



# ARTSBEAT

by Staś Kmieć



## 12th Annual Polish Film Festival Los Angeles



The Polish American Film Society will present the 12th Annual Polish Film Festival in Los Angeles celebrating the greatest achievements of Polish filmmakers.

The festival will open on October 11th, 2011 with our star-studded gala during which both Polish and American moviemakers will walk the red carpet at Hollywood's legendary Egyptian Theatre, an extravagant start to a ten-day-long celebration of Polish Cinema through October 20th, 2011 with subsequent screenings at the Laemmle's Sunset 5. For more information: [www.polishfilmla.org](http://www.polishfilmla.org).

## Makbet Returns to NYC

The Theatre Group *Dzieci's* fearless adaptation of Macbeth returns to NYC for three Fridays in October:



- Friday, October 14th - Ripley-Grier Studios: 520 8th Avenue between 36th+ 37th Streets.
- Friday, October 21st - The Cell Theatre: 338 West 23rd Street (btwn 8th+9th Aves)
- Friday, October 28th - John

Street Church: 44 John Street In Lower Manhattan (between Nassau & William Street) All shows at 7:30 pm; call: 718-638-6037; [matt@dziecitheatre.org](mailto:matt@dziecitheatre.org)

## Fall for Dance in New York

For ten exhilarating days each year, feel the rush, exuberance and sheer joy that is dance. From New York City, across the country, and around the globe multiple companies appear in five separate programs at City Center. Each performance offers audiences a sampling of the best that dance has to offer – from hip hop to ballet, contemporary to tap. All tickets are \$10, so get them them quickly.

The festival runs from October 27 through November 5. Companies include Mark Morris Dance Group, The Joffrey Ballet, The Australian Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Royal Ballet of Flanders, New York City Ballet, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, among others.



## Digital New Jersey

The Digital Arts Group of the New Jersey Photography Forum presents a group photography exhibit: *Digital New Jersey* from October 2 through 28 at the Madison Library in the Chase Room Gallery. Group members will be showing photos, taken in New Jersey, for which digital capture, processing and printing were an important part of the creative process.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during the normal working hours of the Madison Library at 39 Keep Street in Madison, NJ, subject to the availability of the Chase Room auditorium. A free "meet the artists" reception will be held in the Chase Room on Saturday, October 15, 2011 from 2 to 4 pm.

## In Honor of Kaya Mirecka Ploss

The Kosciuszko Foundation of Washington D.C. will honor Kaya Mirecka Ploss, a long-term promoter of Polish culture in the United States on Saturday, October 22 at 8:00 pm. Ms. Ploss is the Co-founder and the first Executive Director of the American Center of Polish Culture in Washington, DC and is known for her tireless support of talented Polish youth through two of her organizations: Children of Silesia Foundation and The Jan Karski Institute for Tolerance and Dialogue. Mezzo-soprano Marta Wryk and Jean-Paul Björilin, piano will present a special entertainment program. To purchase tickets write: The Kosciuszko Foundation, 2025 O Street, NW, Washington D.C., 20036, or call (202) 785-2320.

## Paderewski Lecture-Recital in Los Angeles

The Polish Music Center at the University of Southern California will present a Paderewski Lecture-Recital featuring Choral and vocal works by composer-conductor Paweł Łukaszewski on October 6 at 7:30 pm at the Alfred Newman Rceial Hall - USC in Lo Angeles. Łukaszewski was born in 1968 into a family of musicians in Częstochowa, Poland. His works are rooted in the neo-mediaeval tonality and spiritual tradition. For information: 213-821-1356; [polmusic@thornton.usc.edu](mailto:polmusic@thornton.usc.edu). Admission is free.



ŁUKASZEWSKI

## New York Musical Theatre Festival

The New York Musical Theatre Festival (NYMF) has announced a full slate of musical productions, a developmental reading series and special events for their eighth annual festival. This year's Festival began on September 26th and continues through October 16th.

A full breakdown of this year's performances follows and a full list of performances, dates and venues can be found on [www.nymf.org](http://www.nymf.org).



Since its inception in 2004, The New York Musical Theatre Festival has premiered more than 250 new musicals - more than 70 of which have gone on to award-winning productions in New York, in regional theaters in almost every state, and in 16 countries worldwide. NYMF alum *Next to Normal* won three 2009 Tony Awards and the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama during its Broadway run, and is now enjoying a national tour.

## Philadelphia - Polish Language Classes for Adults

The Polish American Cultural Center in Philadelphia is sponsoring Polish language classes for adults on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:30 P.M. at the Cultural Center, 308 Walnut Street in historic Philadelphia.

Beginner classes are available this semester and for those who have some knowledge of the language or are continuing from the previous semester. Contact: (215) 922-1700 or [www.polishamericancenter.org](http://www.polishamericancenter.org).

## Cirque du Soleil's Zarkana

*Zarkana* an acrobatic rock opera that blends circus arts with the surreal will ends its run at NNYC's Radio City Music Hall on October 8. The show is a visual vortex set in a slightly twisted musical and acrobatic fantasy universe where, little by little, chaos and craziness give way to festivity and love regained.

For tickets: [www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/shows](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/shows).



## West Caldwell Public Library Presents "A Visit with Louisa May Alcott"

WEST CALDWELL, NJ – As part of Read Across West Caldwell, the West Caldwell Public Library, 30 Clinton Road, will present the one-woman play "A Visit with Louisa May Alcott" featuring actress Pat Jordan, of the American Historical Theatre, on Sunday, October 9 at 2:00 pm in the Community Room. The Kiwanis Club of Caldwell-West Essex will sponsor the program.

This poignant drama focuses on Louisa's struggles as a nurse during the Civil War, her tireless work for social reform, and her success as a writer. Jordan also discusses Louisa's sisters who inspired her classic novel "Little Women" and

how her writings were influenced by her eccentric father's friends Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Jordan has been working for the American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia since 1992. She has performed in their productions of "Victorian Music Hall" and "Yankee Doodles" and has also appeared in one-woman plays about Betsy Ross, Martha Washington and Amelia Earhart. An accomplished singer, she has a bachelor of arts degree in theater from Villanova (PA) University and also received training at Juilliard Opera Workshops. She also teaches acting



PAT JORDAN

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 10)

## Student & Independent Film Workshop

NEW JERSEY – Passaic County Film Commission is sponsoring a free workshop on short film production for student and independent filmmakers 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, October 22. The workshop will be held at the office of Passaic County Economic Development Department in the Totowa Business Center, 930 Riverview Drive, Totowa. Topics to be discussed include pre-production tips such as scriptwriting, shooting schedules and location requirements taught by professionals in the field. Other subjects include sound and lighting, shooting and editing. A review of the 2012 Passaic County Film Festival will be discussed by Deborah Hoffman, Director of Passaic County Economic Development. For more information, call Passaic County Economic Development Department at 973-569-4720 or [film@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:film@passaiccountynj.org)

## Transitions: Recent Polish Cinema At Lincoln Center

By Ewa Bronowicz

Between September 9th and September 15th, ten Polish movies were screened as part of the Film Society of Lincoln Center's (presented in collaboration with the Polish Cultural Institute in New York and the Polish Film Institute in Warsaw) Transitions: Recent Polish Cinema, at the Walter Reade Theater. While most of the movies were released between 2009-2011, and represent a new wave of Polish filmmakers, two movies, both with the legendary Zbigniew Cybulski, bring back the classics of Polish cinema.



EWA BRONOWICZ

*Night Train*, directed by Jerzy Kawalerowicz, opens with a dreamy portrayal of a train station accompanied by eerie music. Instead of zooming in on the prospective central characters, the camera lets us slowly observe a variety of passengers boarding the train. In fact, throughout the film, despite the soon revealed two main protagonists, the audience can peek into the lives of many others—and what we see is not pleasant: people suspicious of individuality, distinguishable only by their personal dilemmas, claustrophobic, disillusioned. Accordingly, next to a man in sunglasses and a blond woman forced to share a sleeper together, both of whom are mysterious and regarded by the other passengers as outcasts, there is a lonely and flirtatious wife of a mortgage lawyer, a man who omnisciently reads about a recent murder, and the blond woman's abandoned lover, played by Zbigniew Cybulski. All the passengers are united by the journey, as well as a murder mystery. In a masterful scene, the voyageurs stream out of the train in search of justice. Even though there is no equality on the train (the demarcation of class here is whether one is in the sleeping wagon or not), in the face of the ensuing scandal, they are all equal. This sudden anonymity arms the people with power to punish—and they revel in it. At the end, when the blond finally confides in her travel companion, she says the man she loves is afraid of anonymity. The movie explores, with a brilliant dose of quiet irony, suspense and objectivism, the intricate tensions between group dynamic versus individuality in the face of moral choices, and leaves us with a challenging, even if, at times, gloomy, outlook on how human behavior can be influenced by both.

*Mother Theresa of Cats* also explores the dark side of human nature, here in light of the collapse of a family in contemporary Poland, but it does so with less confidence and purpose. Two brothers, twenty-two year old Artur and teenage Marcin, kill their cat-loving mother, and the rest of the movie unfolds in

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 10)

