

CULTURE

In the area of culture in 2019, entities of Agora Group supported cultural and readership projects and initiated a number of events centred around books, films and creators in Czerska 8/10 Premiere Centre.

NAGRODA LITERACKA NIKE (NIKE LITERARY AWARD)



Nike Literary Award is presented annually in October for the best book published in the previous year. The main idea behind the award is to promote Polish literature. The contest open to all literary genres, is organized by NIKE Foundation and *Gazeta Wyborcza*, and the prize is funded by Agora Foundation. In 2019 the shortlist contained four novels, two books of reportage and one biography – by young and established writers. The selection, out of hundreds of titles, was made by the jury: Teresa Bogucka, Agata Dowgird, Maryla Hopfinger, Dariusz Kosiński, Anna Nasiłowska, Antoni Pawlak, Paweł Próchniak, Joanna Szczęsna and Marek Zaleski (Chair). The winner of 23rd Nike is Mariusz Szczygieł – his collection of reportage *Nie ma* was selected as the best book of the year. Mariusz Szczygieł was also the recipient of Readers' Nike, selected through a poll in *Gazeta Wyborcza*. Winners receive a prize of 100 thousand zł and NIKE statuette designed by Gustaw Zemła. Other finalists of 23rd Nike Literary Award were: Ota Pavel. *Pod powierzchnią* by Aleksander Kaczorowski (Czarne, Wołowiec; biography), *Prymityw. Epopeja narodowa* by Marcin Kołodziejczyk (Wielka Litera, Warsaw; novel), *Błoto słodsze niż miód* Małgorzata Rejmer (Czarne, Warsaw; reportage), *Krótką wymiana ognia* by Zyta Rudzka (WAB, Warsaw; novel), *Turysta polski w ZSRR* by Juliusz Strachota (korporacja ha!art., Kraków; novel), and *Królestwo* by Szczepan Twardoch (Wydawnictwo Literackie, Kraków; novel). The winner of 2018 Nike was Marcin Wicha for *Rzeczy których nie wyrzuciłem*. More: Nike.org.pl

AMS PRZYSTANEK: WAJDA

| 8

cities with AMS shelters presenting the works of
Andrzej Wajda



From Szczecin to Kraków, films of Andrzej Wajda spoke about history on AMS shelters. Andrzej Wajda followed previous year's Stanisław Wyspiański and literary themes from the works of Joseph Conrad or Stanisław Lem. National Museum in Kraków dedicated an exhibition to the film-maker. The choice of locations for Wajda-themed shelters was not accidental. The displays were installed in cities whose history – sometimes tumultuous – was told in the films of Wajda. Iconic scenes from the director's creations framed in the urban surroundings were displayed in Szczecin, Gdańsk, Poznań, Warsaw, Łódź, Wrocław, Katowice and Kraków. AMS is the originator and funder of *Przystanek WAJDA*.

CENTRUM PREMIER CZERSKA 8/10 (8/10 CZERSKA PREMIERE CENTRE)

| 8

events of 8/10 Czerska Premiere Centre in 2019



8/10 Czerska Premiere Centre serves as a forum for creators and creative works in literature, film, theatre and music. Czerska Premiere events are organized by Gazeta Wyborcza in cooperation with Agora brands and held in Agora's Warsaw headquarters and streamed on Wyborcza.pl and in the social media. Admission to each event is free. Eight events were held in 2019, including: launch of the book *Czapkins. Historia Tomka Mackiewicza*, screening of *Mój kraj taki piękny* documentary, discussion about Catholic Church *Bez plebana*, meetings *Kora intymnie* in Warsaw and Kraków, premiere of a biography *Krzysztof Wielicki. Piekło mnie nie chciało* in Warsaw and Katowice, and a discussion of *Szczerze* a book by Donald Tusk featuring the author.

SCREENINGS OF WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY (KTO NAPISZE NASZĄ HISTORIĘ) - TITLE DISTRIBUTED BY NEXT FILM

| 50

screenings of Who Will Write Our History (Kto napisze naszą historię) in Poland



Special screenings of *Who Will Write Our History* were organized on 27 January 2019, International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The film, distributed in Poland by NEXT FILM, was made available to the public through over 50 screenings in Poland and over 300 abroad, including in Paris UNESCO office and Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. In Poland screenings were hosted by POLIN Museum of Polish Jews in Warsaw and in ŻIH, Jewish Historical Institute. The latter also opened an exhibition of the original Ringelblum Archive. *Who Will Write Our History* directed by Roberta Grossman is a hybrid documentary about a unique project – the secret Archive of Warsaw Ghetto created in 1940 by Emanuel Ringelblum. The archive documented the life in Warsaw Ghetto. The so-called Ringelblum Archive has been placed in UNESCO Memory of the World Register as a world heritage item. It is a unique collection of documents representing one of the most important testimonies of the extermination of Polish Jews. The main roles in the film are played by: Piotr Głowacki, Jowita Budnik, Karolina Gruszka and Wojciech Zieliński. Voiceover actors include: Oscar-winning Pianist Adrien Brody and three-time-Oscar-nominee Joan Allen (*The Contender*, *The Crucible*, *Nixon*). Born in Los Angeles, Roberta Grossman is the author of *Hannah Senesh: Blessed Is the Match* (2008), a documentary nominated for Oscar and Primetime Emmy Awards.

MURAL INSPIRED BY THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF KRZYSZTOF MILLER ON AGORA BUILDING



A special mural celebrating the works of Krzysztof Miller, photographer and journalist of *Gazeta Wyborcza*, was unveiled in September 2019. Created by Bruno Althamer on one of the side walls of Agora Warsaw office, Czerska 8/10, it features a selection of people

AGORA Report 2019

pictured by Miller in the photos documenting historical events and military conflicts around the world, including a teenage refugee in Georgia, a cyclist hopelessly struggling against gravity and victims of the conflict in Rwanda. In centre foreground the photographer with this back to the viewer is holding his camera to his eye. The mural commemorates the outstanding photographer Krzysztof Miller (1962-2016), a legend of war photojournalism and the author of many famous photographs. For over 25 years he photographed almost all armed conflicts in the world and historical events. He took photos, among others, in Afghanistan, Chechnya and Africa. He documented the coup in Romania, wars in Georgia and Bosnia, earthquake in Iran, Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia. Krzysztof Miller was associated with Gazeta Wyborcza since its inception; he became one of the first five photojournalists employed in the editorial office of the daily. For many years, together with Wojciech Jagielski, he created a reporter duo covering armed conflicts. The mural was designed by Bruno Althamer, the artist who also created the mural of Kora for Wysokie Obcasy campaign Women Icon On Walls. Krzysztof Miller is also celebrated through a photo competition organized by Gazeta since - Krzysztof Miller Prize for the Courage to Look.

POLISH FILM FESTIVAL HOSTED BY HELIOS GDYNIA

| 400

screenings in the Festival of Polish Cinema in Helios
Gdynia



Helios multiplex in Gdynia Riviera centre was the main festival venue for the general public of the 44th Polish Film Festival. During Poland's main film event viewers could

AGORA Report 2019

watch the newest domestic movie productions, observe the competitions and participate in the meetings of cinema fans with movie creators.

44th Polish Film Festival in Gdynia is a true celebration of Polish cinema. Throughout the six days between 16 and 21 September 2019, over 400 screenings took place in 15 theatres. For years the heart of the festival has been Gdynia Musical Theatre and the nearby Gdynia Film Centre. In 2019 for the first time Helios was the main festival cinema for the general public. It hosted screenings in the Main Competition. As many as 19 feature films competed for the prestigious Golden and Silver Lions, including: *Piłsudski*, *Ikar*, *Legenda Mietka Kosza* or *The Coldest Game*. The Festival also has a shorts competition, 27 feature shorts produced by Polish film schools and production companies competed for the main prize. There were also screenings outside the competition, including *Panorama of Polish Cinema*, films of Krzysztof Zanussi or Polonica with the best foreign productions with the participation of Polish filmmakers.

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of WW2, viewers were offered screenings of *Westerplatte* by Stanisław Różewicz, *Lotna* directed by Andrzej Wajda and *Orzeł* by Leonard Buczkowski. Lovers of classic cinema could watch digitally remastered copies of important Polish films. In Memoriam section contained films of recently deceased filmmakers, including: *Frantic* - director of photography Witold Sobociński, *Sól ziemi czarnej* - director Kazimierz Kutz, *Przesłuchanie* - director Ryszard Bugajski, *Zapis zbrodni* - by Andrzej Trzos-Rastawiecki or *Miś* with an unforgettable comedic turn from Zofia Czerwińska.

HELIOS AS A PARTNER OF WARSAW JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



Helios cinema chain was a partner of the 17th Camera of David Warsaw Jewish Film Festival. Some of the festival screenings were held in the state-of-the-art Helios multiplex in Blue City centre. Films showed in the festival promote the attitudes of tolerance, openness to differences and are an important element in the fight against xenophobia and anti-Semitism. In the past JFF introduced audiences to titles later recognized by the largest festivals around the world – winners of Oscars and Golden Lions. On 20-22 November 2019 Helios cinema in Blue City invited the public to the premiere of a documentary by Henri Dauman *Looking Up*, features: *Those Who Remained* and *Skin*,

AGORA Report 2019

and a French dramedy *My Polish Honeymoon*. Moreover, viewers also learned about the history of 6-year-old Jewish boy presented in *The Painted Bird*, watch a film about finding a place in Poland: *Złota Street* and *Today, Tomorrow... Yesterday* - a documentary about a family and difficult relations, with the war and Holocaust in the background. Admission to all screenings was free and required only to visit the cinema to collect the ticket on the day of screening.