



Tricks Sztuczki

Poland | 2007 | 96m | 12A | sub-titles

Director: Andrzej Jakimowski

Screenplay: Andrzej Jakimowski

Cinematography: Adam Bajerski

Editing: Cezary Grzesiuk

Original Music: Tomasz Gassowski

Leading Players: Damian UI, Ewelina Walendziak, Iwona Fornalczyk, Rafal Guniczak, Tomasz Sapryk

filmnote

Shot in the ageing location of Walbrzych, a small mining town in the former Communist ruled Lower Silesia, director Jakimowski perfectly evokes the sleepiness and drabness of this post-communist town through the fresh and imaginative eyes of a six year-old boy named Stefek; bringing with it a sense of wonder and seemingly magically crafted realism.

Stefek (UI) lives with his mother (who confines herself to the shop where she works) and his no-nonsense older sister Elka (Walendziak). With no friends his own age, and no father figure in his life, Stefek spends his time playing on the dusty railway tracks with his toys and hitching motorcycle rides with Jerzy (Guniczak), his sister's boyfriend.

The father's absence in the family is a sore point for Elka, who makes the decision to believe that there is no father in their family and there never was. Everything changes when Stefek spots a man at the train station he is convinced is his estranged father. The story develops as Stefek makes every attempt possible to regain contact with the man and get him back into the family circle.

Using a game he and his sister often play in which they attempt to twist fate in their favour, tricking the powers that be to make their lives better, Stefek works to make this reconnection happen by making his father get off at the local station and walk straight into his mother's shop. We cannot help but watch as Stefek's ingenious scheme (just like his neighbour's doves) takes unexpected flight.

The film's imagery is stunning thanks to cinematographer Bajersky, the colours are lush and a golden hue seems to ethereally frame each shot which is all the more brightened up by the performances, most notably Damian UI as the pugnacious Stefek who's incarnation of his character seems effortless, the on screen relationship between Stefek and Elka is entire-



what did you think of the film? please mark or tear your vote ▶

excellent A

please add further comments about the film or the festival here

B

fair C

D

poor E

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ly believable and watchable (The authenticity of their relationship stems from Jakimowski's own childhood experiences with his older sister). By using non-professional actors, Jakimowski seems able to draw his performers into comfortably fitting roles with natural interaction, eliciting an edgy realism.

Jakimowski expertly explores the human desire for a happy life with a magical undertone that makes the viewer want to believe that the game is possible. The film is disarmingly gripping and we have the filmmaker's beautiful editing to thank for that. Thankfully there isn't a family-movie feel to this film, but rather an unsentimental vision of a loving family, which adds to the realistic joy of the film.

The film garnered awards from its homeland, (Poland) as well as in Tokyo, Venice and Miami as well as a total of 9 nominations in other festivals around the world. It is the second feature from Jakimowski, but has the attraction and finesse of a more accomplished director. The workforce behind the film have tucked in every possible fray to make a film which has an emotive score, painterly lit scenes and striking performances.

BFF filmnote by Hamish Chant-Sempill

Today at Bath Film Festival 2009

Komedia, 8.00pm (doors open at 6.30pm) | £7 / £5

Turn It Loose

Alastair Siddons | UK | 2008 | 96m | 12A tbc | sub-titles | turnitloosemovie.com

Showcasing the pulsating b-boy culture which has evolved over the last 30 years into a truly global phenomenon. Six competitors from all corners of the globe battle one on one for the chance to be crowned World Champion 2007. A genuinely uplifting film and one of the best dance documentary films in recent years. **Meet filmmaker Alastair Siddons at the post-screening q and a, and experience live breakdancing from BREAK at 7.00pm before the screening.**

... and tomorrow

Monday 16 November, 6:30 pm, Little Theatre Cinema | £8 / £6

The Hide

Marek Losey | UK | 2008 | 82m | 15 | youtube.com/thehidemovie

Alex Macqueen as über-twitcher Roy Tunt is unforgettable in this twisting chamber piece leavened with sly humour. An encounter between two men in a bird hide on the atmospheric Suffolk mudflats appears to be a riff on genre conventions but soon deviates into less predictable waters – what exactly is being hidden by this hide? With slanting light glossing the film with the appearance of a graphic novel, the truth gradually emerges from the shadows! **We are delighted that Producer John Schwab will be with us to take your questions after the screening.** Don't miss 'Roy Tunt's Video Diaries on You Tube - www.youtube.com/watch?v=dezPYjMzeus

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