Polish Media

COLONEL WOŁODYJOWSKI. A landmark epic based on the historical trilogy by Nobel Prize winner, Henryk Sienkiewicz, set in the year 1668 at the time of the Turkish invasion of Poland’s Eastern frontier. 1969. Color. 2 hr. 40 min. Polish with English subtitles. Copy 1 — VHS. [PL 5a]

COLONEL WOŁODYJOWSKI. Copy 2 — DVD. [PL 5b]

CZŁOWIEK Z ZELAZA [MAN OF IRON]. The film merges documentary footage of the Solidarity strike into a fictionalized drama of a disillusioned radio producer who is ordered to Gdansk to undermine the reputation of one of the leaders of the worker revolt. 1981. Color. 2 hr. 32 min. Polish/Polish with English subtitles. DVD. [PL 11]

DAY OF WACKO. This dark comedy chronicling a day in the life of a bitter, disillusioned man was the winner of two Golden Lion Awards. Adam Miauczynski, played by director Marek Kondrat, is a 49-year-old elementary school teacher with a grudge against humanity. He blames his neighbors, his mother, and his students for his unhappiness, but refuses to confront the real source of his angst: himself. 2002. Color. 1 hr. 3 min. Polish/Polish with English/German subtitles. DVD. [PL 8]

KANAL. This grim depiction of a defeated Poland is the central film of Wajda's unplanned war trilogy. As Resistance fighters descend into Warsaw's sewer system to escape the Nazis, Wajda leads us through a psychological descent into the minds of a crushed people. 1957. B&W. 1 hr. 36 min. Polish with English subtitles. VHS. [PL 3]


OGNIEM I MIECZEM [WITH FIRE AND SWORD]. This grand drama is set in 17th-century Poland during the Cossack uprising against the Polish nobility. As the violent confrontation builds, there is also a battle for the heart of a beautiful girl between a dashing Pole and a brutish Ukrainian. 1999. Color. 3 hr. 2 min. Polish/Polish with English/Polish/French/Russian/Ukrainian/Spanish subtitles. DVD. [PL 10]

POLAND: 1000 YEARS OF HISTORY AND CULTURE. (Two VHS tapes.) [PL 2]

I. 1) "Piast Poland" (Earliest Origins to 1370). 23 min. and 2) "Jagiellonian Poland." 21 min.

II: 3) "Gentry Commonwealth" (1573 to 1795). 42 min. and 4) "Romantic and Modern Poland" (1796 to 1945). 36 min.

POLISH FOLK DANCE & SONGS. This spectacular video features folk dances and songs from many different regions of Poland performed by authentic folk groups in colorful National
dress. A showcase of impressive singing and dancing this video is must viewing for all lovers of folk music. 1994. Color. 1 hr. 8 min. Polish. VHS. [PL 4]

POTOP [THE DELUGE]. The action takes place in the 17th century, the turbulent period of the Polish-Swedish war. The plot is woven around the stormy love of Andrzej Kmicic, for a young woman named Olenka. Much of this exciting and romantic film was shot in authentic, ancient Polish castles. 1974. Color. Polish/Polish with English subtitles. DVD. (Two-disc set.) [PL 13]

I. Part 1 of 2. 2 hr. 35 min.

II. Part 2 of 2. 2 hr. 15 min.

ROBOTNICY '80. A documentary about the 1980 strikes led by Lech Walesa. This is the beginning of the Solidarity Movement, preserved on film. 1989. B&W. 1 hr. 34 min. Polish. VHS. [PL 7]

SZCZESLIWEGO NOWEGO JORKU [HAPPY NEW YORK]. A satire about 6 Poles who cross the Atlantic to find fame, fortune and the American dream. However, the clash with emigrant reality is both painful and absurd. Even though they live on the edge of poverty, they send videotapes back to Poland pronouncing their prosperity. 1997. Color. 1 hr. 35 min. Polish/Polish with English subtitles. DVD. [PL 12]

U PANA BOGA ZA PIECEM. A good folklore story at the Polish/White Russian border. A very pleasant comedy movie about a Russian girl coming to post-communist Poland to make some money on the black market, selling elicit imports. 1998. Color. 1 hr. 36 min. Polish/Polish with English subtitles. DVD. [PL 14]

WEDDING, THE. A bitter tale of the marriage of an intelligent man to a peasant, their opposing views, the artist's inability to find a place for himself in the world and the fruitless dreams of freedom. 1972. Color. 1 hr. 50 min. Polish with English subtitles. VHS. [PL 1]

ZEMSTA [THE REVENGE]. Roman Polanski stars in this light comedy, based on the stage play by Aleksandr Fredo. The story of two feuding 17th-century aristocratic families whose homes share a common courtyard. On top of the bickering, life becomes even more complicated when two opposing family members fall in love. 2002. Color. 1 hr. 40 min. Polish/Polish with English subtitles. DVD. [PL 9]