

MAŁGORZATA
FOREMNIAK

MICHAŁ
SIKORSKI

ŁUKASZ
SIMLAT

LECH
DYBLIK

JERZY
STUHR



FILM BARTOSZA BŁASCHKE

SONATA

KIEDY OTACZAJĄ CIĘ DOBRZY LUDZIE, NIE MA RZECZY NIEMOŻLIWYCH

SONATA WYPRODUKOWAŁ BARTOSZ BŁASCHKE. SCENARIUSZ TOMASZ AUGUSTYNEK. PRODUKCYJA SYLWESTER BANASZKIEWICZ, MARCIN KUREK.
WYKONALI MICHAŁ SIKORSKI, MAŁGORZATA FOREMNIAK, ŁUKASZ SIMLAT, KONRAD KAKUL, JERZY STUHR, IRENA MELCER, LECH DYBLIK, GRAZYNA SOBOCZIŃSKA, BARBARA WYPYCH, Cezary Łukasiewicz
MONTAŻ KRZYSZTOF A. JANCAK, KIEROWNICZY PRACOWNIA KAMIL JANIK, REDAKTOR ALICJA KAZIMIERCZAK, KONTROLA EMILIA CZARTORYSKA, OPERATOR ANNA GORDIŃSKA, BRAMA ROBERT PECHNIK, STRYL TOMASZ SIKORA, ARTUR KUJCZKOWSKI, PRODUKCYJA MEDIABRIGADE
FILM WSPÓLNIE PRACOWANO PRZEZ POLSKI INSTYTUT SZTUKI FILMOWEJ I WYDZIAŁ TELEWIZJI POLSKA S.A., WOJEWÓDZKI DOM KULTURY W RZESZOWIE, KRAKOWSKIE BIURO FESTIWALOWE, DOLNOŚLĄSKIE CENTRUM FILMOWE, WYTWÓRNIĄ FILMÓW DOKUMENTALNYCH I FABULARNYCH



W KINACH OD 4 MARCA

DURATION 118 minutes

GENRE drama

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION Poland, 2021

PRODUCER mediabrigade

CO-PRODUCERS Telewizja Polska S.A.
Krakowskie Biuro Festiwalowe
Wojewódzki Dom Kultury in Rzeszów
Dolnośląskie Centrum Filmowe
Wytwórnia Filmów Dokumentalnych I
Fabularnych

CO-FINANCING Polish Film Institute
Regional Film Fund in Krakow
Budget of the Municipality of Krakow
Budget of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship
Podkarpackie Voivodeship as part of the
Subcarpathian Regional Film Fund

The city of Wrocław and the Lower Silesian
Voivodeship through the Lower Silesian
Film Competition

Cooperation : Gmina Poronin

**Audience Award at the 46th Polish Film
Festival in Gdynia**
**Individual award for Michał Sikorski for
his professional acting debut at the 46th
Polish Film Festival in Gdynia**

AWARDS



FILMMAKERS:

Written and Directed by BARTOSZ BLASCHKE

Produced by SYLWESTER BANASZKIEWICZ
MARCIN KUREK

Cinematography by TOMASZ AUGUSTYNEK PSC

Music by KRZYSZTOF A. JANCZAK

Production Manager KAMIL JANIK

Set Decoration by ALICJA KAZIMIERCZAK

Costume Design by EMILIA CZARTORYSKA

Hair and Makeup Design by ANNA GOROŃSKA

Editing by ROBERT PIECHNIK

Sound Design by TOMASZ SIKORA
ARTUR KUCZKOWSKI

CAST:

Grzegorz Płonka MICHAŁ SIKORSKI

Małgorzata Płonka MAŁGORZATA FOREMNIAK

Łukasz Płonka ŁUKASZ SIMLAT

Michał Płonka KONRAD KAŁOL

Justyna IRENA MELCER

prof. Henryk Skarżyński JERZY STUHR

Juras LECH DYBLIK

Alicja GRAŻYNA SOBOCIŃSKA

Krystyna BARBARA WYPYCH

Joanna Płonka WERONIKA HUMAJ

Piano Teacher CEZARY ŁUKASZEWICZ

Teacher from the Center BEATA SCHIMSCHEINER

and others



ABOUT FILM

This incredible story really happened! Grzegorz Płonka (Michał Sikorski), after years of living in complete silence, thanks to the persistence of his parents (Małgorzata Foremniak, Łukasz Simlat), the support of a group of good people and implant surgery at the Institute of Professor Henryk Skarżyński (Jerzy Stuhr), regained his hearing and could fulfill his greatest dream - play Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata'.

The film is the full-length feature debut of the director Bartosz Blaschke.



REVIEWS AFTER THE POLISH FILMS FESTIVAL IN GDYNIA:

„Blashe’s confidence is incredibly impressive - where others would have drowned in sickening sweetness and tearfulness, he emerges in a life jacket filled with perspective, matter-of-factness and specificity.”

Artur Zaborski, Elle

„What this actor accomplished deserves all awards. Surely, someone may say that impersonating a person with a disability always causes sentimentality and it is easy to be moved by that, but go see what Sikorski is doing and everything will become clear. (...) It is a film that provides a huge amount of emotions and a unique film experience. (...) Director Bartosz Blaschke avoids clichés, cheap emotions, and never hits false notes. In *Sonata* we don’t see pity for the main character; even though he is a disabled person, he is treated on an equal footing both as a human being and the protagonist of a film aimed at a wider audience.”

Michał Kujawiński, Na Ekranie

„Bartosz Blaschke, making his feature debut, skillfully executed the tricky subject of the story about a disabled hero, giving his film a pinch of an unobvious sense of humor - you will notice it not only in Sikorski's impressively convincing performance, but also in the dynamics of on-screen interactions between the parents of the disabled pianist.”

Tomasz Bielenia, Interia



„*Sonata* by Bartosz Blaschke was the only film that moved me. It is seemingly just a typical film about the fight against suffering, but this well-tailored story of the struggle to fulfill a deaf boy's dream of playing the 'Moonlight Sonata' touches and invigorates.”

Piotr Wyszomirski, Dziennik Teatralny

„*Sonata* is perfectly acted (great roles also by Łukasz Simlat and Małgorzata Foremniak!), credible and beautiful in its message.”

Maja Baczyńska, Portal Presto

„This film hits you with a great force. For many reasons. First of all, the director accomplished the impossible by finding Michał Sikorski, who became Grzegorz.”

Magdalena Drozdek, Wirtualna Polska

„Dreams and passion give you wings. It is a cliché that takes on a special meaning in *Sonata*.”

Małgorzata Czop, Movieway

„Oscar-worthy performances and a standing ovation for Bartosz Blaschke's *Sonata*! The film (...) was the only one at last week's Polish Film Festival to win two awards - audience award and professional acting debut for Michał Sikorski for the main role.”

Tygodnik Podhalański



FILMMAKERS:

BARTOSZ BLASCHKE – WRITER AND DIRECTOR

Film director and screenwriter, graduate of Cinematography and Photography at the Radio and Television Department of the Uniwersytet Śląski in Katowice and the Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing in Warsaw; in 2021 he made his debut as the director and the screenwriter of the full-length feature film ‘Sonata’.

He received two awards in the SCRIPT PRO competition: 2nd place for the script for the film "Sonata" in 2018 and 3rd place for the script ‘Felicja i Jezus’ (‘Felicity and Jesus’) in 2014.

TOMASZ AUGUSTYNEK – CINEMATOGRAPHY

Cinematographer, a graduate of the Radio and Television Department of the Uniwersytet Śląski, he is the director of photography of series, feature films and documentaries. He has made such productions as ‘Wataha’ (‘The Border’), ‘Prokurator’ (‘The Prosecutor’), ‘Ostatnie piętro’ or ‘Odwrócenie’. He has perfected his craft on the set of hundreds of commercials around the world. He spends all of his free time climbing, and what he likes the most is to combine both of his passions. In 2020 he received the PSC (Polish Society of Cinematographers) award for cinematography for the series ‘Wataha’.

KRZYSZTOF A. JANCZAK – MUSIC

Composer and music producer, winner of several dozen international classical and film music competitions, including: Eyes & Ears of Europe in Munich, Red Dot in Berlin, New York Festivals in NY, European Talent and Universal Music Award in Cologne, and Transatlantyk Young Composer Award in Poznan. In 2012, he was nominated for the RMF Classic Special Award for a Young Film Music Composer. In 2017, supported by letters of recommendation from Max Richter and Monika Willi (the editor of Michael Haneke’s films), he became a member of the European Film Academy. In 2007 he received the Silver Cross of Merit from the President of the Republic of Poland for composing the Symphony of the Warsaw Insurgents, a work paying tribute to the young generation fighting in the Second World War. He has composed music for the films ‘Czarna owca’ (‘Black Sheep’), ‘Dzieci maharadży, czyli fajna ferajna w Indiach’ (an animated film), ‘The Whaler Boy’ or the series ‘Na dobre i na złe’ among others.

MEDIABRIGADE: SYLWESTER BANASZKIEWICZ AND MARCIN KUREK – PRODUCERS

They run a Wrocław-based production company with an extensive portfolio of documentary and feature films. They produced, among others, films ‘Zwerbowana miłość’ (‘Recruited Love’), ‘80 milionów’ (‘80 million’), ‘Ja, Olga Hepnarova’ (‘I Olga Hepnarova’) and the series: ‘Głęboka woda’ (‘Deep end’), ‘Komisja morderstw’ (‘Commission of Murders’) and ‘Otwórz oczy’ (‘Open Your Eyes’). They co-produced ‘Sala samobójców’ (‘Suicide Room’) and ‘Maraton tańca’ (‘Dance Marathon’) as well as many other films. Mediabrigade has received nominations and awards at many film festivals: in Montreux, Chicago, Tirana, Tallinn, Berlin, Gdynia and others. They are laureates of Prix Italia, Prix Europa, Czech Lions and the producers of the official submission of Poland to the Best Foreign Language Film category of the Academy Awards for ‘80 million’.



CAST:

MICHAŁ SIKORSKI

Born on September 5, 1995 in Wadowice, he studied acting at the Stanisław Wyspiański Academy of Theater Arts in Kraków. Since 2019, he has been working in the Polski Theater in Poznań. He played at the Juliusz Słowacki Theater in Krakow in the play 'Kariera Artura Ui' ('The career of Artur Ui') dir. Remigiusz Brzyk (as Bowl), in Folk Theater in Krakow in 'Na początku i na końcu czasu' ('At the beginning and at the end of time'), dir. Katarzyna Deszcz (as Wowczyk) and at the Academy of Theater Arts in the diploma plays 'Mój niepokój ma przy sobie broń' ('My anxiety carries a gun'), dir. Wiktor Logi-Skarczewski (as Liliput the MC, Caring bear-creep) and 'Zachodnie wybrzeże' ('West Coast') dir. Maja Kleczewska (as Cecylia). He received an acting award at the 37th Festival of Theater Schools in Łódź and the Krakow Student Theater Award 'Chodźże do teatru' ('Common, come to the theater') in 2019 in the category: Best Actor of the Young Generation. At the Polish Theater in Poznań he plays in 'Hamlet', dir. Maja Kleczewska (as Horacja), 'Drugi spektakl' ('The Second Show') dir. Anna Karasińska, 'Krakowiaki i Górale' ('Cracovians and highlanders'), dir. Michał Kmiecik (as highlander Świstos), 'Nanie' dir. Monika Pęcikiewicz (as Zoe) and 'Morderstwo (w) Utopii' ('Murder (in) Utopia') dir. Grzegorz Laszuk (as Michał the Director).

For the role of Grzegorz Płonka in 'Sonata', he received the award for professional acting debut at the Polish Film Festival in Gdynia in 2021.



MAŁGORZATA FOREMNIAK

Graduate of the Acting Department of The National Film School in Łódź (1989). She is a popular film, series and theater actress and a television personality. She is most beloved for the role of Zofia Burska in one of the most popular Polish medical series ‘Na dobre i złe’, for which she received the Telekamera award for the best actress in 2001, 2002 and 2003, and the Golden Telecamera in 2004. She also won the Polish Film Award The Eagle in 2003 for actress in a supporting role in Andrzej Jakimowski's film ‘Zmruż oczy’ (‘Squint your eyes’).



ŁUKASZ SIMLAT

Graduate of the Theater Academy in Warsaw (2000) associated with the Uniwersal Theater in Warsaw. He made his debut on the small screen in 2000, playing the role of one of the listeners of a lecture by Łukasz Zbożny, a character played by Krzysztof Kołbasiuk in the series 'Dom' ('The House').

Winner of many awards for theater and film roles. He received, among others, two Eagles for actor in a supporting role in films 'Śniegu już nigdy nie będzie' ('Never gonna snow again') directed by Małgorzata Szumowska and 'Boże Ciało' ('Corpus Christi') by Jan Komasa and awards for actor in a supporting role at the the Polish Film Festival in Gdynia for his performances in films 'Amok' by Kasia Adamik and 'Zjednoczone Stany Miłości' ('United States of Love') by Tomasz Wasilewski.

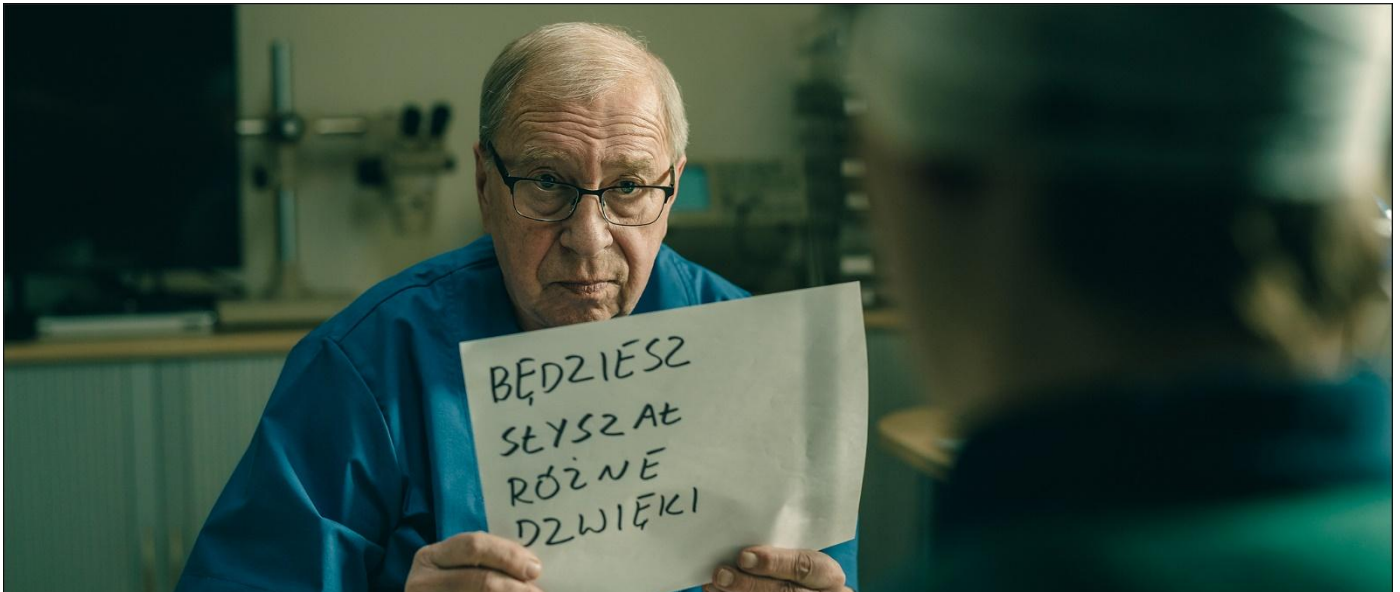


JERZY STUHR

One of the most prominent and popular Polish theater and film actors, he is also a director, screenwriter, writer, lecturer at the PWST (State Theater School) in Kraków, and in the years 1990-1996 and 2002-2008 the School's chancellor. He gained enormous popularity and the sympathy of viewers with roles in the films 'Wodzirej' ('Top dog'), 'Amator' ('Camera Buff'), 'Obywatel Piszczyk' ('Citizen Piszczyk'), 'Seksmisja' ('Sexmission'), 'Kingsajz', 'Kiler', 'Kilerów 2-óch' ('Killer') or for the cult dubbing in the animated film 'Shrek'. Behind the camera he made his film debut with 'Spis cudzołóżnic' ('The list of Lovers'). He also directed and starred in the following films: 'Historie miłosne' ('Love Stories'), 'Tydzień z życia mężczyzny' ('A Week in a Life of a Man'), 'Duże zwierzę' ('Big Animal'), 'Korowód' ('Twist of fate'), 'Pogoda na

jutro' ('Tomorrow's Weather') or 'Obywatel' ('The Citizen'), which were met with an excellent reception by both critics and audiences alike and brought the filmmaker many awards.

Winner of the 2006 Eagle for the best actor in a supporting role in Krzysztof Zanussi's film 'Persona non grata' and the 2018 Lifetime Achievements Eagle. Member of the European Film Academy and the Polish Film Academy.



LECH DYBLIK

Graduate of the Acting Department of the State Theater School in Kraków. He made himself known to a wide audience thanks to his roles in the famous films by Wojciech Smarzowski, 'Wołyń' ('Hatred') 'Pod mocnym aniołem' ('The Mighty Angel') 'Róża' ('Rose') and 'Dom zły' ('The Dark House').

KONRAD KĄKOL

Born on April 17, 2005 in the Tri-City. He began his acting career at the Musical Theater in Gdynia, where he played the title role in the play 'Piotruś Pan' (Peter Pan) directed by Janusz Józefowicz. He also acted in the plays 'Chłopi' ('The Peasants'), 'Wiedźmin' ('The Witcher') directed by Wojciech Kościelniak and 'Cud albo Krakowiaki i Górale' ('Miracle or Cracovians and highlanders') directed by Michał Zadara.

At the same time, he was active in the Valldal Comedy Theater, where he played in the plays: 'Wikingowie. Musical nieletni' (Vikings. A juvenile musical'), 'Hejt School Musical' ('Hate School Musical') and 'Fauna. Musical niehuman' ('Fauna. An inhuman musical') directed by Tomasz Valldal-Czarnecki. Konrad also had the pleasure of making a guest appearance at the Studio Buffo Theater, where he reprised the role of Peter Pan.

GRZEGORZ PŁONKA – THE HERO OF „SONATA”

Born prematurely, diagnosed as autistic in childhood, he lived in his hermetic world, unable to communicate with others. For half of his life, Grzegorz had to struggle not only with his body's dysfunctions, but also with incorrect diagnosis of his health and intellectual abilities. When he was 14, it turned out that the cause of his isolation was in fact not autism, but severe hearing loss. He was given hearing aids, later was implanted with a cochlear implant at the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing in Kajetany, and then began to learn to speak.



That's when it turned out that obscured by his deafness there was... a great musical talent. Nobody but himself and his immediate family could believe that a boy with a deep hearing loss and with a significant delay in development could learn even the basics of music, let alone anything else. That was when he had to face obstacles once again, as music schools refused to admit a student with hearing, speech and general knowledge deficits. He learned to play the first movement of Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata' on his own. That opened the door for him to study at a music school and to perform in front of an audience for the first time.

Krzysztof Dębski, commenting on Grzegorz's compositions, said that they are "at the level of some of my students" (Krzysztof Dębski, 'Słyszę' ('I hear'), bimonthly magazine for people with hearing problems, November / December 2016, No. 6 (152). P. 25). The young pianist won the music festival 'Snail Rhythms' and became the 'Man without Barriers 2016'. This title is awarded every year to a person whose way of dealing with a disability is a model for others.

This success confirmed that Grzegorz's life motto: "It is possible!" is truly correct. He constantly expands his repertoire and composes his own piano and organ pieces. He gives concerts and sometimes his compositions are accompanied by screenings of his own films and photographs. With considerable commitment and financial support from the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing in Kajetany he released his first original album 'I Hear the Moonlight'.

Unfortunately, despite his strenuous attempts, after he graduated from primary and middle schools, the education system ruthlessly pushed him away. The reason for this is that he is over 24 years old. Thus, further education in the public education system is closed to him.

Grzegorz's second dream, apart from performing at the Philharmonic, is to pass his high school diploma and achieve full life and economic independence.

BARTOSZ BLASCHKE, THE DIRECTOR ON HIS FILM:

'Sonata' shows the true story of an exceptional musician - Grzegorz Płonka from Murzasichle, whom I had the pleasure to meet a few years ago. I discovered his story by chance, while working on a script for a fictional series about people with disabilities. During the documentation for this production, which never got made, I found a recording of Grzesiek playing the 'Moonlight Sonata' right after he won 'Snail Rhythms' (International Music Festival for Children, Youth and Adults with Hearing Impairment).

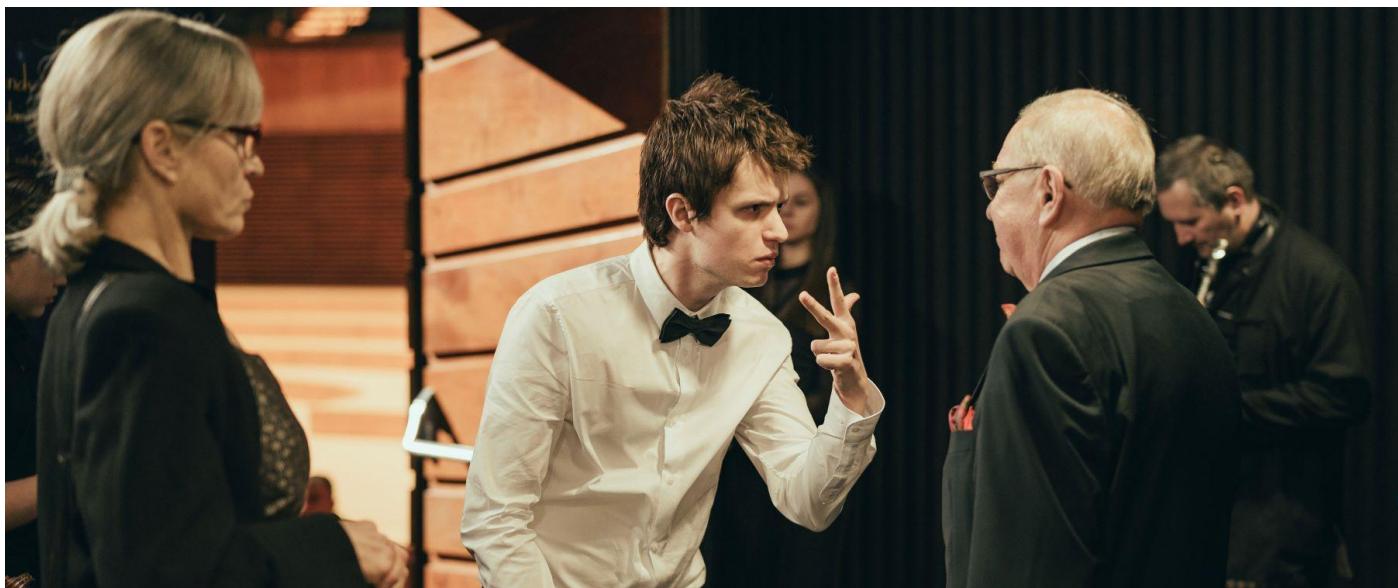
The young man didn't know how to speak, so he could not communicate or convey even the most simple, basic information. When I heard him play and learned his incredible story, I made the decision to devote a few years of my life to show the audience the multicolored world of a man with a disability. Although a feature film allows to convey such an experience in a sensual way, it was not an easy task.



After reading the script, Grzegorz met me and said: "Bartek, you wrote a good script, but I'm not in it." I realized then that the wall between the so-called disability and the so-called normality was thicker than I thought. So I continued to write the next versions of the script trying to enter Grzegorz's world even deeper. I owe a lot to his parents, Małgosia and Łukasz Płonka, who opened the door to their world for me, as well as to the whole bunch of people who knew Grzesiek at various stages of his life and wanted to share their memories with me.

I had moments of doubt, but I was not afraid of artistic challenges. The greatest one of them was to create the character of the main hero. Who would play Grzegorz? Where could I find an actor who has Leonardo Di Caprio's talent, is 20 years old, plays the piano and also looks similar to Grzesiek? All of it seemed to be backbreaking, impossible ...

Actor Michał Sikorski came to my help, and during his three-year preparation for the role, he physically and mentally became the pianist with a hearing loss. Even according to the people who know Grzegorz privately, it is a perfect impersonation. Thanks to Michał's talent and sensitivity, I hope we managed to carve a crack in that wall, through which we can look at Grzegorz's world more closely. And it is worth taking a closer look, because in this story there's a hidden truth about the essence of humanity, the essence of art. What do we live for and what do we create for? What really is the most important thing in life?



MICHAŁ SIKORSKI, PLAYING GRZEGORZ PŁONKA:

The role of Grzesiek was a huge challenge for me. Firstly because voice-over is typically used in most films where the protagonist has communication problems and Bartek Blaschke refused to use such a device from the very beginning. This meant that accessing this character - making the audience understand what he means, what he feels and what he really wants - was an extremely difficult task.



It was important to me to capture Grzesiek's charm, his sense of humor, the spark that's in him; but also the fact that he can often give his family really hard time and drive them mad. Most of all I wanted to show that

Grzegorz Płonka is a fighter. Just like his parents, which was perfectly conveyed by Małgosia Foremniak and Łukasz Simlat. It couldn't be otherwise, because it is a film about the fight against the system.

While preparing for the film, I was learning to play the piano from scratch. I met Grzegorz and his family, I visited their house several times, I was at Grzesiek's concert, I had many meetings with therapists and doctors who work with people with similar problems to the one's Grzegorz is struggling with. However, the most important and fascinating part of preparing for the role was working with the rest of the cast, creating characters and relationships between them. Together with Małgosia Foremniak, Łukasz Simlat and the director, we spent dozens of hours analyzing the script and having long conversations about it. With Irena Melcer, for example, some of the rehearsals were in the form of improvised dates in Warsaw parks, which were observed and recorded by the director. Many of them were an inspiration for Grzegorz and Justyna's scenes, but we actually improvised with Irena on the set as well.

For me, this film, this role and the people I met while working on it, are something that I wouldn't even be able to imagine. It is a film about becoming an artist, about awakening the need to create, which is parallel with this moment in my life. When I met the director for the first time, I was in the second year of drama school in Kraków, now it's been three years since my graduation, and the role in 'Sonata' is my first major role in a film. In film that I've always dreamed of and I still dream of no less intensely than when I was in my teens.

MAŁGORZATA FOREMNIAK, PLAYING THE MOTHER OF GRZEGORZ:

It is a moving story about determination and making dreams come true. A film that shows an amazing way to achieve the impossible, paid for with enormous effort and struggle. If you only slightly change your point of view both the perception of reality and your attitude towards it will change as well. It is worth pausing for a moment and looking closely, with sharpened senses, at the world that surrounds us.



In order to build a dramatic role, I had to penetrate the world of the extraordinary Płonka family. I would describe Małgosia Płonka, whom I played, as a quiet, modest champion. It was a big challenge for me, not only because it was the first time I ever played a character who was real, but mostly because I was building a role having next to me a person with a complicated intimate world. So I had to create a heroine who, on one hand, would be my creation, and at the same time would tell the truth about that person and wouldn't do her a disservice in any way.

The biggest challenge was to understand a woman who needs to unleash love and not just sacrifice herself. The make-up, specifically the glasses, turned out to be surprisingly helpful in the transition from the real Małgosia to the character. I could only clearly see what was right in front of me, and when I looked to the side, the image was blurry. It had an unusual isolating effect - as if behind glass - and made it easier for me to move to another world, to the world of Małgorzata Płonka.

ŁUKASZ SIMLAT, PLAYING THE FATHER OF GRZEGORZ:

Playing the role of a real person is quite a problem. That someone, when he sees me on the screen, could after all say "it's not me". The actor cannot, therefore, simply just mimic the character. What he should do is try to understand and justify the choices his protagonist makes.



Interacting with Łukasz Płonka, being able to find the points of tangency between our personalities required for the role, was a turning point in my work. At the same time, there was a fear that he would later see it, and then a relief - that he really is like that, this is the way I see him; a whole, interesting man, of flesh and blood; and among his many characteristics, I wouldn't want to miss any for the good of storytelling and the defense of my hero.

In the case of 'Sonata', I tried to recreate the aura of that home, which also influenced Grzesiek Płonka's decisions. We have all shared these priorities. We thought of these characters as a quartet or a trio, in scenes without Michał. We knew that we had to be one organism that had been functioning for years and for years had been set in the same rhythms, ways, predictable and fixed points based on Grzesiek's needs. All this to show the viewer what emotional consequences are caused by these specific limitations.

It is a film about the fight against the system, about the hardships of individual choices when privacy has to be put aside in order to make the right decisions. It is a film about human courage and stubbornness, but most of all about love, the kind of love which is not expressed directly.

MARCIN KUREK, THE PRODUCER

As professor Skarżyński, played by Jerzy Stuhr, says in the film: "Cover your ears. This is how Grzesiek hears". Grzegorz Płonka is a brilliant "Beethoven from Murzasichle". His misdiagnosis separated him from ordinary life. He couldn't live a normal life, and above all, he couldn't devote himself to his passion - playing the piano. The music was in his head, in the sound of the wind, in the light, in the ringing of the bell, and even in the sound of cutlets pounded in the kitchen. However, Grzegorz did not have the key to open the door to this world.

This story really happened. Among the Tatra mountains, we meet Grześ, who, although he has hearing problems, believes in himself and fights to become a professional musician. We may think this would be impossible, but with the help of his family he managed to overcome enormous adversities. His story and he himself prove that only "SKY IS THE LIMIT". Grzesiek is supported by his mother's boundless love as well as his father's strength and defiance. The mother with the strength of a cyclone breaks down the obstacles in their path. The father, a loving spitfire with an ironic approach to life, also supports his son at all times. All of them, including his younger brother, want Grzesiek to finally be whoever he wants to be; want him to play in the Philharmonic. And it is not just about a concert, but about human dignity, about regaining many years of life lost due to the misdiagnosis. Grzegorz learns step by step, word by word, note by note. From a child with a hearing loss, he slowly becomes a pianist. Thanks to the revolutionary methods of Professor Henryk Skarżyński, the founder of the World Hearing Center, the boy receives an implant that enables him to become a pianist.

The way of Grzegorz, though paved with effort, is an incredibly uplifting experience. With every minute of the film you get to know Grześ better. This makes you realize that, after all, each one of us overcomes a number of obstacles every day to achieve a goal, be successful or even just to be understood by our surroundings.

At first I did not believe that such a person could really exist, it was only when I met Grzesiek and his family that I understood their uniqueness; that phenomenon. Together with Sylwester Banaszekiewicz, my friend and business partner, we were completely open to the Płonka family while making this film. We saw that they were sharing themselves with us, so we tried to be responsible, gentle, and full of understanding. This principle also guided us when working with Bartek and the actors on the set, during post-production and at the premiere of the film at the festival in Gdynia. Today when I recall the entire process of creating 'Sonata', I know that a metaphysical halo was hovering over it. I realized that during the premiere in Gdynia, during the long standing ovation after the film. On that day, we felt that all of the energy put into the film affected the viewers. Laughter, tears and emotions reached us in a multiplied dose and will stay with us for a long time. It is due to Grzegorz and his personality, but also thanks to the whole team, who sincerely and courageously put their hearts and a chunk of their lives into 'Sonata'.