BAMcinématék presents *Kino Polska: New Polish Cinema*, a showcase of the country’s best new films, Feb 19—23

Co-presented by the Polish Film Institute and the Polish Cultural Institute New York

Featuring five New York premieres, including Andrzej Wajda’s *Wałęsa: Man of Hope*

*The Wall Street Journal* is the title sponsor for BAMcinématék and BAM Rose Cinemas.

Brooklyn, NY/Jan 22, 2014—From Wednesday, February 19 through Sunday, February 23, BAMcinématék, The Polish Film Institute, and the Polish Cultural Institute New York present *Kino Polska: New Polish Cinema*, a five-day series showcasing the country’s best new films. Featuring selections from this year’s Gdynia Film Festival, Poland’s largest annual film showcase, the series highlights a new generation of directors coming of age and the remarkable rejuvenation Polish cinema has undergone in recent years.

Opening the series on Wednesday, February 19 is the New York premiere of *Wałęsa: Man of Hope* (2013) by legendary Oscar-winning auteur Andrzej Wajda (*Ashes and Diamonds*). The film follows the life of Solidarity party founder and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Lech Wałęsa in the years leading up to the peaceful revolution, seamlessly blending contemporary news footage with the narrative to “give testimony to the truth” (Wajda). An official selection of Venice and Toronto Film Festivals, and Poland’s submission for this year’s Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award, *Wałęsa* features a captivating performance from Robert Wieckiewicz as the eponymous leader and won actress Maria Rosaria Omaggio Venice’s Pasinetti Award for her portrayal of formidable journalist Oriana Fallaci.

Closing the festival is the New York premiere of Joanna Kos-Krauze and Krzysztof Krauze’s *Papusza* (2013—Feb 23), an affecting portrait of poet Bronisława Wajs (more commonly known as Papusza), a pioneering Roma poet published in Poland. Featuring dazzling black and white cinematography, the film depicts the many phases of Papusza’s career, from her relationship with fellow poet Jerzy Ficowski who discovers her great talent, to her tragically short-lived success, rejection, and ultimate downfall. Other New York premieres include Jacek Borcuch’s *Lasting* (2013—Feb 20), a chronicle of a fleeting college romance and winner of the World Cinema Cinematography Award at last year’s Sundance Film Festival; Sławomir Fabicki’s *Loving* (2012—Feb 22), about a married couple whose idyllic life is disturbed by a traumatic encounter; and Maciej Pieprzyca’s *Life Feels Good* (2013—Feb 22), following the stream of consciousness of a man with cerebral palsy and drawing comparisons to Julian Schnabel’s acclaimed *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. Pieprzyca will also appear for a Q&A following the screening.

Screening on Friday, February 21 is Pawel Pawlikowski’s *Ida* (2013), a haunting, monochrome portrait of an orphan whose secret family history is revealed when she discovers her parents were victims of the Holocaust. Winner of a host of festival prizes including Toronto’s FIPRESCI prize, BFI London’s Grand Prix, and four Gdynia Golden Lions including Best Film, Best Actress, and...
Best Cinematography, *Ida* was also hailed as A.O. Scott's most anticipated film of 2014 (*The New York Times*). Additional highlights of *Kino Polska* include Tomasz Wasilewski's *Floating Skyscrapers* (2013—Feb 20), one of the first major Polish films to grapple with LGBT issues; Andrzej Jakimowski's *Imagine* (2013—Feb 21), praised as “beautifully assembled…with a vibrant score and exemplary sound design” (*Variety*); and Ryszard Bugajski's political thriller *The Closed Circuit* (2013—Feb 21), one of the highest grossing Polish films of 2013.

*Press screenigns to be announced.*

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*Kino Polska: New Polish Cinema Schedule*

**Wed, Feb 19**
7pm: *Wałęsa: Man of Hope*

**Thu, Feb 20**
7pm: *Lasting*
9pm: *Floating Skyscrapers*

**Fri, Feb 21**
4:30pm: *Imagine*
7pm: *Ida*
9pm: *The Closed Circuit*

**Sat, Feb 22**
6:30pm: *Life Feels Good*
9:30pm: *Loving*

**Sun, Feb 23**
7pm: *Papusza*

**Film Descriptions**

*The Closed Circuit* (2013) 110min
Directed by Ryszard Bugajski. With Janusz Gajos.
This gripping political thriller about a ruthless district prosecutor (*Three Colors: White*’s Gajos) was a huge box office success in Poland. Andrzej Kostrzewa, a staunch holdout from the Communist days, unscrupulously sets out to dismantle a burgeoning capitalist tech start-up in Gdansk. Featuring a ferocious, often terrifying performance from Gajos, *The Closed Circuit* is a searing portrait of crime and corruption in post-Communist Poland.
Fri, Feb 21 at 9pm

*Floating Skyscrapers* (2013) 85min
Directed by Tomasz Wasilewski. With Mateusz Banasiuk, Marta Nieradkiewicz, Bartosz Gelner.
One of the first major Polish films to grapple with LGBT issues, *Floating Skyscrapers* concerns Kuba, a competitive swimmer who finds he is no longer able to deny his long-repressed desires when he falls for pretty boy Michal. Via “understated performances, sexual realism and austerely beautiful cinematography” (*The Guardian*), this bold drama is an intimate chronicle of the coming-out experience.
Thu, Feb 20 at 9pm
**Ida** (2013) 80min
*Directed by Pawel Pawlikowski. With Agata Kulesza, Agata Trzebuchowska, Joanna Kulig.*
“It haunted me as much as anything I saw in the past 12 months, and I can’t wait to see it again,” (A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*). In 1960s Poland, an 18-year-old orphan named Anna, who has been raised in a convent and is on the verge of becoming a nun, receives a startling revelation: her real name is Ida and she is the daughter of Jews murdered during the German occupation. The disclosure precipitates a wrenching journey into the past, as Anna/Ida confronts her heritage and the haunting legacy of the Holocaust in this spare, intimate drama, gorgeously lensed in black and white. *A Music Box Films release.*
Fri, Feb 21 at 7pm

**Imagine** (2012) 105min
*Directed by Andrzej Jakimowski. With Edward Hogg, Alexandra Maria Lara.*
A blind teacher at a school in Lisbon for the visually impaired shakes things up with his insistence that the blind can learn to navigate the world without a cane. While his unconventional, and at times high-risk, teaching methods lead him to clash with the administration, he develops a relationship with a beautiful student in this charming, off-beat romance, which vividly portrays the sensation of sightlessness via meticulous sound design.
Fri, Feb 21 at 4:30pm

**Lasting** (2013) 93min *New York premiere!*
*Directed by Jacek Borcuch. With Jakub Gierszal, Magdalena Berus.*
Romance blossoms between college students Michal and Karina while on holiday in Spain—an idyllic vision of first love. But back home in Krakow, their lives come crashing down when Michal reveals a disturbing secret. Director Borcuch’s sensuously shot drama, which won the World Cinema Cinematography Award Dramatic at Sundance, captures the fleeting ecstasy of young love as well as its painful disintegration.
Thu, Feb 20 at 7pm

**Life Feels Good** (2013) 107min *New York premiere!*
*Directed by Maciej Pieprzyca. With Dawid Ogrodnik, Dorota Kolak, Arkadiusz Jakubik.*
Mateusz, a young man born with cerebral palsy and mistakenly assumed to be mentally disabled, struggles to prove that he is, in fact, an intelligent human. In this nuanced, superbly judged tribute to human resiliency, Mateusz’s rich and romantic inner life is entertainingly conveyed through witty voiceovers and Dawid Ogrodnik’s remarkably expressive performance.
Sat, Feb 2 at 6:30pm *Q&A with Maciej Pieprzyca*

**Loving** (2012) 105min *New York premiere!*
*Directed by Slawomir Fabicki. With Julia Kijowska, Marcin Dorociński.*
Thirty-something couple Maria and Tomek have settled into a seemingly contented life in a small town, redecorating their apartment as they expect their first baby. But when Maria is raped by a politician and chooses to keep it a secret, their peaceful existence is shattered. This stark, intense tragedy explores the shifting landscape of a relationship after love’s first euphoric rush has worn off.
Sat, Feb 2 at 9:30pm

**Papusza** (2013) 132min *New York premiere!*
*Directed by Joanna Kos-Krauze & Krzysztof Krauze. With Jowita Miondlowska, Joanna Niemirska, Antoni Pawlicki, Artur Steranko.*
The tragic life of pioneering poet Bronislawa Wajs (commonly known as Papusza) is told through interwoven vignettes from all phases of her life. As the first female Roma writer to be published, she shattered barriers but faced excommunication, persecution, and poverty. Called “ravishingly beautiful… every frame is a painterly masterclass in light and shadow” (*The Hollywood Reporter*), *Papusza* is an elegiac chronicle of a vanished culture.
Sun, Feb 23 at 7pm

**Wałęsa: Man of Hope** (2013) 127min *New York premiere!*
Directed by Andrzej Wajda. With Robert Wieckiewicz, Agnieszka Grochowska, Iwona Bielska. Cinema titan Andrzej Wajda (Ashes and Diamonds, Katyn) helms this breathlessly paced biopic about Polish national hero Lech Wałęsa, who rose from shipyard worker to become leader of Poland’s Solidarity movement and its first democratically elected president. Anchored by a captivating central performance from Robert Wieckiewicz, Wajda’s film moves along at a crackling speed that transmits the of-the-moment thrill of history unfolding.

Wed, Feb 19 at 7pm

About BAMcinématek
The four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas (BRC) opened in 1998 to offer Brooklyn audiences alternative and independent films that might not play in the borough otherwise, making BAM the only performing arts center in the country with two mainstage theaters and a multiplex cinema. In July 1999, beginning with a series celebrating the work of Spike Lee, BAMcinématek was born as Brooklyn’s only daily, year-round repertory film program. BAMcinématek presents 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 not only presented major retrospectives by major filmmakers such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Manoel de Oliveira, Shohei Imamura, Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics’ Circle Award prize for the retrospective), Kaneto Shindo, Luchino Visconti, and William Friedkin, but it has also introduced New York audiences to contemporary artists such as Pedro Costa and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In addition, BAMcinématek programmed the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Nicolas Winding Refn, Hong Sang-soo, and, most recently, Andrzej Zulawski. From 2006 to 2008, BAMcinématek partnered with the Sundance Institute and in June 2009 launched BAMcinemaFest, a 16-day festival of new independent films and repertory favorites with 15 NY feature film premieres; the fifth annual BAMcinemaFest ran from June 19—28, 2013.

About The Polish Cultural Institute New York
The Polish Cultural Institute New York, established in 2000, is a diplomatic mission to the United States serving under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. The Institute’s mission is to build, nurture and promote cultural ties between the United States and Poland by presenting Polish culture to American audiences and by connecting Polish artists and scholars to American institutions, introducing them to their professional counterparts in the United States, and facilitating their participation in contemporary American culture. The Institute has been producing and promoting a broad range of cultural events in theater, music, film, literature, the humanities, and visual arts. Among its American partners are such distinguished organizations as Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; Brooklyn Academy of Music; The Museum of Modern Art; The Jewish Museum; The PEN American Center; The Poetry Society of America; National Gallery of Art; Yale University; Columbia University; Princeton University; Harvard Film Archive; CUNY Graduate Center; Juilliard School of Music; The New Museum; La MaMa E.T.C.; and many more. Our programs have included American presentations of works by such luminaries as filmmakers Roman Polanski, Andrzej Wajda and Jerzy Skolimowski; writers Czesław Miłosz, Adam Zagajewski and Wioletta Szymborska; composers Krzysztof Penderecki, Witold Lutosławski and Mikołaj Górecki; theatre directors Krystian Lupa, Jerzy Grotowski, Tadeusz Kantor and Grzegorz Jarzyna; visual artists Alina Szapocznikow, Katarzyna Kozyra, Krzysztof Wodiczko; and many other important artists, writers, historians, scholars, musicians, and performers.

www.PolishCulture-NYC.org

Credits

The Wall Street Journal is the title sponsor of BAM Rose Cinemas and BAMcinématek.

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Pepsi is the official beverage of BAM.

Brooklyn Brewery is the preferred beer of BAMcinématek.

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Kino Polska: New Polish Cinema is presented by BAMcinématek, the Polish Film Institute and the Polish Cultural Institute New York.

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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 a bar menu and dinner entrées prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

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: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

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