

2011 NEW YORK POLISH FILM FESTIVAL TO OPEN WITH NY PREMIERE OF JANUSZ MAJEWSKI'S *RITE OF PASSAGE*; POLISH DIRECTORS AND STARS COMING TO NEW YORK TO PARTICIPATE IN FESTIVAL

NYPFF SET FOR MAY 4 - MAY 8 AT ANTHOLOGY FILM ARCHIVES IN MANHATTAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The New York Polish Film Festival is proud to announce its return for the seventh straight year, taking up residence at the Anthology Film Archives in Manhattan's East Village May 4 - May 8. Six feature films as well as numerous documentaries and shorts will be screened, and filmmakers and performers will speak with audiences throughout the five-day event.

The festival opens with a selection of documentaries by Krzysztof Kieslowski (the legendary director of *Three Colors: Blue, White, Red*), followed by the New York premiere of **Rite of Passage** (*Mała matura 47*). **Janusz Majewski** has directed a semi-autobiographical meditation on navigating adolescence in the aftermath of World War II between the residue of German occupation and the oncoming brutality of Soviet oppression.

Introducing the opening night events will be Professor **Annette Insdorf**, Director of Undergraduate Film Studies at Columbia University and author of *Double Lives, Second Chances: The Cinema of Krzysztof Kieslowski*.

Kieslowski's presence will be felt throughout the festival, just as it continues to be felt in the Polish film industry. A selection of the director's short films, made when he was a student at Poland's highly regarded film school in Łódź, will also screen on Friday, May 6.

One of the major highlights of this year's event is director **Jerzy Skolimowski's Essential Killing**, which will screen on May 6. Starring New York actor/artist/filmmaker, **Vincent Gallo**, Skolimowski employs the "war on terror" and the CIA's operation of "black sites" -- secret prisons around the world -- to explore the contradictions of the human experience and its inextricable relationship with the physical landscape in which we live. Skolimowski was awarded the **Special Jury Prize** at the **2010 Venice Film Festival** for *Essential Killing* while Gallo was named winner of the **Volpi Cup for Best Actor** for his wordless performance. Likewise, the **Mar del Plata Film Festival** honored *Essential Killing* with its Best Film award while Gallo, again, was named Best Actor.

Among the features chosen to screen at this year's festival is **Erratum**, director **Marek Lechki's** feature film debut. It tells the tale of a young man whose boss sends him to his hometown to pick up a car shipped from the U.S. As he encounters numerous

figures from his past, however, what was intended to be a quick trip becomes an emotional journey that brings him face-to-face with a forgotten past.

How to Get Rid of Cellulite (Jak się pozbyć cellulitu), the initial collaboration between acclaimed director **Andrzej Saramonowicz** and **Warner Brothers Entertainment Polska**, is a modern comedy about women who come to realize that men and cellulite have a lot in common: they are both difficult to get rid of. This marks the film's New York premiere.

Seasoned director **Jan Kidawa Blonski** is represented in this year's line-up with **Little Rose (Różyczka)**, set in Poland's Communist era. It tells the tale of a young woman who splits her time between her husband and her lover, slowly coming to the realization that she is simply a pawn of the brutish Polish security apparatus out to disgrace her husband.

Rounding out the features program is the Closing Night film, **Eve**, co-directed by **Adam Sikora**, a well-known cinematographer and screenwriter, and **Ingmar Villqist**, one of Poland's most popular contemporary playwrights. It tells the story of a woman who, confronted with poverty, fights for her family, her stability and her dignity. In addition to closing the festival, **Eve** will also screen on May 7 with lead actress **Barbara Lubos-Święc** and the film's producer present for a Q&A with the audience after the film.

In addition to the features program, a long list of documentaries and short films from Poland will be receiving their New York premieres at the 7th NYFFF. This year's poster, which captures the melding of Poland and New York in a colorfully atmospheric way, was created by Rafal Olbiński.

** Screeners for most titles available to the press upon request.

Tickets for all screenings can be bought at www.bilety.com or starting one hour before screening time at Anthology Film Archives, 32 Second Avenue, NY, NY. Prices are \$15 per ticket for adults and \$9 per ticket for students and seniors. Tickets for opening and closing night events and films are \$20.

For more information, please go to www.nypff.com.

Following is a complete schedule of films and scheduled appearances of visiting talent.

OFFICIAL SCHEDULE FOR 2011 NEW YORK POLISH FILM FESTIVAL

Wednesday, May 4

7:30 pm Opening Ceremony

Annette Insdorf, Professor in the Graduate Film Program of Columbia University's School of the Arts, and Kieslowski's former translator, will welcome guests and introduce this year's event.

Three documentaries by Krzysztof Kieślowski

From the Night Porter's Point of View (Z punktu widzenia nocnego portiera) 17 min.

Seven Women of Different Ages (Siedem kobiet w różnym wieku), 15 min.

Talking Heads (Gadające głowy) 15 min.

Feature Presentation (NY Premiere)

The Rite of Passage (Mala matura 47) Dir. Janusz Majewski, 99 min.

Thursday, May 5

6:30 pm *Tomorrow* (Jutro), documentary, Dir. Bartosz Kruhlik, 14 min. - **NY Premiere**

Little Bride (Przrzeczona), documentary, Dir. Lesław Dobrucki, 14 min
NY Premiere

What Can Dead Prisoners Do? (Co mogą martwi jeńcy?), Dir. Anna Ferens, documentary, 57 min. - **NY Premiere**

Q&A with director Anna Ferens following the film

8:30 pm *The Dog Hill* (Marysina Polana), documentary, Dir. Grzegorz Zariczny, 39 min. - **NY Premiere**

Feature Presentation

How to Get Rid of Cellulite (Jak się pozbyć cellulitu), Dir. Andrzej Saramonowicz, 108 min. - **NY Premiere**

Q&A with director Saramonowicz and lead actress Magdalena Boczarska following the film

Friday, May 6

6:30pm Three Student Shorts by Krzysztof Kieslowski

The Tram (Tramwaj), 6 min.

Concert of Wishes (Koncert Życzeń), 17 min.

The Office (Urząd), 6 min

The Face (Twarz), Dir. Piotr Studzinski, 6 min.

An Exclusive (Wyłączność), fiction, Dir. Krzysztof Szot, 14 min. - **NY**

Premiere

Feature Presentation

I Won't Be Here Tomorrow (Jutro mnie tu nie będzie), Dir. Julia Kolberger, 55 min. - **New York Premiere**

Q&A with Director Julia Kolberger following the film

8:30 pm *Poste Restante*, documentary, Dir. Marcel Łoziński, 14 min. - **NY**

Premiere

Take a Look (Popatrz), documentary, Dir. Adam Polenta , 4 min.

Feature Presentation

Essential Killing, Dir. Jerzy Skolimowski, 121 min.

Saturday, May 7

12:15 pm NY Premiere of entire program

Charcoal Burners (Smolarze), documentary, Dir. Piotr Złotorowicz, 10 min.

Honeymoon (Miodowy miesiąc), documentary, Dir. Grzegorz Krawiec, 29 min.

The Human Files (Archiwum istnień), documentary, Dir. Justyna Luczaj- Salej, 54 min.

2:30 pm NY Premiere of entire program

Treasure Seekers, documentary, Dir. Agnieszka Bąk, 20 min.

Oberschlesien - A Crumb Cake from My Home (Kończ na droga), documentary, Dir. Michal Majerski, 50 min.

Depression Mon Amour, documentary, Dir. Rafal Mierzejewski, 50 min.

Q&A with director, Rafał Mierzejewski, and writer, Janusz Głowacki

5:00 pm Feature Presentation

Erratum, feature, Dir. Marek Lechki, 110 min. - **NY Premiere**

7:00 pm *Out of Reach* (Poza zasięgiem), Dir. Jakub Stozek, 30 min. - **NY Premiere**

Feature Presentation

Eve, feature, Dirs. Adam Sikora & Ingmar Villqist, 108 min. - **NY Premiere**

Q&A with producer Magdalena Nowacka and lead actress Barbara Lubos -Święc

10:00 pm 38.5 - Grzegorz Debowski, 12 min.

Feature Presentation

Little Rose (Różyczka)- Jan Kidawa Błonski, 108 min.

Sunday, May 8

1:00pm

Student Shorts by Krzysztof Kieslowski

The Tram (Tramwaj), 6 min.

Concert of Wishes (Koncert Życzeń), 17 min.

The Office (Urząd), 6 min.

The Face (Twarz) - Dir. Piotr Studziński, 6 min.

New Poland, documentary, Dirs. Robert Kaczmarek & Grzegorz Braun, 54 min.

Q&A with producer/director Robert Kaczmarek following the film

2:30pm *An Exclusive* (Wyłączność), documentary, Dir. Krzysztof Szot, 14 min.

Feature Presentation

Rite of Passage (Mała matura 47), Dir. Janusz Majewski, 99 min.

5:00pm **Feature Presentation**

How to Get Rid of Cellulite (Jak sie pozbyć cellulitu), feature, Dir. Andrzej Saramonowicz, 108 min.

Q&A with director and lead actors

6:45pm *North from Calabria* (Na północ od Kalabrii), Dir. Marcin Sauter, 67 min.

NY Premiere

I Won't Be Here Tomorrow (Jutro mnie tu nie będzie), Dir. Julia Kolberger 55 min. **Director Julia Kolberger will be in attendance**

CLOSING NIGHT SCREENING WITH FILMMAKERS AND PERFORMERS IN ATTENDANCE

9:15 pm *Viva Maria!* documentary, Dir. Agnieszka Smoczynska, 17 min.

Feature Presentation

Eve, feature, Dirs. Adam Sikora & Ingmar Villqist, 108 min.

For more information, visit us online at www.nypff.com

Tickets available through www.Bilety.com and at the box office of the Anthology Film Archives one hour before screenings.

Tickets: \$15 adults/\$9 for students and seniors.

Festival organizers reserve the right to make changes in the festival program.