

PolAm

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota www.pacim.org

March 2013

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Vol. 35, Num. 3

Poles Win Big at Sundance Film Festival

The judges at Park City, Utah's Sundance Film Festival gave two big thumbs up to Polish films this year. *The Whistle*



Grzegorz Zariczny

(*Gwizdek*) by Grzegorz Zariczny, and *Lasting*

(*Nieulotne*) by Jacek Borcuch,

won top awards. Sundance is one of the world's most noted festivals for independ-

ent filmmaking. Created in 1981 by actor Robert Redford, the annual festival provides a venue for smaller international studios to showcase their work. The strong reputation Polish filmmakers established through several years at the festival shows their pride in the craft and does honor to their country.

Two genres that Poles particularly excel at are documentary and short film. *The Whistle*, produced by Munk Studio and co-financed by the Polish Film Institute, represents both genres and won the Short Film Grand Jury Prize this year. The film expresses the heart's struggle as it follows a young man whose life is split between physical labor and hobby. His weekend job as a referee provides him with control and power at a time when his adult life is at a crossroads.

On a larger world scale, *The Whistle* questions how today's Polish youth per-



The Whistler.



Landing.

form against a changing political landscape. The movie is set in a small town outside Kraków, where life and work under a Communist regime would have been adequate for Marcin. The new capitalist society brings constant expectations for growth and success and with it a deep questioning of values and adequacy.

The Whistle is the fifth Polish film in the last four years to be selected for the Short Film Competition at Sundance. Last year, *Frozen Stories* (*Opowieści z chłodzi*) by Grzegorz Jaroszuk was a contender,

Poles at Sundance continues on page 3

New Date for *Bal Karnawałowy*

The bad news came just a few hours before PACIM's 2013 *Bal Karnawałowy* was set to begin. A broken water main



Bal Karnawałowy

in downtown St. Paul flooded more than 1.75 million gallons of water into city streets causing businesses to shut down. The historic Saint Paul Hotel, site of the *Bal*, was hit particularly hard and the City Health Department forced the event's cancellation. Fear of a contaminated water supply was the biggest concern for the hotel. For PACIM, the concern was canceling a gala party on short notice.

Charlene Kaletka Delaney, chair of the *Bal*, started a phone tree and within a relatively short time the attendees, DJ, performers and honoree had gotten the word. The question everyone asked was, "When will we have the *Bal*?"

April 6 is the new date scheduled for the *Bal*. The location, time, menu and program will remain the same. The only change surrounds the title of the event.

New Date for *Bal* continues on page 3

Membership Form For
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www.pacim.org

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Please add \$5 to the above membership levels if you wish to join the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) through PACIM (a 50% discount).

Subscription Note: Due to postal rate increases and since non-profit mail is NOT forwarded but returned postage due please add \$6 to your membership if you travel south each winter. This ensures that you will receive your *PolAm* Newsletter by first class mail all year long wherever you may be. Anyone else who wishes to receive their *PolAm* by first class mail all year long should add \$6 to their renewals.

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Thoughts

Grab a bowl of popcorn and settle in for some excellent Polish films. Wedged between the Academy Awards and our



local Film Society's International Film Festival, this issue dishes up a heaping helping of cinematic pleasure.

The Polish Artistic Spirit thrives in the film medium and

we've highlighted some of the best new Polish films and offered a primer on the history of the industry in Poland.

If you missed a chance to attend our *Bal Karnawałowy* in February, you get a second chance in April. The cover story explains how, and event details are on pages 7 and 8.

PACIM is always looking for volunteers to help with events, programs and the Library. If you've thought about helping with the website, coordinating an event, managing databases, writing grants or any number of tasks we need help with, now is the time to step up to the plate. Contact us at www.pacim.org and join in the fun and meaningful work.

Do zobaczenia,
Jane Mrazek Flanders, *Editor*

News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

The **Polish government will send 20 military instructors to Mali** as part of an EU mission to train that country's army, which is waging an offensive against al Qaeda-allied insurgents.

Labor productivity in Poland rose 2.0% year-to-year in 2012.

The Polish government objected to a project of the EU's "tobacco directive" **prohibiting the sale of scented and slim cigarettes** in EU countries.

Poland's veterinary officials asked Irish authorities for samples at an Irish meat plant in a dispute between the two countries over who is responsible for **horse DNA found in beef products** sold by an Irish firm to such food companies as Tesco and Burger King.

Cardinal Józef Glemp, the head of Poland's Roman Catholic Church from 1981 to 2004, died in Warsaw at the age of 83. Between 1967-79, he was a personal secretary of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński and later became Archbishop of dioceses in Gniezno and Warsaw, and then Primate of Poland.

Under the baton of conductor Antoni Wit, the **Warsaw National Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra won a Grammy Award** in the Best Classical Compendium category for a recording of the latest works of Krzysztof Penderecki.

PolAm

PolAm (Permit #31798) is the official publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota and is published monthly with July/August and January/February issues. Non-profit bulk permit paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is located at 43 Main St SE, Ste 228, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Please direct all inquiries to our mailing address, or email us at info@pacim.org, or call 612-378-9291.

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We appreciate your continued support.
Dziękujemy!

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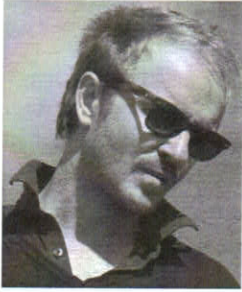
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Zbigniew Wojski

Poles at Sundance continues

and two years ago the short documentary *Out of Reach (Poza zasięgiem)* by Jakub Stozek made a hit.

In the category of World Cinema Dramatic Competition, the poetic Polish soul brought about another winner.



Jacek Borcuch

Jacek Borcuch's *Lasting* made its world premiere at Sundance, capturing the Cinematography Award and yanked at the heartstrings of viewers. Set in Spain, the film

explores enduring love and the frightful reminder that one action can change everything. Borcuch tenderly shows first love and hope through Michał and Karina's paradisiacal time in Valencia. A premature end to their bliss points to life's ephemeral nature and pain.

Borcuch's earlier film, *All That I Love (Wszystko, co kocham)*, was a breakout success at the 2010 Sundance and established him as a creative force. Both films, co-financed by the Polish Film Institute, depict coming of age stories, one on a largely emotional level and the other on a quasi-political level. Borcuch's study of philosophy combined with drama play out well in his work and render him high praise in America and in Poland.



For several years, Poland's film submissions to Sundance have brought rave reviews, top awards and increased respect. Gifted Polish filmmakers clearly have a niche of support and admiration here in the U.S. Watching their films at local art houses, small cinemas and online supports their work as well as being a delight to view.

New Date for Bal continues

Bal Karnawałowy is PACIM's pre-Lenten bash, done with elegance and style. Having the event after Easter shifts the focus, but still allows for a joy-filled celebration with fine food, dancing and entertainment.

Charlene and other event coordinators mused about the name for the new *Bal*. Suggestions included "Survivor *Bal*," "Post-Lenten Bash," and even "*Thusta Sobota*" as folks return to over-indulging lifestyles. Whatever the name, the event promises to measure up to the fine gala as always with a few new additions.

"We are raffling a Wall of Wine which includes domestic and imported wines representing many desired vintages and stately vineyards," said Charlene. "We also have one of our largest collections for the *Bal's* Silent Auction, including unique commissioned artwork, imported Polish hand-made glassware, a variety of theater tickets, weekend getaways and imported Polish liquors. Generous donors provided all the wine and Silent Auction items hoping to raise funds for PACIM's *Dom Dziecka* Fund, Artist Exchange and other supported programs.

Bonnie Frels, a long time PACIM supporter and gifted pianist, donated copies of her latest CD, *Just Playing Around*, for the *Bal*. Bonnie will provide music during the social hour and her CD is a free gift to supporters of the *Dom Dziecka* Fund which benefits disadvantaged children in Poland.

The *Bal* begins in the Saint Paul Hotel's Grand Ballroom at 5:30 pm with a social hour and Silent Auction. Dinner and welcome are at 7:15, program at 8:30, Dolina Dancers perform at 8:45, and at 9 pm the dancing opens with a Polonez.

Register at www.pacim.org by April 2. Menu and RSVP details can be found on the website or by calling 612-378-9291.

Scholarships

Rog Scholarship

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) established an endowment fund honoring one of its founding members, Chester Rog. The fund benefits and promotes the local community and its Polish heritage through grant stipends up to \$1,000 per year to individuals and/or groups who seek further professional growth, the study of the Polish language, artistic and cultural study both locally and abroad, and who are committed to use what they have achieved to benefit the cause of Polish heritage in Minnesota or Wisconsin.

Qualified Applicants must:

1. Be members of PACIM, or
2. Be recommended by a member of PACIM if younger than 18 years of age.
3. Be of Polish or Polish American descent, or embrace a love of Poland and its culture.

Application must include:

1. Name, address, phone number, email address and other contact information.
2. Name, location and purpose of the event/class/ program/or use for which the stipend is sought.
3. Description of one's involvement in the Polish American community via the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota or other local organizations.
4. One letter of recommendation.
5. In no more than 250 words explain "Why I should receive a stipend from the Rog Endowment for the Advancement of Polish Heritage."
6. State how participation in this event or program will benefit the local community and promote Polish heritage.

Forward all application materials by April 30, 2013, (faxes not accepted) to: info@pacim.org (preferred) or: PACIM / Rog Endowment Committee 43 Main St SE, Ste 228 Minneapolis, MN 55414

Successful applicants will be notified no later than May 15, 2013.

Questions should be directed to Charlene Kaletka Delaney at info@pacim.org. Additional details are available at www.pacim.org.

Scholarships continues on page 6



Out of the ashes of a divided country and suppressed culture rose the majestic phoenix of Polish Romanticism. With its wings spread wide, the mythological bird swept in new expressions of patriotism, nationalism and idealism. Fueling creativity in art and technology, Romanticism gave birth to Polish cinema and a way for the country to face past and future evils with bravery and hope.



Kazimierz Prószyński

While Poland remained chopped up and subservient to Russia, Prussia and Austria, a spirit of scientific inquiry and discovery simmered in the land. Seeking ways to capture and express Polish traditions, attitudes and culture,

Kazimierz Prószyński invented the pleograph in 1894. Just three years after Thomas Edison patented the first movie

camera, Prószyński's pleograph was camera and projector in one. A few years later he invented the aeroscope and, with that first hand held movie camera, Prószyński pioneered Polish cinema.

By the turn of the century, Poles' fascination with movie cameras intensified and in fall of 1908 Jan Meyer produced Poland's first feature film. The October release of *Antos for the First Time in Warsaw* (*Antoś po raz pierwszy w Warszawie*) marked the birth of the



Early filmmaker Władysław Starewicz at work on his film, *The Cameraman's Revenge*.

Polish film industry. In 1910, Władysław Starewicz began experimenting with animated films using dead animals as puppets. He produced over two dozen animated films, often blending live action with animation. Starewicz was the first filmmaker to use the stop motion technique and his films were among the earliest to win awards at international competitions.

During World War I filmmaking in Poland grew as an art form and industry. These silent films took advantage of the absence of dialogue, transferring well to international screens. Polish films and actors found welcoming audiences abroad and their reputation blossomed. One of Poland's stars of the silent screen, Pola Negri, became one of Hollywood's biggest names. In the Hollywood style



Polish silent film star and *femme fatale*, Pola Negri attracted international movie contracts and admirers.

known today, the "Queen of Tragedy" courted scandal and was linked to affairs with American stars such as Charlie Chaplin and Rudolph Valentino.

With Poland's recognized independence after World War I, cinema moved away from Romanticism toward social realism films. Filmmakers like Aleksander Ford and Eugeniusz Cękański laid important groundwork and produced films representing the work, struggle



Aleksander Ford

and hope of ordinary citizens. By 1938 the Polish film industry got a shot in the arm when the government limited the importing of American movies, which accounted for more than 60% of all screenings, and provided new tax incentives and funding. But no shoring up of the film industry or economy could withstand the punishing blow of World War II.

Devastation, defeat and ruin from war forced Polish cinema to completely rebuild. Emerging from the ashes of crushing oppression arose a new Romanticism blended with the stark realism of history and hope. This new Phoenix had many names: Wajda,



Zbigniew Cybulski was known as the "Polish James Dean" for his simmering portrayal of unsettled youth in Wajda's films.

Munk, Kawalerowicz, Has, Kutz and Kowicki. In the mid 1950s this informal group of film directors and screenplay writers formed the Polish Film School. They took advantage of the liberal changes in Poland after the death of Stalin and portrayed the complex history of the country under German occupation, in concentration camps and the Warsaw Uprising.

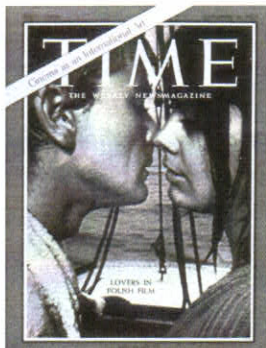
The Polish Film School was neo-realistic in its expression of historical fact, but extremely Romantic in its depiction of the national character of Poles. Films such as *A Generation (Pokolenie)* 1955, *Man on the Tracks (Człowiek na torze)*



A Generation (Pokolenie)

1956, and *Night Train (Pociąg)* 1959 openly opposed the strict codes for Social Realism by highlighting the importance of the individual instead of the collective. The controlling Soviet government in Poland cracked down on the Film School's criticism of the status quo and by the mid 60s the group disbanded.

Many of the Polish Film School's 300 members attended the National Film School in Łódź, the most liberal and anti-communist institution of higher education in Poland. It became a "think tank" for political and philosophical expressions through film. One of its most well-known alumni, Roman Polanski, launched his international career in 1962 with *Knife in the Water (Nóż w wodzie)*, which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film in 1963. This recognition was the first for a Polish full-length motion picture and



In 1962 TIME Magazine used a still shot from Polanski's *A Knife in the Water* promoting international cinema.

Knife in the Water is still counted among the "100 Best Films in World Cinema."

Perhaps the most Romantic Polish filmmaker who attended Łódź's National Film School is Andrzej Wajda. He pushed the envelope under times of strict censorship. In contrast to the Socialist Realism of the Soviet Era, with predictable black and white characters and plot lines,

Wajda broke the mold with vivid characters, tight plots and a realistic portrayal of history.

Wajda is often seen as a sort of national hero for Poland. His films allowed Polish heroes and a spirit of nationalism to emerge at a dangerous political time. Known as a "true Polish filmmaker," unlike Roman Polanski and Krzysztof Kieślowski who worked extensively outside of Poland, Wajda utilized talent at home.

The Romanticism that gave birth to Polish cinema nearly a century earlier found another life when Soviet control of Poland waned and Solidarity held sway. Solidarity committed a large amount of financial support for the industry and the new films stoked the fires of personal freedom. Films such as Wajda's 1983 *Danton*, which drew unmistakable parallels between the French Reign of Terror and Solidarity's oppression by the Soviet-backed Polish government, and his 1981 *Man of Iron (Człowiek z żelaza)* helped persuade the government to recognize the rights of individuals.



Today many of Poland's younger filmmakers examine new twists on old problems. Their films look at the current generation's difficulty in finding meaning and purpose amid new freedoms and expectations. The untested waters of capitalism in Poland, and the demands for professional and personal performance, make for an uncertain world. The intensely intimate look into the lives portrayed in new Polish films almost seems voyeuristic. However, the desire to find oneself in this post-modern landscape shows Polish cinema's grounding in Romanticism's ideals of independence and nationalism.

News

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent limited by law. Please consider including us in your tax and estate planning. We appreciate your generous support.

The Board of Directors of PACIM holds their monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Institute: 43 Main St SE, Ste 228, Minneapolis, MN. All are invited. 612-378-9291.

PACIM Library

43 Main St SE, Ste 228
Minneapolis, MN 55414
Hours: Sundays from 1 to 4 PM
or by appointment

Our Library possesses many films which won awards in Poland and the U.S. One of the most notable is Krzysztof Kieslowski's *Three Colors Trilogy*, set in France and nominated for an Academy Award. It should be towards the top of your cinematic list and will make you glad that Kieslowski dropped out of firefighter school to pursue his artistic visions. Another Polish filmmaker whose work is on our shelves is Agnieszka Holland. She is one of the industry's few female directors and her film *In Darkness* was nominated for an Oscar last year.

I want to alert our Polish speaking patrons that, if you are interested in Polish film and you've viewed most of our collection at the library, the website www.filmpolski.pl is a great resource for the Polish film scene. For example, on February 7th they listed the nominations for Orly 2013 or *Polskie Nagrody Filmowe* (the Polish Film Awards). This is a great place to find new titles and you can check out the winners in all categories when they are announced on March 4th.

As we get ready for the Oscars, we are keeping our eyes on Janusz Kamiński, the most nominated Polish cinematographer and director of our time. Did you know that he has photographed every one of Steven Spielberg's films since *Schindler's List*? We will be rooting for him when the Cinematography category is announced for his brilliant work on *Lincoln*. Until then — happy movie watching!

Basia Kiernoziak
(Kiernoziak@gmail.com)

Festival of Nations — Call for Volunteers

The Festival of Nations is May 2–5, 2013, at RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Boulevard, in beautiful downtown St. Paul. The Festival includes 35 cafés from around the globe offering unique ethnic food, global artists providing incredible ethnic cultural events, and the opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind ethnic items from the international bazaar.

One of the nation's largest and longest running multicultural events, this is a great showcase of Polish heritage and culture. Consider volunteering at the Polish Café and receive an entrance ticket to the festival. Duties include sales, setup/tear-down and food preparation.

Please contact John Bieniek (home) 763-566-8812, (cell) 612-810-4477 or email jvbien@msn.com for volunteer shifts. The volunteer signup calendar will soon be posted on the PACIM website www.pacim.org.

Renewal Date

Please check each issue's mailing label for your renewal date. *PolAm* is a benefit of PACIM members and contributors. Keeping your membership up to date ensures you don't miss an issue. It also helps us save money sending out renewal notices. Thanks!

Scholarships continues

Guminga Scholarship

Thanks to the generous bequest from Angeline Guminga, PACIM is able to offer the Guminga Scholarship. To apply you must:

1. Be 16–25 years of age
2. Have a minimum of 12.5% Polish ancestry
3. Reside in Minnesota or Western Wisconsin
4. Use the scholarship for Polish language, Polish culture or Polish leadership courses offered either in Poland or in the United States
5. Submit the following documents by the due date:
 - Description of the course (e.g. web link to the course/brochure)
 - Amount of tuition cost
 - Amount of room & board cost
 - Short biographical statement
 - Essay — 800 to 1000 words — describing why you should get the scholarship and your involvement in your local Polish American community
 - Document your Polish ancestry

6. At the conclusion of the course, write an article or paper and present it to your local Polish American community. In the article/paper you must put your experience in perspective.

Due date for applications is April 30, 2013. Winners will be notified on June 3, 2013.

Awarded scholarships will be in amounts up to \$1,000 but not exceeding one-half (1/2) of the total cost of tuition, room and board. More than one scholarship may be awarded in any given year. If no applicants meet the criteria, no scholarship will be awarded. Applicants can apply for only one scholarship administered by PACIM in any given year (i.e. if you apply for the Rog Scholarship, you cannot apply for the Guminga Scholarship and vice versa).

PACIM Officers and Board of Directors:

President: Jane Mrazek Flanders, Vice President: Paul Rog, Secretary: Magdalena Zborowski, Treasurer: Greg Gramza, Directors: John Bieniek, Charlene Delaney, Rachel Jendrzewski, Terry Kita, Ursula Peterson, Bruce Rubin and Dan Schyma.

Events

Many dates and times for events are given to us well in advance of the actual date and are subject to change. Please call to verify the particulars.

March 9–April 13 Citizenship Classes

The International Institute of Minnesota offers citizenship classes that teach: 1) the process of becoming a citizen; 2) U.S. history and government; and 3) interview preparation and practice. Classes are 6 weeks long and are held on Saturday mornings at the Institute, 1694 Como Ave, St. Paul, MN. Next sessions are March 9–April 13 and May 11–June 22. For details and enrollment call Corleen Smith 651-647-0101 X307.

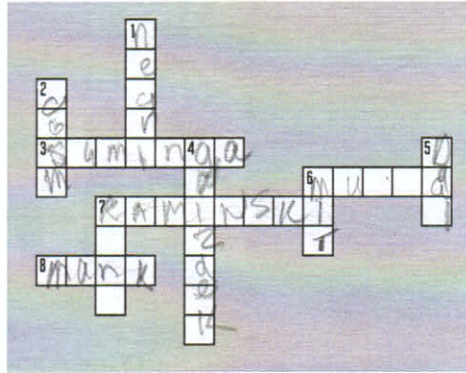
March 9 Finding Family History in Newspapers

The Minnesota Genealogical Society hosts instructor J.H. Fonkert, CGSM, as he presents Beyond Obits: Finding Family History in Newspapers. Learn how to locate newspapers in your ancestors' communities and identify family news in documents, microfilm and the Internet. 10 am–12:30 pm, 1185 Concord St N, South St. Paul, MN. For details and registration call 651-455-9057 or visit www.mnngs.org.

March 16 The Genealogical Photographer

Learn how to take photos of gravestones, computer screens, microfilm, heirlooms and documents. Bring a camera for hands-on help at this free program sponsored by the Minnesota Genealogical Society. 1:30-3:30 pm, 1185 Concord St N, South St. Paul, MN. For details and registration call 651-455-9057 or visit www.mnngs.org.

March Crossword Puzzle



January/February 2013 Answers:

Across: 1. Sado, 2. Tut, 3. Succinic, 5. Bieniek, 6. Echos

Down: 1. Sean, 2. Teutonic, 4. Amber

March 23 Midwest Polka Association Dance

Join the MPA for their St. Patrick's Day Dance from 7–11 pm at the Maplewood Moose Lodge, 1946 English St, Maplewood, MN. Admission is \$10, \$8 for MPA members. For details email Danny Fabeck at dan.fabeck@gmail.com or call 763-244-0152.

April 6 PACIM's Bal Karnawalowy (new date)

An elegant celebration at the historic St. Paul Hotel, the evening offers fine food, an award ceremony and festive dancing. A Silent Auction precedes dinner and raises money for PACIM's Library, programs and *Dom Dziecka* Fund for needy Polish children. Cost \$65, PACIM members \$60, table of 8 \$500. For details and to RSVP visit www.pacim.org, or leave a message at 612-378-9291. Reservation deadline is April 2.

Menu highlights: Wild Mushroom Broth with Chicken-Mushroom Quenelle; Beet and Apple Salad with Bibb Lettuce, Toasted Pine Nuts, Sliced Beets, Fennel and Apple Horseradish Vinaigrette; Seared Salmon with Mushroom Barley Risotto and Mushroom Butter Sauce; Chicken Schnitzel served with Fresh Beans, Leek and Dill Potato Cake and Roast Shallot Brandy Peppercorn Sauce; Poppyseed Roulade and Mazurek Almond Torte with Cherry Sauce and Fresh Berries. Vegetarian selections available.

Across

3. Generous bequest established scholarship.
6. Polish filmmaker Andrzej _____.
7. Cinematographer of *Shindler's List*.
8. Filmmaker who participated in Warsaw Uprising.

Down

1. Polish film star of silent movies.
2. Sponsor of "Finding Family History in Newspapers."
4. Polish for "Whistle."
5. PACIM event rescheduled for April 6.
6. Warsaw National Philharmonic Conductor

April 11–28 International Film Festival

The Film Society of Minneapolis and St. Paul's centerpiece event is their annual International Film Festival. Exhibiting more than 200 films from 70 countries and drawing audiences of more than 40,000, this event is not to be missed. Included in this year's program is *Songs of Exile: Cinema of Displacement and Dispossession*. This special selection of new independent documentary and narrative feature films from around the world uses fresh and contrasting perspectives to examine an age-old predicament: the movement or displacement (geographical, cultural or psychological) of peoples around the globe. A number of the films featured will be representative of the new and growing international populations in this state. For more information visit www.mspsfilmfest.org.

MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL
INTERNATIONAL
FILM
FESTIVAL
APRIL 11-28 2013

People



Andrzej Munk
1921-1961

Born in Kraków, this Jewish film director and screen writer was one of the most influential artists of post-Stalinist Poland and the Polish Film School. During the German occupation, Munk assumed a

false name, worked construction and took part in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. After the war he studied law and later film at the Łódź Film School.

Among his many films, *Man on the Tracks* (*Człowiek na torze*) in 1956 remains one of Poland's most important films. Munk died returning home from Auschwitz where he was shooting *Passenger* (*Pasażerka*). A film studio and award honor his name and work.



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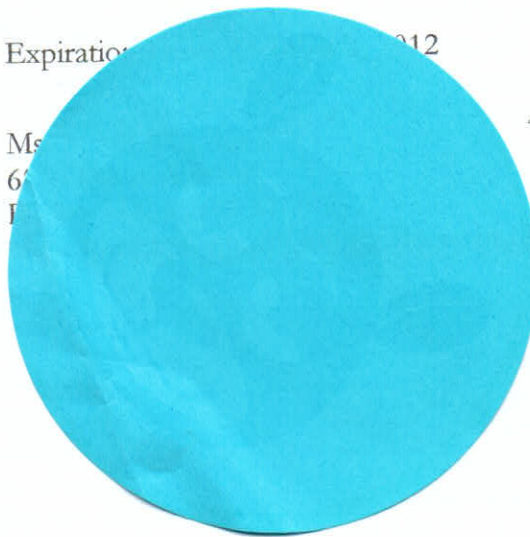
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The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota Presents
A Polish Formal Ball

RESCHEDULED

Bal Karnawałowy



You Are Invited To A Formal Carnival Ball with
Fine Food, Entertainment, Dancing and Silent Auction
Saturday, April 6, 2013, 5:30 PM
Historic Saint Paul Hotel (Valet Parking Available)
350 Market Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Sixty Five Dollars (PACIM Members Sixty Dollars) per Person / Five Hundred Dollars for Table of Eight
Register Online at WWW.PACIM.ORG or For More Information, Call PACIM at 612.378.9291