

# The Museum of Modern Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ANDRZEJ WAJDA TO VISIT NEW YORK FOR 10-DAY CYCLE OF RECENT POLISH FILMS

Andrzej Wajda, the noted Polish film director whose "Ashes and Diamonds" (1958) first alerted the film world to the growing importance of Polish cinema, will come to New York for the inauguration of "Recent Films from Poland," a 10-day series beginning Monday, April 10, at The Museum of Modern Art. Three recent pictures by Wajda are included in the cycle, and the filmmaker will introduce his "Landscape After Battle" (1970), to be shown at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, April 13, in the Museum auditorium.

Ten films by six directors, made, with one exception, during the past five years, are included in the program, which is being presented through the cooperation of Film Polski. The preoccupations of the young Poles are wide-ranging and include adaptations of 19th century literature, World War II and its immediate aftermath, and contemporary problems of isolation and social interaction.

Wajda's films on the program, besides "Landscape After Battle," include "Hunting Flies" and "The Birch Wood." "Landscape After Battle" is based on the books of Tadeusz Borowski, who is widely read in Poland. This ironic film opens with the liberation of a German concentration camp by American soldiers. Though freed from being war prisoners, the camp inmates then become displaced persons and, locked up within the same walls, they exist in a kind of limbo. One young hero attempts to escape with his girl, only to see her shot by a guard, thus revealing the illusory nature of freedom.

Today's Warsaw is the scene of Wajda's "Hunting Flies." In it a passive young man from an oppressive home in which he is dominated by his wife and mother-in-law attempts to escape through a love affair with a young student. His escape, however, reveals itself as simply another situation in which he is exploited, though the events unfold with wry humor.

"The Birch Wood," by Wajda, set in the 1930s, concerns two brothers, one terminally ill with tuberculosis and the other living in mourning for his dead wife. While the former eventually dies, the example of his thirst for life ultimately frees his brother from his crippling melancholy.

(more)

Krzystof Zanussi, at 33 one of Poland's leading young filmmakers, has two films in the Museum program. "Behind the Wall" studies a woman on the verge of a breakdown, who turns to her neighbor for human warmth only to find him emotionally sterile. "Family Life" concerns a young technocrat's confrontation with his middle-class family and cultural background--both of which he must deny in order to find his own place in the contemporary Polish social structure.

Two of the films have 19th century literary sources. Janusz Majewski's "The Bear" is a horror film based on a Prosper Merimée story about a reclusive count who is believed to be a bear born of a woman. "The Saragossa Manuscript," based on the book by Jan Potocki, is an intricate narrative set in Spain, comprised of stories within stories within stories.

"The Days of Matthew" was made by Witold Leszcynski as his diploma film from the well-known Łódź Film School. It is an allegory on the nature of man set in a solitary lakeside location. "The Thin and the Others," the first film by Henryk Kluba, examines the growing solidarity of a group of unskilled workers engaged in building a dam. "The Third Part of the Night," by Andrzej Zulawski and also a first feature, details the strange chain of events befalling a young Pole working in the underground during World War II.

The complete schedule of "Recent Films from Poland" follows:

BEHIND THE WALL by Krzystof Zanussi. 1971. 71 min. (Monday, April 10, noon; Friday, April 14, 5:30)  
 THE DAYS OF MATTHEW by Witold Leszcynski. 1967. 80 min. (Wednesday, April 12, 2:00)  
 FAMILY LIFE by Krzystof Zanussi. 1971. 91 min. (Wednesday, April 12, 5:30)  
 HUNTING FLIES by Andrzej Wajda. 1969. 108 min. (Thursday, April 13, 2:00)  
 THE BIRCH WOOD by Andrzej Wajda. 1970. 98 min. (Thursday, April 13, 5:30; Friday, April 14, 2:00)  
 LANDSCAPE AFTER BATTLE by Andrzej Wajda. 1970. 110 min. (Thursday, April 13, 8:00; Sunday, April 16, 3:00) Mr. Wajda will be present at the April 13 showing of this film.  
 THE BEAR by Janusz Majewski. 1970. 103 min. (Saturday, April 15, 3:00; Sunday, April 16, 5:30)  
 THE SARAGOSSA MANUSCRIPT by Wojciech J. Has. 1964. 150 min. (Saturday, April 15, 5:30; Monday, April 17, noon)  
 THE THIRD PART OF THE NIGHT by Andrzej Zulawski. 1971. (Wednesday, April 19, 2:00)  
 THE THIN AND THE OTHERS by Henryk Kluba. 1967. 90 min. (Wednesday, April 19, 5:30)

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