

Cultural Bulletin

Berlinale awards Wajda

Popular Polish film director Andrzej Wajda Saturday received an Alfred Bauer Prize at the 59th Berlin film festival for his new production *Sweet Rush*. The awards are granted to directors who lay out new directions in the film art. Wajda dedicated the award to the film's main actress Krystyna Janda, who in his words had "given the film not only her talent but a part of her life".

The Golden Bear award for best picture at the Berlin film festival went to the Peruvian production "The Milk of Sorrow" (*La Teta Asustada*) by Claudio Llosa. It was the 1st Peruvian movie to take part in the festival.

The Silver Bear for the best leading actress was granted to Austria's Birgit Minichmayr German movie "Alle Anderen" (*All Others*), directed by Maren Ade.

The Grand Jury Prize was granted to "Alle Anderen" (*All Others*) and "Gigante" (*Giant*) made by Argentinian director Adrian Biniez. "Giant" also received the Alfred Bauer.

Wajda's movie is to be on in Polish movie theatres between April 20 and 27.

Lidia Kopania wins national competition for Eurovision Song Contest

Lidia Kopania and her song "I Don't Wanna Leave" won the National Qualifier Concert for Eurovision Song Festival on February 14. The Pole will go to Moscow in May to compete with other countries' representatives during the 54th edition of the festival, to be held between May 12 and 14 with the award granting ceremony scheduled for May 16.

The qualifier concert "Song for Europe 2009" (*Piosenka dla Europy 2009*) attracted to Warsaw 10 finalists. Kopania won over Stachursky ("I Nie Mów Nic" – Do Not Say Anything), Det Betales ("Jacqueline"), Man Meadow ("Love Is Gonna Get

■ The February 17 issue of the Belarussian state paper "Republika" was devoted to concerts held in memory and honour of the 70th birth anniversary of recently deceased Czesław Niemen in held in the locality of Vasilishki, Grodno district and in Grodno itself. Performing were guests from Poland including composer Krzysztof Sadowski and Polish Jazz prime mover Stanisław Cejrowski. In Grodno Niemen music was played by "Kaprysta" jazz band and soloists of the state concert orchestra.

■ A statistical Pole spends 345 zloty annually for culture events with only 3.5 pct of the sum being assigned for the purchase of movie, theatre or museum tickets, the Central Statistical Office GUS has reported. Data was cited by deputy Culture Minister Piotr Żuchowski at a conference organised by the Local Democracy Development Foundation. Żuchowski said Poles assign 21 pct of their spending for culture to cover cable TV fees, 13 pct for covering TV and Radio licence fees and 12 pct for papers and magazines. The above were followed by the purchase of a new TV set. Book purchases ranked 5th and tickets to culture institutions ranked 6th.

■ CNN television inaugurated the 1st international promotion campaign of Cracow on February 23, Cracow city officials and CNN repre-

You”), IRA (“Dobry Czas”), Renton (“I’m Not Sure”), Artur Chamski (“Kilka Słów” - A Few Words), Marco Bocchino and Ola Szwed (“All My Life”), Tigrita Project (“Mon Chocolate”) as well as Dali (“Everyday”).

The laureate was chosen by viewers (text messages) and the jury made up of musician Robert Chojnacki and singer Krzysztof “Kasa” Kasowski.

Kopania told PAP she „was very grateful because she did not expect to win.” “I will try not to let down viewers and the jury. Music is my entire world,” Kopania told PAP.

Culture Minister on most important investments in 2009

Culture Minister Bogdan Zdrojewski has presented MPs of the Sejm culture and mass media committee the most important investments implemented by his ministry.

“We tried to split funds for regions in a just way,” Zdrojewski said.

The biggest investments will receive EU subsidies as part of the European Regional Development Fund’s programme. Subsidies will exceed 50 pct of the investment costs. Five priority investments include: the construction of the National Music Forum in Wrocław, The Museum of Contemporary Art. In Warsaw, the Podhale region Opera, the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk and the International Centre of Cultures in Kielce.

Great Britain: Holland to film life of Krystyna Skarbek

The life of Krystyna Skarbek, a Pole working for the British intelligence during WW2 who became an inspiration for Ian Fleming will be filmed by Agnieszka Holland in Hollywood, “Mail on Sunday” weekly wrote on February 15.

The filming of “Christine: War My Love” (Krystyna: wojna to moja miłość) will start in June. The leading part may be played by Kate Winslet, recently nominated to the Academy Award for “The Reader” or French actress Eva Green, winner of the Bafta prize for the part of Vesper Lynd in “Casino Royale,” shot according to Ian Fleming’s book under the same title.

sentatives have told a news conference in Warsaw. CNN will broadcast 139 thirty-minute spots advertising Cracow climate and its monuments for four weeks as of this Monday during prime time.

Festival devoted to Sławomir Idziak to be held at end of February

The fourth edition of Film Art Festival entitled „Celluloid, Man, Digit (Celuloid, Człowiek, Cyfra) devoted entirely to the world-renowned cameraman Sławomir Idziak will be held in Katowice at the turn of February and March.

Festival organisers have said the 40th anniversary of creative work of the artist born in Katowice was the best reason behind their decision to devote the event to Idziak. During the festival, to be held between February 27 and March 5 presented will be films with Idziak's camerawork and those made by him as a director.

Planned are meetings with students of „Film Spring Open” workshops and a discussion on film distribution. The festival will be crowned with a benefit concert honouring Idziak in Rialto movie theatre that will be led by Alicja Resich-Modlińska and attended by his co-workers and invited guests.

■ Kazimierz Kutz will start filming Horst Eckert's „Cholonek or Good God of Clay” (Cholonek oder der Liebe Gott aus Lehm) most likely in 2010, according to the director's plans. Kutz added he would himself write the script based on the book of the German writer born in Zabrze who wrote most of his books using the alias Janosch.

■ Polcon 2009, the national congress of fantasy lovers will be held in Łódź on August 27-31 with the main attraction being the visit of Star Wars' actors on the 25th anniversary of the movie Polish premiere. „We plan to show the riches of fantasy games, books, films and science in Poland in all aspects where fantasy meets science,” Polcon coordinator Paweł Potakowski has told PAP. During the event Janusz A. Zajdel prize for the best fantasy book will be granted for the 25th time.