

THE COLDEST GAME

Spies, the Cold War and the race between two superpowers - Łukasz Kośmicki's *The Coldest Game*, Watchout Studio's latest feature, is a gripping spy-thriller taking us to a unique setting of the Palace of Culture and Science in the '60s, where the eponymous game takes place. The international star-studded cast includes Bill Pullman, Robert Więckiewicz, Lotte Verbeek and Aleksey Serebryakov. The film is scheduled to hit theaters on 8th November 2019.

The Coldest Game takes us behind the scenes of grand international politics and the timeless conflict between two superpowers. During the Cold War, the American secret service kidnap's a genius mathematician and make him play a chess match against a Soviet champion. The international tournament taking place inside the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw turns out to be merely a cover for a spy game in which preventing a nuclear conflict is at stake.

Award-winning filmmakers and acclaimed actors active in international cinema were involved in making the film. The protagonist is played by Bill Pullman (*Independence Day*, *Lost Highway*). Robert Więckiewicz (*The Mighty Angel*, *In Darkness*) appears as the general manager of the Palace of Culture and Science. The cast also includes, among others, Lotte Verbeek (*Nothing Personal*, *Outlander*), James Bloor (*Dunkirk*), Aleksey Serebryakov (*Leviathan*) and Corey Johnson (*Captain Phillips*, *Bourne's Ultimatum*).

The Coldest Game is Łukasz Kośmicki's directorial debut. He has won Golden Lions for the script he penned for *The Dark House*. The gripping plot and top-notch acting are complemented by Cesar-winning Paweł Edelman's (*The Pianist*, *Walesa. Man of Hope*) cinematography and Oscar-winning Allan Starski's (*Schindler's List*, *Aftermath*) set design. Watchout Studio (*Gods*, *The Art of Loving. The Story of Michalina Wislocka*) handles the production. Wojciech Smarzowski exercises artistic supervision of the film.

The partners of *The Coldest Game* are the capital city of Warsaw and the Management Board of the Palace of Culture and Science Ltd. The film is co-financed by the Polish Film Institute. Hyde Park International is the international sales agent. The worldwide distribution is coordinated by K5 Film, and the domestic by NEXT FILM. The film was shot in Poland.



ONE MOVE CAN CHANGE HISTORY

The world holds its breath - a chess tournament in the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw is supposed to decide the fate of an international conflict. The tournament turns out to be a cover for a spy game between two superpowers.

It's the early '60s. The American Dream is turning into a nightmare, as Soviet forces are sailing towards Cuba and Nikita Khrushchev is threatening the USA with a nuclear attack. Tensions between the USA and the USSR are reaching a boiling point. In Warsaw, two grandmasters are preparing for a chess game: an American and a Russian. It's not going to be your usual game, for not only are the grandmasters participating in the game, but also U.S. and Soviet military counterintelligence agencies.

The world holds its breath in fear of a nuclear war, while an unprecedented event takes place in Warsaw, in the Palace of Culture and Science's Congress Hall.

The tournament's participants and spectators experience moments of terror at the very beginning of the competition, when it turns out there's one person missing in John Konigsberg's team... and it's John Konigsberg himself. He died suddenly three days before the game and was replaced by Joshua Mansky - that's how the world reminds

itself of the chess wunderkind from the mid 20th century. The fate of the game is in balance up until the very end.

What will happen during this meeting? Who will turn out to be the real winner? One thing is certain: Joshua Mansky is going to play the game of his lifetime, a game determining the fate of the world.

“The Coldest Game is a spy-thriller/political fiction film. Our goal wasn't to evoke direct comparisons or parallels to the current socio-political events, but to tell an exciting story. The spy plotline, tensions between two superpowers and the risk of a nuclear conflict are topics that, despite the passage of time, don't lose relevance.

- Łukasz Kośmicki, director and scriptwriter





WHO HAS JOINED THE GAME?

Bill Pullman

JOSHUA MANSKY

An American actor known from such films as *Independence Day*, *Lost Highway*, *Sleepless in Seattle* and *Spaceballs*. He has worked with David Lynch, Lawrence Kasdan, Nora Ephron, and Rob Reiner. Pullman has more than 90 exceptional roles under his belt. He was honored with the Excellence Award at the Locarno Film Festival (2016). Pullman was nominated for the Critics' Choice Television Award (2018) and Screen Actors Guild Award (2019) for his portrayal of detective Harry Ambrose in the lauded crime series *The Sinner*. His second passion, right after acting, is construction, which he studied in college. He uses his technical abilities by working for local communities. He has built a barn, which serves as headquarters for a community center. Bill Pullman works with Cornerstone Theatre in Los Angeles and Concerned Citizens organization from Montana. He also actively supports St. James Hospital as well as Alfred University, both from his hometown – Hornell, New York.

Robert Więckiewicz

ALFRED ŚLĘGA,
THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE
PALACE OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE

One of the most renowned Polish actors. He has worked with the best contemporary Polish directors, including: Juliusz Machulski (*Vinci, How Much Does The Trojan Horse Weigh?*), Wojciech Smarzowski (*The Dark House, The Mighty Angel*), Agnieszka

Holland (*In Darkness*), Marek Kotowski (*Baby są jakieś inne*). In *Walesa. Man of Hope* by Andrzej Wajda, where he portrayed the legendary leader of "Solidarity". He has won four Polish Film Awards, two Gdynia Film Festival awards, and several international awards at such events as the Chicago International Film Festival and the Tokyo International Film Festival. In 2014 he was honoured with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Resituta. He started his career in theatre, where he worked with such directors as Grzegorz Jarzyna and Krzysztof Warlikowski.

Lotte Verbeek

ELEANOR STONE

Known for her starring roles in *The Borgias* and *Outlander*, Verbeek made her debut in a film called *Left*, in which she played five different characters. She was nominated for a European Film Award and won awards on festivals in Locarno and Marrakech. She is also known for her appearances in *The Last Witch Hunter*, *The Fault in Our Stars*, and *Nothing Personal* by Urszula Antoniak. She comes from the Netherlands, however for the past few years her career has been gaining momentum mainly in Hollywood. Verbeek is also an excellent dancer and a polyglot fluent in five languages.

James Bloor

BRIAN WHITE

A Cambridge University graduate, known to wider audiences for his

appearances in Christopher Nolan's blockbuster *Dunkirk* and the horror *Leatherface*, which is a prequel to *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*.

Aleksey Serebryakov

GENNADY STEPANOVICH KRUTOV

One of the most popular actors of Russian descent, Aleksey Serebryakov is known for such films as the award-winning *Leviathan*, *9th Company*, *Cargo 200* and *Once Upon a Time There Lived a Simple Woman*. For years Serebryakov worked with two famous Russian theatres: Oleg Tabakov and Lenkom.

Corey Johnson

DONALD NOVAK

Active in the film business for over 25 years, Johnson has worked with such directors as Steven Spielberg, Ridley Scott and Paul Greengrass. He has acted in many high-profile films, such as *Jackie*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *X-Men: First Class*, *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, *Captain Phillips*, *The Mummy* and *United 93*. In 2007 he made his Broadway debut in *Frost/Nixon*. Born in New Orleans in 1961, he currently lives in London. His recent films include *Hunter Killer* and *The Titan*.

Nicholas Farrell

GRISWALD MORAN

A British actor known for his exciting theatre roles, as well as performances in both cinema and TV shows. His filmography includes the Oscar-winning *Chariots of Fire* and the blockbuster *Pearl Harbor*. Highly acclaimed for his performance as Horace in Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet*, he is also famous for his appearances in *The Iron Lady*, *Bloody Sunday* and *Legionnaire*.

Yevgeny Sidikhin

ALEXANDER GAVRYLOV

An actor well known to Russian audiences. He has appeared in such films as: *A Woman in Berlin*, *Dark Planet*, and *Leningrad*. Born in 1964 in Petersburg, he's an actor and a presenter. In 1989, he graduated from the Department of Drama and Dramatic Arts at the Leningrad State Institute of Theatre, Music and Cinematography (now in Petersburg, Russia). In his junior years he was a very successful martial artist.



A SYMBOL OF AN ERA: THE PALACE OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE

The film is set in The Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw. It becomes a silent witness to the eponymous game. The ever-present mystery of the place, its undiscovered rooms and secret passages, which rarely can be seen in other films, will make the Palace become an icon to its times once again. Through Allan Starski's production design and Paweł Edelman's lens, the Palace of Culture stands as one of the protagonists of this electrifying game.

The Palace of Culture and Science has always been at the centre of events and history, thus becoming the symbol of a postwar rebuilt Warsaw. The decision to construct the Palace was made in the capital of the Soviet world, by Josef Stalin himself. It was designed by the architect Lev Rudnev. In the words of Prime Minister Jozef Cyrankiewicz, it's been "radiating over Warsaw" since 1955. The marble used for finishing the building's interiors was brought from the Ural Mountains, the Caucasus, and the Świętokrzyskie Mountains.

The Coldest Game is set in a number of rooms, corridors, as well as in never-before-seen canals and the Palace's secret passages.

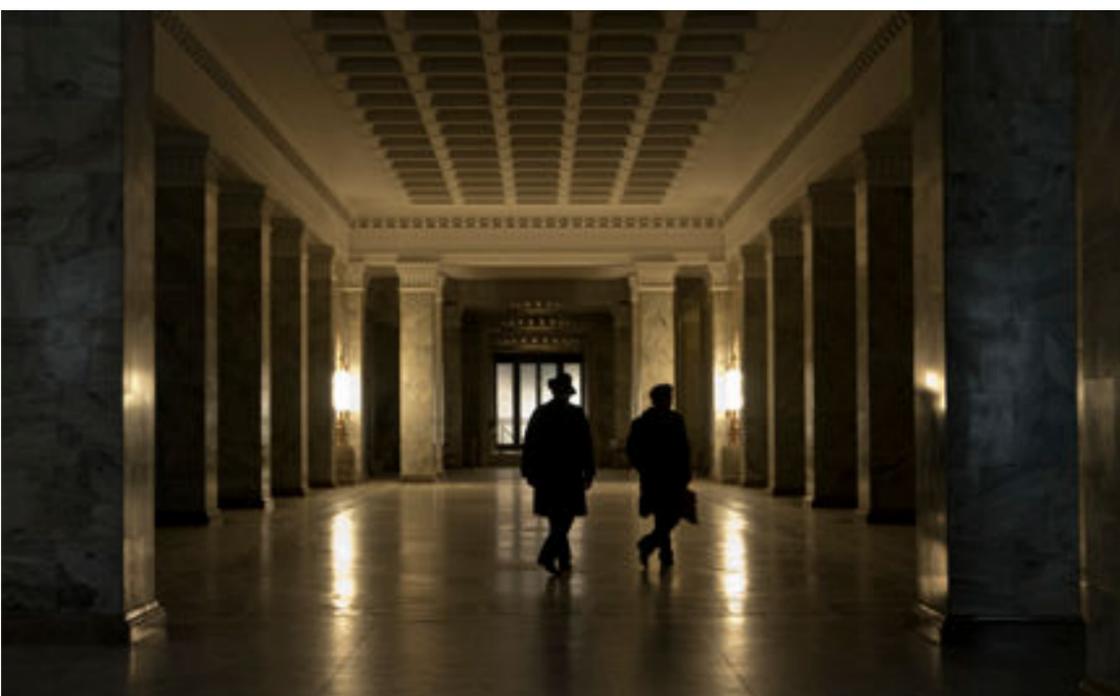
THE PALACE OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE IS STILL THE TALLEST BUILDING IN POLAND.

THE FULL HEIGHT, FROM THE GROUND TO THE TOP OF THE SPIRE: 237 METERS.

THE BUILDING HAS 46 STORIES AND 3288 ROOMS.

3500 SOVIET AND 4000 POLISH WORKERS WERE EMPLOYED IN CONSTRUCTING THE BUILDING.

34 MILLION BRICKS AND 50 THOUSAND TONS OF STEEL WERE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION.



WHO IS WHO IN THE GAME OF LIFE AND DEATH?

NAME: JOSHUA
SURNAME: MANSKY
OCCUPATION: EX CHESS PLAYER AND A SCIENTIST, CURRENTLY A LECTURER
AGE: AROUND 60
HEIGHT: 185 CM
PLACE OF BIRTH: USA



A brilliant mind: a naturally talented chess player, a math prodigy, but at the same time withdrawn and unpredictable, with a tendency to isolate himself. At the age of 27, he received the grandmaster title. Alcohol dependence has been observed, which significantly affects his behavior. We don't know how he will do in moments of crisis. Will he retain his rationality and clear sense of judgement? Last seen in a pub, near his place of residence, where he was approached by an attractive woman. Taken by the U.S. Secret Service, he is to replace Konigsberg who was supposed to represent the USA before dying under mysterious circumstances. However, the chess game is not his only challenge. Will the genius mathematician become the silent hero of the Cuban Missile Crisis?

NAME: DONALD
SURNAME: NOVAK
OCCUPATION: ATTACHE OF THE U.S EMBASSY IN WARSAW
AGE: AROUND 56
HEIGHT: 180 CM
PLACE OF BIRTH: USA



An ex-military man, currently posted in the American embassy in Warsaw. He knows the answer to every question before it's even asked. Skeptical of J. Mansky: "That's the guy that's supposed to win the Cold War for us?" May seem hostile at first.

NAME: JOHN
SURNAME: GIFT
OCCUPATION: AN OFFICER OF THE WARSAW PACT FORCES
AGE: NO DATA
HEIGHT: NO DATA
PLACE OF BIRTH: NO DATA

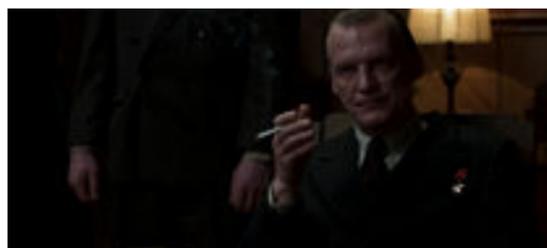
The real data on him is unknown. A Soviet intelligence operative, probably providing Americans with information on the USSR's plans of installing nuclear warheads in Cuba. Due to exposure which resulted in the expulsion of a few employees of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, it's been decided to cease all contact with John Gift. Warsaw may be the new point of contact. His life is in extreme danger...

NAME: ALFRED
SURNAME: ŚLEGA
OCCUPATION: THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE PALACE OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE IN WARSAW
AGE: ABOUT 50
HEIGHT: 178 CM
PLACE OF BIRTH: POLAND



A member of the Polish Socialist Party before the war, an ex-soldier of Armia Ludowa (The People's Army), currently the general manager of the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw. His task is to attend to the needs of the guests of the chess game. He has the unique gift of winning people over. Ślega demonstrates a tendency to befriend Americans over vodka, and his unusual kindness gains him J. Mansky's trust.

NAME: GENNADY STEPANOVICH
SURNAME: KRUTOV
OCCUPATION: MAJOR GENERAL OF THE USSR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE
AGE: AROUND 55
HEIGHT: 175 CM
PLACE OF BIRTH: USSR



The General of Soviet counterintelligence is feared even by his colleagues. He is a member of the official USSR chess delegation. Tough, relentless and cruel. He is a firm believer in the communist cause. In his own words: "Truth will always be on our side". His task is to identify the spy amongst the officers of the Warsaw Pact.

NAME: BRIAN
SURNAME: WHITE
OCCUPATION: U.S. SECRET SERVICE AGENT
AGE: AROUND 28
HEIGHT: 178 CM
PLACE OF BIRTH: USA



A young, inexperienced U.S. secret service agent, determined and dedicated to the cause. His significance in the game gradually increases. He may have a special mission to accomplish during the chess game. Because of his limited experience and the weight of the task, his vigilance as well as his ability to assess the situation might be weakened. He is the one that must get in contact with the Russian informer. This absorbs him so much that he doesn't notice a grave threat which is closer than he thinks.

NAME: ALEXANDER
SURNAME: GAVRYLOV
OCCUPATION: CHESS PLAYER
AGE: AROUND 53
HEIGHT: 192 CM
PLACE OF BIRTH: USSR



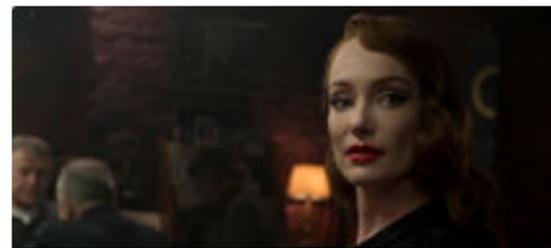
A famous Soviet chess grandmaster, forced to accept humiliation from the authorities, capable of playing rough. In Warsaw he is playing against J. Mansky. During the game he is focused and collected, but reacts very nervously to the change of player on the American side. When he loses a game, he flips his chair, storming off stage. Is it just a pretense and the truth about him will turn out to be different?

NAME: GRISWALD
SURNAME: MORAN
OCCUPATION: THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION
AGE: AROUND 63
HEIGHT: 175 CM
PLACE OF BIRTH: USA



A chess aficionado suddenly caught up in a complicated intrigue and a war between two intelligence agencies, which he is unaware of. Responsible for ensuring that the Warsaw tournament goes off without a hitch.

NAME: ELEANOR
SURNAME: STONE
OCCUPATION: U.S. SECRET SERVICE AGENT
AGE: AROUND 36
HEIGHT: 168 CM
PLACE OF BIRTH: USA



An experienced U.S. secret service agent - cold and disciplined. However, she can also be seductive and feminine, for example when recruiting Mansky in a lowly pub, to whom she will later say: "We wouldn't have been able to do it without you. There is still hope". She participates in the brutal events in the Palace of Culture. Is it possible that she is putting on a cruel act?



WHO HAS MADE THE KEY MOVE?

Łukasz Kościcki

DIRECTOR, AUTHOR OF THE SCRIPT

A director, award-winning cinematographer, a scriptwriter, and Lodz Film School graduate. For the script of the film *The Dark House*, he received the Best Script Award at the Gdynia Film Festival. His cinematography for the films *Poznan '56* and *Street Games* won him an award at the 21st Gdynia Film Festival. The script for *The Dark House* and the cinematography for *Gniew* earned him nominations at the Polish Film Awards. He won Polityka's Passport (an annual prestigious Polish award presented by the weekly magazine *Polityka*) in the Film category. An acclaimed creator of over five hundred ads produced on five continents.

Paweł Edelman

CINEMATOGRAPHY

A highly acclaimed Polish cinematographer. Nominated for an Academy Award and a BAFTA for Polański's *The Pianist*. In 2005 he won a Hollywood Film Award in the "Cinematographer of the Year" category. Edelman has won a Cesar, Eagles statues at Polish Film Awards, as well as Golden Lions at Gdynia Film Festival. He has worked with Andrzej Wajda, Roman Polański and Władysław Pasikowski. He graduated culture studies from Lodz University and cinematography from the Lodz Film School.

Allan Starski

PRODUCTION DESIGN

The man behind the production designs of many renowned features and theatre plays. He won an Academy Award and the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards for the production design in *Schindler's List*, as well as other film awards, such as a Cesar for *The Pianist* and Polish Film Awards for the *Pianist*, *Pan Tadeusz* and *Aftermath*. Starski was awarded a Golden Frog at the Camerimage Festival. He has worked with Faith Akin, Andrzej Wajda, Krzysztof Kiesłowski, Agnieszka Holland, Roman Polański and Władysław Pasikowski. He was honored with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Resituta and Gloria Artis - the Medal of Merit to Culture. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw.

Ewa Gronowska

COSTUME DESIGN

A costume designer, two times nominated for Polish Film Awards in the Discovery of the Year category for *Gods* (2015) and *The Art of Loving. The Story of Michalina Wislocka* (2018). She has worked on over 20 productions. Her film costume

design credits include *Panic Attack*, *Jak Pies z Kotem* and *The New World*.

Ewa Drobiec

MAKE-UP ARTIST

A make-up artist who has worked on several dozen Polish film productions. She is credited for make-up in Wojciech Smarzowski's films. Her work on the film *Volhynia* won her a Golden Lions award at the Gdynia Film Festival.

Agnieszka Hodowana

MAKE-UP ARTIST

A make-up artist who gained experience by working on such productions as *Katryń*, *Demon*, *Body* and *Baby Bump*. In 2014, her work on *Gods* won her an award at the Gdynia Film Festival. She completed Neill Gorton's special effects course in Great Britain.

Magdalena Malisz

HEAD OF PRODUCTION

She was the head of production of the Oscar-winning *Ida*, the feature film *Memories of Summer* and *Zbrodnia* TV series. She worked on Paweł Pawlikowski's *The Cold War*. Malisz debuted in the film business on the set of Andrzej Żuławski's *Szamanka*. Since then, she has worked on such productions as: *The Congress*, *Ewa*, *November*, *Past Life*, *I Am Lying Now*.

Piotr Woźniak-Starak

PRODUCER

The founder of the Watchout Studio production company. He worked on *Gods* as the producer, and on *The Art of Loving. The Story of Michalina Wislocka* as the executive producer. These films have received, among other awards, Golden Lions at Gdynia Film Festival, Eagle statues at the Polish Film Awards, an award for the Best Producer at the PKO Off Camera Festival in 2015, and Golden Tapes by Polish Filmmakers Association. He graduated from Emerson College in Boston and Parsons in New York.

Krzysztof Terej

PRODUCER

A board member of Watchout Studio, the co-producer of *Gods* and the producer of *The Art of Loving. The Story of Michalina Wislocka*. He graduated from the law and psychology faculties from the Kozminski University in Warsaw.

Daniel Baur

PRODUCER

Producer of K5 Film and co-founder of K5 Media Group. Besides *The Coldest Game* he finished production on *JILL* directed by Stephen Hayes starring Tom Pelphrey, Juliet Rylance and Dree Hemingway. Before that he produced the feature film *Anon* directed by Andrew Niccol (*Gattaca*, *In Time*) and starring Clive Owen and Amanda Seyfried. He is the executive producer of the following films: Martin Zandvilet's *Land of Mine* (nominated for Academy Award in the Best Foreign Language Film category) and Jim Jarmusch's *Paterson*. He lived and worked in Los Angeles for many years, being responsible to produce films for K5 Film.

Justyna Pawlak

LINE PRODUCER

Pawlak graduated from the University of Silesia in Katowice with a Master of Arts degree in Film & TV Production, as well as from the Film Academy in Cracow. She gained professional experience on all levels of production while working on numerous feature films, tv and commercial productions. *Munich*, *Get Low* and *True Crimes* are among her international production credits.

Marcel Sawicki

AUTHOR OF THE SCRIPT

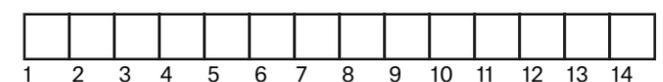
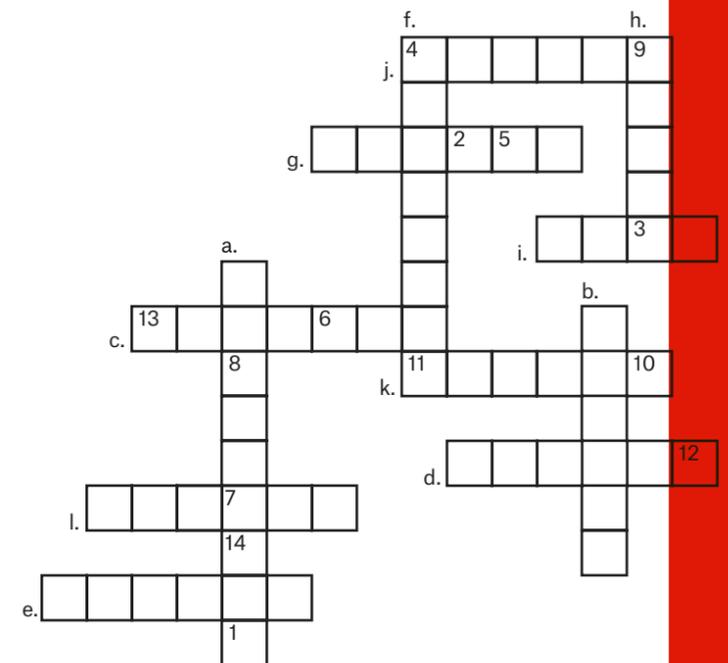
Marcel Sawicki is a director and scriptwriter of Polish descent. He works both in Polish and American markets. He has created several short films, ads and music videos. His films have won numerous awards on prestigious festivals. *The Loneliness of the Short-Order Cook* premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and received the Audience Award at the Gdynia Film Festival. He divides his time between Los Angeles and Warsaw.

Łukasz Targosz

MUSIC

A film score composer and a music producer. He graduated from the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice in the Jazz and Popular Music Department. Targosz scored such films as *Planet Single*, all the films in the *Letters to Santa* series, as well as both seasons of two HBO Poland series: *The Pact* and *The Border*.

CROSSWORD



Fill in the grid for solution

- Jackie's famous husband's occupation.
- Alluring and deadly dangerous atoll.
- She was singing for Mr. President.
- Comrade Khrushchev.
- The city of columns, Fidel's home.
- A chess move involving a player's king and either of the player's original rooks.
- Clergy on a chessboard.
- If it was removed, Palace of Culture and Science would be 70 metres shorter.
- Old-fashioned way — ... with swords.
- A time of intense difficulty or danger.
- A chess opening in which a player sacrifices material with the hope of achieving an advantageous position.
- Should not be crossed without appropriate documents.

HYDE PARK INTERNATIONAL

Hyde Park International is a company known to the entertainment industry all around the world, run by award-winning Ashok Amritraj. Its portfolio consists of commercial hits, such as *Ghost Rider* or *Machete*, as well as the critically acclaimed films: *99 Homes* and *Blue Valentine*.

K5

K5 Film is part of K5 Media Group, which is a rapidly growing company specializing in developing, selling and producing international English language feature films. It was founded by producers with impressive track records – Oliver Simon and Daniel Baur. K5 Film is headquartered in Munich. K5 worked with many known directors together like for example Jim Jarmusch, Mira Nair, Bille August, Tom McCarthy and Andrew Niccol.

WATCHOUT STUDIO

Watchout Studio is a production house founded in 2007, run by Piotr Woźniak-Starak and Krzysztof Terej. Its credits include six feature films, a TV show in production, as well as over 100 advertisements. The most important titles: *Gods* (2,2 million viewers) and *The Art of Loving. The Story of Michalina Wislocka* (1,8 million viewers), both of which garnered awards at festivals in Gdynia, Camerimage and the Polish Film Awards.

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