

# KINOTEKA



THE 24TH POLISH FILM FESTIVAL

4 FEBRUARY  
— 29 MARCH

The annual celebration  
of Polish cinema

At BFI, ICA, GARDEN CINEMA, CINÉ LUMIÈRE, SOUTHBANK CENTRE and more

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# WELCOME TO KINOTEKA 2026!

The 24th KINOTEKA Polish Film Festival returns from 4 February to 29 March 2026, presenting a curated selection of the most important contemporary and classic Polish films, documentaries and special events across London’s leading cinemas.

This year’s edition is anchored by a major retrospective of films by Andrzej Wajda, Academy Awarded auteur, marking the 100th anniversary of the director’s birth. One of the most influential filmmakers of post-war Europe, Wajda understood cinema as a moral, civic and political act. His films confront the defining experiences of the twentieth century: war, occupation, totalitarianism and the struggle for freedom while asking enduring questions about individual responsibility, compromise and resistance. In a time of renewed geopolitical tension and historical revisionism, Wajda’s work remains urgently relevant.

The Opening Gala on 4 February at BFI Southbank will feature Wajda’s *Ashes and Diamonds*, inaugurating the retrospective ‘Portraits of History and Humanity’. Presented across BFI Southbank, the ICA and Ciné Lumière, the programme offers a rare opportunity to experience such an extensive selection of Wajda’s film output on the big screen, tracing how personal stories intersect with the great fractures of European history.

This year’s ‘New Polish Cinema’ strand will feature the most significant Polish productions of the past year, including *Franz* by Agnieszka Holland, Poland’s official submission for Best International Feature Film at the 98th Academy Awards and *Chopin, a Sonata in Paris*, Michał Kwieciński’s lavish biopic of Frédéric Chopin. Films in this strand will be screened at renowned London cinemas including BFI IMAX, the Barbican Centre, The Garden Cinema, Ciné Lumière, and the ICA.

KINOTEKA 2026 also reflects on cinema as a shared European language of memory, by a tribute to Krzysztof Kieślowski, a showcase dedicated to Marcel Łoziński, a master of documentary, and *Trains* by Maciej Drygas, with use of metaphor and montage to map the continent’s collective experience, its movements of people, the machinery of war, moments of silence and fragile peace. Together, these works reveal Europe not as an abstract idea, but as a lived history shaped by trauma, displacement and moral choice.

Special events at this year’s KINOTEKA will include *Blokowisko (The Estate)* at the Southbank Centre, a new work created by composer and performer Blanka Barbara Stahl, blending contemporary dance, live electro-acoustic music and immersive video scenography. The performance is inspired by a story Andrzej Wajda once envisioned but never brought to the screen.

Samsung KX will welcome us again this year, providing their Kings Cross space for the presentation of a conference on Artificial Intelligence and how it is transforming the film industry.

By bringing these many voices together, KINOTEKA 2026 invites audiences to reflect on cinema’s unique ability to bear witness to history, to humanity, and to the responsibilities of the present.

Join us at KINOTEKA 2026!

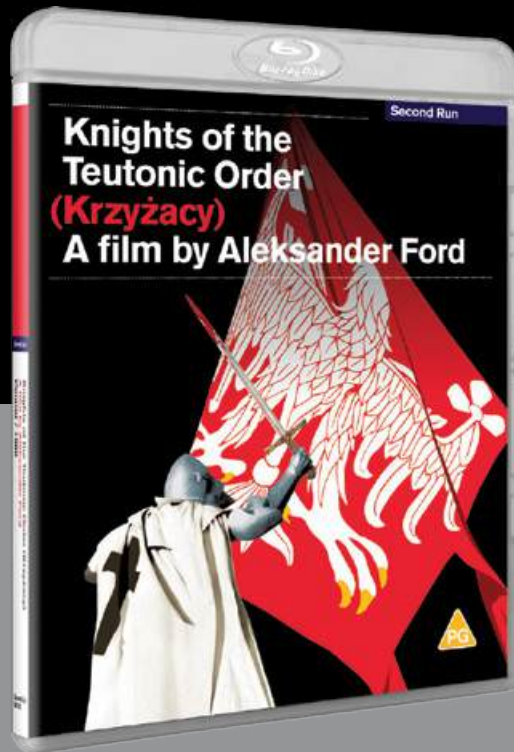
Anna Tryc-Bromley  
Director, Polish Cultural Institute in London

Marlena Łukasiak  
Kinoteka Artistic Director and Producer



Second Run

# New Special Edition Blu-ray



Selected by Martin Scorsese as one of the best films in Polish cinema history, Aleksander Ford's legendary epic combines spectacular battle scenes with political intrigue and tender romance. *Knights of the Teutonic Order* remains one of the most loved and successful Polish films ever.

## Out Now

### Special Features:

- Presented from a 2K restoration.
- Superprodukcje!: A new video essay by film historian Michael Brooke on Polish epics.
- Archival Polish newsreel on the making of the film.
- Booklet with writing on the film by professor Anna Misiak.
- New and improved English subtitle translation.
- Region free (A/B/C) Blu-ray.
- UK premiere on Blu-ray.

### Also now available



### More Polish classics coming soon on Blu-ray

- Jerzy Kawalerowicz: *Night Train (Pociąg)*, *Mother Joan of the Angels (Matka Joanna od Aniołów)*
- Andrzej Munk: *Passenger (Pasażerka)* • Wanda Jakubowska: *The Last Stage (Ostatni etap)*

[www.secondrundvd.com](http://www.secondrundvd.com)

Our full catalogue of more than 220 titles boasts works from some of cinema's most admired and adventurous filmmakers. Available in shops, online and at our website.

# SCREENINGS & EVENTS

Letters from Wolf Street, Director: Arjun Talwar, 2025

# OPENING NIGHT GALA

## KICKING OFF WITH A WAJDA CLASSIC



INTRODUCTION

WED 4 FEBRUARY, 18:10  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT1

### ✕ ASHES AND DIAMONDS

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Zbigniew Cybulski, Ewa Krzyżewska,  
Wacław Zastrzeżyński  
Poland, 1958, 100 min

Ashes and Diamonds will also be screened on 15 and 24 February and 19 March as part of the Andrzej Wajda Retrospective. See p. 18 for details

In the last days of the Second World War, Maciek, a Polish resistance fighter, is tasked with the assassination of a Communist official. When he meets Krystyna, he is offered a glimpse of a world beyond war and destruction, and questions his assignment. Wajda's classic drama, which cemented his position as a world-class filmmaker, features an iconic central performance by Cybulski – the 'Polish James Dean' – who contributes immeasurably to this probing look at the complex post-war future for a new nation and its people. It's essential viewing.

Screening from a 35mm print

*With an introduction by an expert speaker*



# NEW POLISH CINEMA

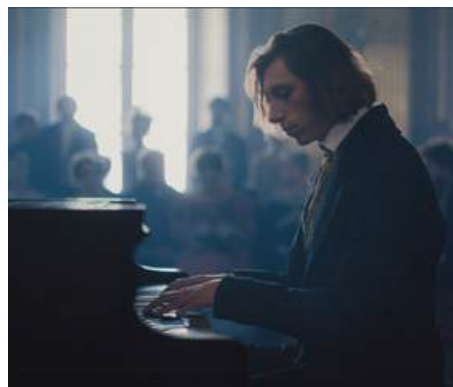
The best Polish films  
from the past year

Many of our selections in New Polish Cinema this year explore how groups of people interact and the potential (or missed potential) of working together. Where people connect there is the possibility of reaching understanding. Our films test this in different ways. Not all are optimistic, but many show how trying something different can be successful, at least in part.

As well as the subjects they deal with, the production styles also test different forms of collaboration across archives, companies, countries. Or simply deciding on a change of style. We hope you will take the opportunity to step out of your comfort zone and try something different during this year's festival.



SUN 1 MARCH, 15:30  
CINÉ LUMIÈRE



## PERIOD DRAMA

### ✂ CHOPIN, A SONATA IN PARIS

Director: Michał Kwieciński

Writer: Bartosz Janiszewski

Cast: Eryk Kulm, Joséphine de la Baume, Karolina Gruska, Maja Ostaszewska

Poland 2025, 133/135 min

Paris, 1835. Frédéric Chopin has left Poland and established himself as a darling of the salons and toast of the French court. However, behind the brilliance and wit, the 25 year old celebrity is battling illness and inner conflict whilst composing the works that we celebrate today as poetic genius. Michał Kwieciński (*Filip*) works once again with rising star Eryk Kulm (as Chopin) and Michał Sobociński (as cinematographer) to create a dazzling interpretation of the composer's life – a multi-million Euro production that was one of the most anticipated Polish films of 2025.

An additional screening of *Chopin, a Sonata in Paris* will take place at Cine Lumiere on 12 March at 20:15

SUN 1 MARCH, 16:00  
GARDEN CINEMA



## DRAMA

### ✂ PHOTSENSITIVE

Director: Tadeusz Śliwa

Writers: Tomasz Klimala, Hanna Węsierska

Cast: Matylda Giełżno, Ignacy Liss, Aleksandra Pisula, Bartłomiej Deklewa

Poland 2024, 93 min

Well known on TV and with a small role in *Scarborn*, this is Matylda Giełżno's first film lead. Her portrayal of a dynamic, fulfilled social worker who is blind and whose life changes following a meeting with a more reserved photographer (rising star Ignacy Liss) was well received by the blind community in Poland. This simple intimate romance challenges stereotypes, showing how moving outside comfort zones can be empowering. Directed by Tadeusz Śliwa, acclaimed for his music videos, it includes original music from Kaśka Sochacka and Korteż whilst Małgorzata Szumowska's regular DoP Michał Englert ensures that the images shine.

TUE 3 MARCH, 17:30  
BFI IMAX



+ Q&A

## DRAMA

### ✂ FRANZ

Director: Agnieszka Holland

Writer: Marek Epstein

Cast: Idan Weiss, Peter Kurth, Jenovéfa Boková, Carol Schuler, Sebastian Schwarz, Josef Trojan  
Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, France, Turkey, 2025, 127 min

Selected as Poland's official submission to 98th Academy Awards for Best International Feature Film *Franz* is a bold, dynamic portrait of a young creative who finds himself at odds with the world around him. Described by Holland as one of her most personal films it explores the essence of Franz Kafka (brilliantly portrayed by Idan Weiss and by Josef Trojan as

Kafka's alter ego) as he navigates institutions of family, business and state. Marek Epstein's script interweaves past and present, exposes structure and shows his world from atypical angles: sound and design emphasise fragility and turmoil. A richly rewarding experience for lovers of Kafka and newcomers alike.

*The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Agnieszka Holland and actor Josef Trojan*

In partnership with the Czech Centre

An additional screening of *Franz* will take place at Ciné Lumière on 21 March – see p. 54

THU 5 MARCH, 18:30  
ICA



+ Q&A

DRAMA

### ✂ HOME SWEET HOME (aka GOOD HOME)

Director: Wojciech Smarzowski

Writer: Wojciech Smarzowski

Cast: Agata Turkot, Tomasz Schuchardt, Agata Kulesza, Maria Sobocińska, Andrzej Konopka  
Poland 2025, 107 min

How well do we know the person we love? From the director of *Clergy* and *Rose*, an intense psychological drama that uncovers issues of domestic violence within Polish society, winning awards in Poland and abroad. Agata Turkot gives a memorable performance as Gośka whose passionate romance, that promised love and fulfilment, begins to turn sour as she builds a life with her new partner Grzesiek. Exposing the delicate lines of trust, love and control behind closed doors this is a courageous exposé of personal and political boundaries that will be hard to forget.

Trigger warning: images of domestic abuse

*The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Wojciech Smarzowski*

WED 11 MARCH, 18:10  
BARBICAN CENTRE



+ Q&A

THRILLER

### ✂ THE GOOD BOY

Director: Jan Komasa

Writers: Bartek Bartosik, Naqqash Khalid

Cast: Stephen Graham, Andrea Riseborough, Anson Boon  
Poland, United Kingdom 2025, 110 min

Jan Komasa's first English language film is a dark genre blending fable which shines a light on the excesses of trash culture. Anson Boon (*1917*) delivers a mercurial performance as transgressive bad boy Tommy who wakes up far away from home, the subject of a 'rehabilitation project'. Quirky couple Graham and Riseborough (and Kit Rakusen, their chilling son "Sunshine") have an absurdist, or perhaps psychotic, redemption plan. Co-produced by long-time collaborators Jeremy Thomas and Jerzy Skolimowski and filmed in Warsaw and Yorkshire this is sharp social commentary full of unexpected tonal shifts.

Trigger warning: confinement and brutality

*Followed by a Q&A with Jan Komasa (TBC)*

SAT 21 MARCH, 18:30  
ICA



COMEDY

### ✂ LARP: LOVE, TROLLS AND OTHER QUESTS

Director: Kordian Kadziela Writers: Kordian Kadziela, Michał Wawrzecki

Cast: Filip Zareba, Martyna Byczkowska, Bartłomiej Topa, Michał Balicki  
Poland 2025, 94/100 min

First time feature film maker Kordian Kadziela has created an action packed comedy following the story of Sergiusz, whose passion for LARP (live-action role playing) makes him a victim of bullying until a new student arrives at school. Navigating the gaps between reality and fantasy the teen begins to establish his true identity and confronts not only his classmates but also his own fears. Martyna Byczkowska (also in *Chopin, A Sonata In Paris*) is the catalyst for change as she shares his love for LARP. Andrzej Konopka won Best Supporting Actor at Gdynia Festival.

SUN 1 MARCH, 18:40  
THE GARDEN CINEMA



DRAMA

### ✂ ANNIVERSARY

Director: Jan Komasa

Writers: Lore Rosene-Gambino, Jan Komasa  
Cast: Diane Lane, Kyle Chandler, Madeline Brewer  
United States, 2025, 111 minutes

When Ellen and Paul's son introduces his new girlfriend one lovely afternoon at their 25th anniversary party, no one suspects that it is the beginning of the end for this happy family. The new girlfriend is Liz, Ellen's former student expelled from the university some years before for her radical views. Her charming appearance hides great ambition, but no scruples at all. With each successive anniversary, Liz's influence on the family grows stronger and more destructive, and the new ideology she promotes, called 'The Change', gains more and more publicity. Previously concealed family conflicts gain new strength as the country teeters on the brink of collapse.

Screened in English with Polish subtitles

# DOCUMENTARIES



+ Q&amp;A

## DOCUMENTARY

WED 18 MARCH 18:15  
CINÉ LUMIÈRE

### ✂ TRAINS

Director: Maciej J. Drygas  
Poland, 2024, 80 min

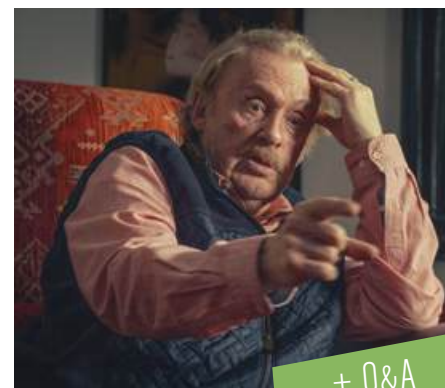
Winner of the prestigious IDFA Grand Prize, Maciej Drygas's powerful and haunting *Trains* is crafted entirely from international archive footage. Using sound design and a

thoughtful, humanitarian eye it reveals both the joyous anticipation and the profound tragedy associated with 20th century train travel. Everyday moments of commuting contrast with the tragedies of wartime and displacement. Without a single word of dialogue it provokes a meditation on history, the power of images and our responsibility to hold them wisely.

Trigger warning: contains images of the consequences of warfare

*Followed by a Q&A with Maciej Drygas, moderated by Sophie Fiennes*

TUE 10 MARCH, 19:00  
OGNISKO POLSKIE



+ Q&amp;A

## DOCUMENTARY

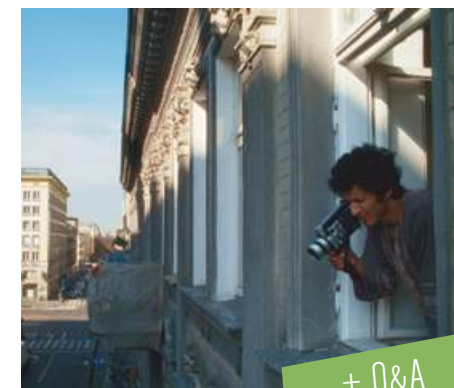
### ✂ MR. OLBRYCHSKI

Director: Robert Wichrowski  
Poland 2025, 93 mins

The hero of the film is Daniel Olbrychski, the most famous Polish actor. He has played the main roles in five films nominated for an Oscar. Two of them, *The Tin Drum* and *Dangerous Moves* had won the Oscar. This film is a portrayal of an artist and also all human beings, which is part of European cinema. His professional successes are intertwined with personal failures. In the film we will see, among others, outstanding actors, Krystyna Janda, Maja Komorowska, Andrzej Seweryn, a popular singer Maryla Rodowicz and directors, Volker Schlöndorff, Jerzy Hoffman, Andrzej Wajda and Krzysztof Zanussi.

*Followed by a Q&A with actor Daniel Olbrychski*

THU 26 MARCH, 18:30  
BERTHA DOCHOUSE



+ Q&amp;A

## DOCUMENTARY

### ✂ LETTERS FROM WOLF STREET

Director: Arjun Talwar With: Piotr Chadryś, Mo Tan, Feras Daboul, Barbara Goettgens  
Poland, Germany, 2025, 97 min

Over a decade ago Arjun Talwar arrived in Poland from New Delhi to study cinematography. Preoccupied with his continued sense of alienation in Polish society he sets out to explore the Warsaw street where he lives, talking with neighbours, seeking to understand their experience. Turning perspectives around, he offers a unique, personal view on his adopted country. Enthusiastically received at Berlin Film Festival and documentary festivals around the world this intimate, often humorous film offers opportunities to connect outside the confines of national identity. A warm and positive contribution to contemporary discussions on immigration.

Trigger warning: contains racist behaviour

*Followed by a Q&A with Arjun Talwar*



# In Memoriam MARCEL ŁOZIŃSKI

Four documentary shorts at  
Bertha DocHouse, celebrating  
the legacy of a legend

This special event, introduced by Marc Isaacs, honors the legacy of Marcel Łoziński, one of the most influential voices in world documentary cinema who passed away last year. A master of ethical provocation and humanist observation, Łoziński reshaped the language of non-fiction film by questioning the boundaries between truth, manipulation, and authorship. His work, rooted in deep empathy and rigorous self-reflection, continues to inspire generations of filmmakers to look more closely, listen more carefully, and take responsibility for the act of filming itself.

WED 4 MARCH, 18:30  
BERTHA DOCHOUSE

## DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

### INTRODUCTION

*With an introduction by documentary  
filmmaker Marc Isaacs*

### ✂ THE VISIT

Director: Marcel Łoziński  
Poland, 1974, 15 mins

A "Polityka" weekly journalist Marta Wesolowska and photo-reporter Erazm Ciolek visit Urszula Flis, who runs a country farm. A young woman living on her own, Flis is an untypical villager in that she is interested in culture and corresponds with writers.



### ✂ WORKSHOPS EXERCISES

Director: Marcel Łoziński  
Poland, 1986, 12 mins

An apparently innocuous street survey about the youth of the time reveals the manipulative capabilities at television's disposal. Through selective editing and interference with the sound, the original image and meaning of the statements can be completely altered.

### ✂ 89 MM FROM EUROPE

Director: Marcel Łoziński  
Poland, 1993, 12 mins

A deceptively simple observation at a border crossing becomes a poignant portrait of Europe's invisible divisions. Focusing on a technical detail – the difference in railway gauge – Łoziński reveals how politics, history, and everyday labor intersect in quiet, human moments.



### ✂ ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN

Director: Marcel Łoziński  
Poland, 1995, 40 mins

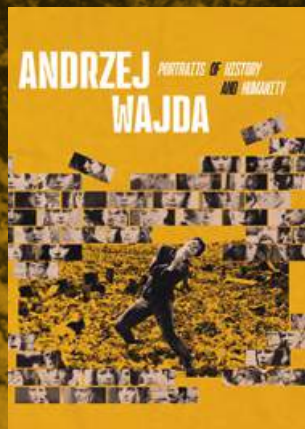
In a park, a young boy (Łoziński's son) engages elderly strangers in candid conversations about life, love, and death. Tender, humorous, and deeply moving, the film captures the openness of childhood meeting the wisdom and vulnerability of old age.





# ANDRZEJ WAJDA *PORTRAITS OF HISTORY AND HUMANITY*

An all-encompassing retrospective  
to celebrate the legendary auteur,  
100 years after his birth



Presented by BFI Southbank, Ciné Lumière and ICA.  
Season co-curated by Aga Baranowska and Michał Oleszczyk.

From the beginning of his career, with his revered war trilogy, director Andrzej Wajda established himself as a singular voice in Polish and world cinema. Wajda was the recipient of every major international film honour, including the Palme d'Or and Academy Honorary Award. His cinema is located within the fabric of Polish history and society, reflecting how major historical events shape an individual and a nation, and initiating debates about national identity. He was equally committed to portraying complex human relationships, moral responsibility and fortitude – often under duress – as he was in exploring the role of art and artists in revealing suppressed truths.

Kinoteka is delighted to present this retrospective of one of Poland's greatest and most recognisable film directors on the 100th anniversary of his birth.





## ✂ ASHES AND DIAMONDS

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Zbigniew Cybulski, Ewa Krzyżewska, Wacław Zastrzeżyński  
Poland, 1958, 100 min

In the last days of the Second World War, Maciek, a Polish resistance fighter, is tasked with the assassination of a Communist official. When he meets Krystyna, he is offered a glimpse of a world beyond war and destruction, and questions his assignment. Wajda's classic drama, which cemented his position as a world-class filmmaker, features an iconic central performance by Zbigniew Cybulski, who contributes immeasurably to this probing look at the complex post-war future for a new nation and its people.

*4 February Opening Gala screening with an introduction with an expert speaker*

WED 4 FEB, 18:10  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT1

OPENING GALA

SUN 15 FEB, 18:15  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2

TUE 24 FEB, 20:50  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT1

THU 19 MAR, 20:40  
ICA



## ✂ THE MAIDS OF WILKO

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Daniel Olbrychski, Anna Seniuk, Krystyna Zachwatowicz  
Poland, 1979, 118 min

After the death of a close friend, Wiktor returns to a place of his youth. He re-encounters a group of sisters with whom he spent an idyllic summer 15 years prior, discovering the extent to which their lives have changed. Wajda's most lyrical and poetic work marked a shift in pace and tone, allowing him to meditate on questions of passing time, regret and unfulfilled love.

Contains themes of suicide

*5th Feb screening followed by a Q&A by Allan Starski*

THU 5 FEB, 18:00  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT1

WED 25 FEB, 20:45  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2



## ✂ INNOCENT SORCERERS

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Tadeusz Łomnicki, Krystyna Stypułkowska, Roman Polański  
Poland, 1960, 87 min

Following his lauded war trilogy, Wajda turned his camera on Poland's socially modern but politically disengaged post-war generation. When hipster doctor Bazyli meets out-of-towner Pelagia in a nightclub, they spend a night in his flat flirting to the jazz tunes of Krzysztof Komeda. Embracing a style similar to the contemporaneous French New Wave, this is a vivid portrait of disillusioned youth.

SCREENED WITH

## ✂ THE BAD BOY

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Poland, 1951, 6 min  
A boy spies on a kissing couple, which triggers serious consequences for the pair.

THU 5 FEB, 20:40  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3

FRI 20 FEB, 17:55  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3



## ✂ EVERYTHING FOR SALE

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Beata Tyszkiewicz, Elżbieta Czyżewska, Andrzej Łapicki, Daniel Olbrychski  
Poland, 1969, 99 min

When a leading actor disappears from a film set, his family and crew search for him before tragic news reaches them. Wajda's homage to his beloved actor Zbigniew Cybulski, the star of *Ashes and Diamonds*, is also a scathing portrait of the film industry. Weaving together autobiography and fiction, Wajda questions what it means to be an artist, and how we mourn, create legends and remember the past.

Contains themes of suicide

SCREENED WITH

## ✂ WARSAW (FROM LOVE AT TWENTY)

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Poland, 1962, 25 min  
Wajda's last collaboration with Zbigniew Cybulski grapples with intergenerational misalignment.

FRI 6 FEB, 18:15  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2

THU 19 FEB, 20:30  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2



### ✂ THE ASHES

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Daniel Olbrychski, Piotr Wysocki, Beata Tyszkiewicz  
Poland, 1965, 227 min

This epic tale of the Napoleonic wars and Poles' participation in them provides Wajda with an opportunity to consider thorny questions around heroism and patriotism. A young nobleman partakes in the conflict, fighting for Poland's freedom while searching for his own self. Wajda worked with a higher budget and on a much larger scale to create this visually dazzling CinemaScope drama, which examines nationhood and national identity.

28 Feb screening introduced by writer  
Michael Brooke



### ✂ HUNTING FLIES

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Zygmunt Malanowicz, Małgorzata Braunek  
Poland, 1969, 109 min

An outlier in Wajda's body of work, this comedy feature focuses on bookshop worker Włodek's encounter with the strong and independent Irena, whose ambitions to turn him into a successful writer go wildly awry. A fascinating attempt by Wajda at working in a different mode in order to explore the crisis of masculinity, it features a standout performance by Braunek.

SCREENED WITH

### ✂ ROLY POLY

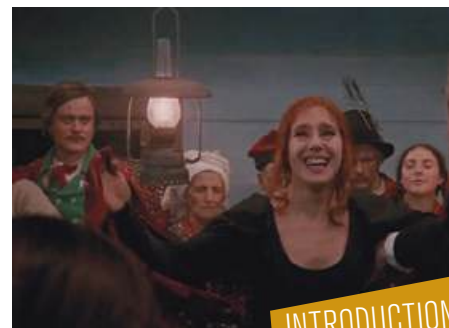
Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Poland, 1968, 35 min  
This sci-fi comedy is an adaptation of Stanisław Lem's work about a racing car driver whose multiple organ transplants find him acquiring the donors' personalities.

SAT 7 FEB, 14:10  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3

SAT 28 FEB, 16:25  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3

SAT 7 FEB, 20:15  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2

SAT 21 FEB, 17:40  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3



### ✂ THE WEDDING

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Daniel Olbrychski, Ewa Ziętek, Andrzej Łapicki  
Poland, 1972, 103 min

Stanisław Wyspiański's influential 1901 play details a marriage ceremony between a poet and peasant. The wedding party is attended by a cross-section of society. However, the veneer of harmony is broken when ghosts – drawn from local history and legend – appear to the revellers. Wajda's adaptation employs dizzying cinematography and creates an eerie atmosphere as he presents a searing critique of the nation. It became one of the most culturally significant works of Polish cinema.

11 Feb screening introduced by Professor Ewa Mazierska, University of Lancashire

SUN 8 FEB, 15:10  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3

WED 11 FEB, 20:40  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2

SAT 21 FEB, 20:50  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2

SAT 28 FEB, 13:00  
CINÉ LUMIÈRE



### ✂ A GENERATION

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Tadeusz Łomnicki, Urszula Modrzyńska, Tadeusz Janczar, Roman Polański  
Poland, 1954, 87 min

Set in 1942, on the outskirts of German-Nazi-occupied Warsaw, Wajda's striking feature debut centres on Stach, and a group of young, Polish underground fighters, as they prepare for a new mission. The film not only established Wajda as a director to watch, it foregrounded key recurring themes in his work – honour, courage and sacrifice – and presents a stark account of the tragedies of conflict.

Contains a scene of suicide

SCREENED WITH

### ✂ WHILE YOU ARE SLEEPING

Director: Andrzej Wajda, 1953, 11 min  
This fascinating short captures a bustling city at night.

SUN 15 FEB, 12:10  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2

SUN 15 MAR, 14:00  
ICA





### ✂ KANAL

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Teresa Iżewska, Tadeusz Janczar, Wierzyński Głiński  
Poland, 1957, 96 min

A unit of Polish freedom fighters goes underground to escape German troops, in the final stages of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. Wajda's claustrophobic, nightmarish masterpiece employs haunting images to convey their struggle as they journey through the city's sewers. The film that brought international acclaim for the director, *Kanal* is based on true events. It is an evocative portrait of the Polish resistance movement and a heartbreaking depiction of strength, duty and hope in the face of insurmountable odds.

*15 Feb screening will feature a pre-recorded introduction by Professor Annette Insdorf, Columbia University*

Film available on BFI Player

SUN 15 FEB, 15:20  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2

WED 18 MAR, 20:30  
ICA



### ✂ MAN OF MARBLE

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Jerzy Radziwiłowicz, Krystyna Janda, Tadeusz Łomnicki  
Poland, 1976, 161 min

In the 1970s, young filmmaker Agnieszka investigates the life of a 1950s bricklayer and worker's hero. When she learns that the facts behind his story were suppressed, she has to decide whether to pursue the truth or not. *Man of Marble* is a thought-provoking examination of the moral responsibility of an individual and art in challenging dominant ideology, censorship and oppressive authorities. It's a powerful milestone in Polish cinema.

MON 16 FEB, 17:50  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT1

SUN 1 MAR, 12:10  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2



### ✂ ROUGH TREATMENT

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Zbigniew Zapasiewicz, Ewa Dałkowska, Andrzej Seweryn  
Poland, 1978, 130 min

The professional and personal lives of a respected journalist unravel unexpectedly, forcing him to reflect on his life to date. But will he be able to turn his life around? Co-written with Agnieszka Holland, Wajda's drama is an affecting portrait of a man navigating an oppressive political system and a labyrinth of complicated human relations.

*9 March screening introduced by film critic and scholar Michał Oleszczyk*

TUE 17 FEB, 20:30  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3

MON 9 MAR, 20:20  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2



### ✂ MAN OF IRON

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Jerzy Radziwiłowicz, Krystyna Janda, Marian Opania  
Poland, 1981, 152 min

The Palme d'Or-winning follow-up to *Man of Marble* sees Winkel, a Communist-friendly radio journalist, charged with finding compromising information about a Solidarity opposition leader. But in witnessing protesting workers' fight against political propaganda and commitment to overturn a repressive regime, Winkel questions his own beliefs. Directly addressing the contemporary political situation as Poland entered the 1980s, *Man of Iron* combines fact and fiction to stunning effect, resulting in one of Wajda's most profound artistic achievements.

SUN 22 FEB, 12:00  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3

SUN 1 MAR, 15:00  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT1

SAT 7 MAR, 12:00  
CINE LUMIERE

SUN 15 MAR, 18:00  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT1



### ✂ THE PROMISED LAND

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
 Cast: Daniel Olbrychski, Wojciech Pszoniak, Andrzej Seweryn  
 Poland, 1974, 163 min

During the Industrial Revolution, three friends decide to open a textile factory to make their fortune. But friendships, personal relationships and moral values are soon tested. An adaptation of Nobel Prize-winning author Stanisław Reymont's novel, Wajda's film is a compelling and continually pertinent indictment of rampant capitalism and humanity's more selfish impulses. Wajda's first Academy Award-nominated drama remains one of his most celebrated films.

*11 March screening followed by a Q&A with actor Daniel Olbrychski*



### ✂ THE CONDUCTOR

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
 Cast: John Gielgud, Krystyna Janda, Andrzej Seweryn  
 Poland, 1980, 106 min

An internationally renowned conductor of Polish decent (played with gusto by Gielgud) returns to his family's homeland to conduct a provincial orchestra after meeting the orchestra's violist – the daughter of an old love. Beloved by Ingmar Bergman, *The Conductor* comments on the moral decay and stagnation of a society and its artists. It's a beautifully performed, sensitively directed drama.

*9 March screening introduced by film critic and scholar Michał Oleszczyk*

SUN 22 FEB, 17:45  
 BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT1

WED 11 MAR, 18:45  
 BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2

THU 26 FEB, 20:55  
 BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3

MON 9 MAR, 17:50  
 BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3



### ✂ WAŁĘSA: MAN OF HOPE

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
 Cast: Robert Więckiewicz, Agnieszka Grochowska, Zbigniew Zamachowski  
 Poland, 2013, 127 min

The third film in the director's Solidarity Trilogy, Wajda's portrait of Lech Wałęsa, leader of Poland's Solidarity movement, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and one of the country's most significant political figures, is a rousing biopic. It skilfully explores the different facets of Wałęsa, both as a complex national hero and an ordinary family man, while at the same considering what it means to create a national legend and what it takes to persevere in the face of suppression.

SUN 1 MAR, 18:20  
 BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3

MON 16 MAR, 20:30  
 BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3



### ✂ KORCZAK

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
 Cast: Wojciech Pszoniak, Ewa Dałkowska, Teresa Budzisz-Krzyżanowska  
 Poland-Germany-UK, 1990, 118 min

This account of the last years of Janusz Korczak, the heroic Polish Jewish educator and paediatrician, saw Wajda collaborate on the screenplay with Agnieszka Holland. The topic of Jewishness within Polish history and society is a feature of a number of Wajda's films. Korczak is arguably his most resonant, and vital, account of the Holocaust, while also exploring themes of self-sacrifice, honour and the strength of the human spirit, even in the face of evil.

*2 March screening followed by a Q&A with Agnieszka Holland*

MON 2 MAR, 19:10  
 BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT1

FRI 13 MAR, 20:45  
 BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT2





INTRODUCTION

## ✂ KATYN

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
 Cast: Andrzej Chyra, Artur Żmijewski, Maja Ostaszewska, Maja Komorowska  
 Poland, 2007, 122 min

Wajda focuses on personal stories and a wider human tragedy in this Oscar-nominated film, set against one of the most painful and politically sensitive topics in Polish history: the 1940 massacre of thousands of Polish soldiers and intellectuals in the Katyn forest by the Soviets. A personal project for Wajda, whose father was murdered in the massacre, *Katyn* poignantly frames historical events through the stories of women looking for the truth about their missing relatives.

10 March screening will feature a pre-recorded introduction by film critic Carmen Gray

THU 5 MAR, 20:30

BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3

TUE 10 MAR, 18:15

BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3



INTRODUCTION

## ✂ DANTON

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
 Cast: Gérard Depardieu, Wojciech Pszoniak, Anne Alvaro  
 Poland, 1983, 130 min

Danton wasn't Andrzej Wajda's first brush with Stanisława Przybyszewska's seminal work of Polish political theatre, *Danton's Case* (1929), which he first directed for the stage in 1975 at Teatr Powszechny, to rave reviews. The 1981 Palme d'Or success of *Man of Iron* facilitated making Wajda's next film in the form a lavish Polish-French co-production. Two riveting performances – titular one by Gérard Depardieu, as well as Wojciech Pszoniak's magnetic Robespierre – are two magnificent anchors for the historical drama of the great conflict between two chief architects of the French Revolution, a moderate and a radical. Wajda proved a perfect director for a white-hot political costume drama, coming from a country experiencing its own political upheaval in the early 1980s. The film remains a first-rate spectacle and a poignant political tale, in which people leave and breathe lofty ideas, making them into flesh (and blood) of everyday political change.

Screening from 35mm print

Screening introduced by Michael Brooke

SUN 8 MAR, 18:30

ICA



## ✂ AFTERIMAGE

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
 Cast: Bogusław Linda, Bronisława Zamachowska, Andrzej Konopka  
 Poland, 2016, 98 min

In his final film, Wajda returns to previously explored themes of personal and artistic resistance to an authoritarian state and ideology. Based on the life of avant-garde painter and theorist Władysław Strzemiński, the film chronicles his struggles against expulsion from state institutions, and erasure from a nation's collective memory, as a result of political and artistic convictions that were at odds with the official Stalinist post-war doctrine.

SCREENED WITH

## ✂ TOWARDS THE SUN

Director: Andrzej Wajda, 1955, 13 min  
 A lyrical documentary about a respected Polish sculptor Xawery Dunikowski.

THU 12 MAR, 18:20

BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3

WED 18 MAR, 20:40

BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3



## ✂ THE POSSESSED

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
 Cast: Isabelle Huppert, Jutta Lampe, Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu  
 France, 1988, 118 min

One of the most underseen films in the entire Wajda oeuvre, *The Possessed* is based on the notorious novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, first serialized between 1871 and 1872. Focused on a group of young anarchists whose radical politics and actions bind them together in a sinister brotherhood of feverish ideology, the film engages in deep philosophical rumination (even as it employs elements of a thriller). A stellar, highly unusual international cast (including Isabelle Huppert, Lambert Wilson, Jerzy Radziwiłowicz, as well as... Omar Sharif and scandalous film director Bertrand Blier!) adds a welcome dash of intensity to the film, scripted by the celebrated Jean-Claude Carrière and shot at the very cusp of the Cold War coming to an end. (Fittingly enough, Andrzej Żuławski adapted the same Dostoyevsky novel as 1985's *La Femme Publique*, also featured in this series.)

SAT 14 MAR, 15:30

CINE LUMIERE



### ✂ PILATE AND THE OTHERS

Director: Andrzej Wajda

Cast: Jan Kreczmar, Wojciech Pszoniak, Daniel Olbrychski

West Germany, 1972, 90 min

Made for West-German television in 1972, this loose adaptation of Mikhail Bulgakov's cult novel *The Master and Margarita* (published posthumously in 1967) is perhaps the most experimental feature in Andrzej Wajda's oeuvre. The film stages Jesus' trial by the titular Roman consul in present-day Germany, with a Way of the Cross taking place in the busy streets of Frankfurt, and the legal proceedings set in the Nurmberg remnants of monumental architecture of the Nazi era. Casting Wajda regular Wojciech Pszoniak as Jesus (referred to as Yeshua Ha-Nozri) proved to be an inspired choice, while Wajda himself appears as a TV reporter bearing witness to the Passion. The film originally aired on the Good Friday of March 29, 1972 and remains a bold retelling of the foundational event of Christianity, as well as one that might have inspired Norman Jewison's later staging of the Gospels in contemporary costume in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (1973).

In partnership with the Goethe Institut

TUE 24 MAR, 20:40

ICA



### ✂ LOVE IN GERMANY

Director: Andrzej Wajda

Cast: Hanna Schygulla, Piotr Łysak, Armin Mueller-Stahl

West Germany, 1983, 132 min

Based on a novel by Rolf Hochhuth (and co-scripted by Agnieszka Holland), this surprising entry in Andrzej Wajda's body of work made outside of his native Poland is a full-scale melodrama of sensual obsession, sometimes compared to the erotically charged cinema of Nagisa Oshima. Hanna Schygulla, best-known for her collaborations with Rainer Werner Fassbinder, stars as Paulina, a small-town German shop owner, whose husband is fighting on the front of World War Two. In his absence, she begins an all-consuming love affair with a young Polish prisoner of war (Piotr Łysak), which brings her local reputation (as well as her business) into peril. Lyrically scored by Michel Legrand, *Love in Germany* was greeted by *The New York Times* in the year of its American premiere as "the most romantic film ever made by Mr. Wajda". Also featuring Daniel Olbrychski, Armin Mueller-Stahl and Bernard Wicki.

In partnership with the Goethe Institut

THU 26 MAR, 20:40

ICA



## PANEL DISCUSSION

WED 11 FEBRUARY, 18:20  
BFI SOUTHBANK, NFT3

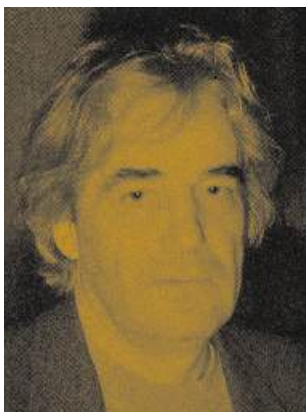
✂ AN INTRODUCTION TO ANDRZEJ WAJDA  
TRT 90min

Join the panel discussion for an exploration of Andrzej Wajda's work, taking a closer look at the thematic preoccupations emerging from his filmography and the context for his cinema. Considering his best-known titles and spotlighting less-known gems, the speakers will illuminate the trajectory of Wajda's work, discuss his influential role within Polish film history and reflect on why his films still resonate today.



# TWO VISIONS, ONE NATION

Wajda / Żuławski double-bills at Ciné Lumière



↑ Andrzej Żuławski

exist in a lively dialogue with one another, but also joyfully meet, orgasmically merge and violently clash. While both artists were different in their career trajectories and personal choices, what unites them is a fervid engagement with the vortex of Polish history, eager exploration of class and ideological conflicts of the 20th century, as well as, last but not least, the transnational dimension of their work, with Żuławski traversing the Iron Curtain as a director of alternatively Polish and French films, and Wajda engaging in multiple co-productions, in which he tried to address international audience on its own turf. This series, while far from exploring the complete set of connections between two filmographies, is an invitation to further comparisons and explorations.

— Michał Oleszczyk



↑ Andrzej Wajda

Andrzej Wajda was Andrzej Żuławski's senior by 14 years, and in terms of international festival prizes (Palme d'Or, Academy Award), he seems to be the more recognized of the two. And yet, Wajda's filmography was regularly visited, interfered with, as well as downright haunted, by the presence of his brilliant student, assistant and (ultimately) creative opponent. Żuławski's initial fascination with Wajda was clear in his choice of a M.A. thesis he wrote on the latter's *Kanał* in 1959 at IDHEC in Paris. Later on, he assisted Wajda on the Polish segment of *Love at Twenty* (1962) and the epic *Ashes* (1966). From 1970s on, Żuławski turns from protégé to rival, as his progressively more frenetic films challenge Wajda's more classical approach. This series aims at presenting a series of double-bills that highlight the myriad ways in which Wajda's and Żuławski's bodies of work not only co-



INTRODUCTION

SAT 28 FEB, CINÉ LUMIÈRE  
13:00

## ⌘ THE WEDDING

Director: Andrzej Wajda

Cast: Daniel Olbrychski, Ewa Ziętek

Poland, 1973, 103 min

A marriage ceremony between a poet and peasant is attended by a cross-section of society. However the veneer of harmony is broken when ghosts from local history and legend appear to the revellers. Wajda's adaptation of Stanisław Wyspiański's influential 1901 play presents a searing critique of the nation.

15:15

## ⌘ THE DEVIL

Director: Andrzej Żuławski

Leszek Teleszynski, Wojciech Pszoniak,

Małgorzata Braunek

Poland, 1972, 125 min

A uniquely Polish spin on the Ken Russell-like frenzy, *The Devil* is set at a pivotal moment of 18th century history: the loss of Poland's statehood and independence to neighbouring empires. Deemed unreleasable by the communist authorities in Poland upon its completion in 1972, it didn't see the light of the projector before 1988.



INTRODUCTION

SAT 7 MARCH, CINÉ LUMIÈRE  
12:00

## ⌘ MAN OF IRON

Director: Andrzej Wajda

Cast: Jerzy Radziwiłowicz, Krystyna Janda

Poland, 1981, 152 min

The most successful merger of arts and politics in Polish history, *Man of Iron* is Andrzej Wajda's rousing sequel to his own 1976 *Man of Marble*. Addressing the contemporary political situation as Poland entered the 1980s, it combines fact and fiction to stunning effect, resulting in one of Wajda's most profound artistic achievements.

With an introduction by Michał Oleszczyk

15:40

## ⌘ POSSESSION

Director: Andrzej Żuławski

Cast: Isabelle Adjani, Sam Neill, Heinz Bennent

Poland, 1981, 124 min

Set to a hypnotic, percussive synth score by Andrzej Korzyński, *Possession* remains one of a kind – a true horror masterpiece, an acting tour de force, as well as a work of lacerating autobiography, in which Żuławski reworks his own split from his wife Małgorzata Braunek in terms of a delirious genre ride.



INTRODUCTION

SAT 14 MARCH, CINÉ LUMIÈRE  
15:30

### ⌘ THE POSSESSED

Director: Andrzej Wajda  
Cast: Wojciech Pszoniak, Ewa Dałkowska,  
Teresa Budzisz-Krzyżanowska  
France, 1988, 118 min

One of the most underseen films in the entire Wajda oeuvre, *The Possessed* is based on the notorious novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, first serialized between 1871 and 1872. Focused on a group of young anarchists whose radical politics and actions bind them together in a sinister brotherhood, the film engages in deep philosophical rumination.

17:55

### ⌘ THE PUBLIC WOMAN

Director: Andrzej Żuławski  
Cast: Valérie Kaprisky, Francis Huster, Lambert  
Wilson  
Poland, 1986, 100 min

The story of an actress playing in a film adaptation of Dostoyevsky and being consumed by two on-set relationships: one with the movie's Svengali-like director, the other with a poor and radical Czech immigrant terrorist. Valérie Kaprisky gives an animated performance, while Francis Huster (as her director-cum-Pygmalion) manages to be both carnal and otherworldly.

# FRAMES OF FREEDOM

## Andrzej Wajda, Polish Cinema & the Culture of Dissent



FRI 6 MARCH, 18:00–21:00  
BIRKBECK University of London

### ⌘ WE FILM THE PEOPLE

Director: Ania Szczepańska  
Poland 2013, 93 min

The programme will feature a post-screening panel discussion with Michał Oleszczyk following the documentary *We Film the People* (2013) by Ania Szczepańska. Prior to the screening, guests will have the opportunity to view an exhibition of drawings by Andrzej Wajda.

18:00 – 18:10	Short intro
18:10 – 19:10	Screening of <i>We Film the People</i>
19:10 – 20:00	Panel Discussion
20:00 – 21:00	Reception

The heroes of this story are Polish artists who revolutionized cinema by filming their country's history between 1971 and 1981. How did they manage to circumvent the regime or collaborate with Party officials? Was a pact sealed? This film is a journey through excerpts from lost films and cult classics, rediscovered archives, and testimonies from the greats of Polish cinema: those who shaped it as filmmakers, actors, and cinematographers, and those who did so on the side of the Party-State: dignitaries, ministers, and film executives. *We Film the People!* tells the exceptional story of a political and artistic liberation within the Soviet bloc, or how the Solidarity movement found itself in Cannes.

Featuring Andrzej Wajda, Krzysztof Zanussi, Marcel Łoziński, Ryszard Bugajski, Krystyna Janda, Józef Tejcma, Mieczysław Wojtczak



# PIXELS & PIEROGIES

Special screenings from Wajda School and more



2–29 MARCH  
COAL DROPS YARD KIOSK N1C

## ✂ PIXELS & PIEROGIES

We're shaking up Kinoteka with a dynamic series of special events at KX Coal Drops Yard. Enjoy free daily screenings of award-winning films from Wajda School, a film school founded in 2002 in Warsaw by Andrzej Wajda and Wojciech Marczewski, where experienced filmmakers help young artists develop their own projects. Wajda School presents 18 films: short features and docs developed at Wajda School over the last 20 years. The titles were selected from among the most awarded and best received by festival audiences around the world. The School's achievements include

almost 3,000 graduates who have made their mark on the history of Polish and world cinema, and hundreds of film projects that have made it to the big screen.

Experience an AI project dedicated to the iconic Polish director Krzysztof Kieślowski, explore Ukrainian fashion, jewellery, and art.

The highlight of the programme is 'Food Wars: Pierogies vs Dumplings', where restaurateurs from around London will debate the true origin of these beloved dishes while guests sample both. With a vibrant mix of culture, cuisine, and creativity, with occasional drag performances, every event offers a new experience. Check the website for full listings, bring a friend and celebrate the richness of Ukrainian and Polish cultures in the heart of London.

For detailed programme please visit [kinoteka.org.uk](http://kinoteka.org.uk)

# KIDS

UK premiere at Ciné Lumière



## FAMILY / ADVENTURE

SUN 8 MARCH, 11:00  
CINÉ LUMIÈRE

### ✂ THE DOG WHO TRAVELLED BY TRAIN 2

Director: Magdalena Nieć Writers: Mojca Tirš, Katarzyna Stachowicz-Gacek

Cast: Liliana Zajbert, Mateusz Damięcki, Monika Pikuła, Adam Woronowicz, Maksymilian Zieliński  
Poland 2025, 93 min

Highly anticipated, after the huge success of part one in 2023, this sequel does not disappoint. Picking up with Zuzia preparing to return to Poland after her surgery, the film initially focuses on life at the station where Lampo the white Swiss Shepherd dog lives. Familiar faces return, Adam Woronowicz as the station director and Maksymilian Zieliński as his son Antek, as well as new characters. Watch out for Karol Osentowski. Retaining the spirit of the original book by Roman Pisarski this is a heart warming, adventure packed tale for the whole family to enjoy together.

# UNTOLD WAJDA: *BLOKOWISKO*



Contemporary dance,  
electro-acoustic sound,  
and video scenography  
collide in a performance  
of urban resilience

FRI 20 MARCH, 20:00  
SOUTHBANK CENTRE

JK BLOKOWISKO

Inspired by the notes and interviews of Oscar winning director Andrzej Wajda, *Blokowisko* – the Polish term for a housing estate, often used with a sense of bleakness – transforms a fragile human story into a living performance. It shows how a fleeting encounter can leave indelible traces, shaping both personal memory and collective experience.

*Blokowisko* fuses electro-acoustic sound, socially charged choreography, and immersive videography into a landscape of loss and resilience. Created by composer-performer Blanka Barbara Stahl, BAFTA-winning choreographer Anthony Matsena, visual artist -8, and creative strategist Ignatius Sokal, the work was devised in the studio of Olivier-award-winning choreographer Russell Maliphant OBE.

The story is devastating in its simplicity: an actor meets a woman, they share a single day, and the next morning he cannot find his way back to her through the endless housing blocks of an unforgiving city. What remains is the silence of a connection lost, and the weight of love that slipped away.

From this fragile moment, *Blokowisko* unfolds as a shared human experience. It asks how intimacy shapes us, lingers within us, and dissolves into the universal need to be found, remembered, and not to vanish without trace.

By giving form to a story Andrzej Wajda imagined but never filmed, the work honours his legacy while insisting on its relevance today – resonating through the anonymous apartment blocks of contemporary cities and the fragile bonds strained by scarcity, migration, and the vastness of urban scale.

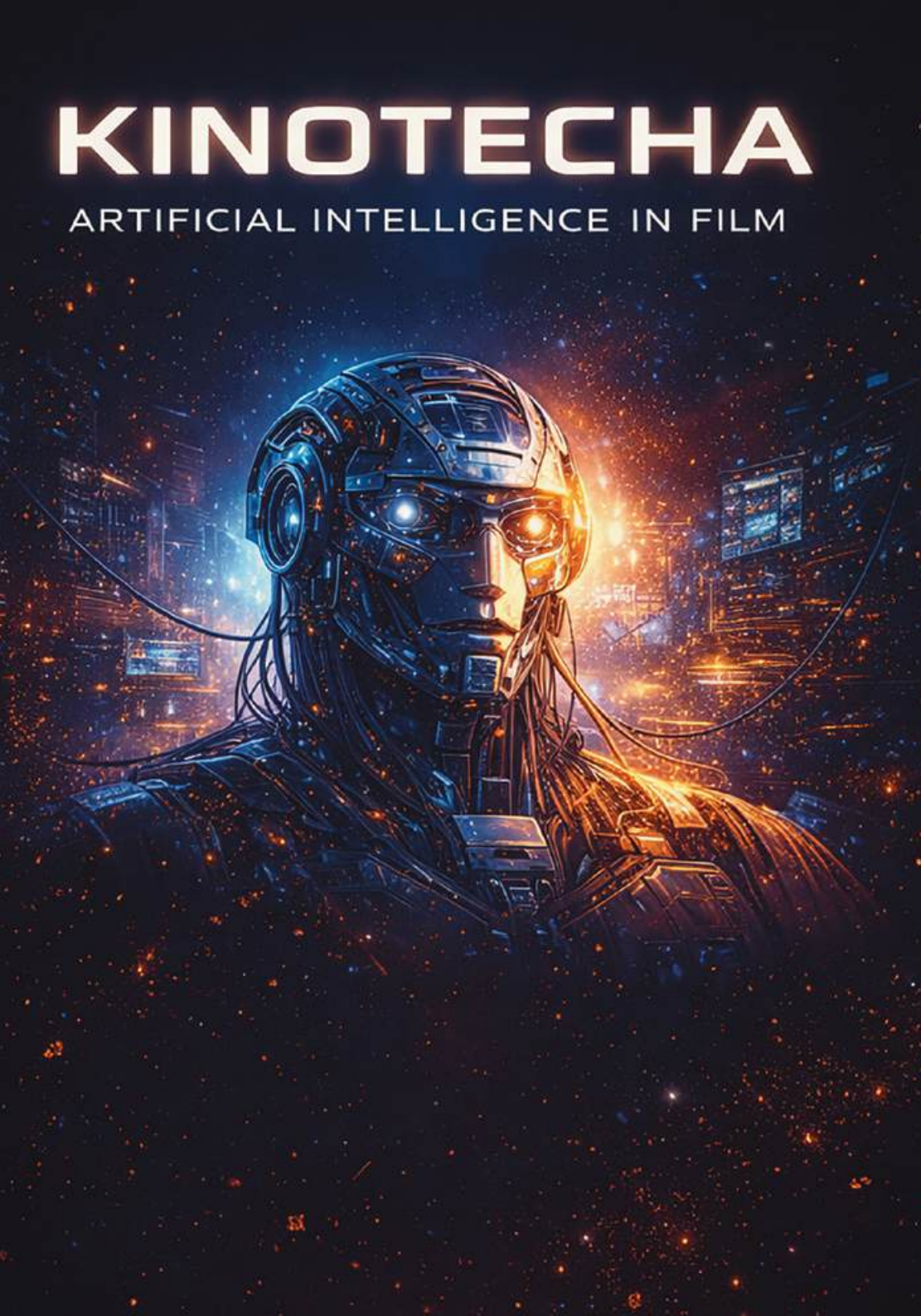
Co-produced by Untold Productions and Polish Cultural Institute in London. Photo by Jimmy Parratt





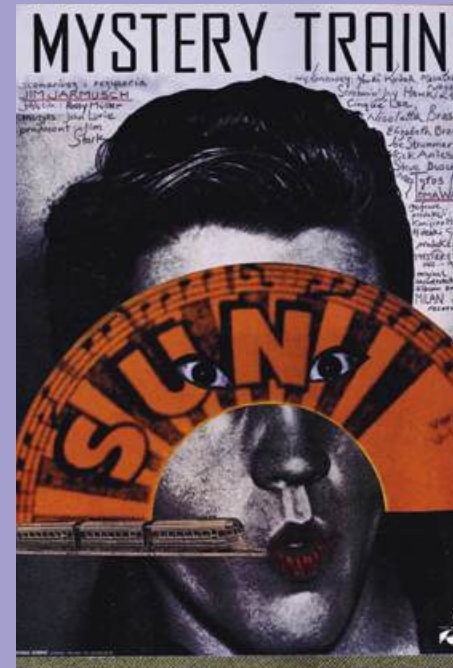
# KINOTECHA

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN FILM



# KINOTECHA

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN FILM



17 MARCH 12:00 – 18:00  
SAMSUNG KX

## KK KINOTECHA CONFERENCE

This is an inaugural full-day conference that examines how artificial intelligence is transforming the film industry, from creative practice to audience engagement. In 'Design & AI', artists Andrzej Klimowski and Tomasz Opasiński, amongst other guests, explore how machine learning is reshaping visual

storytelling and its use in marketing. Jacek Nagłowski, with special guests, will lead a session on 'Audiences & Ethics of AI' addressing changing viewer behaviours, authorship, and the moral challenges of contemporary film and media landscapes. The 'Sound, Marketing, PR & AI', features Sebastian Strakowicz, James Bowthorpe, alongside ElevenLabs' experts to discuss voice technology, sonic world-building, and innovative promotional tools. Join us for an important discussion on cinema's rapidly evolving future.

Free event – visit our website to register

# TRIBUTE TO KIEŚLOWSKI

CINEMA  
PERFORMANCE  
TECHNOLOGY



Marking the 30th anniversary of Krzysztof Kieślowski's passing on 13 March, we are creating an unforgettable experience to celebrate his legacy. The weekend-long programme will feature his early documentary shorts alongside landmark feature films. Audiences will have the chance to take part in the world premiere of *Call Kieślowski*, an innovative AI project that allows attendees to engage in conversation with the director. In addition, media and film students will reinterpret Kieślowski's iconic documentary *Talking Heads*. Kieślowski's collaborators and actors will also join for a Q&A reflecting on his artistry and impact on cinema. As we embrace cinema & AI to reconnect with Kieślowski, we promise this to be an extraordinary celebration of a filmmaker captivated by humanity and innovation.



TUE 10 MARCH, 18:30  
CINÉ LUMIÈRE



## DRAMA

### ✂ A SHORT FILM ABOUT KILLING

Director: Krzysztof Kieślowski  
Writer: Krzysztof Piesiewicz, Krzysztof Kieślowski  
Cast: Miroslaw Baka, Krzysztof Globisz  
Poland 1988, 84 minutes

As contemplative as it is confrontational, Kieślowski addresses the notion of violence directly (and true to the film's stark title). Through a seemingly random murder by Jacek, followed by his state-sanctioned execution, Kieślowski does not seek to shock but to awaken sympathy in us. As we witness the killings, Kieślowski's camera lingers and traps us inside the moral weight of each of these despicable acts. As a result, the film becomes less of a crime story and more of a philosophical contemplation. Kieślowski asks existential questions about justice, responsibility, and the human cost of punishment.

ADDITIONAL SCREENING: 23 MARCH, 18:00

TUE 17 MARCH, 19:30  
CINÉ LUMIÈRE



Q&A

## DRAMA

### ✂ A SHORT FILM ABOUT LOVE

Director: Krzysztof Kieślowski  
Writer: Krzysztof Piesiewicz, Krzysztof Kieślowski  
Cast: Grazyna Szapolowska, Olaf Lubaszenko  
Poland, 1988, 86 minutes

Kieślowski explores love not as romance but as an act of truly seeing another person. An absolute antidote to *A Short Film about Killing*, this cinematic gem is delicate and restrained, inviting us to experience the tender yet voyeuristic side of love. We observe a lonely young man watching a woman across the street, and what begins as a quiet act of watching her from afar transforms into a fragile encounter between two vulnerable people. Both *A Short Film About Love* and *A Short Film About Killing* are feature-length adaptations of *The Decalogue*, a TV series by Kieślowski first broadcast in late 1989.

Followed by a Q&A with Grażyna Szapolowska

ADDITIONAL SCREENING: 25 MARCH, 18:20

FRI 13 MARCH, 20:15  
CINÉ LUMIÈRE



## DRAMA + DOCUMENTARY DOUBLE-BILL

### ✂ THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VERONIQUE

Director: Krzysztof Kieślowski  
Writer: Krzysztof Kieślowski, Krzysztof Piesiewicz  
Cast: Irene Jacob, Wladyslaw Kowalski  
Poland, 1991, 98 minutes

A radiant contemplation on intuition, identity, and invisible connection, *The Double Life of Veronique* traces the lives of two women who have never met, yet seem mysteriously bound. One lives in Poland, the other in France; both share the same face, the same fragile sensitivity, and a quiet sense that they are not alone in the world. Kieślowski invites us to contemplate parallel lives, spiritual doubles, and those fleeting moments when we feel touched by something beyond reason. For anyone who has ever wondered if they have a doppelganger somewhere out there, this film gives that intuition a haunting, beautiful resonance. Like all Kieślowski's films, *The Double Life of Veronique* will stay with you long after you leave the cinema.



DOUBLE-BILL

### SCREENED WITH

### ✂ KIEŚLOWSKI

Director: The Quay Brothers  
UK, 10 minutes

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of Krzysztof Kieślowski's death, the Quay Brothers have made a short film dedicated to the work and life of one of the most important directors of European cinema. The project is a poetic journey into the images, ideas, and intuitions that shaped Kieślowski's artistic world. The film combines documentary reflection with the Quay Brothers' characteristic visual metaphor, animation, and a subtle, oneiric narrative texture.

Commissioned and produced in partnership with the Adam Mickiewicz Institute and the In Situ Foundation

# KIEŚLOWSKI DOCU-SHORTS

FRI 13 MARCH, 18:20  
CINÉ LUMIÈRE

INTRODUCTION

## ⌘ TALKING HEADS

1980, 16 min

In this deceptively simple yet profound short documentary, Kieślowski interviews a cross-section of Polish people – ranging from infants to centenarians – posing questions such as “When were you born?”, “Who are you?”, and “What do you most wish for?” Their responses form a mosaic of hopes, identities, and concerns, creating a portrait of Polish society at a moment of social and political tension.

## ⌘ FROM A NIGHT PORTER'S POINT OF VIEW

1977, 17 min

This documentary centers on Marian Osuch, a factory night porter who delivers an unsettlingly frank account of his life and worldview. Much of the film follows him at work as he explains his strict belief in order, rules, and the enforcement of authority, including support for harsh punishments and suppression of dissent.

## ⌘ SEVEN WOMEN OF DIFFERENT AGES

1979, 16 min

Kieślowski paints a poetic portrait of seven ballet dancers at different stages of life – from a young child just beginning her first steps, through seasoned performers, to an older dance teacher. Each vignette observes these women in rehearsal and performance, forming a meditation on aging, aspiration, discipline, and the passage of time as expressed through the demanding art of classical dance.



## ⌘ HOSPITAL

1977, 21 min

Filmed in the emergency department of a Warsaw hospital, this cinéma-vérité documentary captures the relentless pace of medical work – from briefings to night shifts – without voice-over commentary. The camera observes doctors and patients in tense, sometimes darkly humorous situations, revealing the pressures of care under demanding conditions and offering a gritty, humanist glimpse into everyday hospital life in Communist Poland.

## ⌘ REFRAIN

1972, 10 min

One of Kieślowski's early non-fiction shorts, Refrain juxtaposes images of bureaucracy at work with the ritual of a funeral and the continuation of paperwork afterward. In doing so, the film reflects on the mechanical persistence of institutional routines and how everyday systems persist even in the face of human loss.

*Introduced by Witold Stok*

# CALL KIEŚLOWSKI

FRI 13 MARCH  
CINÉ LUMIÈRE



*Call Kieślowski* is an immersive AI exhibition inviting audiences into an intimate conversation with the legendary filmmaker Krzysztof Kieślowski. Drawing on his legacy, participants will be able to converse with Kieślowski in real time. Part installation, part cinematic encounter, the experience offers new ways of engaging with cinema by rethinking our relationship with Kieślowski in particular. Rather than imitating the man, *Call Kieślowski* creates a space for reflection, dialogue, questioning how artificial intelligence can coexist with cinematic authorship. The world premiere takes place at Cinéma Lumière on 13th of March, followed by a two-week exhibition at Coal Drops Yard, King's Cross, from 16 March.

Created in partnership with In Situ Foundation and ElevenLabs



# CLOSING GALA

SUN 29 MARCH, 18:00  
CINÉ LUMIÈRE

Q&A



*Followed by Q&A with director Maciej Sobieszczanski and actress Agnieszka Grochowska (TBC)*



## ✂ BROTHER

Director: Maciej Sobieszczanski

Writers: Maciej Sobieszczanski, Grzegorz Puda

Cast: Filip Wiłkomirski, Tytus Szymczuk,

Agnieszka Grochowska, Julian

Świeżewski, Tomasz Schuchardt, Jacek Braciak

Poland, Czech Republic 2025, 98 min

Dawid loves his younger brother. He also loves judo. He tries to meet expectations at home, school and the gym... Acclaimed in festivals, *Brother* is a powerful coming of age drama focused on a family where violence and manipulation is always simmering under the surface. Filip Wiłkomirski (Best Debut, Gdynia Festival) plays 14 year old Dawid and Agnieszka Grochowska shines as his mother, dreaming of independence and freedom from the influence of his imprisoned father. Jolanta Dylewska (*In Darkness*)'s camera emphasises the tight spaces, adding to the tension as each struggles with making sacrifices and taking opportunities.



DOCUMENTARY AND FEATURE FILM STUDIOS

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# CALENDAR, BOOKING & INFORMATION



Franz, Director: Agnieszka Holland, 2025



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wed 4 February 18:10	OPENING NIGHT GALA <i>Ashes and Diamonds</i> + intro Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Thu 5 February 18:00	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Maids of Wilko</i> + Q&A Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Thu 5 February 20:40	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Innocent Sorcerers + The Bad Boy</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Fri 6 February 18:15	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Everything for Sale + Warsaw</i> (from <i>Love at Twenty</i> ) Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sat 7 February 14:10	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Ashes</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sat 7 February 20:15	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Hunting Flies + Roly Poly</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sun 8 February 20:40	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Wedding</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Wed 11 February 18:20	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>An Introduction to Andrzej Wajda</i>	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Wed 11 February 20:40	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Wedding</i> + intro Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sun 15 February 12:10	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>A Generation + While You Are Sleeping</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sun 15 February 15:20	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Kanal</i> + intro Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sun 15 February 18:15	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Ashes and Diamonds</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Mon 16 February 17:50	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Man of Marble</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk

Tue 17 February 20:30	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Rough Treatment</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Thu 19 February 20:30	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Everything for Sale + Warsaw</i> (from <i>Love at Twenty</i> ) Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Fri 20 February 17:55	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Innocent Sorcerers + The Bad Boy</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sat 21 February 17:40	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Hunting Flies + Roly Poly</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sat 21 February 20:50	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Wedding</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sun 22 February 12:00	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Man of Iron</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sun 22 February 17:45	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Promised Land</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Tue 24 February 20:50	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Ashes and Diamonds</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Wed 25 February 20:45	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Maids of Wilko</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Thu 26 February 20:55	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Conductor</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sat 28 February 13:00 / 15:15	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Wedding</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda <i>The Devil</i> Director: Andrzej Żuławski	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/cine-lumiere
Sat 28 February 16:25	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Ashes</i> + intro Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sun 1 March 12:10	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Man of Marble</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sun 1 March 15:00	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Man of Iron</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sun 1 March 15:30	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Chopin, a Sonata in Paris</i> Director: Michał Kwieciński	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/cine-lumiere

Sun 1 March 16:00	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Photosensitive</i> Director: Tadeusz Śliwa	The Garden Cinema	thegardencinema.co.uk
Sun 1 March 18:20	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Walesa: Man of Hope</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Mon 2 March 19:10	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Korczak</i> + Q&A Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Tue 3 March 17:30	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Franz</i> + Director Q&A Director: Agnieszka Holland	BFI IMAX	bfi.org.uk/bfi-imax
Wed 4 March 18:30	DOCUMENTARIES <i>In Memoriam: Marcel Łoziński</i> With introduction by Marc Isaacs Director: Marcel Łoziński	Bertha DocHouse	dochouse.org
Thu 5 March 18:30	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Home Sweet Home</i> (aka <i>Good Home</i> ) + Director Q&A Director: Wojciech Smarzowski	ICA	ica.art
Thu 5 March 20:30	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Katyn</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Fri 6 March 18:00 – 21:00	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE Frames of Freedom: Andrzej Wajda, Polish Cinema and the Culture of Dissent	Birkbeck College	bbk.ac.uk
Sat 7 March 12:00 / 15:40	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Man of Iron</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda <i>Possession</i> Director: Andrzej Żuławski + Intro by Michał Oleszczyk	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Sun 8 March 11:00	SPECIAL SCREENINGS & EVENTS <i>The Dog Who Travelled by Train 2</i> Director: Magdalena Nieć	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Sun 8 March 18:30	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Danton</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	ICA	www.ica.art
Mon 9 March 17:50	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Conductor</i> + intro Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Mon 9 March 20:20	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Rough Treatment</i> + intro Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Tue 10 March 18:15	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Katyn</i> + intro Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk

Tue 10 March 19:00	DOCUMENTARIES <i>Mr Olbrychski</i> + Q&A with Daniel Olbrychski Director: Robert Wichrowski	Ognisko Polskie	ogniskopolskie.org.uk
Tue 10 March 18:30	TRIBUTE TO KIEŚŁOWSKI <i>A Short Film About Killing</i> Director: Krzysztof Kieślowski	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Wed 11 March 18:10	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>The Good Boy</i> Director: Jan Komasa	Barbican Centre	barbican.org.uk
Wed 11 March 18:45	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Promised Land</i> + Q&A with Daniel Olbrychski Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Thu 12 March 18:20	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Afterimage + Towards the Sun</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Thu 12 March 20:15	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Chopin, a Sonata in Paris</i> Director: Michał Kwieciński	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Fri 13 March 18:20	TRIBUTE TO KIEŚŁOWSKI Krzysztof Kieslowski Documentaries	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Fri 13 March 20:15	TRIBUTE TO KIEŚŁOWSKI <i>Double Life of Veronique</i> Director: Krzysztof Kieślowski <i>Kieślowski</i> documentary Director: Quay Brothers	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Fri 13 March 20:45	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Korczak</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sat 14 March 15:30 / 17:55	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Possessed</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda <i>The Public Woman</i> Director: Andrzej Żuławski	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Sun 1 March 18:40	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Anniversary</i> Director: Jan Komasa	The Garden Cinema	thegardencinema.co.uk
Sun 15 March 14:00	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>A Generation</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	ICA	ica.art
Sat 15 March 18:00	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Man of Iron</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Mon 16 March 20:30	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Walesa: Man of Hope</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk



Tue 17 March 12:00 – 18:00	SPECIAL SCREENINGS & EVENTS KINOTECHA Conference	Samsung KX	samsung.com/uk/store/ samsung-kx/
Tue 17 March 19:30	TRIBUTE TO KIEŚLOWSKI <i>A Short Film About Love</i> + Q&A with Grazyna Szapolowska Director: Krzysztof Kieślowski	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Wed 18 March 18:15	DOCUMENTARIES <i>Trains</i> + Director Q&A Director: Maciej J. Drygas	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Wed 18 March 20:30	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Kanal</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	ICA	ica.art
Wed 18 March 20:40	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Afterimage</i> + <i>Towards the Sun</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Thu 19 March 20:40	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Ashes and Diamonds</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	ICA	ica.art
Fri 20 March 20:00	SPECIAL SCREENINGS & EVENTS <i>Błokowisko</i>	Southbank Centre	southbankcentre.co.uk
Sat 21 March 18:30	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Larp</i> Director: Kordian Kadziela	ICA	ica.art
Sat 21 March 20:20	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Franz</i> Director: Agnieszka Holland	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Mon 23 March 18:00	TRIBUTE TO KIEŚLOWSKI <i>A Short Film About Killing</i> Director: Krzysztof Kieślowski	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Tue 24 March 20:40	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Pilate and Others</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	ICA	ica.art
Wed 25 March 18:20	TRIBUTE TO KIEŚLOWSKI <i>A Short Film About Love</i> Director: Krzysztof Kieślowski	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Thu 26 March 18:30	DOCUMENTARIES <i>Letters from Wolf Street</i> + Director Q&A Director: Arjun Talwar	Bertha DocHouse	dochouse.org
Thu 26 March 20:40	WAJDA RETROSPECTIVE <i>Love in Germany</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	ICA	ica.art
Sun 29 March 18:00	CLOSING GALA Brother Director: Maciej Sobieszkański	Cine Lumiere	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere

## VENUE INFORMATION



**BFI IMAX**  
1 Charlie Chaplin Walk  
London SE1 8XR  
bfi.org.uk/bfi-imax



**BFI Southbank**  
Belvedere Road  
London SE1 8XT  
bfi.org.uk



**Institute of Contemporary Arts**  
The Mall  
London SW1Y 5AH  
ica.art



**Ciné Lumière**  
17 Queensberry Pl  
London SW7 2DT  
institut-francais.org.uk/  
cine-lumiere



**The Garden Cinema**  
39 Parker Street,  
London WC2B 5PQ  
thegardencinema.co.uk



**Bertha DocHouse**  
Curzon Bloomsbury  
The Brunswick  
London WC1N 1AW  
dochouse.org

## barbican

**Barbican Centre**  
Silk Street  
London EC2Y 8DS  
barbican.org.uk



**Ognisko Polskie –  
The Polish Hearth**  
55 Princes Gate  
London SW7 2PN  
ogniskopolskie.org.uk

## SOUTHBANK CENTRE

**Southbank Centre**  
Belvedere Road  
London SE1 8XX  
southbankcentre.co.uk

**Samsung KX**  
Coal Drops Yard, King's Cross  
London N1C 4DQ  
samsung.com/uk/explore/  
kings-cross

**Kiosk N1C**  
108 Lower Stable Street  
London N1C 4DR

# CREDITS & THANKS

## WITH SPECIAL THANKS

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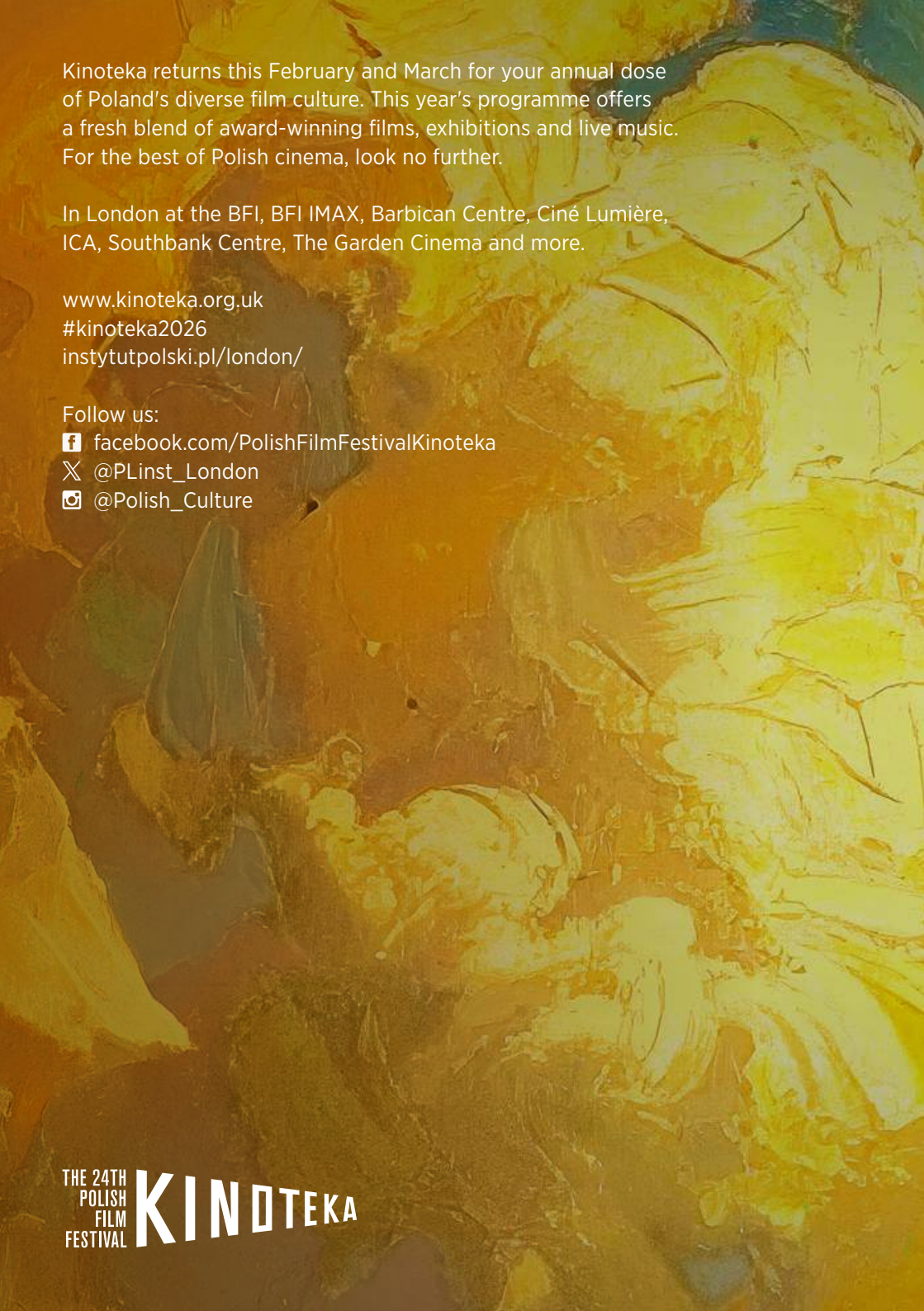
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