WELCOME TO KINOTEKA 2023!

With an Academy Award Nomination for Jerzy Skolimowski's EO and highly anticipated films starring global names by other Polish directors like Pawel Pawlikowski's The Island, the year 2023 is already shaping up to be a year that puts Polish films and filmmakers firmly into the spotlight on the world's stage. At the 21st Kinoteka Polish Film Festival, we are proud to showcase Polish film and to once again bring you an exciting programme full of great new productions, as well as documentaries and curated Polish classics and a very exciting and timely retrospective of the works of Jerzy Skolimowski. This year's programme will also see explorations of Music and Art in film, an animation-making workshop for kids and an immersive XR showcase. While at the Barbican, an adaptation of Literature Nobel prize-winner Olga Tokarczuk's controversial novel Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead will be presented in the Cinema (Agnieszka Holland's Spoor), alongside a major new stage adaptation.

Kicking of this year's festival, the Opening Night Gala screening of *Bread and Salt* at the ICA. A brilliant debut from Damian Kocur, the film is inspired by real events and cast with non-professional actors and is a raw and fluid exploration of what it means to be young in small town contemporary Europe. It will be followed by a Q&A with the lead actors.

Our New Polish Cinema strand will this year take place at The Prince Charles Cinema, ICA and Riverside Studios. The eight films in this strand, which include the Opening Gala screening, include several dramas exploring relationship dynamics and very emotive and hard-hitting explorations of issues such as Alzheimer's, the perception of older women or the disappearance of a loved one.

The programme continues with our longstanding partner the BFI, with whom we will host an exciting retrospective of the works of Jerzy Skolimowski. The line-up of 15 films will include works from across his directing career. The retrospective will offer the chance to get better acquainted with the output of a phenomenal director whose latest production, *EO*, has attracted widespread critical acclaim and made headlines in both the UK and US.

As part of our commitment to interactive events that push the boundaries of film, this year we also present the *XRossspace Showcase*, a new section of the programme focused on the most innovative, immersive XR works from Poland.

Our Closing Night Gala will bring this year's festival to a close with a screening of *Top Dog*. A classic at the forefront of the emerging Cinema of Moral Anxiety, it focuses on an intentionally evil entertainer with an overt lack of morals. The film will be followed by a Closing Gala Party based on the film.

As we continue to put the pandemic years behind us, we encourage you all to take a journey into Polish cinema in 2023 and start or continue your journey here with us at Kinoteka.

Dr. Marta de Zuniga Polish Cultural Institute Director

Marlena Lukasiak Kinoteka Artistic Director and Producer

MAGDALENA ABAKANOWICZ EVERY TANGLE OF THREAD AND ROPE

TATE MODERN 17 NOV 2022 – 21 MAY 2023

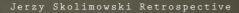


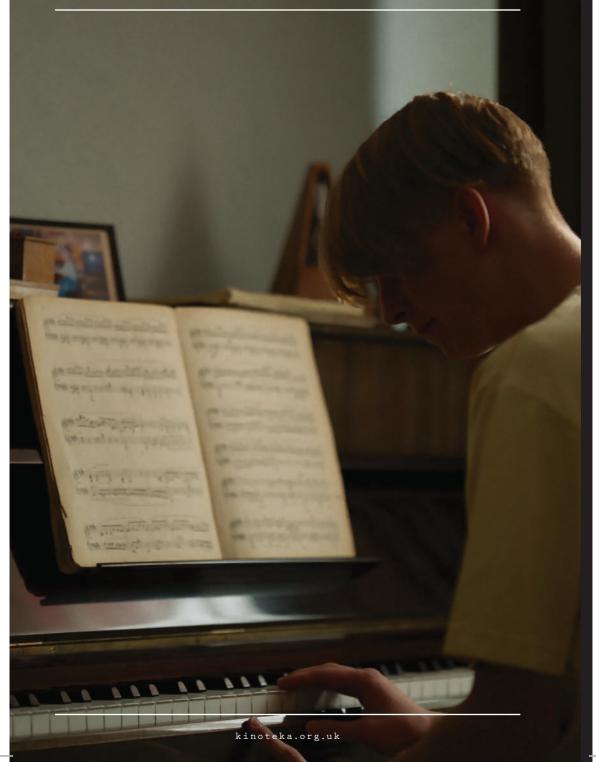
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OPENING NIGHT GALA



THU 9 MARCH, 19:00

XK BREAD AND SALT (CHLEB I SÓL)

Director: Damian Kocur Writers: Damian Kocur Cast: Tymoteusz Bies, Nikola Raczko, Jacek Bies, Dawid Piejko Poland, 2022, 99 min

Packing a deep emotional punch this brilliant debut feature from Damian Kocur takes us on the journey of two brothers in a small Polish town during one hot summer. Both pianists, one studies at the Warsaw Academy, the other chooses to spend time with mates and in the local kebab shop. Through the complex soundtrack, which is as important as the observational camerawork, we confront our prejudices, see how easy it is to be misunderstood and ask "where does violence begin?"

Inspired by real events and cast with nonprofessional actors (the two brothers are in fact siblings) this is a raw, fluid exploration of what it means to be young in small town contemporary Europe.

Multiple festival awards have followed the Horizons Special Jury Prize at Venice Film Festival, from Cairo, Antalya as well as the journalists and Youth juries at Gdynia, Poland. Tough and brutally real.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with lead actors Tymoteusz and Jacek Bies 5

New Polish Cinema

NEW POLISH CINEMA



DRAMA

SAT 11 MARCH, 18:45 ICA

X FUCKING BORNHOLM

Director: Anna Kazejak Writer: Anna Kazejak Cast: Agnieska Grochowska, Maciej Stuhr, Grzegorz Damiecki, Jasmina Polak Poland, 2022, 99 min

Maciej Stuhr and Agnieszka Grochowska play Hubert and Maja in this dark comedy set on the idyllic Danish island of Bornholm. The film was an instant success on the festival circuit, bagging the prestigious Europa Cinema Label Award Best European Film at Karlovy Vary '22.

Drawing comparisons with Ruben Ostlund's *Force Majeure* the film exposes the frayed edges of family dynamics and gives focus to Maja's dilemmas as a woman (long neglected by her husband) and mother (trying to do the best by her sons).

Impressive widescreen camerawork from Jakub Stolecki showing beautiful sandy beaches and a strong orchestral score (by jazz musician Jerzy Rogiewicz, also credited on *Tata*) combine to amplify the smart, cutting dialogue. We laugh and also recognise the psychological torments. Does any family vacation actually live up to expectations?

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director, Anna Kazejak

SUN 12 MARCH, 15:30 PRINCE CHARLES CINEMA



DRAMA

XK WOMAN ON THE ROOF

Director: Anna Jadowska Writer: Anna Jadowska Cast: Dorota Pomykała, Bogdan Koca Poland, 2022, 97 min

Appearing in almost every frame Dorota Pomykała's portrayal of Mira is richly deserving of the awards received at Gdynia and Tribecca festivals. 60 year old Mira inhabits a world in which she has become all but invisible, but despite years of attrition her sense of defiance keeps pushing through. Inspired by a news story, this is a stark, unforgiving, whilst completely absorbing, portrayal of a society that side-lines its elder women and the men that amplify this on an individual level. Agnieszka Hollands' *Spoor* (where the voice of the retiree is categorised at best as eccentric or even dangerous) tells a similar tale.

Writer director Anna Jadowska (*Wild Roses*) uses harsh lighting and a cold, minimalist palette to amplify Mira's sense of despair, but retains hope of the possibility of change. She is a midwife, after all.

TUE 14 MARCH, 19:00 ICA



DOCUMENTARY

**** THE HAMLET SYNDROME**

Director: Elwira Niewiera, Piotr Rosolowski Writer: Elwira Niewiera, Piotr Rosolowski Poland/Germany, 2022, 85 min

Theatre and cinema combine in this raw portrait showing the power of the creative process.

Award winning theatre director Roza Sarkisian brings together a group of young Ukrainian actors to develop a performance based on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. A few months later, Russia invaded Ukraine.

The directors observe the actors as the theatre piece develops, their individual portraits resonating across personal experience and literary text. Variously processing trauma and gathering resilience to fight conservative values or social bigotry, they all face important decisions informed by their past and determining their future. Winner of Best Documentary at Krakow Film Festival.

FRI 17 MARCH, 21:00 PRINCE CHARLES CINEMA



DRAMA

XK DAD

Director: Anna Maliszewska Writer: Anna Maliszewska Cast: Maja Ostaszewska, Marcin Dorociński Poland, 2022, 110 min

Single dad trucker Michal depends on his Ukrainian neighbour to look after his daughter Miska. When the nanny dies suddenly he goes back on the road with a different point of view. Award winning actor Eryk Lubos expertly holds our attention (and gives us space to smile) as he navigates the challenges of parenting a young girl and transporting a dead body across borders.

A Polish Ukrainian co-production in development before the Russian invasion *Dad (Tata)* tackles some of the social history between the two nations as well as imagining what the future might be for their youth. However the core of this free-spirited road movie lies in the journey of Michal who is forced to grow up fast as an active parent, decide what is most important to him and take responsibility for the future.

SUN 19 MARCH, 15:30 PRINCE CHARLES CINEMA



DOCUMENTARY

W THE PAWNSHOP

Director: Lukasz Kowalski Writer: Lukasz Kowalski Poland, 2021, 81 minutes

An international festival favourite (premiering at CPH:DOX) this is a bleak but hilarious doc/comedy. Wiesek runs Poland's largest Pawnshop with his wife Jola. It used to be a profitable business but times have changed and they are struggling – big time. Determined to find a way out they tour the deprived neighbourhood and pitch a new idea, one that might help everyone – they launch an auction.

Director Kowalski has a good eye for drama in everyday situations, drawing us into the precarious world of the couple, their young employees and their vulnerable clientele revealing a sensitive caring heart amidst the jostle for business.

The Pawnshop will be showing at Bertha DocHouse from 31st March, for more information head to dochouse.org

FRI 24 MARCH, 20:30 RIVERSIDE STUDIOS



DRAMA

X ILLUSION

Director: Marta Minorowicz Writer: Marta Minorowicz Cast: Agata Buzek, Marcin Czarnik Poland, 2022, 90 min

Shot across Poland's Baltic coast, Marta Minorowicz's enigmatic fiction debut draws on years of research and conversations with those who have experienced the disappearance of a loved one. Part detective story, part psychological drama, it explores the tensions between a couple (Agata Buzek and Marcin Czarnik – Son Of Saul, Mr Jones) as they face the unexplained absence of their daughter.

On the bleak snowy shore-line truth and illusion become inextricably intertwined. Admirers of Minorowicz's festival success *Zud* in 2016 will recognise echoes of the sense of natural powers greater than ourselves that pervades the film and the resilience that we draw on to confront them.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the director, Marta Minorowicz

SAT 25 MARCH, 20:30 RIVERSIDE STUDIOS

C



DRAMA

₩ SHREDS

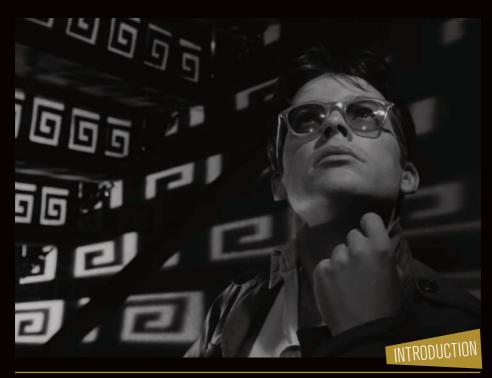
Director: Beata Dzianowska Writer: Beata Dzianowska Cast: Agnieszka Radzikowska, Michał Żurawski Poland, 2022, 98 min

When a family's live-in high flying academic grand-father begins to display unusual behaviour it's not long before everyone is affected by the fall out.

With the rhythm of the seasons at its core, *Shreds* reveals the shifting dynamics of the characters. Veteran Grzegorz Przybył gives an award winning performance as Gerard, subtly showing his own confusion as Alzheimer's disease takes hold of him. Emerging talent Pola Król is strong as a late teen facing not only the tough current dynamic but also the potential of genetic inheritance.

An established and award winning director of documentaries Beata Dzianowska turns her skills to feature films for the second time with *Shreds* where her observational eye allows us time to consider the arguments at the centre of the drama and come to our own conclusions. Polish Cinema Classics

POLISH CINEMA CLASSICS



DRAMA

SUN 19 MARCH, 18:00 PHOENIX CINEMA

XK ASHES AND DIAMONDS

Director: Andrzej Wajda Writers: Jerzy Andrzejewski (novel) and Andrzej Wajda (screenplay) Cast: Zbigniew Cybulski, Ewa Krzyżewska Poland, 1958, 103 min

On the final day of WWII, a young Polish Resistance fighter is ordered to assassinate a Communist official. Once comrades in arms, this triggers a moral dilemma, calling into question all that that was fought for. Defined by an iconic performance by Zbigniew Cybulski, this depiction of Poland, poised between the horrors of the recent past and an uncertain future, is arguably Wajda's masterpiece, and a landmark of international cinema.

The screening will be introduced by Mehelli Modi, Founder of Second Run

Organized in partnership with Second Run www.secondrundvd.com

TUE 21 MARCH, 18:00 CINE LUMIERE



DRAMA

XK PASSION

Director: Jean-Luc Godard Cast: Jerzy Radziwiłowicz, Isabelle Huppert, Hanna Schygulla, Michel Piccoli France, 1982, 87 min

In France to shoot a TV project, a film director named Jerzy is over budget and uninspired. While on the set of his movie, he becomes interested in the unfolding struggle of a young factory worker, Isabelle. She has been fired by her boss Michel, who did not approve of her union activities.

Passion, made during Godard's return to

relatively mainstream filmmaking in the 1980s, is about the making of an ambitious art film that uses recreations of classical European paintings as *tableaux vivants*, set to classical European music. However, only incomplete scenes of these films within the film are shown, because there is no settled plot and it never gets finished.

The main role of film director, Jerzy, has been taken by Jerzy Radziwiłowicz, a Polish actor known from Andrzej Wajdas films including *Man of Marble*

The screening will be introduced by Tony Ryans

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OUTSIDERS AND EXILES: THE FILMS OF JERZY SKOLIMOWSKI

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Spanning most of Skolimowski's six-decade output, this season offers a rare opportunity to see the work of one of the world's most remarkable filmmakers, writes season curator Michael Brooke.

As long ago as 1968, Sight and Sound dubbed Jerzy Skolimowski "probably the most explosive and original filmmaker in Eastern Europe". Which remains as valid a claim today, thanks to a career that's been as wayward and inventive as any individual film. It falls into three phases: a mercurial start in the 1960s that saw him described as a one-man Polish New Wave, a lengthy period of enforced exile in Britain and the US, and then a return to Poland and triumphant proof, not least via the magnificent EO, that he'd lost none of the electrifying vigour that had so memorably charged his earlier work, or his abiding, deeply empathetic concern for people (and other creatures) trapped in the margins through no fault of their own.

kinoteka.org.uk

28 MARCH + 5, 28 APRIL 29 MARCH + 9, 15 APRIL RFI



DRAMA. HORROR

XK THE SHOUT

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Alan Bates, Susannah York, John Hurt, Robert Stephens, Tim Curry UK. 1978. 86 min

In Skolimowski's uncanny Robert Graves adaptation, Alan Bates plays a man who claims his shout can kill.

Conceived as a Nicolas Roeg project, this eerie adaptation of Robert Graves' story proved a perfect fit for Skolimowski, thanks to his ability to make things seem both quintessentially English and deeply strange. Alan Bates is on superlative form as a mysterious stranger tantalising with tales of shamanic powers acquired in the Australian outback, including a shout that can kill.

DATES & TIMES:

Tuesday 28 March, 20:45. NFT1 (+ Intro) Wednesday 5 April, 20:55. NFT1 Friday 28 April, 18:30. NFT1

RFI



DRAMA. THRILLER

XK MOONLIGHTING

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: With Jeremy Irons, Eugene Lipiński, Jiří Stanislav, Eugeniusz Haczkiewic UK. 1982. 98 min

When martial law is declared back home, a Polish builder (Jeremv Irons) decides not to tell his colleagues.

Skolimowski rarely tackled overtly political subjects, but the December 1981 declaration of martial law in Poland inspired one of his most heartfelt films. Only one member of a group of Polish builders understands English, and Nowak (Irons) deliberately withholds the news from his colleagues lest it affect productivity. Working illegally in London, they have to keep their heads down anyway.

DATES & TIMES:

Wednesday 29 March, 20:45. NFT1 (+ Intro) Sunday 9 April, 13:00. NFT2 Saturday 15 April, 18:20. NFT3

29 MARCH + 8 APRIL BFI



DRAMA

WALKOVER

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Aleksandra Zawieruszanka, Jerzy Skolimowski, Krzysztof Chamiec Poland, 1965, 74 min

A drifting boxer approaches thirty in Jerzy Skolimowski's second feature.

Having completed military service, Andrzej Leszczyc has few achievements to point to aside from a certain flair for boxing, which at least gives him something concrete (if fleeting) to fight for. Inspired as much by jazz improvisations and Skolimowski's own poetry (quoted extensively) as any cinematic models, his second feature cemented his growing reputation as a one-man Polish New Wave.

31 MARCH + 10 APRIL BFI



DRAMA

XK HANDS UP!

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Jerzy Skolimowski, Joanna Szczerbic, Tadeusz Łomnicki, Bogumił Kobiela Poland 1967/1981, 79 min

Five former colleagues have a surreal reunion in the film that forced Jerzy Skolimowski into exile.

Skolimowski's alter ego Andrzej Leszczyc returns for a final bow as one of five thirtysomething former colleagues whose reunion (taking place in an abandoned railway wagon) becomes a sombre reflection on both Poland's past and possible future. It proved too near the knuckle for the communist authorities, who not only banned it but sent its director into a lengthy exile.

DATES & TIMES: Wednesday 29 March, 18:20. NFT1 (+ Q&A) Saturday 8 April, 18:10. NFT2 DATES & TIMES: Friday 31 March, 20:45. NFT2 Monday 10 April, 15:40. NFT3

1, 5, 21, 22, 27 APRIL BFI



DRAMA

XK E0

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Sandra Drzymalska, Lorenzo Zurzolo, Mateusz Kościukiewicz, Isabelle Huppert Poland-Italy 2022, 88 min

DATES & TIMES:

Saturday 1 April, 20:50. NFT2 Wednesday 5 April, 18:20. NFT2 Friday 21 April, 20:50. NFT3 Saturday 22 April, 18:20. NFT2 Thursday 27 April, 20:45. NFT2 Jerzy Skolimowski's heart-rending masterpiece about a donkey's travels across Europe.

Very loosely inspired by Robert Bresson's *Au hasard*, Balthazar in its abiding theme of the sins of the world visited upon an innocent donkey, Skolimowski's universally acclaimed new film could scarcely be more different stylistically, with its regular explosions of colour and movement. Species notwithstanding, *EO* is a classic Skolimowski protagonist, buffeted by external circumstance while doggedly clinging to life's certainties.

1, 4 APRIL BFI



DRAMA

XK BARRIER

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Joanna Szczerbic, Jan Nowicki, Tadeusz Łomnicki, Maria Malicka Poland, 1966, 80 min

Skolimowski's intoxicatingly inventive masterpiece about a man trying to understand the modern world.

A newly-graduated medical student (Nowicki) attempts to make sense of the modern world. Taking the themes of previous films (the gulf between young and old, intellectual and worker, present and past) and turning them up to eleven in terms of their ferociously imaginative treatment, Skolimowski attracted well-earned comparisons with Godard and Antonioni, although he remained very much his own man.

DATES & TIMES: Saturday 1 April, 18:20. NFT3 Tuesday 4 April, 20:50. NFT1 (+ Intro)

2, 10, 19, 24 APRIL BFI



DRAMA, COMEDY, ROMANCE

XK DEEP END

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: With Jane Asher, John Moulder-Brown, Karl Michael Vogler, Diana Dors West Germany/US 1970, 91 min

Skolimowski's masterful dissection of teenage infatuation in a run-down swimming pool.

Written by Poles, largely filmed in West Germany (also the source of its famous Can score), but catching the dilapidated feel of turn-of-the-Seventies London with uncanny precision, Deep End pulls few psychological punches in charting the infatuation of teenage swimming-pool attendant Mike (Moulder-Brown) and his slightly older but far more worldly colleague Susan (Asher). But who is ultimately exploiting whom?

DATES & TIMES: Sunday 2 April, 15:30. NFT1 Monday 10 April, 18:30. NFT2 Wednesday 19 April, 20:55. NFT1 Monday 24 April, 18:00. NFT3 (*Relaxed screening*)

2, 15 APRIL BFI



DRAMA

X DIALOGUE 20-40-60

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Jerzy Skolimowski, Peter Solan, Zbyněk Brynych. With Joanna Szczerbic, Jozef Kroner Czechoslovakia, 1968, 98 min

Experimental feature in which couples from three generations deliver the same dialogue in very different contexts.

For this three-part feature, Skolimowski and directors Peter Solan (*Before Tonight is Over*) and Zbyněk Brynych (*The Fifth Horseman is Fear*) each took the same dialogue but staged their own contribution, with outwardly identical lines taking on unexpected new meanings in different contexts. Skolimowski directed the first part, involving a couple played by his wife Joanna Szczerbic and Jean-Pierre Léaud. Screened with shorts which Skolimowski made at the Łódź Film School.

DATES & TIMES: Sunday 2 April, 12:30. NFT2 Saturday 15 April, 20:45. NFT2

2, 17 APRIL BFI



DRAMA, ROMANCE, COMEDY

XK LE DÉPART

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Jean-Pierre Léaud, Catherine Duport, Jacqueline Bir, Paul Roland Belgium, 1967, 91 min

Skolimowski's most 'New Wave' film, starring Jean-Pierre Léaud as a man dreaming of motor-racing stardom.

Skolimowski's affinity with the French New Wave was at its most apparent in his first non-Polish film, not least because it starred the iconic Jean-Pierre Léaud as a hairdresser's apprentice dreaming of being a champion racing driver. Steeped in mid-Sixties pop culture and scored by the Polish jazz master Krzysztof Komeda, it rivals Richard Lester's Beatles films for sheer effervescence.

DATES & TIMES: Sunday 2 April, 18:30. NFT2 Monday 17 April, 20:40. NFT2

3, 9 APRIL BFI



DRAMA

XK IDENTIFICATION MARKS: NONE

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Elżbieta Czyżewska, Jerzy Skolimowski, Tadeusz Minc, Jacek Szczęk Poland, 1964, 73 min

Jerzy Skolimowski's freewheeling debut about a man's last day before military service.

Made at the Łódź Film School, thanks to planning student exercises so they could be combined into a coherent feature, Skolimowski's debut introduced his freewheeling style and his alter ego Andrzej Leszczyc (played by the director not so much for egomania as guaranteed availability), who spends a final day of freedom before compulsory military service tying up some loose ends. 8, 14 APRIL BFI



DRAMA, THRILLER

W THE LIGHTSHIP

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Robert Duvall, Klaus Maria Brandauer, Michael Lyndon US, 1985, 88 min

Robert Duvall holds lightship captain Klaus Maria Brandauer hostage, challenging the latter's pacifism.

Brandauer plays the captain of a stationary lightship whose fervently pacifist views are challenged when he and his crew are taken hostage by a trio of criminals led by the disconcertingly dapper Duvall. Skolimowski's only wholly American film is the closest that he came to a full-blown genre piece, but it's just as slyly subversive as the rest of his canon.

DATES & TIMES: Monday 3 April, 21:00. NFT3 Sunday 9 April, 18:40. NFT3 DATES & TIMES: Saturday 8 April, 12:15. NFT3 Friday 14 April, 20:40. NFT3

16, 29 APRIL BFI



DRAMA, THRILLER

XK 11 MINUTES

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Richard Dormer, Paulina Chapko, Wojciech Mecwaldowski, Andrzej Chyra Poland-Ireland, 2015, 81 min

DATES & TIMES: Sunday 16 April, 12:30. NFT3 Saturday 29 April, 20:30. NFT3 A lot can happen in eleven minutes, dazzlingly shown from multiple viewpoints.

Skolimowski's formidable conceptual and technical skills get their most intensive workout here, as initially unconnected stories (an attempted seduction, a crime, a chase, a painting in progress) gradually and then emphatically come together. The film is so formally virtuosic that serious themes about surveillance and technology play second fiddle to the sensuous pleasure of watching a master filmmaker at work.

23, 28 APRIL BFI



DRAMA

XK FOUR NIGHTS WITH ANNA

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Artur Steranko, Kinga Preis, Jerzy Fedorowicz, Redblad Klijnstra Poland-France 2008, 87 min

An ex-con forms an unconventional relationship with a neighbour in Skolimowski's psychological suspense thriller

Skolimowski returned to directing after a nearly two-decade hiatus with this quietly unsettling study of a lonely ex-convict who expresses his infatuation with his neighbour not by the more conventionally cinematic method of romancing or kidnapping her but by repeatedly drugging her so that he can clean her house while she sleeps, for deepseated reasons that only gradually emerge.

DATES & TIMES: Sunday 23 April, 12:40. NFT3 Friday 28 April, 20:50. NFT3 23, 29 APRIL BFI



THRILLER

X ESSENTIAL KILLING

Director: Jerzy Skolimowski Cast: Vincent Gallo, Emmanuelle Seigner, Zach Kohen, David Price Poland-Norway-Hungary-Ireland, 2010, 84 min

Vincent Gallo goes on the run in the dead of winter in Jerzy Skolimowski's nearly wordless thriller.

Mohammed (Gallo) is transported from his sun-seared homeland to a temporary detention centre in wintry Poland, escapes, and then tries to stay alive in a terrifyingly unfamiliar environment where his appearance automatically sees him labelled as a potentially dangerous terrorist. With even less dialogue than *EO*, this multiple award winner is the closest Skolimowski came to purely visual cinema.

DATES & TIMES: Sunday 23 April, 18:40. NFT2 Saturday 29 April, 14:40. NFT2

JERZY SKOLIMOWSKI IN CONVERSATION

TUE 28 MARCH, 18:30 BFI NFT 1

↑ Photo: Jill Reading

XK JERZY SKOLIMOWSKI IN CONVERSATION

Defying neat categorisation Jerzy Skolimowski has created a dynamic and provocative body of work that reveals him as one of our foremost cinema artists. As writer, actor, director and sometimes producer he not only engages us with stories but also challenges us to understand other worlds by fluid changes of perspective. His films won awards from the beginning. In this conversation with season curator Michael Brooke we look forward to hearing about what drives his creative passion and what lies behind his international success.

kinoteka.org.uk

SENSUAL FABLES: OLGA TOKARCZUK IN THEATRE AND CINEMA

15 MARCH – 1 APRIL BARBICAN THEATRE

X DRIVE YOUR PLOW OVER THE BONES OF THE DEAD

Director: Simon McBurney Adapted from the novel by Olga Tokarczuk Original novel translation: Antonia Lloyd-Jones

The world-renowned international touring company Complicité presents a new work for the theatre, *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*, directed by Simon McBurney and co-commissioned by the Barbican. Based on Nobel Prize winning author Olga Tokarczuk's novel of the same name, the darkly comic, anarchic noir caused a seismic reaction in Tokarczuk's native Poland.

The story begins in the depths of winter in a small community on a remote Polish mountainside. Men from the local hunting club are dying in mysterious circumstances and Janina Duszejko – an eccentric older local woman, environmentalist, devoted astrologer and translator of William Blake – has her suspicions. She has been watching the animals with whom the community shares their isolated, rural home, and she believes they are acting strangely...

Engaged in fierce resistance against the injustices around her, Janina refuses to be a prisoner of society and gender. Her actions ask questions both of the male world which surrounds her and of our deeper human intentions: what does it mean to be human and what does it mean to be animal, and can we separate the two? Why is the killing of animals sport and that of humans murder? A thought-provoking, wry and otherworldly murder mystery, *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* is a tale about the cosmos, poetry, and the limitations and possibilities of activism.

SAT 18 MARCH, 14:00 BARBICAN CINEMA



THRILLER

¥ SPOOR

Director: Agnieszka Holland, Katarzyna Adamik

Writer: Beata Dzianowska

Cast: Agnieszka Mandat, Wiktor Zborowski, Jakub Gierszal, Patricia Wolny, Miroslav Robot Poland/Germany/Czech Republic/Sweden/ Slovakia/France, 2017, 128 min

Kinoteka presents a special screening of Agnieszka Holland's feminist ecological thriller, based on Olga Tokarczuk's novel *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*, now adapted for stage and showing in the Barbican Theatre.

Winner of the Berlin Festival Silver Bear, Holland described it as an "anarchistic, feminist crime story with elements of black comedy". Duszejko, a retired engineer (powerfully played by Agnieszka Mandat) lives quietly with her dogs on the Polish Czech border, teaching English in her spare time. Following unexplained disappearances and then deaths she determines to uncover the truth. Strong local allegiances influence perspectives and soon lines between hunter and hunted blur. Watch out for a cameo from Tomasz Kot.

Powerful cinematography that celebrates the natural world is important in driving the narrative, along with costumes that are strong signifiers of each character (Katarzyna Lewińska won the European Film Awards prize as Costume Designer 2017).

Read as a modern fable or mystic narrative the message against injustice is clear, highlighting the value of friendship and of those on the margins.

With a recorded intro by the director, Agnieszka Holland

MUSIC IN FILM



DRAMA

WED 29 MARCH, 18:00 CINE LUMIERE

₭ THE DEVIL

Director: Andrzej Żuławski Cast: Malgorzata Braunek, Michal Grudzinski, Leszek Teleszynski Poland, 1972, 119 min

A special screening of Andrzej Żuławski's controversial masterpiece *The Devil* accompanied by a live music event.

Commemorating the cinematography of one of the most original auteurs in European cinema, Andy Votel – musician, DJ and producer – prepares a special musical tribute to Andrzej Żuławski and his exceptional film scores. Ranging from electronic through orchestral to psych rock and experimental, Votel will explore the music composed by Andrzej Korzyński for Żuławski's most iconic films and other Polish musicians of the 70s.

The Devil, similarly to many of the other greatest works of Polish Cinema at this particular time, was abandoned by PRL censorship for 16 years and returned to screens only in 1988. The action of the feature takes place in 1793 during the Prussian army's invasion in Poland. Jakub, a young Polish nobleman, is rescued from imprisonment by a stranger who seeks to discover other conspirators known to the protagonist. Jakub subsequently follows his saviour across wartorn Poland, and, traumatised by what he has seen, begins to commit several gruesome murders.

The soundtrack from *The Devil* has been released by Finders Keepers Records.

BODY POLITIC: THE FILMS OF

ARTIST SHORTS SCREENING

THU 23 MARCH, 19:00 WHITECHAPEL GALLERY





NATALIA LL

XK BODY POLITIC: THE FILMS OF NATALIA LL

A rare UK screening of the short films of the avant-garde feminist Polish artist, Natalia LL, who died in August 2022. Renowned for her witty critiques of consumer society, investigations of sexuality and gender, and systematic experimentation with the laws of probability, her work Investigates the aesthetic and erotic features of the commodified body.

- Permanent Measurement of Time, 1970, 0'35"
- Permanent Measurement of Every 1 km of the E22 Motorway, 1970, 2'
- Consumer Art (excerpts), 1971–2, 1974, 1975, 15'57"
- Impressions, 1973, 3'46"
- Artificial Reality, 1976, 15'29"
- Pyramid, 1980, 1'58"
- *Points of support*, 1980, 1'02"
- Voracious Cats (excerpts), 1994, 3'06"
- Brunhild's Dreams, 1994, 9'43"
- Menego, 1997, 7'20"

Curated and introduced by Agnieszka Rayzacher and followed by Q&A.

ANIMATION WORKSHOP RUN BY TESSA MOULT-MILEWSKA



SAT 25 MARCH, 10:00 PHOENIX CINEMA

XK TIKTOK ANIMATION WORKSHOP

A 4-hour workshop in which participants will experiment with pixelation, an animation technique in which they will use their bodies and found objects instead of the usual puppets. Each participant, equipped with a phone and the appropriate application, will have the opportunity to create their own story. Taking about eight photos for every second of the film, we will bring the bodies to life in a magical way, making them fly, pass through walls, transform into new life forms and perform impossible tricks.

Tessa Moult-Milewska is a British-Polish writer and animation director, a graduate of the National Film and Television School and founder of the Warsaw Animation Film Festival. Her go-to style of animation is stop-motion, but she's also directed 2D animated kids series, experimented in mix-media as well as worked in advertising. She specializes in short forms with a quirky sense of humour and a dark, whimsical tone.

To book your free place, visit: www.kinoteka.org.uk.

KIDS SCREENING FAMILY FUN AT THE BARBICAN



SAT 18 MARCH, 11:00 BARBICAN

XK THE SECRET GARDEN

Director: Agnieszka Holland US, 1993, 101 min

When Mary Lennox is sent from India to live in England with relatives, she discovers an overgrown mysterious garden and a lonely boy – her cousin, Colin – hidden away in a remote country house. Gradually the two children, with their friend Dickon, begin to uncover the secrets of nature concealed behind garden walls and the family stories entwined within.

Agnieszka Holland's sumptuous re-telling is often cited as one of the best adaptations of the classic children's book by Frances Hodgson Burnett and boasts music by composer Zbigniew Preisner and beautiful performances from the three young leads, ably supported by a frowning Maggie Smith as their severe housekeeper, Mrs Medlock.

With a recorded intro by the director, Agnieszka Holland

Part of Barbican Family Film Club

XROSSSPACE SHOWCASE:



THURSDAY 30 MARCH — SUNDAY 2 APRIL BFI SOUTHBANK



This year, for the first time, Kinoteka presents a new section of the programme – the XRossspace Showcase – dedicated to the most innovative immersive XR works from Poland.

Explore Polish XR inspired by scifi literature, non-binary games, cyber performance and the street art of metaspaces. The showcase invites the audience to walk to "the other side of the screen" and awaken their imagination in the stunning experiences of interactive and cinematic narratives.

In XRossspace, virtuality and physicality are not in opposition, but they interpenetrate one another. This hybrid showcase will include works that reveal the intriguing correlations of Polish VR with literature (Stanisław Lem), games, urban and performance art, as well as new works selected in open calls for the best AR filer and VR experience.

The showcase will be comprised of five elements: *Body Open Source* by Eternal Engine, *Cosmogonic* by dir. Paweł Szarzyński (Kinhouse Studio), *Bestiarium* by Photon Foundation, XRossspace Awards and the metaspace Hub with an online programme. www.xrossspace.com

Curator: Weronika M Lewandowska (XRossspace Showcase)





V I P A

🕷 BODY OPEN SOURCE

Eternal Engine, VR Multiplayer, Poland, 2018 – 2022, 10 – 15 mins Courtesy of the Import Export Gallery, Warsaw A gaming experience that challenges the convention of binary gender classification offered by mainstream gaming. It immerses in ephemeral meetings, dissolving boundaries of meanings and stimulating the embodiment in interactions with virtual bodies and objects.



X COSMOGONIC

Director: Paweł Szarzyński (Kinhouse Studio) Animation

Poland, 2021, 8 Mins.

The story of an oppressed society and its path to liberation inspired by the sci-fi literature of Stanislaw Lem. A dazzling VR space bursting with infinite stars and intriguing space phenomena. Here matter constantly selfdestructs and regenerates itself.

XROSSSPACE AWARDS

The XRossspace Awards will surprise everyone! This selection will present new social AR filters, stunning ethically built virtual worlds, and an unconventional approach to creative technologies developed by Polish makers, artists and new talents.

kinoteka.org.uk

CLOSING GALA FILM SCREENING AND IMMERSIVE DINNER THU 27 APRIL

Come and join us for a once in a lifetime experience – a recreation of a famous Warsaw Estrada event. Established in 1955 as "The Capital Enterprise of Stage Events" in Polish, "Stołeczna Estrada", was a cultural institution set up to support artistic stage activities, popularize satirical works and shape and perfect the form of the stage performance. It was one of the largest cultural institutions of Communist Warsaw.

Thanks to Estrada, Warsaw audiences could enjoy performances of big stars such as Ella Fitzgerald and Josephine Baker and children could take part in special events. By the 1970s, as many as 300 people worked at Estrada, with entire programmes organized around concerts, circus acts, dances and even striptease.

THU 27 APRIL



18:00, CINE LUMIERE

XK TOP DOG (WODZIREJ)

Director: Feliks Falk Writer: Feliks Falk Cast: Jerzy Stuhr, Sława Kwasniewska, Wiktor Sadecki, Michał Tarkowski Poland, 1977, 94 min

Danielak will stop at nothing to achieve his aim of hosting the town's 500th anniversary celebrations. In this early role Jerzy Stuhr (soon to be seen in *Provincial Actors* and *Camera Buff*) plays the entertainer to perfection as an intentionally evil man with an overt lack of morals.

Causing much debate on its release in Poland *Top Dog* exposed the consequences of weak moral codes and offered a reading of corruption that was not limited to show business. Falk (also an artist and theatre director) was working alongside Holland and Kieslowski in Wajda's X fllm Unit, at the forefront of the emerging Cinema of Moral Anxiety. The film had success on the International festival circuit including winning the Golden Plaque at Chicago 1979.

20:30, OGNISKO POLSKIE

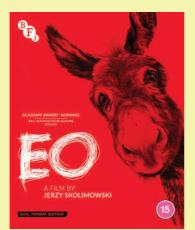
XK IMMERSIVE DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT

Margot Przymierska presents a dollop of stage inspired entertainment served alongside your 'cutlet' with exotic sprinkling. Join us for comedy, cabaret, songs of the era and belly dancing.

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OUT ON BLU-RAY



TWO FILMS BY JERZY SKOLIMOWSKI

FILMS FROM THE LEGENDARY POLISH DIRECTOR JERZY SKOLIMOWSKI



CALENDAR, BOOKING & INFORMATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday 9 March 19:00	OPENING NIGHT GALA Bread and Salt Director: Damian Kocur	ICA	www.ica.art
Saturday 11 March 18:45	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Fucking Bornholm</i> Director: Anna Kazejak	ICA	www.ica.art
Sunday 12 15:30	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Woman on the Roof</i> Director: Anna Jadowska	Prince Charles Cinema	princecharlescinema.com
Tuesday 14 March 19:00	NEW POLISH CINEMA The Hamlet Syndrome Directors: Elwira Niewiera, Piotr Rosołowski	ICA	www.ica.art
Wednesday 15 March – Saturday 1 April	SENSUAL FABLES Drive Your Plough Over the Bones of the Dead Director: Simon McBurney	Barbican	barbican.org.uk
Tuesday 15 March 20:30	NEW POLISH CINEMA Dad Director: Anna Maliszewska	Prince Charles Cinema	princecharlescinema.com
Saturday 18 March 11:00	KIDS & FAMILIES <i>The Secret Garden</i> Director: Agnieszka Holland	Barbican	barbican.org.uk
Saturday 18 March 14:00	SENSUAL FABLES <i>Spoor</i> Director: Agnieszka Holland	Barbican	barbican.org.uk
Sunday 19 March 15:30	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>The Pawnshop</i> Director: Lukasz Kowalski	Prince Charles Cinema	princecharlescinema.com
Sunday 19 March 18:00	POLISH CINEMA CLASSICS <i>Ashes and Diamonds</i> Director: Andrzej Wajda	Phoenix Cinema	phoenixcinema.co.uk
Tuesday 21 March 18:00	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Passion</i> Director: Jean-Luc Godard	Ciné Lumière	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere

Calendar, Booking & Information

Thursday 23 March 19:00	SPECIAL SCREENINGS & EVENTS Body Politic: The Films of Natalia LL	Whitechapel Gallery	whitechapelgallery.org
Friday 24 March 20:30	NEW POLISH CINEMA <i>Illusion</i> Director: Marta Minorowicz	Riverside Studios	riversidestudios.co.uk
Saturday 25 March 10:00–14:00	WORKSHOP <i>TikTok Animation Workshop</i> Run by Tessa Moult-Milewska	Phoenix Cinema	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Saturday 25 March 20:30	NEW POLISH CINEMA Shreds Director: Beata Dzianowska	Riverside Studios	riversidestudios.co.uk
Tuesday 28 March 18:30	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Jerzy Skolimowski in Conversation Conversation led by the BFI's Skolimowski Season curator Michael Brooke. Season Opener	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Tuesday 28 March 20:45	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE <i>The Shout</i> With intro	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Wednesday 29 March 18:30	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE <i>Walkover</i> With Q&A	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Wednesday 29 March 20:45	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE <i>Moonlighting</i> With Intro	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Friday 31 March 20:45	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Hands Up!	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Saturday 1 April 18:20	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Barrier	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Saturday 1 April 20:50	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE EO	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sunday 2 April 12:30	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Dialogue 20-40-60 + Lodz Shorts	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sunday 2 April 15:30	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Deep End	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sunday 2 April 18:30	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Le Départ	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk

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Calendar, Booking & Information

Monday 3 April 21:00	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Identification Marks: None	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Tuesday 4 April 18:15	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Jerzy Skolimowski Season Intro: Outsider and Exile	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Tuesday 4 April 20:50	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Barrier + Intro	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Wednesday 5 April 18:20	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE <i>E</i> O	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Wednesday 5 April 20:55	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE The Shout	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Saturday 8 April 12:15	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE The Lightship	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Saturday 8 April 18:10	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE <i>Walkover</i>	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sunday 9 April 13:00	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Moonlighting	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sunday 9 April 18:40	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Identification Marks: None	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Monday 10 April 15:40	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Hands Up!	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Monday 10 April 18:30	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Deep End	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Friday 14 April 20:40	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE The Lightship	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Saturday 15 April 18:20	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE <i>Moonlighting</i>	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Saturday 15 April 20:45	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE <i>Dialogue 20-40-60</i> + Lodz Shorts	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sunday 16 April 12:30	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE 11 Minutes	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Monday 17 April 20:40	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE <i>Le départ</i>	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Wednesday 19 April 20:55	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Deep End		bfi.org.uk

Calendar, Booking & Information

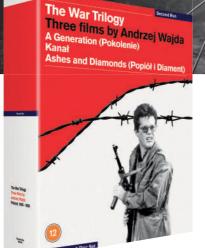
Friday 21 April 20:50	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE <i>EO</i>	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Saturday 22 April 18:20	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE EO	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sunday 23 April 12:40	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Four Nights With Anna	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Sunday 23 April 18:40	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Essential Killing	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Monday 24 April 18:00	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Deep End	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Thursday 27 April 20:45	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE EO	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Friday 28 April 18:30	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE The Shout	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Friday 28 April 20:50	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Four Nights With Anna	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Saturday 29 April 14:40	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE Essential Killing	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Saturday 29 April 20:30	SKOLIMOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE 11 Minutes	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Saturday 29 April 18:00	SPECIAL SCREENINGS & EVENTS <i>The Devil</i> Director: Andrzej Żuławski + Accompanied by live music	Ciné Lumière	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere
Thursday 2 March – Sunday 2 April	SPECIAL SCREENINGS & EVENTS <i>XRossspace Showcase:</i> <i>On The Other Side</i> Director: Andrzej Żuławski + Accompanied by live music	BFI Southbank	bfi.org.uk
Thursday 27 April Screening: 18:00 Closing Party: 20:30	CLOSING NIGHT GALA Top Dog Director: Felix Falk Followed by Closing Party at Ognisko Polskie	Ciné Lumière and Ognisko Polskie – The Polish Hearth	institut-francais.org.uk/ cine-lumiere

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Second Run

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VENUE INFORMATION



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Ciné Lumière 17 Queensberry Pl London SW7 2DW 020 7871 3515 institut-francais.org.uk/cinelumiere

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Barbican Centre Beech Street London EC2Y 8DS 020 7638 4141 barbican.org.uk



Phoenix Cinema 52 High Rd London N2 9PJ 020 8444 6789 phoenixcinema.co.uk



Ognisko Polskie (The Polish Hearth) 55 Princes Gate London SW7 2PN 020 7589 4670 ogniskopolskie.org.uk



Whitechapel Gallery 77–82 Whitechapel High St London El 7QX 020 7522 7888 whitechapelgallery.org

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WITH SPECIAL THANKS

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