

In Competition - Berlinale Encounters

KILL IT AND LEAVE THIS TOWN

by Mariusz Wilczyński

Written and directed by Mariusz Wilczyński
Produced by Ewa Puszczyńska, Agnieszka Ścibior
A Bombonierka Production

Production country: Poland

Language: Polish Film length: 88 min

International sales:

Paul Hudson / Outsider Pictures paul@outsiderpictures.us

Director Mariusz Wilczynski's official website: www.wilkwilk.pl

Official film website: https://killit.film



SYNOPSIS

Fleeing from despair after losing those dearest to him, the hero hides in a safe land of memories, where time stands still and all those dear to him are alive. Over the years, a city grows in his imagination. One day, literary heroes and cartoon childhood idols, who in the consciousness of the successive generations are forever young and wearing short pants, come to live there, uninvited. When our hero discovers they have all grown old and that eternal youth does not exist, he decides to return to real life. And the amazing characters living in his imagination lead him back to the real world.

KILL IT AND LEAVE THIS TOWN is director Mariusz Wilczynski's debut feature film starring voice cast Krystyna Janda (Elle, Decalogue, A Short Film About Killing), Andrzej Chyra (United States of Love, In the Name of), Maja Ostaszewska (In the Name of, The Pianist, Schindler's List), Małgorzata Kożuchowska (Hania) as well as director Andrzej Wajda and international supermodel and activist Anja Rubik. Produced by Agnieszka Scibior and Ewa Puszczyńska (Ida, Cold War).

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When my loved ones were suddenly gone, I was left with a sense of void, alone, completely lost.

I have carried "Kill It and Leave This Town" around with me for a very long time. And working on this film took a guarter of my life.

In it, I once again wanted to meet my parents and a friend I had no time to say goodbye to. I did not have time to kiss and hug them before they died, to tell them I loved them,

because I was always running consumed by my own, often trivial, matters of everyday life.

But "Kill It and Leave This Town" is not just an intimate story about unfinished conversations with my mum and dad; not just a longing for a friend. It is also a portrait of the city I come from, the city I remember. Gray, gloomy, full of chimneys, proletarian and yet beautiful. The city that attracts and repels. The city that I love.

I also wanted to keep alive the artists who were important to me. Who created the world of my imagination? The world of values I sometimes fail to find today. Values which clearly state that not everything is for sale.

(...)

My film is about us, the way we were. The people we no longer are but who we would really like to be once again.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

A self-taught artist who has been creating animated auteur cinema for over twenty years. Retrospectives of his films were held, among others, at MoMA in New York, National Museum of Brasília, Tokyo International Forum and The National Museum in Warsaw. His animations were shown at the National Gallery in London and at Berlinale. He also realises improvised live animation performances which he co-creates with symphony orchestras from Hong Kong, Paris, Tokyo, Geneva, Lviv and Warsaw. In 2007, the New York Times called him "one of the most important contemporary creators of artistic animation." He is a professor of animation at the Film School in Łódź.

For the last 11 years, he has been working on "Kill It and Leave This Town."

FILMOGRAPHY

Kill It and Leave this Town (2020) - Debut feature film

Short Films:

Kizi Mizi (2007)

Death to Five / Śmierć na pięć (2005)

Unfortunately / Niestety (2004)

In the Stillness of the Night / Wśród nocnej ciszy (2000)

For My Mother and Me / Mojej Mamie i sobie (2000)

From the Green Hill / Mojej Mamie i sobie (1999)

Chop, Chop, Chopin... / Szop, Szop, Szop, Szope... (1999)

Times Have Passed / Czasy przeszły (1998)

Allegro ma non troppo (1998)

RETROSPECTIVES

2006	Anthology Film Archives w Nowym Jorku University of Michigan, Lorch Hall, Ann Arbor, Detroit, USA
2007	MoMA / The Museum of Modern Art , New York Babylon Kreuzberg, Berlin, Germany Pretoria Art Museum / South Africa
2009	National Museum of Brasil
2010	Toronto Animated Image Society, School of Image Arts, Ryerson University, Toronto, Kanada
2014	Pera Museum Istambul, Turkey Tokyo International Forum, Japan 25th Ankara Film Festival, Ankara, Turkey
2016	19th Holland Animation Film Festival, Utrecht, Holland
2017	40th Mill Valley Film Festival, San Francisco, USA
2018	14th World International Animated Film Festival 2018, Bulgaria Gobelins, l'École de l'image, Paris, France
2019	37th Bergamo Film Meeting, Auditorium di Piazza Libertà, Bergamo, Italy

FULL CREDITS

Written and Directed By Mariusz Wilczyński

Music By Tadeusz Nalepa

Produced By Bombonierka

In Co-Production With
National Film Archive – Audiovisual Institute
Adam Mickiewicz Institute
Ec1 Łódź - City Of Culture
Letko
Nolabel
Di Factory
Gigant Films

Co-Financed By
The Polish Film Institute

Starring (Voices)
Janek's mother - Krystyna Janda

Janek's father - Andrzej Chyra

Janek - Maja Ostaszewska

Fishmonger's shop assistant - Małgorzata Kożuchowska

Mariuszek's mother when old - Barbara Krafftówna

Mariuszek's mother when young - Anna Dymna

Mariuszek's father - Marek Kondrat

Mariuszek's alter-ego - Gustaw Holoubek

Old woman on the train - Irena Kwiatkowska

Old men on the train - Andrzej Wajda, Marek Kondrat

Conductor's voice on the train - Tomasz Stańko

Tadziu - Tadeusz Nalepa

Mariuszek - Mariusz Wilczyński

Behemot - Daniel Olbrychski

Woland, and Berlioz's severed head - Zbigniew Rybczyński

Girl's mother on the tram - Magdalena Cielecka

Wacław - Krzysztof Kowalewski

Newspaper kiosk lady - Anja Rubik

Level-crossing attendant - Hanna Kosińska - Hartowicz

Old lady looking for her dog - Kazimiera Hejnowicz - Kosińska

Boy's mother on the tram - Grażyna Dramowicz-Nalepa

Girl on the tram - Zoja Sołdacka, Weronika Pieniążek, Helenka Pabisiak, Kalina Zakrocka

Old lady's voice on the train - Helena Norowicz

Sound of whistling at the seaside - Michał Serwa

Voice on the radio at the beach - Jan Ciszewski

Megaphone voice nr. 1 - Hanna Kosińska-Hartowicz

Megaphone voice nr. 2 - Wojciech Tomczyk

Megaphone voice nr. 3 - Janusz Kondratiuk

Megaphone voice nr. 4 - Zbigniew Rybczyński

Sound of steps in the city - Bogdan Loebl

Sound of whistling in the city - Piotr Nalepa

Screenplay Mariusz Wilczyński

Art Director, Character And Design Mariusz Wilczyński

Art Supervisor
Piotr Szczepanowicz
Editing
Jarosław Barzan Psm

Sound

Franciszek Kozłowski

Colour Correction
Paweł Edelman

Leading Animator Agata Gorządek, Jakub Wroński

Executive Production Extreme Emotions

Executive Producer Łucja Kędzior-Samodulska

Producers

Ewa Puszczyńska, Agnieszka Ścibior