# POLISH FILMS ON VIDEO (Various distributors)

**TYPE OF PROGRAM:** Polish culture and civilization; films  

**DESCRIPTION:** Series of films produced in Poland. Most are in Polish and subtitled in English. VIDEOCASSETTES ARE FOR RESERVE USE IN THE MEDIA LIBRARY ONLY -- Instructors may check them out for up to 24 hours for preview purposes or to show them in class. See the Media Catalog for film series in other languages.

**AUDIENCE:** Any; Polish is needed for films not subtitled

**FORMAT:** VHS; NTSC; DVD

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<th>CONTENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Austeria</td>
<td>PL2.006.011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poland. 1988. Color. 110 min. Polish with English subtitles. Directed by Jerzy Kawalerowicz. Early in WWI, a group of Orthodox Jews flee from the Cossack army in Polish Galicia. A secluded country inn becomes their temporary refuge, where emotional attachments, brief love affairs and even a renewed faith in humankind inspire these desperate individuals.</td>
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| The Birch Wood (Brzezina) | PL2.006.033 |
| Poland. 1971. 100 min. Polish w/English subtitles. Directed by Andrzej Wajda. The story of two brothers--one seriously ill but full of life, the other a grieving widower, envious of his brother's high spirits in the face of death. |

| Colonel Wolodyjowski | PL2.006.024 |

| Czowiek z marmuru (Man of Marble) | PL2.006.001 |

| Cudzoziemka (The Stranger) | PL2.006.016 |
| Poland. 1986. In Polish with NO subtitles. 105 min. Color. Directed by Ryszard Ber. Based on Maria Kunciewiczowa's novel “The Stranger” (1036). The heroine cannot find her place in life. Crossed in love in her youth, artistic dreams that never came true, these influence her whole future causing her own misery and even the need to torture others. She is surrounded by loving people but annot appreciate this. Finally, when old, she'll understand how important are a smile and cheerfulness. |

| The Decalogue | PL2.006.026 |

| The Departure (Odjazd) | PL2.006.028 |
| 1992. Color.115 min. Polish w/English subtitles. First movie that shows ethnic differences in Mazurian Lakes region. Members of an old age home show animosity towards two women with German ancestry. |

| Dlug | PL2.006.027 |

| Dreszcze (Shivers) | PL2.006.017 |
| Poland. 1981. Polish with NO subtitles. 108 min. Color. Directed by Wojciech Marczewski. 1956 in Poland was a year of big changes, workers' protests, and the release of political prisoners. With this as a background, the tragic story of a 13 yr-old boy, a participant of a school camp, is told. Under the influence of a fanatical girl guide, the hero undergoes a psychical metamorphosis. He believes in her assurances about the immortality of Stalin’s idea, the infallibility of the Party, he forgets the principles he was taught at home, loses his spiritual contact with his father—a freshly released political prisoner. News about the workers’ strike in Pozmana, and about injust trials reach the youth camp. The world of the girl guide’s ideals falls apart. |

| Emigranci | PL2.006.036 |
| Poland. 2000. In Polish w/NO subtitles. Color. 128 min. Directed by Kazimierz Kutz. One of the most popular Mrozek's plays. This plays is a study of two different forms of exclusion, juxtaposing idealistic patterns of thinking of a political emigrant with the same sense of a simple emigrant, who |
left his country for money. AA is an intellectual who has left the country being dissatisfied with the regime. XX is a common man, a peasant uneducated hardworking economic emigrant.

**Eroica**

**The Faithful River**

**Historie miłości (Love stories)**
Poland. 1998. 90 min. Color. In Polish with NO subtitles. Directed by Jerzy Stuhr. A story of four people who don’t know what to do with the most precious gift that life can offer--love.

**Kanał (Canal)**
Poland. 1957. 96 min. B&W. In Polish with English subtitles. Directed by Andrzej Wajda. The almost hallucinatory portrait of a group of Polish citizens and patriots who attempt to flee the Nazis through the sewer system of a war-devastated Warsaw.

**Killer (Killer)**
Poland. 1997. 104 min. Color. In Polish with NO subtitles. Directed by Juliusz Machulski. A Warsaw taxi driver, Mr. Killer is wrongly accused of being the serial murderer that all of Europe has been chasing. A comedy that was the biggest hit in Poland in 1997.

**Korczak**

**Kornblumenblau**

**Kroniki Powstania Warszawskiego (Warsaw Uprising Chronicle)**
Poland. 1944. B&W. 45 min. In Polish. Unique documentary from 1944 Warsaw Uprising against Nazi occupation. Footage from bloody fighting in August and September has been confiscated and badly damaged by communist censors.

**Krótki film o zabijaniu (Short film about killing)**

**The Maids of Wilko (Panny z Wilka)**
Poland. 1979. 111 min. Polish with English subtitles. Color. Directed by Andrzej Wajda. Adaptation of Jaroslav Iwaszkiewicz’s memoirs is set in the late 1920s. Victor Ruben, a WWI vet and operator of a small factory, reexamines his life following the death of his friend. Returning to the home of his aunt and uncle, he is drawn into a mysterious web of sexual and romantic longing for the 5 women he was friends with years before.

**Man of Iron**
Poland. 1981. 152 min. Color. Polish with English subtitles. Directed by Andrzej Wajda. Sequel to Man of Marble. 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.

**The Mother of Kings**
Poland. 1982. 126 min. B&W. Polish with English subtitles. Directed by Janusz Zaorski. The dramatic story about a poor widow charwoman and mother, shown across the span of the worst moments of Poland’s history: WWII and the Stalinist times. Filmed in black-and-white to incorporate newsreel footage from Stalinist times, the film won the Grand Prix at the Gdansk Festival.

**Nadzór (Parole)**

**No End**
Poland. 1984. 104 min. Polish with English subtitles. Directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski. The “helor” of NO END is Antek, a young liberal lawyer who dies four days before the film begins. He leaves behind his beautiful young widow Ulla, their son, and the unresolved trial of a Solidarity organizer. Reluctantly caught up in the trial, Ulla finds herself unable to get Antek out of her mind, literally haunted by his memory.

**Pan Tadeusz**
Poland. 2000. 157 min. color. In Polish with English subtitles. Directed by Andrzej Wajda. Based on Mickiewicz’s epic poem written in 1834 while living in exile in Paris. Set in Lithuania, the evokes the faded traces of a lost world during the Napoleonic era. The plot revolves around a feud between two Polish gentry families living under Russian rule.

**Pestka**

**Popioł i Diament (Ashes and Diamonds)**

**Prezesłuchanie (Interrogation)**
Poland. 1981. Color. 117 min. In Polish with English subtitles. Directed by Ryszard Bugajski. After a one-night stand with a military officer, a cabaret singer is imprisoned by the secret police, without ever being informed of her alleged crime. For the next five years, she is subjected to harrowing torture and harassment, which she doggedly withstands in a struggle to maintain her dignity and sanity.

**The Saragossa Manuscript**
1985. 174 min. Polish w/English subtitles. Directed by Wojciech J. Has. A cult classic based on the novel The Manuscript Found in Saragossa by
John Potocki, this romantic, fantastic and witty tale chronicles the adventures of a Walloon guard under the King of Spain. Something of a Don Juan, this colorful 19th century character must pass numerous tests to prove his courage, honesty and honor in order to become a member of the powerful Mauretanian family.

**Szabla od komendanta**

Poland. 1995. 102 min. Color. In Polish w/NO subtitles. Directed by Jan Jakub Kolaski. Comedy-fantasy about an ex-soldier stopped at the pearly gates for not passing his battle sword on to a grandson, as tradition requires. Now the old man must convince his son to give him a grandson so he can be reunited with his long lost love in heaven.

**Tato**

Poland. 1995. 121 min. Color. In Polish w/NO subtitles. Directed by Maciej Slesicki. After his divorce with a mentally ill woman, the father of a 7 yr. Old girl fights for custody of his daughter.

**Train to Hollywood (Pociag do Hollywood)**

Poland. 1989. Polish w/English subtitles. 96 min. Color. Directed and written by Radoslaw Piwowarski. A beautiful girl in a small Polish town dreams of becoming a movie star. For the time being, her dream brings her all kinds of problems and humiliations, but it also adds some color to the monotony of her daily life.

**Weekend**

Poland. 1996. In Polish w/English subtitles. 434 min total (each of the 8 films runs 60 min.) Color. Written, directed, and coproduced by Krzyszof Zanussi. Composed in the tradition of The Decalogue. All the episodes of the Weekend Stories deal incisively with moral issues.

**Wesele (The Wedding)**


**Wielki bieg (Great Race)**

Poland. 1982. 100 min. Polish with NO subtitles. Color. Directed by Jerzy Domaradzki. The subject is a Peace Race, a mass event organized in the spring of 1952. Radek, who runs in the race, wants to win a first prize, and the second wants to win in order to send a letter to President Bierut, asking for help for his father—a defendant in a political trial.

**Wielki tydzień**


**Yesterday**

Poland. 1984. 88 min. Polish with NO subtitles. Color. Directed by Radoslaw Piwowarski. The year is 1964. Far away from Liverpool, in a Polish little town four boys set up a band which is a replica of “The Beatles.” At that time Poland “The Beatles” music and fashions were unwelcome, especially in provincial towns. So the parents from the church and school unite to prevent the young heroes from music.

**Ziemía obiecana (The Promised Land)**

Poland. 1974. 178 min. Color. In Polish with English subtitles. Directed by Andrzej Wajda. Based on the novel by Wladyslaw Remong. The scene is 19th century Lodz, the center of the Polish textile industry. In the world of illusions, ambition, passion and violence, is the destiny of three friends who dream of beginning their own factory.