



Presents

**Poland's Official Submission for Best Foreign Film  
89<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards**

# **AFTERIMAGE**

*(Powidoki)*

**A film by Andrzej Wajda**



**Poland / 2016 / Drama / Polish with English Subtitles  
100 min / 2.35: 1 / Stereo 2.0 and 5.1 Surround Sound**

**Opens May 19<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln Plaza Cinemas in New York**

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Assets:

Official US Trailer: TBD

Downloadable hi-res images:

<http://www.filmmovement.com/filmcatalog/index.asp?MerchandiseID=544>

## **FULL SYNOPSIS**

AFTERIMAGE looks at the last years of Władysław Strzemiński, Poland's best-known interwar artist and a theoretician. The film opens with Strzemiński (brilliantly played by Polish superstar Bogusław Linda), a controversial and visionary artist (who only started painting after he became a double amputee), working in his apartment, only to be interrupted by the unfurling of the Soviet flag outside his window. As Stalinism spread to Poland, the unbending Strzemiński refused to compromise his art for the sake of the preferred socialist realism style. He eventually became persecuted and expelled from his Chair at the Łódź Academy of Fine Arts, but the ever-compelling and charismatic teacher was surrounded by loyal students who emboldened him to fight against the Party while they themselves risked jail for publishing his book (posthumously). Strzemiński, who created the concept of Unism, was a co-founder of the constructivist group *Blok* and the founder of the Museum of Modern Art in Łódź. AFTERIMAGE refers to a series of late-1940s Solarist paintings by Strzemiński, who was friends with Marc Chagall, Alexander Rodchenko, Kazimir Malevich and was once married to the sculptor Katarzyna Kobro. Their daughter Nika, played by the accomplished 13-year old newcomer Bronisława Zamachowska, figures prominently in the film. After Strzemiński became a *persona non grata*, his art was "erased" from museum walls, but over the years he has come to symbolize artistic resistance against intellectual tyranny.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

The great Polish director Andrzej Wajda's last film is a passionate biopic about avant-garde artist Władysław Strzemiński (brilliantly played by Polish superstar Bogusław Linda), who battled Stalinist orthodoxy and his own physical impairments to advance his progressive ideas about art.

## **LOGLINE**

A story of a well-known Polish avant-garde painter who opposed the Stalinist social realistic style and maintained his own artistic freedom in spite of political obstacles.

## SELECT PRESS FOR AFTERIMAGE

“No film event would want to miss the last work of a grand master - this is an essential addition to the tragic cultural history of the communist era in Eastern Europe and the disasters wrecked by this totalitarian rule.” – Dan Fainaru, *Screen Daily*

“AFTERIMAGE is a somber portrait of a Polish artist who, unlike his portraitist here, was defeated by the fickle shifts of political ideology imposed on art.” – Dennis Harvey, *Variety*

“A compelling portrait” – Stephen Dalton, *The Hollywood Reporter*

“Built on a classical narrative structure, AFTERIMAGE really puts the emphasis on its remarkable lead actor, Boguslaw Linda, a legendary performer in Poland, who has, in the past, starred in films by the country’s greatest directors.” – Dorota Hartwich, *Cineuropa*

“A fitting capstone....” – Justin Chang, *The Los Angeles Times*



## **CREDITS**

### **CAST**

**Władysław Strzemiński**  
**Katarzyna Kobro**  
**Nika Strzeminska**  
**Hania**  
**Julian Przybos**  
**Madejski**  
**Włodzimierz Sokorski**  
**Rajner**  
**Wasinska**  
**Jadzia**  
**Tomek**  
**Konrad**  
**Stefan**  
**Mateusz**  
**Roman**

Bogusław Linda  
Aleksandra Justa  
Bronisława Zamachowska  
Zofia Wichlacz  
Krzysztof Pieczyński  
Mariusz Bonaszewski  
Szymon Bobrowski  
Aleksander Fabisiak  
Paulina Galazka  
Irena Melcer  
Tomasz Chodorowski  
Filip Gurlacz  
Mateusz Rusin  
Mateusz Rzezniczak  
Tomasz Włosok

### **CREW**

**Director**  
**Screenplay**  
**Cinematographer**  
**Music**  
**Producer**  
**Sound**

**Production designer**  
**Interior design**  
**Costume designer**  
**Makeup**  
**Editing**

Andrzej Wajda  
Andrzej Mularczyk  
Paweł Edelman  
Andrzej Panufnik  
Michał Kwieciński  
Maria Chilarecka  
Kacper Habisiak  
Marcin Kasiński  
Marek Warszewski  
Inga Palacz  
Katarzyna Lewińska  
Janusz Kaleja  
Grażyna Gradoń PSM

## BIOGRAPHY – Andrzej Wajda, Director



In 2016, the great Polish director Andrzej Wajda celebrated his 90th birthday and his 40th film: *AFTERIMAGE*. Unfortunately, it would turn out to be his last film, as he passed away just a month after it premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. The master auteur died on October 9, 2016 in Warsaw.

With a career spanning over 60 years, Wajda's contribution to cinema has been recognized by the Academy Awards (Honorary Oscar in 2000), European Film Awards (Lifetime Achievement, 1990), Berlin Film Festival (Golden Bear for Lifetime Achievement, 2006), and many others. Four of his films have been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film: *THE PROMISED LAND* (1975), *THE MAIDS OF WILKO* (1979), *MAN OF IRON* (1981), and *KATYŃ* (2007). *MAN OF IRON* won the coveted Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

Wajda has directed films from many genres, but he began his career with a trilogy of anti-war films: *A GENERATION* (1954), *KANAŁ* (1957, Cannes Special Jury Prize) and *ASHES AND DIAMONDS* (1958). He has made many films set during or dealing with post-World War II, including *KORCZAK* (1990), a story about a Jewish-Polish doctor who cares for orphan children, *HOLY WEEK* (1995) specifically on Jewish-Polish relations, and *KATYŃ* (2007) about the Katyń massacre, in which Wajda's own father was murdered.

Wajda's commitment to Poland's Solidarity movement was manifested in Palme d'Or winner *MAN OF IRON* with Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa appearing as himself. The director's involvement in this movement would prompt the Polish government to force Wajda's production company out of business. Three decades later, Wajda made the biopic *WALESA, MAN OF HOPE* (European Film Awards - FIPRESCI Prize of the Year). Wajda's other credits include 1983's post-French Revolution epic *DANTON*, starring Gérard Depardieu, 1980's *THE ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR*, starring John Gielgud; 1983's *A LOVE IN GERMANY* featuring Hanna Schygulla, and 1988's *THE POSSESSED* based on Dostoyevsky's novel.

Award-winning director of photography Paweł Edelman has been one of Wajda's great collaborators. They worked together on several films, including *AFTERIMAGE*; *WALESA: MAN OF HOPE*; *PAN TADEUSZ*; *SWEET RUSH* (Alfred Bauer Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2009); and Wajda's 1994 film version of Dostoyevsky's novel *The Idiot*.

Wajda was born in 1926 in Suwałki, Poland, the son of a school teacher and an army officer. Wajda's father was murdered by the Soviets in 1940 in what came to be known as the Katyń Massacre. In 1942 he joined the Polish resistance and served in the *Armia Krajowa*. After the war, he studied to be a painter at Kraków's Academy of Fine Arts before entering the Łódź Film School. After his apprenticeship with director Aleksander Ford, Wajda was given the opportunity to direct

his own film: *A GENERATION* (1955). Throughout his film career, Wajda has simultaneously worked as a director in theater. His acclaimed productions include versions of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, *Antigone* and a unique interpretation of Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. He passed away October 9, 2016 in Warsaw.

### Filmography:

- THE BAD BOY (*ZŁY CHŁOPIEC*, 1951 Short Film)
- THE POTTERY AT ILZA (*CERAMIKA ILZECKA*, 1951 Short Film)
- WHILE YOU ARE SLEEPING (*KIEDY TY ŚPISZ*, 1953 Short Film)
- GENERATION (*POKOLENIE*, 1954)
- I'M GOING TO THE SUN (*IDE DO ŚLONCA*, 1955)
- CANAL (*KANAL*, 1957)
- ASHES AND DIAMONDS (*POPIOL I DIAMENT*, 1957)
- LOTNA (1959)
- INNOCENT SORCERERS (*NIEWINNI CZARODZIEJE*, 1960)
- SAMSON (1961)
- SIBERIAN LADY MACBETH (*SIBIRSKA LEDI MAKBET*, 1962)
- LOVE AT TWENTY (*L'AMOUR A VINGT ANS*, 1962)
- ASHES (*POPIOLY*, 1965)
- GATES TO PARADISE (1968)
- EVERYTHING FOR SALE (*WSZYSTKO NA SPRZEDAZ*, 1969)
- HUNTING FLIES (*POLOWANIE NA MUHY*, 1969)
- LANDSCAPE AFTER THE BATTLE (*KRAJOBRAZ PO BITWIE*, 1970)
- THE BIRCH WOOD (*BRZEZNIA*, 1970)
- THE WEDDING (*WESELE*, 1973)
- THE PROMISED LAND (*ZIEMIA OBIECANA*, 1975)
- MAN OF MARBLE (*CZLOWIEK Z MARMURU*, 1977)
- WITHOUT ANESTHESIA (*BEZ ZNIECZULENIA*, 1978)
- THE MAIDS OF WILKO (*PANNY Z WILKA*, 1979)
- THE CONDUCTOR (*DYRYGENT*, 1980)
- MAN OF IRON (*CZLOWIEK Z ZELAZA*, 1981)
- DANTON (1982)
- A LOVE IN GERMANY (*EINE LIEBE IN DEUTCHLAND*, 1983)
- CHRONICLE OF LOVE AFFAIRS (*KRONIKA WYPADKOW MILOSNYCH*, 1986)
- THE POSSESSED (*LES POSSEDES*, 1987)
- KORCZAK (1990)
- THE CROWNED-EAGLE RING (*PIERSCIONEK Z ORLEM W KORONIE*, 1992)
- NASTASYA (1994)
- THE HOLY WEEK (*WIELKI TYDZIEN*, 1995)
- MISS NOBODY (*PANNA NIKT*, 1996)
- MR. TADEUSZ (*PAN TADEUSZ*, 1999)
- THE REVENGE (*ZEMSTA*, 2002)
- KATYŃ (2007)
- SWEET RUSH (*TATARAK*, 2009)
- WALESIA, MAN OF HOPE (*WALESIA, CZLOWIEK Z NADZIEI*, 2013)
- AFTERIMAGE (2016)

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

*"I wanted to film the story of an artist – a painter, for a very long time now.*

*I decided to bring Władysław Strzemiński to screen because he is one of the most accomplished Polish artists, and he has been wiped out of the public memory by the consequent actions of the Communist government. Strzemiński understood the path of modern art. He explained it in his book entitled "Theory of Vision." The conviction that the abstract art is the only option left to an artist, because thematic painting and post-impressionism have already said everything, gave him a strength to oppose the Communist authorities. He was an exceptional teacher, as well as a founder of the Museum of Modern Art in Łódź in 1934, second modern art museum in the world.*

*AFTERIMAGE is a portrait of an unbroken man - a man confident of decisions he has taken; a man fully dedicated to art. The film depicts four grave years 1949 – 1952, when the "Sovietisation" of Poland took the most radical form, and the socialist realism became the obligatory style of artistic expression. I wanted to show a conflict of a distinguished individual with the Socialist state attempting to control every aspect of human life. How a human being can stand against the state apparatus? What is the price one has to pay for freedom of expression? What are the choices each individual faces in a totalitarian country? Although we thought these are questions of the past, they are slowly starting to haunt us also today, and we should not forget what we already know about how to answer them."*

## **BIOGRAPHY- Bogusław Linda, Actor**

A Polish actor and film director, Bogusław Linda is one of the few true Polish "Movie Stars." He graduated from the Ludwik Solski Academy for the Dramatic Arts in Kraków (1975). He had been involved in theater and films equally. Since his film debut in 1976, he collaborated with the most influential Polish directors of the '80s and '90s, among others he gave shape to the iconic characters of the "cinema of moral anxiety" movement films like Krzysztof Kieślowski's BLIND CHANCE (*PRZYPADEK*, 1981); THE DECALOGUE 7 (*DEKALOG 7*, 1988); Agnieszka Holland's A LONELY WOMAN (*KOBIETA SAMOTNA*, 1981); Wojciech Marczewski's SHIVERS (*DRESZCZE*, 1981); or Feliks Falk's TOP DOG (*WODZIREJ*, 1977). He acted in Andrzej Wajda's films MAN OF IRON (*CZŁOWIEK Z ŻELAZA*, 1981) and DANTON (1982), as well as in the seminal films of the '90s, like Jan Jakub Koloski's JOHNNY (*JANCIO WODNIK*, 1993), Władysław Pasikowski's KROLL (1981) and THE PIGS (*PSY*, 1992), and Andrzej Żuławski's SHE-SHAMAN (*SZAMANKA*, 1996). He also founded the Warsaw Film School and has been awarded with numerous prizes at the international and national film festivals.

## **SELECTED FESTIVALS AND AWARDS**

Winner - Special Jury Prize - Polish Film Festival, 2016  
2016 Toronto International Film Festival – Masters Programme  
2016 Chicago International Film Festival  
2016 Rome Film Festival  
2017 Palm Springs International Film Festival  
2017 Santa Barbara International Film Festival  
2017 Portland International Film Festival  
2017 Miami International Film Festival



## **ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT**

Celebrating its 15th year, Film Movement is a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. Film Movement has released more than 250 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide, and last year it had its first Academy Award-nominated film, Naji Abu Nowar's THEEB. Film Movement's theatrical distribution strategy has evolved to include promising American independent films, documentaries, and an even stronger slate of foreign art house titles. Its catalog includes titles by directors such as Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Diane Kurys, Ciro Guerra and Melanie Laurent. In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Eric Rohmer, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, and Ettore Scola. For more information, please visit [www.filmmovement.com](http://www.filmmovement.com).