

Cultural Bulletin

Movie director Jerzy Kawalerowicz dies at 85

Jerzy Kawalerowicz, one of Poland's most prominent movie directors, died in Warsaw on December 27 at the age of 85, the Association of Polish Film-makers has reported.

Jerzy Kawalerowicz, who adapted "The Pharaoh" (Faraon) and "Quo Vadis" for the screen had co-created the famous „Polish Film School” and was the honorary president of the Association of Polish Film-makers. He was honoured with Platinum Lions at the 2007 Gdynia Film Festival for life-time achievements.

Kawalerowicz directed 17 feature films. He started his career in 1947 as assistance director on set of Leonard Buczkowski's "Forbidden Songs" (Zakazane piosenki). He made his debut as director in 1951 filming „Gromada” (The Village Mill), the drama about the struggle of small-holders with a mill owner and kulaks (landowners).

On the list of film he directed are "Cellulose" (Celuloza - 1954), showing conflicts of pre-WW2 Poland via the life of a boy who leaves his home village for town in search of job where he becomes an active member of the worker movement and "Night Train" (Pociąg - 1959), the story about two people Jerzy and Marta seeking love.

In 1960 Kawalerowicz made "Mother Joan of Angels" (Matka Joanna od Aniołów) based on Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz's novel. The novel, set in a secluded monastery in the 18th century describes the story of Mother Superior Joan and other nuns possessed by demons.

In 1966 the director adapted Boleslaw Prus' novel "The Pharaoh" for the screen. The movie about young Pharaoh Ramses the 13th with Jerzy Zelnik in the cast was nominated to the Academy Award (Oscar).

In 1977 Kawalerowicz made "Death of a President" (Śmierć prezydenta) and in 1982 "Austeria."

Henryk Sienkiewicz's "Quo Vadis" was adapted for the screen in 2001 with prominent Polish actors Paweł Deląg, Magdalena Miel-

■ Warsaw, Cracow and Wrocław city centres will host outdoor New Year's Eve parties. Open air parties on New Year's Eve will be hosted in other Polish cities and towns e.g. the mountain resort of Zakopane. In Warsaw the New Year's Eve will be celebrated outdoors for the first time after a two year break as the 2005 event was cancelled on security grounds. As new city president Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz was installed on December 2, 2006 the new city board decided it lacked time for organising the outdoor party. In 2007 two stages with huge screens were placed at the Defilad Square, downtown Warsaw, hot food and drinks were served to the public. The event entitled "Let Fall in Love with Warsaw" (Zakochaj się w Warszawie) lasted until 0230 hrs. Poland's capital welcomed the New Year with a 10-minute fireworks' show. The party started at 2115 hrs with 11 bands and singers taking part including September, Lady Pank, Tatiana Okupnik, Kasia Kowalska, T.Love, The Jet Set as well as Zygmunt Kukla's band. At Cracow Marketplace concerts were given by Shakin` Stevens, Boney M original Maizie Williams, Lou Bega, Edyta Górniak, Budka Suflera, Urszula, Justyna Steczkowska, Golec Orkiestra, Beata Kozidrak and Bajm as well as Szymon Wydra & Carpe Diem. In Wrocław concerts were given by Doda, Kayah, Paweł Kukiz and

carz, Bogusław Linda, Michał Bajor, Jerzy Trela, Franciszek Pieczka and Krzysztof Majchrzak in the cast.

In 2005 the director received „Eagle” (Orzeł), the Polish Film Award for life-time achievement.

Some 45 million zloty for Cracow monuments' restoration in 2008

The Social Committee for Cracow Monuments' Restoration will receive some 45 million zloty in 2008, it has been revealed at a committee plenary meeting.

„The amount of money will equal the sum we received in 2007. Traditionally money demanded from us in numerous motions exceed the funds at our disposal, committee chairman Professor Franciszek Ziejka has said.

He added that 120 million zloty would be needed to meet the motions for Cracow monuments' renovation and preservation demands.

In 2007 the committee allotted more than 45 million zloty for Cracow monuments' repair and preservation. This year the funds will come only from the state purse. 45.5 million from the Chancellery of the President of Poland and 310,000 from fund-raising actions and the committee's own sources.

Wielkopolska region marks 209th anniversary of Adam Mickiewicz's birth

Flowers were laid at the foot of the the monument to Adam Mickiewicz in Śmiełów, western Poland, on Monday, the 209th anniversary of Poland's bard visiting the locality.

Mickiewicz came to Śmiełów while on vacations just before the 1831 November Uprising and his emigration to Turkey. The local palace now houses the poet's museum. A stone monument with a medallion, funded in 1931 on the 100th anniversary of Mickiewicz's stay in the locality was designed by Władysław Marcinkiewicz. It was destroyed by German Nazis in 1940 and reconstructed at the same site in 1970 according to the design of sculpture Jerzy Sobociński from Poznań.

Perfect, Big Cyc and Kombi bands. The winner of a passenger car was selected by a draw and Latin American dances course added lustre to the event.

Wielkopolska region: new items in Marian Falski Education Museum

Pre-WW2 school equipment, certificates, copy books, set texts, scouts uniforms, badges and caps have enriched the collection of the Marian Falski Education Museum in Kuźnica Grabowska in Wielkopolska region, western Poland.

„This is the only museum in the region under the patronage of the author of the famous primer written in 1910 and used during the entire 20th century. The museum celebrates Falski’s 126th birth anniversary that fell on December 2007,” Waldemar Dudka, the museum curator and head of Professor Marian Falski’s Self-government Movement has told PAP.

Professor Falski was the son-in-law of Karol Oxner, the pre-WW2 owner of Kuźnica and the brother-in-law of the last heir to the property Seweryn Oxner. The professor was a frequent visitor to his wife’s family estate where he used to come to hunt. The manor once belonging to the Oxners now houses the museum to his memory.

The collection includes pre-war inkwells, pictures, class registers, original benches, globes, atlases and hundreds of school aids. On display are also several dozens of primers for village and city schools from different periods as well as the 1910 Toruń Polish Primer.

Writer Janusz Domagalik dies at 76

Janusz Domagalik, journalist, writer, the author of radio and TV programmes died in Warsaw on December 27 at the age of 76, Domagalik’s family has told PAP.

Janusz Domagalik was born in Czeladź, south-eastern Poland on July 5, 1931. He graduated from the Diplomatic and Consular Department at the Political Sciences Academy and read Polish literature at the Higher School of Pedagogy in Warsaw. In 1950 he embarked on his career as journalist to become the editor-in-chief of scouts’ periodical „The World of Youth (Swiat Młodych) between 1956-68.

In 1968 Janusz Domagalik was appointed editor-in-chief of Polish Radio Child and Youth Station and between 1980 and 1981 he was editor-in-chief of Radio Three which he worked for until 1990.

Janusz Domagalik made his debut as writer in 1963 with a story entitled “Men’s Case” (Męska sprawa). Three years ago he published a novel entitled “The End of Vacations” (Koniec wakacji) that was for many years included in the set texts. It was made also for the screen. Other Domagalik’s writings include: a book of stories entitled “A Princess and Boys” (Księżniczka i chłopcy - 1967), “Five Adventures of PI Konopko” (Pięć przygód detektywa Konopki - 1968), stories entitled “Marek” (1971), “Sheriff’s Treasure” (Skarb szeryfa - 1972), “Irmina” (1974) and a series of stories entitled “Rudy’s Gang” (Banda Rudego) that was adapter for screen as a feature film.