

## The 6<sup>th</sup> Austin Polish Film Festival and Poster Exhibit set for November 3-12, 2011

*A unique opportunity to see award-winning Polish films that you cannot see anywhere else in Austin!*  
All Films have English subtitles.

**For immediate release:** October 9, 2011

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### Austin Polish Society presents the Sixth Year of Polish Films in Austin

The 6<sup>th</sup> Austin Polish Film Festival (APFF) and Poster Exhibit runs **November 3-12, 2011**, with events at **Marchesa Hall & Theater, the Texas Spirit Theater in the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, and at the George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center**. The APFF will present 8 feature films, a number of documentaries, short narratives, and animated films. It will also feature panel discussions and Q&A sessions with guest artists. As part of the festival celebrations of Polish culture, a **Poster Art Exhibit** will run at **Marchesa Hall & Theater** featuring the Polish artist and designer, Rafal Olbinski, who will offer a presentation about Polish poster art and his own creative process. In addition, the City of Austin joins the festival organizers to hold ***Celebrate Me! – Poland***, a free community event at the **George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center** featuring Polish food, arts, crafts, history presentations, displays, and films for adults and children.

The APFF opens **Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Marchesa Hall & Theater at 7 PM** with a gala reception featuring live music provided by the New Allegro String Quartet. Polish food will be served. Rafal Olbinski, and the director of the opening film ***Enen/Case Unknown*** (2009, 95 min), Feliks Falk, will be in attendance. Co-scripted by Feliks Falk and Agnieszka Holland, the film follows an ambitious psychiatrist who becomes intrigued by a mysterious hospital patient. The doctor seeks both clues to his patient's condition and to a treatment for him, risking his family in the process. Animation ***"The Presidency"*** by Tomek Baginski will precede the screening of the feature film.

**Friday, November 4, at 6:30 PM**, the APFF continues with films at **the Texas Spirit Theater in the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**. The first screening will be ***"The Stone Silence"*** (2007, 60min.) directed, scripted and produced by Krzysztof Kopczynski. The story told by this powerful documentary begins five years before the news about a young Afghan woman, publicly stoned for adultery, broke over international media. This engrossing film chronicles the trial and punishment with piercing candor. Mr. Krzysztof Kopczynski will be in available for Q&A. At **8pm**, the second major event of the evening is Feliks Falk's award-winning film, ***"Joanna"*** (2010, 105 min), the story of a Polish woman during WWII whose attempt to save a Jewish child turns her life upside down. The film won major awards for best directing, best film, and more. Director Feliks Falk will be in attendance and a Q&A session will follow.

**Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>** is a full day of events in two venues: one in the afternoon, and one in the evening. **From 12 noon to 4 PM**, the City of Austin joins the APFF celebrations with a Polish Heritage Day, ***Celebrate Me! – Poland*** at the **George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center**. This free, child-friendly event will feature Polish arts, crafts, educational displays, films, history presentations, and refreshments of Polish food. In addition, the audience will enjoy animated films, documentaries, and a children's adventure film, ***The Magic Tree / Magiczne drzewo*** (2009, 90 min) directed by Andrzej Maleszka. A historical documentary about the Polish-born pope, John Paul II, ***"Nine Days That Changed the World"*** will also be screened. Starting at **6:30 PM**, in **the Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**, the festival continues with two feature films. An award winning historical drama, ***A Little Rose / Rozyczka*** (2010, 118 min), co-written by Jan Kidawa-Blonski, set in 1968, when the Polish government launched an anti-Semitic campaign in the wake of Israel's triumph over Egypt in the Six-Day War. Inspired by the life of Pawel Jasienica, a Polish historian and journalist, the film details the government's infiltration of the lives of the members of the intelligentsia during the Soviet bloc years in Poland. The film gathered many awards including the best director, the best male role, and the best female role. The second feature film starting at **8:30 PM** is a thriller, ***Entanglement/Uwiklanie*** (2011, 128 min), the adaptation of Zygmunt Miłoszewski's bestseller crime novel. The director, Jacek Bromski, is known

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to the Austin audience from the festivals of 2008 and 2009. The composer of the sound track, Ludek Drizhal, a former Austinite who is currently working in LA, will be in attendance. The film revolves around a mysterious murder connected to a therapy group. It will keep the audience in suspense until the very last scene.

**Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM** in the Texas Spirit Theater, in the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, the festival resumes with *The Winner/Wygrany* (2011, 110 min), directed by Wieslaw Saniewski. The film tells the story of a young, talented American concert pianist and his struggles dealing with winning and losing fame, and repaying debts. He collides with a colorful Polish gambler who knows something about pursuing a passion and following one's dreams. Together they seek their fortune and become close friends. Starting at **6 PM**, the second film of the evening *Venice / Wenecja* (2010, 114 min.) directed by Jan Jakub Kolski, tells the story of an 11-year-old boy whose dream of a trip to Venice is wrecked by the outbreak of the war in 1939. He is sent to stay with his aunt in her sprawling villa, where in the flooded basement, the boy builds a vision of the city of Venice. This beautiful film won numerous awards for best cinematography and best artistic contributions.

The festival concludes at the **Marchesa Hall & Theater** on the following weekend, **Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**, with a series of animations, shorts, and documentaries starting at **6 PM** followed by a feature film at **8:30 PM**, *All That I Love / Wszystko Co Kocham* (2009, 95 min.) This autobiographical feature by Jacek Borcuch is about a high schooler and his punk-rock band in 1981 just as communist rule, threatened by the Solidarity movement, decides to introduce martial law. The film skillfully combines music, romance, politics and family drama. At the time, the authentic Polish punk rock classics became anthems for freedom. The **guest of honor** is an award winning actor, Andrzej Chyra who will join the audience for a Q&A session following the screening.

For tickets and details, please go to: [www.austinpolschsociety.org/apff](http://www.austinpolschsociety.org/apff)

### Venues addresses:

- Marchesa Hall & Theater: 6406 N I H 35, Ste 3100,
- Texas Spirit Theater: Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 North Congress Ave
- George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center: 1165 Angelina Str.

### Schedule of the festival events

(The organizers reserve the right to make changes in the festival program)

#### November 3, Thursday, at The Marchesa Hall & Theater

**7pm** Opening gala. Artists in attendance (Feliks Falk, Rafal Olbinski, Ludek Drizhal)  
Polish food, live music by the [New Allegro String Quartet](#)

**8pm** Animations & Shorts

**8:30pm** *"Case Unknown" / "Enen", dir. Feliks Falk, 95 min.*  
Q&A with director.

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#### November 4, Friday, Texas Spirit Theater, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

**6:30 pm** *"The Stone Silence" / "Kamienna cisza", documentary by Krzysztof Kopczynski 51 min.*  
Q&A with director

**8pm** *"Joanna", dir. Feliks Falk, 105 min.*  
Q&A with director.

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#### November 5, Saturday

##### Carver Museum and Cultural Center

**12pm – 4pm Celebrate Me!: Poland** – free admission family day: food, presentations, lectures, crafts, exhibits, kids activities. Films: animations, shorts, children animations.

**2pm** – adventure children feature film *"The Magic Tree"* (90 min.)

**2pm** – *"Nine Days that Changed the World"*, documentary about Pope John Paul II (94 min.)

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**Texas Spirit Theater, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**

**6:30pm** "A Little Rose" / "Rozyczka", dir. Jan Kidawa-Blonski, 118 min.

**8:30pm** "Entanglement"/"Uwiklanie", dir. Jacek Bromski, 128 min.  
Q&A with the composer Ludek Drizhal

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**November 6, Sunday**

**The Marchesa Hall & Theater**

**1pm** Rafal Olbinski presentation and workshop.

**Texas Spirit Theater, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**

**4pm** "The Winner" / "Wygrany", dir. Wieslaw Saniewski, 110 min.

**6pm** "Venice" / "Wenecja" dir. Jan Jakub Kolski, 114 min.

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**November 12, Saturday at The Marchesa Hall & Theater**

**6pm** Shorts, docs, animations

**8:30pm** "All That I love" / "Wszystko co kocham", dir. Jacek Borcuch, 95 min.  
Actor Andrzej Chyra in attendance, Q&A session follows.

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