

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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SUMMER FILM SERIES FEATURES WASHINGTON PREMIERE OF "CAGE/CUNNINGHAM"
AND RETROSPECTIVE OF WORKS BY POLISH DIRECTOR ANDRZEJ WAJDA

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- The National Gallery of Art will open its 1992 summer film series on July 12 with the Washington premiere of Cage/Cunningham. On August 1, the Gallery will begin the most extensive film retrospective ever presented in the United States of the work of Poland's greatest filmmaker, Andrzej Wajda.

Cage/Cunningham, a 95-minute film on the creative partnership of two of this century's most influential artists, composer John Cage and choreographer Merce Cunningham, frequent collaborators with visual artists Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns on film, will be introduced by its director, Elliott Caplan. Since 1977 he has worked with Merce Cunningham and the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in New York. The film, which took eight years to complete, blends diverse material: commentary from Rauschenberg and Johns about their own collaborations with Cunningham and Cage; dance footage in video and film formats, including extraordinary archival images from the Cunningham repertoire; home movies; and television interviews. Through the sensitivity of its editing, the film reflects the Cage/Cunningham aesthetic of decentered space and chance movement.

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Following on the exchange of paintings organized by the Gallery with the Polish Ministry of Culture and Art, a survey of films by Wajda, which constitutes nearly his entire oeuvre, will begin on August 1 and continue through October 4. It will include a number of Washington and United States premieres of Wajda's work. On Saturday, September 26, and Sunday, September 27, Wajda will be present to discuss his vocation and to introduce the world premiere of his latest film, The Horsehair Ring, still in production.

Andrzej Wajda was born in 1926 in Suwalki in northeast Poland. The son of a cavalry officer killed in the Katyn Forest in World War II, he joined the Resistance at sixteen. After the war, he studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow, but in 1950 decided on a film career and enrolled at the film school in Lodz. Wajda's first three films, completed between 1954 and 1958, established him as a filmmaker of international renown.

In Polish society the filmmaker holds a uniquely distinguished position, and Polish cinema, besides providing entertainment, reflects the spirit of the people and the history of the country. Many of Wajda's most memorable films, for example Kanal (1957), Ashes and Diamonds (1958), Man of Marble (1976), and Man of Iron (1981), depict landmark events in Poland's past.

Polish cinema is also noted for its close connections with literature. Many of Wajda's films are based on important novels or plays. Among these are: The Wedding (1973) from Stanislaw Wyspianski's classic verse drama; The Promised Land (1974) from an 1899 novel by Nobel Prize winner Wladyslaw Reymont; Danton (1982) from Stanislaw Przybyszewska's modern play; and The Birch Wood (1970) from a story by Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz. In addition to his employment of literary themes, Wajda exploits through his flamboyant visual

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style his early training as a painter.

The Polish film series has been organized in association with the Polish Ministry of Culture and Art, Film Polski, the Embassy of Poland, and the American University Media Center. Most of the films are in Polish with English subtitles. A complete schedule of the summer film series follows:

July 12 at 6:00 <u>Cage/Cunningham</u> (1991, 95 min.) (Introduction and discussion with the filmmaker)	August 23 at 6:00 <u>The Wedding</u> (1973, 106 min.) <u>The Shadow Line</u> (1976, 110 min., English dialogue)
July 29 to August 1 at 12:30; August 2 at 1:00 <u>Signed: Andrzej Wajda</u> (1988 documentary on the director)	August 29 at 2:00 <u>Man of Marble</u> (1976, 165 min.)
August 1 at 2:00 <u>A Generation</u> (1955, 90 min.) <u>Kanal</u> (1957, 97 min.)	August 30 at 6:00 <u>Man of Iron</u> (1981, 156 min.)
August 2 at 6:00 <u>I Walk to the Sun</u> (1955, 14 min., original version, no subtitles) <u>Ashes and Diamonds</u> (1958, 106 min.)	September 5 at 2:00 <u>The Maids of Wilko</u> (1979, 116 min.) <u>Orchestra Conductor</u> (1980, 102 min.)
August 8 at 2:00 <u>Lotna</u> (1959, 89 min.) <u>Innocent Sorcerers</u> (1960, 86 min.)	September 6 at 6:00 <u>Without Anesthesia</u> (1978, 130 min.)
August 9 at 6:00 <u>Samson</u> (1961, 117 min.) <u>Landscape After Battle</u> (1970, 109 min.)	September 12 at 2:00 <u>The Possessed</u> (1988, 112 min.) <u>Crime and Punishment</u> (1990, video, c. 90 min., no subtitles)
August 15 at 2:00 <u>Siberian Lady Macbeth</u> (1962, 94 min.) <u>The Birch Wood</u> (1970, 99 min.)	September 13 at 6:00 <u>A Love in Germany</u> (1983, 100 min.)
August 16 at 6:00 <u>Everything for Sale</u> (1968, 105 min.)	September 19 at 2:00 <u>Chronicle of a Love Affair</u> (1985, 100 min.) <u>The November Night</u> (1978, video, 89 min., no subtitles)
August 22 at 2:00 <u>The Promised Land</u> (1974, 170 min.)	

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September 20 at 6:00
Danton (1982, 136 min.)

September 26 at 2:00
September 27 at 6:00
The Horsehair Ring
(Andrzej Wajda will be present
to introduce the film and
discuss his work)

October 4 at 6:00
Korczak (1990, 113 min.)
Hamlet IV (1991, video, c. 90
min., no subtitles)

All films will be shown free of charge in the Gallery's East Building
auditorium at Fourth Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W. on a first-come,
first-served basis. For more information or to request a film series schedule
listing call (202) 737-4215.

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