



Press Release

The Berlin International Film Festival mourns the loss of Andrzej Wajda

Polish director, screenwriter and Academy Award winner Andrzej Wajda passed away on October 9, 2016, at the age of 90.

“The film world has lost a great artist who consistently renewed the cinematic arts, even in his advanced years. A committed filmmaker, he grappled with the history of his native country and always made his stance clear. Andrzej Wajda shaped Polish cinema, and enriched the film landscape as a whole,” says Dieter Kosslick, director of the Berlinale.

Andrzej Wajda was among Poland’s most influential film and theatre directors, and the recipient of multiple honors for his work. Following studies in painting, he attended Lodz Film School and directed his first feature film *A Generation* in 1954. His complete works comprise over 50 films.

Since 1980, the Berlinale has shown 13 of Andrzej Wajda’s films. Among others, *Holy Week* (1996, Silver Bear for an outstanding artistic contribution), *Miss Nobody* (1997), *Pan Tadeusz* (2000), *Katyn* (2008) and *Tatarak* (2009, Alfred Bauer Prize) were presented in *Competition*. One of his best-known films, *Ashes and Diamonds* (1958) was shown in the 1990 Berlinale *Retrospective*.

Andrzej Wajda was a member of the Berlinale International Jury in 2000, and was awarded the Honorary Golden Bear for Lifetime Achievement at the 2006 festival.

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