

PRESS RELEASE

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**Austin Polish Society Hosts 4th Annual Polish Film Festival
November 5-8, 14, 2009**
The Long and the Short of Polish Contemporary Cinema
Festival will host Polish director Jacek Bromski

The **Austin Polish Film Festival** (APFF) is providing unprecedented opportunities for the Austin community to experience new feature films, documentaries, shorts, animations and visual arts developed through the creative eyes and minds of some of Poland's leading artists. The APFF is sponsored by the Austin Polish Society, a local non-profit arts and cultural organization (www.austinpolishsociety.org)

The APFF has hosted three successful film festivals. The first (2006) festival theme was **"50 Years of Polish Film from the Lodz School"**. It brought to life the development of the national film school born out of the ashes of WW II. The 2006 festival featured Polish director, Dorota Kedzierzawska, a 1981 graduate of the Lodz Film School, who presented her award-winning feature film **"Jestem" ("I am")** (2005). The 2007 APFF theme was **"New Directions in Polish Film"** and featured Polish director Feliks Falk, who screened his award-winning film **"Komornik" ("Debt Collector")** (2005). The 2008 APFF theme was **"Polish Films: Universal Stories"**. The guest artist of the festival was Polish film director and president of The Association of Polish Filmmakers, Jacek Bromski, who premiered his film **"U Pana Boga w Ogrodku" ("In God's Little Garden")**. The festival concluded with Andrzej Wajda's **"Katyn"**.

The 2009 APFF theme is **"The Long and the Short of Polish Contemporary Cinema"**. Dates for the festival are November 5, 6, 7, 8, and 14, 2009. The films will be screened at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Texas Spirit Theater and in Studio 4D at the Radio-Film and Television department of the University of Texas at Austin. The APFF guests will be director, producer, and writer, Jacek Bromski and Agnieszka Kotlarska, an actress starring in Mr. Bromski's film. Both will be coming from Poland to be present for the festival and will participate on discussion panels. APFF will also host the consul general and the cultural attaché from the Polish Consulate in Los Angeles. This year the APFF has expanded its offerings to include Polish shorts, documentaries, and animated films mainly from the collection **"30 minutes"** and **"The first documentary"**, a project exhibiting the best work of young filmmakers.

The **APFF VIP Opening Reception** will be held at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. Proceeds from the APFF will sponsor young, local film talent through artistic and academic exchanges in film and visual arts between Austin and Poland, through scholarships, internship opportunities, and other projects, with unique opportunities to personally connect with established Polish film professionals (directors, writers, and cinematographers). Contacts have been established between University of Texas Radio, Film, and Television department and National Higher School of Film, Television and Theatre in Lodz, Poland.

In conjunction with the Polish Film Festival, APS sponsors special exhibits of Polish film, music and theater posters. For 2009, the APS is sponsoring an exhibit of the work of Polish artist Leszek Zebrowski at the Eastside Showroom at 1100 East 6th Street. The exhibit opens Sunday, October 25 with a reception on **Sunday, November 1, 2009** and will last through November 13th.

For more details, dates, times and tickets sales, film reviews, poster exhibit information, contribution and advertising opportunities, see <http://www.austinpolishsociety.org/austinpff2009/>.