

IT LOOKS PRETTY FROM A DISTANCE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ANKA SASNAL WILHELM SASNAL



- I ABOUT THE FILM
- II ACTORS AND CREW
- III BIO
- IV REWIEVS
- V FESTIWALS AND AWARDS
- VI POSTER
- VII STILLS AND PHOTOS
- VIII CONTACT DETAILS

I ABOUT THE FILM

'It Looks Pretty from a Distance'

2011, 77 mins, Colour, Super 16 mm transferred to 35 mm

Short summary

Unfolding in a secluded Polish village by the woods and a river "Z daleka widok jest piekny" (It Looks Pretty from a Distance) is a love story between a scrapper and a girl. In an air of ubiquitous secrecy the villagers and the couple live their usual dull lives of hardship until the scrapper vanishes. His disappearance triggers a chain of unexpected events. In the strikingly beautiful surroundings, under the scorching sun human evil surfaces.

Introduction

There is a paved road leading to the village but it is worn and narrow.

It looks pretty from a distance. Meadows, fields. The village is secluded, cut off by a river and a forest.

It's been this way for years. The river and forest cut off the village.

There is no bridge on the river and people cross it pulling a boat along a cable.

The river is clean, a bit overgrown by the banks, muddy in places, but you can bathe in the summer.

Children in the river.

Two women and three children drowned in the river.

First the women

Threw the children into the river and then jumped -

Out of fear.

The people waited. Crowding on the bank.

Pitchforks stones and knives. Pitchforks stones and knives.

The women were alone.

There are dens and hollows in the forest in which a person could hide.

People can burrow like animals.

When the elders of the vilage were young, they dug up the forest. Scooped out the hollows.

Even today you can still find something if you dig deep enough.

But nothing of value. All these years

and the greed's still there. Pitchforks stones and knives.

People are searching elsewhere.

Summary

A hot summer in a countryside. Everything is falling apart, people live on gathering all sorts of garbage and wastes; scattered, worn out objects cover the farmyards enclosed by wobbly fences. The main character, Paweł, makes his living by collecting scrap metal. He lives with his elderly and mentally ill mother that he cannot cope with, thus he drives her away from home. He has a fiancée, they are planning to get married. But one day Paweł suddenly disappears, nobody knows where he is. His neighbours start to steal different things from the desolate house. At the beginning they do it bashfully, in secret, under cover of darkness, later on, they continue completely openly. At one moment the whole community gathers around the house and takes everything that may be of any use. Paweł returns to his home village, but there is nothing to come back to. And because it is most difficult to forgive the wrongs we did to the others, the community will not let Paweł stay.

by Jakub Majmurek

II CREW

Starring:

Marcin Czarnik
Agnieszka Podsiadlik
Piotr Nowak
Elżbieta Okupska
Jerzy Łapiński
Hanka Chojnacka
Michał Pietrzak
Oskar Karaś
Beata Zygarlicka
Waldemar Czystak
Dawid Wolski

Written by Anka and Wilhelm Sasnal

Directed by Anka and Wilhelm Sasnal

Cinematography: Wilhelm Sasnal, Aleksander Trafas

Production designer: Marek Zawierucha

Costumes: Ewelina Gąsior

Make-up artist: Zuza Stefańska

Sound: Igor Kłaczyński

Editing: Beata Walentowska

Production managers: Agata Szymańska, Tomasz Kozera

Executive producer: Filmopolis - Agata Szymańska

Produced by: Anton Kern Gallery, Anka and Wilhelm Sasnal

Distribution: Stowarzyszenie Nowe Horyzonty





III BIO

Anka Sasnal

b. 1973

Editor and scriptwriter. Lives and works in Kraków, Poland.

Wilhelm Sasnal

b. 1972

Lives and works in Kraków, Poland.

Feature films:

- "Świniopas" / "Swineherd", 2008, 85 mins, 16 mm transferred to 35 mm
- "Opad" / "Fallout", 2010, 70 mins, 16 mm transferred to 35 mm
- "Z daleka widok jest piękny" / "It looks pretty from a distance", 2011, 77 mins, super 16 mm transferred to 35 mm

Selected short films:

- "Kilkadziesiąt sekund źle wywołanej taśmy filmowej", 1997, 0:50 min, 16 mm
- "Sześć krótkich filmów"/ "Six short films", 2004, super 8 mm
- "Marfa", 2005, 26 mins, 16 mm
- "The river", 2005/2006, 23:20 mins, 16 mm
- "The ranch", 2006, 37 mins, super 8 mm
- "Widlik", 2006, 9:30 mins, 16 mm
- "Mojave", 2006, 6:30 mins, 16 mm
- "Let me tell you a film", 2007, 11 mins, 16 mm
- "Drugi kościół"/"The other church", 2008, 7:30 mins, 16 mm
- "Kacper", 2010, 12 mins, 16 mm

Film screenings:

- Anthology Film Archives, 'Świniopas (Swineherd)', New York, 2010
- The 20th Bath Film Festival, Bath, England, 2010
- Artprojx at Prince Charles Cinema, 'Wilhelm Sasnal. Fallout', London, England, 2010
- Cinema Riffraff, 'Wilhelm Sasnal. Świniopas', Zurich, Switzerland, 2009
- Glasgow Film Festival, 'Visible Cinema', Glasgow, Scotland, 2008
- Glasgow International Festival of Contemporary Visual Art, Scotland, 2008
- Centre pour L'Image Contemporaine, '1,2,3... Avant-Gardes. Polish Film / Art between Experiment and Archive', Geneva, Switzerland, 2008
- The 4th International Video Art Biennial in Israel, 'VideoZone – 4', Tel Aviv, Israel

Selected solo exhibitions:

- Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK, 2011
- Sara Hildén Art Museum, Tampere, Finland, 2010
- Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen K21, Dusseldorf, Germany, 2009
- "Years of Struggle", Zachęta National Art Gallery, Warsaw, Poland, 2007
- Kunsthalle Zurich, Switzerland, 2003

IV REVIEWS

It is not a movie about frustration but about selfless evil that may reveal itself in any time and space regardless of political system.

Katarzyna Taras

"It Looks Pretty from a Distance" is a kind of parable stripped of any ornaments and it refutes one of the biggest Polish myths. (...) the movie's formal minimalism perfectly harmonises with the perspective of the reserved observers that are not interested in psychology but in the mechanisms governing a small community.

Paweł Felis

It is the first Polish movie that establishes an aesthetic dialogue with the cinema present for many years on the New Horizons Festival(...). Besides, this film touches the most painful problems of Polish community. Until now, Polish cinema was not able to undertake such problems.

Jakub Majmurek

V FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

International Film Festival Rotterdam 2012 - Official selection - Tiger Award Competition
The New Horizons International Film Festival 2011 - Best film in the Polish Film Competition

VI POSTER

IT LOOKS PRETTY FROM A DISTANCE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ANKA SASNAL WILHELM SASNAL



STARRING MARCIN CZARNIK AGNIESZKA PODSIADLIK PIOTR NOWAK ELŻBIETA OKUPSKA JERZY ŁAPIŃSKI
HANKA CHOJNACKA MICHAŁ PIETRZAK BEATA ZYGARLICKA WALDEMAR CZYSZAK JOANNA DROZDA
DAWID WOLSKI OSKAR KARAŚ CINEMATOGRAPHY WILHELM SASNAL SOUND IGOR KŁACZYŃSKI EDITING
BEATA WALENTOWSKA PRODUCED BY ANTON KERN GALLERY ANKA SASNAL WILHELM SASNAL
FILMPOLIS AGATA SZYMAŃSKA 2011 DISTRIBUTION IN POLAND STOWARZYSZENIE NOWE HORYZONTY

VII STILLS AND PHOTOS







VIII CONTACT DETAILS



Filmpolis Agata Szymańska
Dolna 7/9
00-773 Warszawa
Poland

T +48 514 593 757
szymanska.agata@gmail.com

<http://www.itlooksprettyfromadistance.com>