

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Hanna Hartowicz / Festival Director

Email: info@nypff.com

Phone: +1 844-540-0080

Martin Scorsese to Open the 20th New York Polish Film Festival Honoring Andrzej Wajda

May 27 – 31, 2025 | Scandinavia House & DGA Theater, New York City

New York, NY — The **20th** edition of the **New York Polish Film Festival (NYPFF)** will take place **May 27–31, 2025**, marking two decades of showcasing the boldest and most beautiful voices in Polish cinema. This year’s milestone celebration honors the legendary **Andrzej Wajda**, commemorating the **25th anniversary of his Honorary Oscar®** for lifetime achievement, and will open with a major appearance by one of Wajda’s most vocal admirers: **Martin Scorsese**.

A Cinematic Tribute, Opened by a Master

On **Wednesday, May 28**, at the **DGA Theater**, **Martin Scorsese** will introduce a gala screening of Wajda’s seminal masterpiece **Ashes and Diamonds** (*Popiół i diament*, 1958). Scorsese, who has long championed Wajda’s films as essential works of cinematic and political art, will help open the festival with personal remarks on Wajda’s global impact.

Key Panel: *Films by Andrzej Wajda*

The celebration continues on **Opening Night**, Tuesday, May 27, with a **special panel** at Scandinavia House titled “**Films by Andrzej Wajda**”, featuring:

- **Prof. Annette Insdorf** (Columbia University) – film historian and author
- **Dr. Rafał Syska** (Jagiellonian University & Wajda Film Centre, Poland)
- **Special guests** from the **Andrzej Wajda Film Center**

This discussion will reflect on Wajda’s cinema as both art and resistance, exploring its continued resonance across generations.

The panel follows a welcome **reception sponsored by Żywiec Polish Beer**, and a screening of Wajda's 1957 classic *Kanał*.

A Rich and Timely Festival Lineup

In addition to its focus on Wajda's legacy—with **six of his most acclaimed films presented and introduced by distinguished scholars**—NYPFF 2025 also features some of the most talked-about new Polish titles of the year, including:

- *Under the Volcano* (2024) – dir. Damian Kocur
- *Forest* (2024, doc.) – dir. Lidia Duda
- *The Girl with the Needle* (2024) – dir. Magnus von Horn
- *The True Story of Tamara Łempicka & The Art of Survival* (2024) – dir. Julie Rubio
- *Kulej. All That Glitters Isn't Gold* (2024) – dir. Xawery Żuławski

Andrzej Wajda films featured at the 2025 NYPFF include:

- *Kanał* (1957)
- *Ashes and Diamonds / Popiół i diament* (1958)
- *Everything for Sale / Wszystko na sprzedaż* (1969)
- *The Promised Land / Ziemia obiecana* (1975)
- *Katyń* (2007)
- *Man of Iron / Człowiek z żelaza* (1981)

Special Guest Appearance:

We are honored to welcome **Małgorzata Potocka**, renowned Polish actress and star of Wajda's *Everything for Sale*, who will join us for the screening of the film and share reflections on working with the legendary director.

Each screening will be introduced by **Prof. Annette Insdorf** or **Dr. Rafał Syska**.

A Landmark Cultural Moment in New York City

Held at both the **DGA Theater** and **Scandinavia House**, NYPPF 2025 is more than a film series—it is a living tribute to cinematic courage, historical memory, and the enduring cultural bridge between Poland and New York City.

Since its founding in 2005, NYPPF has screened over **300 Polish films**, providing a platform for emerging talent and international appreciation of Polish film.

This year's festival is organized in partnership with the **Wajda Film Centre**, with support from the **Ministry of Culture of Poland**, **Polish Consulate General in New York**, **Polish Embassy in Washington D.C.**, the **Association of Polish Filmmakers**, and the **Polish Cultural Institute New York**.

Tickets and Information

Explore the full schedule, film descriptions, and sponsorship opportunities at:

 www.nypff.com

Follow us:

 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newyorkpolishfilmfestival>

 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nypff/>

 LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/new-york-polish-film-festival/>

About the New York Polish Film Festival

Founded in 2005, the New York Polish Film Festival is the leading U.S. event dedicated to Polish cinema. Through screenings, panels, and premieres, the festival connects audiences with stories that are deeply personal, politically vital, and globally relevant.