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POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE
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THE POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE AND RIVERSIDE STUDIOS PRESENT

Polish Beauties

From silent classics to the latest Hollywood films.

Pola Negri
Beata Tyszkiewicz
Grazyna Szapolowska
Magdalena Cielecka
Alicja Bachleda-Curus



Courtesy of Muzeum Kinematografii w Łodzi

9 January - 6 February 2008
at **RIVERSIDESTUDIOS**



The **Polish Cultural Institute** and **Riverside Studios** present a series of films starring some of the most legendary Polish Beauties to have graced the big screen.

From silent films to Kieslowski classics and the latest Hollywood epics, these divas, femme fatales and ingénues are far more than just a pretty picture.

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Pola Negri Biography (9th January Double Bill - see page 3 for details)

Polish silent film star Pola Negri was the first European actress turned Hollywood celebrity in the 1920s. Negri was born in Poland in 1897. At age 17, she became a stage star and quickly moved to film. Her performance in the smash hit *Madame du Berry* (1919) seduced Charlie Chaplin and landed her a Hollywood contract. Negri soon became America's new femme fatale and a direct rival of Theda Bara. Her career was often overshadowed by her romances with such stars as Chaplin and Rudolf Valentino.

Beata Tyszkiewicz Biography (16th January - see page 4 for details)

Beata Tyszkiewicz is one of Poland's quintessentially cinematic beauties, having worked exclusively on the big screen. She became famous through her portrayal of distinguished ladies in costume dramas like Wojciech Has' *The Doll* and Andrzej Wajda's *Ashes*. Throughout her career, she's worked with leading directors such as Agnieszka Holland, Krzysztof Zanussi, Andre Delvaux and Andrzej Wajda, who was also her first husband. Tyszkiewicz has appeared in over 100 films, and has been honoured with many prizes for her acting as well as for promoting Polish culture in her country and abroad.

Grazyna Szapolowska Biography (23rd January Double Bill - see page 5 for details)

Szapolowska enjoyed a successful stage career before starting to work in film and TV in 1974. Ever since Hungarian director Karoly Makk discovered her, she's starred in classics by Krzysztof Kieslowski, Andrzej Wajda, Marco Bellocchio, Krzysztof Zanussi and Florestano Vancini, totalling over fifty roles. Her performance in Kieslowski's *A Short Film About Love* and Wajda's *Pan Tadeusz* won her many prestigious Polish and international awards.

Magdalena Cielecka Biography (30th January - see page 6 for details)

An actress on stage, TV and film, Cielecka became famous thanks to her portrayal of Sister Ann in Barbara Sass' *Temptation* (1995) for which she won the Best Actress Award at the Polish Feature Film Festival in Gdansk. The same movie brought her the title of "The Star of Tomorrow" at the 1996 International Film Festival in Geneva. UK audiences will soon be able to see her in Andrzej Wajda's latest film, *Katyn* (2007).

Alicja Bachleda-Curus Biography (6th February - see page 7 for details)

Bachleda-Curus has been growing into one of Poland's most promising young stars. Her most noted performances include her portrayal of Zosia (at age 16!) in Andrzej Wajda's *Pan Tadeusz* and Andrzej Wojcik's *The Gateway Of Europe*. Bachleda-Curus recently made her Hollywood debut in Marco Kreuzpaintner's *Trade* (2007), for which she won the Best Actress Award at the Boston Film Festival.

POLISH BEAUTIES - PART 5

Alicja Bachleda-Curus Double Bill

Wed 6th February 2008 at 6.15pm

The evening will be introduced by Alicja Bachleda-Curus.
There will be a Q&A after the screening chaired by Jörg Tittel.



Trade (2006)

The Gateway Of Europe / Wrota Europy (15)

(Jerzy Wojcik; Poland; 1999; 73 min)

The film, set in the winter of 1918, involves three protagonists who arrive at a frontline military hospital. Zosia (Bachleda-Curus), Iza (Agnieszka Sitek) and Hela (Kinga Preis), young girls full of romantic faith in patriotism and good will, look after wounded soldiers and quickly discover the cruelty of the war. Tautly constructed, with fantastic cinematography by Witold Sobocinski, *The Gateway of Europe* is a gripping, historically resonant drama.

SPECIAL SCREENING

Brought to you by  UK Release Spring 2008

Trade (15)

(Marco Kreuzpaintner; USA; 2006; 119min)

Alicja Bachleda-Curus and Kevin Kline star in this critically acclaimed film written by Oscar-nominee José Rivera (*Motorcycle Diaries*). 13-year-old Adriana finds herself kidnapped by sex traffickers, causing her brother, Jorge, to set off on a desperate mission to save her. Trapped and terrified by an underground network of international thugs, Adriana finds her only friend and protector in Veronica (**Bachleda-Curus**), a young Polish woman tricked into the trade by the same criminal gang.

COMING SOON TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU

POLISH BEAUTIES - PART 4

Magdalena Cielecka Double Bill

Wed 30th January 2008 at 6.30pm

The evening will be introduced by Magdalena Cielecka.
There will be a Q&A after the screening chaired by Philip Kemp.



Temptation (1995)

Temptation / Pokuszenie (15)

(Barbara Sass; Poland; 1995; 98 min)

The film is inspired by the true story of Polish Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński's imprisonment, and his relationship with a nun (**Cielecka**), who is forced to inform on him. What may be more important than the film's historical background is its study of a young woman's prohibited love. This film, for which **Magdalena Cielecka** won numerous prestigious awards, established her as one of Poland's finest actresses.

The Third / Trzeci (15)

(Jan Hryniak; Poland; 2004; 95min)

Often compared to Roman Polanski's debut *Knife in the Water*, *The Third* tells the story about a young couple, Ewa (**Cielecka**) and Pawel (Jacek Poniedzialek), who try to salvage their marriage on a perfect romantic get away, a yacht trip. The appearance of an Old Man (Marek Kondrat), a stranger they agree to take on board on their way home, will change their relationship in a most unexpected way.

POLISH BEAUTIES - PART 1

Pola Negri Double Bill

Wed 9th January 2008 at 6.30pm

The evening will be introduced by Professor Erica Carter (University of Warwick).



The Beast (1917)

The Beast / Bestia (15)

(Aleksander Hertz; Poland; 1917; 45 mins;
English titles)

The first major film to star Pola Negri established her as Poland's greatest silent movie diva. The Beast tells the dramatic love story between a beautiful and smart woman (Negri) and a thug who leaves his wife and children for her.

Live piano accompaniment by Polish jazz sensation Mateusz Kolakowski.

-Infant prodigy Kolakowski started touring the world at age 12, playing at legendary venues such as the Knitting Factory in New York City and the Jazz Bakery in Los Angeles. He has won numerous international awards and is widely praised by leading jazz critics. www.cdbaby.com/cd/mateusz

Sumurun (15)

(Ernst Lubitsch; Germany; 1920; 85 mins;
English narration)

This German melodrama by the legendary Ernst Lubitsch is set against a sumptuous Middle Eastern backdrop. **Pola Negri** stars as an exotic dancer who charms both a sheik and his son, leading to wild (and fatal) romantic complications. Paul Wegener plays the jealous ruler, with Lubitsch co-starring as a dwarf jester.

This screening is supported by the



POLISH BEAUTIES - PART 2

Beata Tyszkiewicz

Wed 16th January 2008 at 6.50pm

The evening will be introduced by Beata Tyszkiewicz.
There will be a Q&A after the screening chaired by Peter Hames.



The Doll (1969)

The Doll / Lalka (15)

(Wojciech Has; 1969; 159 minutes)

Adapted from the famous Polish novel and regarded as the Polish equivalent of *Madame Bovary* or *Anna Karenina*, THE DOLL is a poetic love story told on a grand scale.

Has' first film in colour follows a nouveau riche merchant through a series of trials and tribulations occasioned by his obsessive passion for an aristocratic beauty (Tyszkiewicz), who toys with him cruelly.

POLISH BEAUTIES - PART 3

Grazyna Szapolowska Double Bill

Wed 23rd January 2008 at 6.30pm

The evening will be introduced by Grazyna Szapolowska.
There will be a Q&A after the screening chaired by David Thompson.



A Short Film About Love (1988)

Another Way (15)

(Karoly Makk; Hungary; 1982; 102 minutes)

The clash of sexuality and politics provides the basis for this tragic love story set in Hungary, 1958. In the offices of magazine *The Truth*, two female journalists tentatively embark on a clandestine, highly-charged affair, knowing that they face the wrath of the Stalinist regime if discovered.

This screening is supported by

Second Run DVD

A Short Film About Love / Krotki Film O Milosci (15)

(Krzysztof Kieslowski; Poland; 1988; 86 min)

A young man falls in love with an older woman who lives across the courtyard in the same Warsaw apartment block. He watches her and her succession of lovers until she becomes aware of his spying and confronts him with a sexual invitation.

A Short Film About Love was expanded from one of the most lyrical episodes of Kieslowski's cycle of short films based on the Ten Commandments, *The Decalogue / Dekalog*.