

Poland's foreign-language film Oscar submission.

Reverse Rewers (Poland)
Variety 11/19 - Allisa Simon's review

In 1952, during the peak of Stalinist terror in communist Poland, an encounter with the secret police changes life for three generations of women in the good-looking, tonally sophisticated "Reverse." Rich with references to Polish culture and cinema history, the genre-juggling feature debut of prize-winning documaker Borys Lankosz is clever, complex and spiked with a special kind of black humor. Kudos -- including most of the major awards at the national festival in Gdynia -- and critical buzz led to an extremely robust domestic opening on Nov. 13th for Poland's foreign-language film Oscar submission.

Shot in exquisite black-and-white widescreen, with a contemporary coda in color intercut throughout, the entertaining pic boasts pitch-perfect performances from a stellar cast. It is prime fest fare that could find niche arthouse slots in other former Iron Curtain countries where viewers still remember the paranoia, falsehoods, compromise and betrayals engendered by the communist system.

Prim 30-year-old spinster Sabina (Agata Buzek) works as a poetry editor in a Warsaw publishing house and shares a crowded apartment with her resourceful mother, Irena (Krystyna Janda), and ailing but alert grandmother (Anna Polony). Eager for Sabina to marry, the older women put forward a string of unsuitable candidates. An amusing early scene in which Irena brings home an accountant who becomes increasingly drunk plays as bourgeois comedy.

But shy Sabina, whose heart flutters at the manly bare chests of soldiers glimpsed

in cinema newsreels, finds her own macho admirer seemingly by chance. One misty night, the mysterious Bronislaw (Marcin Dorociński) rescues her from a mugging.

As Sabina and Bronislaw grow more intimate, a murder moves the narrative into thriller territory. Later, an extreme act of motherly love takes it into the realm of farce, visualized as German Expressionist grotesquerie. Even more twists ensue before a poignant climax unfolds in the present-day strand, proving that with courage, ordinary citizens can convert pure evil into something good.

Told from a female perspective, the elegant screenplay by literary talent Andrzej Bart revels in allusions, jokes and paradoxes, taking cliches about life in the Stalinist era and turning them inside out. Polish audiences will find the film's premise -- that Warsaw's Palace of Culture (a not-altogether welcome gift from the Soviets) hides a sinister secret -- particularly diverting.

Helmer Lankosz uses his docu background to perfectly re-create the look of the 1950s through set design, makeup and costumes, even blending in archival footage. Yet it is his skillful manipulation of genre conventions that makes viable the special tone of Bart's script.

From Wlodek Pawlik's film-noir jazz score, which serves as counterpoint to the pic's action, to the sublime choice of Nina's Simone's cover of "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood" under the end credits, the musical choices, like the rest of the ace tech package, are both ironic and revealing.

Pic marks the first production in 14 years from the legendary Studio Kadr, home to the 1950s generation of auteurs known as the Polish School. □

Consulate General
Republic of Poland in Los Angeles
 website: www.losangeleskg.polemb.net
 e-mail: mailing.list@consulplla.org
(310) 442-8500

Consul General
Ambassador Joanna Kozłńska - Frybes
 e-mail: losangles.polishconsulate@msz.gov.pl

Culture, Science Education, Public Affairs

Consul Malgorzata Cup ext. 108
 e-mail: Malgorzata.Cup@msz.gov.pl

Administration and Finances
Consul Malgorzata Kopeć ext. 104, 105
 e-mail: Malgorzata.Kopec@msz.gov.pl

Passports/Visas/Citizenship Section
Consul Marzena Gronostajska ext. 106
Marzena.Gronostajska@msz.gov.pl

Legal Affairs/Consular Protection
Consul - Wojciech Bergier ext. 107
 e-mail: Wojciech.Bergier@msz.gov.pl
 mail to: legal@consulplla.org

Economic and Trade Division
www.wehusa.gov.pl

Receptionist X 115

Joseph L. Drociak,
Attorney
Over 45 years experience
Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, Workers Compensation, Medical Malpractice, Wrongful Termination, Sexual Harassment, Nursing Home abuse
 7627 S. Western Ave. (323) 971-3981
 12400 Wilshire Blvd. (213) 384-7900
Los Angeles

Jacqueline E. Ahlen, Ph.D., E.A.
Consultant
 Management, Seminars,
 Tax Preparation
 (Monthly services available.)
 Tel: (626) 794-0729 (626) 914-1622
 1148 E. Route 66
 Glendora, CA 91740
 P.O. Box 40579
 Pasadena, CA 91114 - 7579
 e-mail: Jackie.Ahlen@yahoo.com
 e-mail: gjahlen@aol.com

Jan
Concrete Contractor
Residential or Commercial
(35 years experience)
 Concrete Driveways, Patios
 Stamp Concrete
 Brick, Stone, Flagstone,
 Sidewalks, Curbs
 Retaining walls, Block walls
 Remodel swimming pools
 Waterfalls, Pool decks
No job too small
 Contractor License # 501466
(818) 896-5087 or 378-6121 (c)

Valerian Soltes
Attorney
Living Trusts - Probate
Bankruptcy
Personal Injury
Collections
 30011 Ivy Glenn Drive - Suite 203
 Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
949/363-0106
 E-mail: vsoltes@solteslaw.com
 Slovak, Czech, Polish, English

MARTIN KRAWIEC
ATTORNEY AT LAW
ETHICAL - EXPERIENCED

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Accidents | Business |
| Civil Litigation | Estate Planning |
| Personal Injury | Probate |
| Real Estate | Trusts Wills |

(714) 871-7331
Mówimy po Polsku

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE
 of the United States of North America
Largest Ethnic Fraternal Benefit Society in the United States

The PNA supports ethnic, cultural, educational and community events across the United States. Over the years we have provided millions of dollars to institutions, groups and a variety of organizations, encouraging the preservation of Polish traditions and customs.



By becoming a PNA member, your insurance assessments enable us to continue our work on behalf of Polonia.

We invite you to join with us today.

Together we can make it happen!

The PNA offers a variety of insurance products for the security of you and your family:

- Whole Life
- Universal Life
- Terms Plans
- Annuities
- IRAs
- Special Plans

Call us today at our Toll Free Number or visit us on the Internet

Headquarters:
6100 N. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60646-4385
Telephone: 773-286-0500
Toll Free: 1-800-621-3723

www.pna-znp.org

If you, your family, your organization, or your business would like to send a holiday salutation message to the Polish community in this year's Christmas edition of the News of Polonia, please submit the layout content of you ad before December 10th.

FOR EXAMPLE

Merry Christmas
 and a
Happy New Year

Marty and Betsy Capielik

The above ad...F. - 2" X 2 1/4 " - it spans one column your cost is \$35.00

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| A.) Full page | 215.00 |
| B.) Half page | 135.00 |
| C.) Quarter page | 90.00 |
| D.) Eighth of a page | 65.00 |
| E.) 2" X 5" W (spans 2 columns) | 50.00 |
| F.) 2" X 2 1/4 (spans 1 column) | 35.00 |

If you would like our staff to create the layout, please send us the basic information that you would like us to print. The ad will be sent to you for editing and approval.

Your support of the News of Polonia is deeply appreciated.

If you have a favorite Christmas experience that you would like to share with our readers, please give us a call or give us the facts, and we will help you organize the story if necessary. No stories are ever printed in the News of