BAMcinématék presents *Kino Polska: New Polish Cinema*, showcasing recent films by the country’s leading female filmmakers, Sep 20—23

Including the New York premieres of *Mug*, *Zud*, and *Wild Roses*

Aug 21, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—From Thursday, September 20 through Sunday, September 23 BAMcinématék presents *Kino Polska: New Polish Cinema*, presented in partnership with the Polish Cultural Institute New York and co-programmed by Tomek Smolarski. *Kino Polska* features seven feature films, including three New York premieres, highlighting directors who are revitalizing contemporary Polish cinema. The series brings together the best new works by Poland’s boundary-pushing women filmmakers.

The series opens with Agnieszka Holland and Katarzyna Adamik’s *Spoor* (2017—Sep 20). The critically acclaimed eco-thriller was Poland’s 2018 Oscar submission and winner of the Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival. The film centers on a teacher and animal rights activist living in a remote mountain village who becomes involved in a murder mystery surrounding the recent deaths of several local hunters.

*Kino Polska* also includes Agnieszka Smoczynska’s 2015 comedy-horror-musical *The Lure* (Sep 22). Smoczynska’s film about two man-eating siren sisters who come ashore looking for love is a feminist reworking of *The Little Mermaid*, mixing fairy tale, horror, and musical genre elements to create a freaky and completely distinctive feature film debut. Writer-directors Joanna Kos-Krauze and Krzysztof Krauze’s *Birds Are Singing in Kigali* (2017—Sep 21) tells the emotionally aching story of two women—a Tutsi refugee and the Polish woman who helped her escape Rwanda—as each undertakes the emotional journey of adjusting to life in Polish society while coming to terms with unimaginable trauma.

*The Art of Loving* (2017—Sep 23), director Maria Sadowska’s second feature film, tells the true story of Michalina Wislocka, a pioneering Polish gynecologist who defied Communist authorities and the Catholic Church to lead Poland’s sexual revolution in the 1970s. *The Art of Loving*—which takes its name from Wislocka’s groundbreaking book and Communist Europe’s first guide to sexuality—was the highest grossing Polish film of 2017. Małgorzata Szumowska’s *Mug* (2018—Sep 22), this year’s Berlin Film Festival Silver Bear award winner, makes its New York Premiere at BAM. *Mug* follows a man who undergoes a complete facial transplant after being severely injured while helping construct the world’s largest statue of Jesus.

*Kino Polska* also includes the New York premieres of Marta Minorowicz’s *Zud* (2016—Sep 21), a coming of age story set in Mongolia, about an 11-year-old boy who trains a wild stallion for a horse race that could save his family from financial ruin, and Anna Jadowska’s *Wild Roses* (2017—Sep 23). Featuring a soul-bearing central performance from lead actress Marta Nieradkiewicz, *Wild Roses* depicts a woman whose life reaches a crisis point as she deals with the pressures of motherhood, marriage, and an explosive secret.

For further press information, please contact:
Maureen Masters at 718.724.8023 / mmasters@BAM.org
Lindsay Brayton at 718.724.8026 / lbrayton@BAM.org
**Kino Polska Schedule:**

**Thu, Sep 20**
7pm: *Spoor*

**Fri, Sep 21**
7pm: *Birds Are Singing in Kigali*
9:30pm: *Zud*

**Sat, Sep 22**
7pm: *Mug*
9pm: *The Lure*

**Sun, Sep 23**
4:30pm: *The Art of Loving*
7pm: *Wild Roses*

**Film Descriptions**

**THE ART OF LOVING** (2017) Dir. Maria Sadowska. With Magdalena Boczarska, Piotr Adamczyk, Justyna Wasilewska. The highest grossing Polish film of 2017 tells the true life story of Michalina Wisłocka (Boczarska), the crusading gynecologist who defied Communist authorities and the Catholic church to lead Poland's sexual revolution in the 1970s. With humor and humanity, it traces both Wisłocka's tumultuous personal life and her struggles to publish her groundbreaking book *The Art of Loving*, Communist Europe's very first guide to sexuality. **DCP. 121min.** Sun, Sep 23 at 4:30pm

**BIRDS ARE SINGING IN KIGALI** (2017) Dir. Joanna Kos-Krauze & Krzysztof Krauze. With Eliane Umuhire, Jowita Budnik, Witold Wielinski. How does one go on living following unthinkable trauma? In the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide, two women—a Tutsi refugee (Umuhire) and the Polish ornithologist (Budnik) who helped smuggle her out of the country—each embark on profound emotional journeys as they try to come to terms with the brutality they witnessed. Searing, unflinching, but tinged with hope, this heartrending study of grief and healing is as formally adventurous as it is affecting. **DCP. 113min.** Fri, Sep 23 at 7pm

**THE LURE** (2015) Dir. Agnieszka Smoczynska. With Marta Mazurek, Michalina Olszańska, Kinga Preis. “The Little Mermaid” gets a fabulously freaky, feminist reworking in this kaleidoscopic, disco-punk horror musical. In 1980s Poland, two fish-tailed sirens of the sea (Mazurek & Olszańska) make their way to land and find work as performers in a neon-soaked night club. Each is hungry for flesh—but in different ways. By turns chintzy, glitzy, gory, and just plain bonkers, *The Lure* is one of the most daring and distinctive debuts of the decade. **DCP. 92min.** Sat, Sep 22 at 9pm

**MUG** (2018) Dir. Małgorzata Szumowska. With Mateusz Kościukiewicz, Agnieszka Podsiadlik, Małgorzata Gorol. After becoming severely injured while helping to construct the world's largest statue of Jesus, a heavy metal rebel undergoes a complete facial transplant—and a subsequent identity crisis—that leaves him shunned and alienated from his family and community. Blending surreal humor with biting social commentary, Małgorzata Szumowska offers a provocative, boldly original critique of consumerism, Catholicism, and rising nationalism in contemporary Poland. **DCP. 91min.** Sat, Sep 22 at 7pm

**SPOOR** (2017) Dir. Agnieszka Holland & Kasia Adamik. With Agnieszka Mandat-Grabka, Wiktor Zborowski, Jakub Gierszal. One of Poland's most revered filmmakers, Agnieszka Holland, returns with a visually stunning new feature that's part offbeat crime thriller, part animist fable. In a remote mountain village, granola-ish Duszejko (Mandat-Grabka)—teacher, astrologer, animal rights activist, and all around cool old lady—becomes embroiled in a murder mystery when she proposes a radical theory behind the recent deaths of a number of local hunters. Could the animals of the forest really be rising up in revenge? **DCP. 128min.** Thu, Sep 20 at 7pm
**WILD ROSES** (2017) Dir. Anna Jadowska. With Marta Nieradkiewicz, Michal Zurawski, Natalia Bartnik. During a bucolic summer in the Polish countryside, a woman's life reaches a crisis point as she buckles—but refuses to break—under the pressures of motherhood, marriage, and an explosive secret that threatens to consume her. Built around a soul-baring central performance from Marta Nieradkiewicz, this unflinching character study is a gripping exploration of guilt and the demands that Polish society places on women. DCP. 90min. Sun, Sep 23 at 7pm

**ZUD** (2016) Dir. Marta Minorowicz. With Sukhbat Batsaikhan, Batsaikhan Budee, Bayasgalan Batsaikhan. Set amid the wintry steppes of Mongolia, this lyrical coming of age tale follows the journey of 11-year-old Sukhbat as he trains a wild stallion in preparation for a horse race that will—if he wins—save his family from financial ruin. Director Marta Minorowicz captures the unique rhythms of life and nature in a remote stretch of the world through breathtaking widescreen images that are at once lyrical and shot through with a documentary-like naturalism. DCP. 85min. Fri, Sep 21 at 9:30pm

**About BAMcinématek**

Since 1998 BAM Rose Cinemas has been Brooklyn's home for alternative, documentary, art-house, and independent films. Combining new releases with BAMcinématek year-round repertory program, the four-screen venue hosts new and rarely seen contemporary films, classics, work by local artists, and festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAMcinématek has hosted major retrospectives of filmmakers like Spike Lee, Chantal Akerman, John Carpenter, Manoel de Oliveira, Luis Buñuel, King Hu, and Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics’ Circle Award prize for the retrospective), and hosted the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Hong Sang-soo, Andrzej Zulawski, and Jiang Wen. Since 2009 the program has also produced BAMcinemaFest, New York's home for American independent film, and has championed the work of filmmakers like Janicza Bravo, Andrew Dosunmu, Lena Dunham, and Alex Ross Perry. The 12-day festival of New York premieres, now in its tenth year, ran from June 20—July 1, 2018.

**Credits**

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**General Information:**

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM
Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn’s only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers varied light fare and bar service prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

**Subway:** 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue

**Train:** Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center

**Bus:** B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

**Car:** Limited commercial parking lots are located near BAM. Visit BAM.org for information.

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.