAND



GALA SCREENING

WED 9 MARCH, 18:30
ICA

✂ SILENT LAND

Director: Agnieszka Woszczyńska
Writers: Agnieszka Woszczyńska, Piotr Litwin
Cast: Dobromir Dymecki, Agnieszka Żulewska, Jean-Marc Barr
Czech Republic/Poland/Italy, 2021, 113 min

After arriving at a holiday villa on an Italian island, bourgeois couple Adam (Dobromir Dymecki) and Anna (Agnieszka Żulewska) discover that the swimming pool is empty. The migrant worker sent to fix it suffers a deadly poolside accident, setting off a chain of disturbing events that shake the moral foundations of this seemingly-perfect couple. Aesthetically sparse, with minimal dialogue and an enigmatic plot, Agnieszka Woszczyńska's debut feature is a slow-burning character study that unfurls the power of denial. *Silent Land* debuted at the Toronto International Film Festival, before picking up the FIPRESCI award for the International Competition at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival.



NEW POLISH CINEMA

THE BEST RELEASES FROM A TUMULTUOUS YEAR IN FILMMAKING

The year 2020 brought with it a plethora of setbacks for the global film industry. Owing to health and safety concerns (and the accompanying new regulations), film shoots were delayed and, in some cases, even cancelled. This often had a knock-on effect for crew members, leading to longer-term financial and psychological worries. For those shoots that had already wrapped, cinema closures awaited, with no clear path to distribution. Meanwhile, producers seeking to finance new projects were left with a dearth of options, as traditional funding sources shied away, waiting for the pandemic dust to settle.

In Poland, this was no different. Along with the rest of the EU, the country saw a weighty drop in cinema admissions and gross box office takings. Coupled with cinema closures at various points across the year, this meant that 2020 was a much slower year for Polish cinema. Indeed, this was reflected in the reduced programme of last year's Kinoteka film festival.

This year, we are able to showcase the fruits of the past year in Polish film-making, thanks largely to the efforts of crews, producers and actors across the country. *Leave No Traces*, Poland's entry for Best International Feature Film at this year's Academy Awards, received a last-minute but much-needed boost thanks to additional French investment. On the other hand, *25 Years of Innocence* had finished shooting prior to the pandemic, but faced an uncertain autumn 2020 release – its box office success is largely predicated on the strength of

its script, performances, and the moving story it depicts. In the case of *The In-Laws*, a tight 17-day shoot surely helped its chances. Many more Polish productions have been realised across the pandemic, including 90s nostalgia (*Back to Those Days*) and biopics (*Sonata*). The results are impressive – and pave the way for a rejuvenated, post-pandemic film industry.

In partnership with Riverside Studios, the ICA, JW3, Edinburgh Filmhouse and The Prince Charles Cinema, we are delighted to present the best in New Polish Cinema. →



↑ Kinga Preis and Adam Woronowicz
in *Back Then*
← Tomasz Ziętek in *Leave No Traces*



HISTORICAL DRAMA

THU 10 MARCH, 18:10
ICA

✂ LEAVE NO TRACES

Director: Jan P. Matuszyński
Writer: Kaja Krawczyk-Wnuk
Cast: Tomasz Ziętek, Sandra Korzeniak, Jacek Braciak
Poland/Czech Republic/France, 2021, 160 min

In 1983, communist Poland is still under martial law. After being arrested and beaten by the police, Grzegorz Przymyk, son of the opposition poet Barbara Sadowska (Sandra Korzeniak), dies. The only witness, Jurek Popiel (Tomasz Ziętek), decides to testify against the police, bringing the weight of the state against him. Based on Cezary Łazarewicz's award-winning reportage of the same name, *Leave No Traces* is a moving picture of the injustices of the late communist era in Poland. The film won three awards at the Gdynia Polish Film Festival, and was selected to compete for the Golden Lion at Venice Film Festival.

SAT 12 MARCH, 18:00
PRINCE CHARLES CINEMA



COMEDY, DRAMA

✂ BACK THEN

Director: Kinga Dębska
Writer: Kinga Dębska
Cast: Kinga Preis, Adam Woronowicz, Ewa Wiśniewska
Poland, 2021, 94 min

In the communist period, schoolgirl Marta shares a room with her sister and grandmother (Ewa Wiśniewska). Her parents – moonshine-making intellectual Tadek (Adam Woronowicz) and workplace trade union leader Elżbieta (Kinga Preis) – are worn down by the system, with dreams of owning their own ‘maluch’ car. *Back Then* is a nostalgic picture of a bygone era; a gentle trip to a time when things were very different in Poland.

Additional Edinburgh Screening:

WED 30 MARCH, 20:45
EDINBURGH FILMHOUSE

SUN 13 MARCH, 18:00
RIVERSIDE STUDIOS



COMEDY

✂ THE IN-LAWS

Director: Jakub Michalczuk
Writer: Marek Modzelewski
Cast: Maja Ostaszewska, Marcin Dorociński, Izabela Kuna, Adam Woronowicz
Poland, 2021, 81 min

After a bride and groom break up at the last minute, the wedding reception goes ahead – owing to its expensive cost. While the guests drink and make merry, simmering tensions emerge between the in-laws of the would-be newlyweds. Thus the stage is set for an explosion of resentments across the social and economic divide in this keenly-observed comedy of characters. *The In-Laws* took home the Audience Award at the Vancouver International Film Festival.

Additional Edinburgh screening:

THU 31 MARCH, 20:45
EDINBURGH FILMHOUSE

TUE 15 MARCH, 20:30
RIVERSIDE STUDIOS



THRILLER, DRAMA

Ж A WOMAN AT NIGHT

Director: Rafał Kapeliński
Writers: Greer Ellison, Rafał Kapeliński
Cast: Jennifer Tao, Gianni Capaldi, Lin Xinyao, Piotr Adamczyk, Miles Richardson, Alex Chang
China/Poland/UK, 2021, 84 min

New to London and in need of money, Chinese migrant Yiling Li (Jennifer Tao) spends her nights illegally showing people around the former flat of notorious serial killer Dennis Nilsen. Across the course of her nocturnal activities, she stumbles into a dark underworld of strange – and often creepy – social outcasts.

WED 16 MARCH, 18:30
PRINCE CHARLES CINEMA



DRAMA

Ж OTHER PEOPLE

Director: Aleksandra Terpińska
Writer: Aleksandra Terpińska
Cast: Sonia Bohosiewicz, Jacek Beler, Magdalena Koleśnik
Poland, 2021, 106 min

Iwona (Sonia Bohosiewicz) and Kamil (Jacek Beler) seem to live worlds apart. She is married, but bored and unhappy with her middle-class, credit-fuelled life of luxury. He tries to earn a living writing rap lyrics, lives in his mother's apartment and is in on-and-off relationship with Aneta (Magdalena Koleśnik). When their paths cross, Iwona and Kamil will begin to see everything around them in a different light. An award-winning rap opera adapted from Dorota Masłowska's novel of the same name, *Other People* shows the author's peculiar idiosyncratic vision of an increasingly atomised society. The film features adult content, including sex and violence, and is not suitable for younger viewers.

THU 17 MARCH, 17:40
PRINCE CHARLES CINEMA



DRAMA

Ж SONATA

Director: Bartosz Blaschke
Writer: Bartosz Blaschke
Cast: Michał Sikorski, Małgorzata Foremniak, Łukasz Simlat
Poland, 2021, 118 min

As a child, Grzegorz Płonka (Michał Sikorski) struggles to communicate, leading to a diagnosis of autism, which later turns out to be a hearing loss. With the help of a hearing aid, Grzegorz discovers the world of sound and dreams of becoming a pianist. Yet no one believes that he will achieve this – except for his mother (Małgorzata Foremniak) and father (Łukasz Simlat). The film won both the Audience Award and Best Debut Actor at the Gdynia Polish Film Festival.

Additional Edinburgh screening:

SUN 3 APRIL, 20:30
EDINBURGH FILMHOUSE

SAT 19 MARCH, 15:00
RIVERSIDE STUDIOS



CRIME, DRAMA

Ж 25 YEARS OF INNOCENCE

Director: Jan Holoubek
Writer: Andrzej Gołda
Cast: Piotr Trojan, Agata Kulesza, Dariusz Chojnacki
Poland, 2020, 116 min

The life of 23-year-old Tomasz Komenda (Piotr Trojan) is upended when he is arrested and charged with the rape and murder of a teenager. After being found guilty, he is sentenced to 25 years in prison, where he is regularly beaten and humiliated. After 18 years, police officer Remigiusz Korejwo (Dariusz Chojnacki) looks into the case and discovers that Komenda has been dealt an irreparable injustice. Based on real events, *25 Years of Innocence* is an unflinching analysis of how justice can become perverted. This debut feature took home 15 awards across the festival circuit, including multiple wins at the Polish Film Awards and the Gdynia Polish Film Festival.

WED 23 MARCH, 20:00
JW3



HISTORICAL DRAMA

Ж THE DEATH OF ZYGIELBOJM

Director: Ryszard Brylski
Writers: Ryszard Brylski, Wojciech Lepianka
Cast: Jack Roth, Wojciech Meczaldowski, Karolina Gruszka
Poland, 2021, 90 min

In May 1943, Szmul Zygielbojm (Wojciech Meczaldowski), a member of the Polish government-in-exile, commits suicide in London. This leads young British journalist Adam (Jack Roth) to follow the coroner's investigation, in doing so revealing the significance of Zygielbojm's mission in Great Britain: to convince the indifferent Allies to intervene in the Holocaust being perpetrated by Nazi Germany in Europe. An account of a true historical tragedy, *The Death of Zygielbojm* is a timely reminder that we must always take evil seriously – and act against it.

THU 24 MARCH, 18:40
JW3



DRAMA

Ж BACK TO THOSE DAYS

Director: Konrad Aksinowicz
Writer: Konrad Aksinowicz
Cast: Weronika Książkiewicz, Maciej Stuhr, Teodor Koziar
Poland, 2021, 104 min

After the collapse of communism, Alek (Maciej Stuhr) migrates from Wrocław to the US, leaving his son Tomek (Teodor Koziar) to live alone with mother Helena (Weronika Książkiewicz). One day, Alek unexpectedly returns home with gifts for his family. Yet alongside the colour television set and Lego blocks, the father is bringing something much darker into the household... *Back to Those Days* is in many ways a love letter to the 1990s, unafraid to present both the pleasures and difficulties of the era. The film took part in the main competition at the Gdynia Polish Film Festival.



DOCUMENTARY, HISTORY

SUN 27 MARCH, 18:15
ICA

Ж 1970

Director: Tomasz Wolski
Writer: Tomasz Wolski
Poland, 2021, 70 min

In December 1970, a series of strikes and riots took place in northern Poland in protest against the sudden increase in price of basic groceries. In response, the communist government sent in the army and police to put a violent end to the demonstrations. The documentary *1970* draws upon archival photography, recently-discovered telephone conversations and stop-motion animation to better understand why the Polish authorities took the actions that they did. In doing so, Tomasz Wolski creates a precise picture about what power is and how its mechanisms function, opening up a universal discussion that encapsulates the use of force by present-day governments across the globe.

POLISH CINEMA CLASSICS

BFI PLAYER PRESENTS TEN ALL TIME GREATS



Committed cinema-goers in the UK have long been aware of the work of directors such as Andrzej Wajda whose films intermittently found distribution or regularly appeared at festivals here. However it has required some diligence to discover work that gained more prominence in Poland than internationally, and even more to be able to see it.

It is exciting, therefore, to be able to present, across the UK, a section of newly digitised titles from two of the most important film studios in Poland. From the first film by Jerzy Skolimowski, to Andrzej Żuławski's enigmatic cult masterpiece and one of the top 10 Polish comedies of all time, these titles represent a diverse panorama across film history in mid-late 20th century Poland.

KADR Studio was the oldest state owned film studio, founded in 1955. It offered an unique structure for artists to develop their work and aside from being the original home to the Polish Film School, offered the creative space for directors including Sass, Holland, Kutz and

Has to make films, many of which since became recognised as ground breaking contributions to cinematic history. Recognising the importance of this history KADR became involved in digital remastering from 2008.

Since 1988, when Juliusz Machulski set up Zebra Film Studio, the company made over 30 films. Directors working here included Władysław Pasikowski and Piotr Szulkin. They have prioritised preserving Poland's cultural heritage by both restoring and digitising their catalogue in consultation with the film-makers.

Many studios were merged into the new Documentary and Feature Film Production Company in 2019. Under this umbrella the preservation of cultural heritage has continued enabling us to share with you titles that confirm the richness of Polish cinema in this programme. Start exploring... →



You can access all of these films on BFI Player from 11 March until 7 April. Go to player.bfi.org.uk



PSYCHOLOGICAL DRAMA

✂ HOW TO BE LOVED

Director: Wojciech Jerzy Has

Writer: Kazimierz Brandys

Cast: Barbara Krafftówna, Zbigniew Cybulski, Wierczyśław Gliński

Poland, 1963, 97 min

From Wojciech Jerzy Has, the director of the dazzling *The Saragossa Manuscript*, this early low key work (presented in Cannes competition) from his Polish Film School period explores the effects of WW2 on the Polish psyche. Adapted by Kazimierz Brandys from his own story the film is distinct in its depiction of the German Occupation from a female perspective.

Barbara Krafftówna gives a compelling performance as Felicia, an actress struggling to reconcile personal choices and her career as she travels from Warsaw to Paris for the first time in years. Poland's James Dean, Zbigniew Cybulski, appears as her former lover. His larger than life character (and boastful stories) reveals the vulnerability of ordinary people in the theatre of war and leaves us to consider the individual human tragedies that happen in that arena every day.



EXPERIMENTAL DRAMA

✂ IDENTIFICATION MARKS: NONE

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski

Writer: Jerzy Skolimowski

Cast: Jerzy Skolimowski, Elżbieta Czyżewska, Tadeusz Mins, Andrzej Źarnecki

Poland, 1964, 71 min

Acclaimed by Jean-Luc Godard, Jerzy Skolimowski's feature debut (which won him two Best Director prizes) was made on a very restricted budget whilst he was still at the Łódź Film School.

It introduces Andrzej Leszczyc (a character to appear in subsequent films) on the anniversary of the outbreak of WW2 as he prepares to join the army, having given up his studies and left his girlfriend, Theresa. Feeling at odds with society, this outsider (played by Skolimowski himself) is, like many others of his generation, uncomfortable with his position and trying to find his way in life. Rising star, Elżbieta Czyżewska, plays the three different women on his journey.



COMEDY DRAMA

✂ THE BEADS OF ONE ROSARY

Director: Kazimierz Kutz

Writer: Kazimierz Kutz, Albin Siekierski

Cast: Augustyn Halotta, Marta Straszna, Ewa Wiśniewska, Franciszek Pieczka, Jan Bógdoł
Poland, 1979, 106 min

Amateurs were cast in the main roles in this final segment of Kazimierz Kutz' Silesian trilogy, which began with *Salt of the Black Earth* in 1969. With an affectionate script, adapted from the novel by Albin Siekierski, the film unfolds revealing the final days of a culture built on community, shared values and working class solidarity.

Retired miner Karol Habryka fights strongly to retain his family home, shunning the concrete tenements that are rising up outside his door. Telling the story with affection and humour, legendary director Kutz (as renowned for his work in theatre, TV and in politics as in cinema) keenly observes everyday life and the cross-generational arguments, with all their contractions, that bind families together. Winning the top award at the Polish Film Festival in Gdansk 1980 and a special award at Karlovy Vary *The Beads of One Rosary* subsequently screened at many international film festivals.



ROMANTIC DRAMA

✂ THE YOUNG LADIES OF WILKO

Director: Andrzej Wajda

Writer: Zbigniew Kaminski

Cast: Daniel Olbrychski, Anna Seniuk, Maja Komorowska, Stanisława Celinska
Poland, 1979, 118 min

Having received his first major break as an actor with (the now internationally renowned) Andrzej Wajda, Daniel Olbrychski continued to appear in his films and took the lead in this elegiac tale of 1920s Poland. Often described as 'Chekhovian' *The Young Ladies of Wilko* is based on a story by Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz in which a young man in crisis re-visits a place that holds many happy memories and discovers how things have changed.

The enigmatic story is a meditation on life, (a change of pace from Wajdas preceding political films) unfolding around the women on the Wilko farm. Filmed on location, designed by Allan Starski (also a long term collaborator with Wajda) the film was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film Oscar and enjoyed success abroad, including festivals in New York and Locarno.



PSYCHOLOGICAL DRAMA

✂ WITHOUT LOVE

Director: Barbara Sass

Writer: Barbara Sass

Cast: Dorota Stalińska, Władysław Kowalski, Małgorzata Zajączkowska, Emilian Kamiński
Poland, 1980, 99 min

Winning the award for best directorial feature debut at the Polish Film Festival in 1980 *Without Love* marked the arrival of the distinct talent of Barbara Sass. Positioning strong, independent contemporary women centre stage, acknowledging their flaws, she made a significant impact on the male dominated Polish culture.

Ewa, a young journalist (brilliantly played by Dorota Stalińska) knows no boundaries in pushing forwards her career. Crashing through all the gender stereotypes she is nonetheless forced to reflect on her behaviour when a young woman's life is put at risk. A tough and uncompromising slice of social realism shot by distinguished cinematographer Wiesław Zdort this film was the first of three by Sass to star Stalińska, challenging perceptions of female centred cinema.

Seweryn Krajewski's striking score adds to the tension in this memorable psychological drama.



HISTORICAL DRAMA

✂ FEVER

Director: Agnieszka Holland

Writer: Krzysztof Teodor Toeplitz

Cast: Barbara Grabowska, Adam Ferency, Bogusław Linda, Olgierd Łukaszewicz
Poland, 1981, 116 min

Following the success of her debut feature, *Provincial Actors*, Agnieszka Holland made *Fever*, based on a story by Andrzej Strug. However, soon after its release martial law was declared in Poland and the Polish Communist government banned it. Focusing on Polish resistance to Russian forces at the time of the 1905 Revolution *Fever* shows a period of complex relationships through inter-woven stories. The narrative follows a series of individuals who work collaboratively towards taking down the old order (specifically a much hated Russian Governor-General) and the journey of the bomb that they hope will be decisive in their struggle.

Acclaimed for many outstanding performances, watch out for Bogusław Linda, who appears as an anarchist in his first major role (a key part in Holland's *A Woman Alone* was soon to follow) and Barbara Grabowska, who won the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the Berlin Film Festival.



SCI-FI, DRAMA

✂ THE WAR OF THE WORLDS: NEXT CENTURY

Director: Piotr Szulkin

Writer: Piotr Szulkin

Cast: Krystyna Janda, Mariusz Dmochowski,
Roman Wilhelm

Poland, 1981, 96 min

Described by the Lincoln Centre in 2019 as “a disturbingly prescient allegory of power, control, and media manipulation in a post-truth world” Piotr Szulkin’s sci-fi drama opens just before the dawn of 21st century. Based on H G Wells’ novel (1898) it was completed just before General Jaruzelski imposed martial law on Poland. Taking the themes, rather than the details, of Wells’ work it explores how the authorities use the invasion of Martians to increase their power, manipulating the media and providing populist entertainment.

This was Szulkin’s second feature, preceded by his debut *Golem* (1979), considered a Polish Sci-Fi classic.

The acclaimed Krystyna Janda (known for her work with Andrzej Wajda) was cast as the wife of central character Iron Idem, a news presenter played by Roman Wilhelm, himself a hugely popular TV series actor at the time.



SCI-FI, COMEDY

✂ SEXMISSION

Director: Juliusz Machulski

Writer: Juliusz Machulski

Cast: Jerzy Stuhr, Olgierd Łukaszewicz, Bożena
Strykówna, Bogusława Pawelec, Wiesław Mikuć
Poland, 1983, 116 min

Hugely popular with Polish audiences on release and considered one of the top 10 Polish comedies of all time, *Sexmission* is a smart satire of a totalitarian state.

Inspired by Stanley Kubrick (wanting to work in every genre) emerging writer-director Juliusz Machulski shook up expectations and packed cinemas with this sci-fi tale of two men waking up from hibernation in 2044, decades later than expected, to find themselves in an underground post nuclear world of women.

Jerzy Stuhr, then associated with the cinema of moral anxiety and for his work with Krzysztof Kieślowski, was cast against type as Max. Doctor Berna, the head of the archaeological institute was played by Beata Tyszkiewicz, known as the Eastern Catherine Deneuve.

A few years later Machulski changed focus and become a producer, founding the Zebra film studio, to develop films from a wide range of genres.



SCI-FI, DRAMA

✂ ON THE SILVER GLOBE

Director: Andrzej Żuławski

Writer: Andrzej Żuławski, Jerzy Żuławski

Cast: Andrzej Seweryn, Jerzy Trela, Krystyna
Janda

Poland, 1988, 157 min

Ostensibly shut down in 1977 because the production was going over budget Andrzej Żuławski’s epic soon gained cult status as an unfinished masterpiece. Adapted from (his great-uncle) Jerzy Żuławski’s influential *The Lunar Trilogy* (only recently available in English) its turbulent history has generated numerous myths and documentaries seeking to explain it. Always uncompromising, the futuristic labyrinthine narrative explores the dangers of polarised politics and observes a new society growing on an alien planet.

Now available in its restored form with striking, often violent images (made more impactful by the often feverish hand held shooting style) and powerful music by regular collaborator Andrzej Korzyński it can be seen as the philosophical exploration of the true nature of mankind that Żuławski intended.



CRIME DRAMA

✂ PIGS

Director: Władysław Pasikowski

Writer: Wladyslaw Pasikowski

Cast: Bogusław Linda, Marek Kondrat, Cezary
Pazura, Janusz Gajos, Agnieszka Jaskółka
Poland, 1992, 104 min

Life on the streets is brutal as ex secret police officer Franz Maurer (Bogusław Linda) is ‘downgraded’ to an ordinary policeman and has to adjust to his new status. Often compared to Tarantino for his bloody scenes and gallows humour director Władysław Pasikowski declared he was aiming to make a popular film: he had a huge commercial success and created a popular icon with the character of Maurer, who has since returned in two further *Pigs* films.

Shot by multi-award winning cinematographer Pawel Edelman (in a very different style to that used by him on Wajda’s films) we are drawn into a world of ambiguous moral guidelines, mirroring the difficulties of adjustment in post-Communist Poland. The dark reality of everyday life is put centre stage in this gritty urban thriller which remains popular in Poland today.

VIRTUAL REALITY

IMMERSIVE VR EXPERIENCES



Virtual reality (or VR) is taking leaps and bounds in the world of cinema. This technology, which refers to a simulated experience of reality, transmitted through a headset, enables artists and directors alike to explore the spatial dimension of film – something that is difficult to achieve within the usual two-dimensional confines of the cinema screen. Often associated with video games, VR is being increasingly embraced by international auteurs. 2017 saw the release of Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Carne y arena*, which takes users in the footsteps of Mexican and Central American refugees as they approach the US border; just last year, Asif Kapadia debuted *Laika*, a short about the famous Soviet canine's expedition into space. One thing is for sure: in the coming years, VR is set to revolutionise how we all experience cinema.

In partnership with the ICA, we are pleased to present *Nightsss*, an immersive, sensory-kinetic virtual experience that premiered at Sundance Film Festival in 2021.



10-13 MARCH 14:00-21:00

ICA

✂ NIGHTSSS

Directors: Weronika Lewandowska, Sandra Frydrysiak

Written and performed by: Weronika Lewandowska

Production: Film School in Łódź, Visual Narratives Laboratory (vnLab), VR/AR Studio Poland, 2021

NIGHTSSS lights installation at the ICA has been created by Munchingsquare - UK based, Polish led creative technology studio

BOOK AHEAD: WWW.ICA.ART

The night is young; the moon casts its blueish hue across the dusky sky. You step into this twilight world, tall trees and craggy rocks lining your path. A dancing figure gestures towards you, seemingly inviting you to explore your natural surroundings. As you let go and immerse yourself in this new reality, your body will transform, sweeping you up on an oneiric journey. An experimental and sensual experience of poetry, dance and nature, *VR Nightsss* is bound to leave an indelible impression on those that accept its invitation.

CLOSING GALA

SILENT MOVIE WITH A LIVE MUSICAL SCORE

SUN 3 APRIL 15:00
BFI SOUTHBANK ^{NFT1}

The Polish Cultural Institute in London and the BFI present the Closing Gala of the 2022 Kinoteka Polish Film Festival, featuring a screening of the silent film *Forbidden Paradise* accompanied by a live score.

GALA SCREENING



+ LIVE SCORE

✂ FORBIDDEN PARADISE

Director: Ernst Lubitsch

Writers: Agnes Christine Johnston, Hans Kräly,
Lajos Biró, Menyhért Lengyel

Cast: Pola Negri, Rod La Rocque
USA, 1924, 76 min

Young military officer Alexei (Rod La Rocque) rescues Catherine (Pola Negri), the Czarina of a small kingdom in Eastern Europe, from a group of revolutionaries who are plotting against her. The Czarina 'rewards' him in the bedroom, causing Alexei to fall head over heels in love with her, only to find out that he is far from the only royal consort. Stung, Alexei joins a rebellion against the monarchy, vowing that no harm will come to Catherine. But the rakish Chancellor (Adolphe Menjou) has plans to quash this new threat.

Made during the golden era of Hollywood silent cinema, *Forbidden Paradise* is a wonderful comic drama adapted from a 1922 Broadway play, starring the much-loved Polish performer Pola Negri, alongside an early cameo from Clark Gable.

We are pleased to present the most complete version of *Forbidden Paradise* in almost 100 years, thanks to a new digital restoration by the Museum of Modern Art and The Film Foundation, with funding provided by the George Lucas Family Foundation.

The screening of *Forbidden Paradise* will be accompanied by a live score performed by Marcin Pukaluk, a composer, performer and producer who has previously scored titles including *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920), *The General* (1926), and *Metropolis* (1927) for an array of international film festivals.

A CRASH COURSE IN POLISH CINEMA WITH EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY



A collaboration between the Polish Cultural Institute in London and the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Open Learning. Through a series of short videos, Dr Malgorzata Bugaj provides snapshots of different perspectives on Polish film. The course will cover selected Polish directors, film movements and other areas associated with cinema, for example, Polish film posters and animation. It is free and open for all.

The first two course videos on the Polish School of Posters and Genre Cinema & Beyond are available online, access them here: edin.ac/3qHMCOQ or using QR code:



FREE ADMISSION

CALENDAR, BOOKING & INFORMATION



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday 9 March 18:30
 OPENING NIGHT GALA
Silent Night
 Director: Agnieszka Woszczynska

ICA

www.ica.art



Thursday 10 March 18:10
 NEW POLISH CINEMA
Leave No Traces
 Director: Jan P. Matuszynski

ICA

www.ica.art

Thursday 10 – Sunday 13 March
 14:00 – 21:00
 SPECIAL SCREENINGS & EVENTS
Nightsss
 Director: Sandra Frydrysiak,
 Weronika Lewandowska

ICA

www.ica.art



Saturday 12 March 18:00
 NEW POLISH CINEMA
Back Then
 Director: Kinga Dębska

Prince Charles Cinema

princecharlescinema.com

Sunday 13 March 18:00
 NEW POLISH CINEMA
The In-Laws
 Director: Jakub Michalczuk

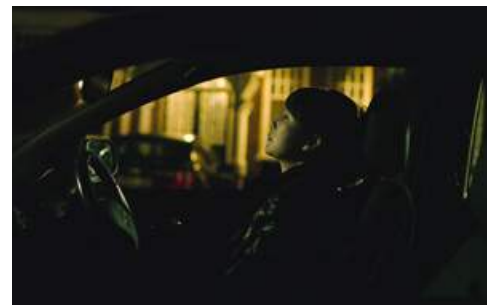
Riverside Studios

riversidestudios.co.uk

Tuesday 15 March 20:30
 NEW POLISH CINEMA
A Women at Night
 Director: Rafal Kapelinski

Riverside Studios

riversidestudios.co.uk



Wednesday 16 March 18:30
 NEW POLISH CINEMA
Other People
 Director: Aleksandra Terpinska

Prince Charles Cinema

princecharlescinema.com

Thursday 17 March 17:40
 NEW POLISH CINEMA
Sonata
 Director: Bartosz Blaschke

Prince Charles Cinema

princecharlescinema.com



Sunday 20 March 15:00
 NEW POLISH CINEMA
25 Years of Innocence
 Director: Jan Holoubek

Riverside Studios

riversidestudios.co.uk

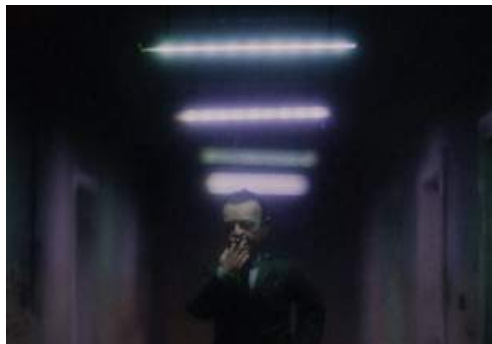


Wednesday 23 March NEW POLISH CINEMA JW3 jw3.org.uk
 20:00 **The Death of Zygelbojm**
 Director: Ryszard Brylski

Thursday 24 March NEW POLISH CINEMA JW3 jw3.org.uk
 18:40 **Back to Those Days**
 Director: Konrad Aksinowicz



Sunday 27 March NEW POLISH CINEMA ICA www.ica.art
 18:15 **1970**
 Director: Tomasz Wolski



Wednesday 30 March NEW POLISH CINEMA Filmhouse Edinburgh filmhousecinema.com
 20:45 **Back Then**
 Director: Kinga Debska

Thursday 31 March NEW POLISH CINEMA Filmhouse Edinburgh filmhousecinema.com
 20:45 **The In-laws**
 Director: Jakub Michalczuk

Sunday 3 April NEW POLISH CINEMA Filmhouse Edinburgh filmhousecinema.com
 20:30 **Sonata**
 Director: Bartosz Blaschke

Sunday 3 April CLOSING NIGHT GALA BFI Southbank, NFT1 bfi.org.uk
 15:00 **Forbidden Paradise**
 Director: Ernst Lubitsch
 With specially composed score
 played live by Marcin Pukaluk



Friday 11 March - POLISH CINEMA CLASSICS BFI Player player.bfi.org.uk
 Thursday 7 April

Identification Marks: None
 Director: Jerzy Skolimowski

The Young Ladies of Wilko
 Director: Andrzej Wajda

Without Love
 Director: Barbara Sass

Fever
 Director: Agnieszka Holland

The War of the Worlds: Next Century
 Director: Piotr Szulkin

Sexmission
 Director: Juliusz Machulski

On The Silver Globe
 Director: Andrzej Zulawski

Pigs
 Director: Wladyslaw Pasikowski

The Beads Of One Rosary
 Director: Kazimierz Kutz

How To Be Loved
 Director: Wojciech Jerzy Has



The Jazz Cafe & B Side Events present _____

SKALPEL

Saturday 07 May _____



VENUE INFORMATION



BFI Southbank
Belvedere Road
London SE1 8XT
020 7928 3232
bfi.org.uk



Institute of Contemporary Arts
The Mall
London, SW1Y 5AH
020 7930 3647
ica.art



JW3
341-351 Finchley Road
London NW3 6ET
0207 433 8988
jw3.org.uk



Edinburgh Filmhouse
88 Lothian Road
Edinburgh EH3 9BZ
0131 228 2688
filmhousecinema.com



Prince Charles Cinema
7 Leicester Place
London WC2H 7BY
020 7494 3654
princecharlescinema.com



Riverside Studios
101 Queen Caroline Street
London W6 9BN
020 8237 1000
riversidestudios.co.uk

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WITH SPECIAL THANKS

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Maria Gradolewska, PISF

Victoria Humphrys, BFI Southbank

Maggi Hurt, BFI Southbank

Izabela Kiszka, IKH Film Promotions

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Nico Marzano, ICA

Piotr Nierobisz, VJ London

Rachele Parietti, Modern Films

Liz Parkinson, BFI Southbank

Nicolas Raffin, ICA

James Rocarols, BFI Player

Radosław Śmigulski, PISF

Dariusz Trela, Magnets Pictures

Owen Van Spall, Riverside Studios

Jacqueline Wang, Modern Films

Rod White, Filmhouse Cinema

VnLab Team, Lodz Film School

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FILMHOUSE

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RIVERSIDESTUDIOS

THE 20TH
POLISH
FILM
FESTIVAL

KINOTEKA




Kinoteka returns this March for your annual dose of Poland's diverse film culture. This year's programme offers a fresh blend of award-winning films, virtual reality, and live music. For the best of Polish cinema, look no further.


In London at the BFI, ICA, Prince Charles Cinema, Riverside Studios, JW3 and at the Edinburgh Filmhouse.

www.kinoteka.org.uk
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