



IN THE NAME OF

A film by Malgoska Szumowska

"Outstanding performances! An atmosphere of danger and violence holds the whole film in thrall." — Deborah Young, *The Hollywood Reporter*



**Poland / 2013 / Drama / Polish with English Subtitles / 101 min. /
2.35:1 / Dolby Digital**

[Official Film Webpage](#)

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SYNOPSIS

Adam is a Catholic priest who discovered his calling as a servant of God at the relatively late age of 21. He now lives in a village in rural Poland where he works with teenagers with behavioral problems.

He declines the advances of a young blonde named Ewa, saying he is already spoken for. However, celibacy is not the only reason for his rejection. Adam knows that he desires men and that his embrace of the priesthood has been a flight from his own sexuality. When he meets Łukasz, the strange and taciturn son of a simple rural family, Adam's self-imposed abstinence becomes a heavy burden.

Małgośka Szumowska's film, charged with striking imagery from Christ's Passion, dares to broach the still taboo topic of homosexuality in the priesthood. Confronted with his "forbidden" desires, her protagonist experiences both moments of bliss and utter despair. *In the Name Of* is a film about confused emotions, repression and loneliness – and the possibility of perhaps finding oneself after all.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Catholic priest Adam lives in rural Poland, where he works with teenagers otherwise forgotten by their community. He succeeds in declining the advances of a local woman, as his embrace of the priesthood has become a flight from facing the truth of his own sexuality. When he meets the taciturn son of a simple rural family, his self-imposed abstinence becomes a heavy burden.

LOGLINE

A Catholic priest in rural Poland must face the truth of his own sexuality when he meets an intriguing young local.

ASSETS

Official trailer for embedding/sharing:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dti3xTI3L0Y>

Downloadable hi-res images:

<http://www.filmmovement.com/filmcatalog/index.asp?MerchandiseID=331>

FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

WINNER - Teddy Award, **Berlin International Film Festival**

WINNER – Reader Jury of the "Siegessäule", **Berlin Int'l Film Festival**

WINNER – Silver Lion, **Gdynia Film Festival**

WINNER – Best Director, **Gdynia Film Festival**

WINNER – Best Actor, **Gdynia Film Festival**

WINNER – Festival Favorite, **Cinema Diverse (Palm Springs LGBT)**

WINNER – Main Prize, **Mix Milano Int'l Film Festival**

WINNER – Best Film, **Neisse Film Festival**

WINNER – Best Actor (Andrzej Chyra), **Neisse Film Festival Zittau**

WINNER – Golden Angel Award (Malgoska Szumowska), **Tofifest**

OFFICIAL SELECTION

Frameline LGBT International Film Festival

Seattle International Film Festival

OutFest LA LGBT Film Festival

Vancouver Queer Film Festival

Philadelphia QFest

Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival

Chicago International Film Festival

Vancouver Queer Film Festival

NewFest – Film Society of Lincoln Center

Atlantic Film Festival

Fesno Reel Pride

INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR MALGOŚKA SZUMOWSKA

What inspired and motivated you to tell this story?

It's strange, but I wanted to make a film about this kind of yearning for love, affection, closeness. It sounds trivial, but this feeling of somehow being torn from the inside, a feeling of being unfulfilled in contacts with other people, this great longing for something strong and powerful, was the starting point for me. I found a short note in a newspaper, about a boy, a young man really, who killed a priest in a very brutal way. Even though this story was completely different, I suddenly got an idea, to tell a story about a priest who dares to love.

This subject matter is often portrayed in an abusive context, but you decided to show a love story, why is that?

Internet is full of stories about boys, kids, and youth being sexually abused by priests. These are shocking, strong stories. These cases leave no doubt about the moral judgment of them. Making such a film, choosing such a character, would mean that I have to judge him as well. No doubt then the film would have a journalistic tone, and I wanted to avoid that. What fascinated me was something different; showing love, need of love, that is perceived as a sin. A thing that is perfectly natural between a man and a woman, becomes "evil" and unnatural in the case of a priest, not to mention homosexual love.

A priest, who is only a human being, suddenly becomes a victim of his own faith, religion, institution of Church, only because he wants to love, and even more so, because he dares to love another man. I wanted to make a film in which I wouldn't judge my characters, where I take a look at them in a purely human way, I defend them. If I had made a film about sexual abuse, I would have to start from a different perspective, judgment would be part of the topic that would have to shock. However, I do think that in my film I touch this subject, not in a direct way, but I don't avoid it, I just don't speak straight forward.

How did you choose your actors?

I avoid castings. I find actors on screen, on stage, sometimes at a party... Andrzej Chyra is one of the best Polish actors, so, together with Michał, we were writing the script for him. I like writing for particular actors, I know their skills, so I write for them. Then, I put a lot of effort in preparations, rehearsals, and everything that takes place later on set.

Are you afraid of the controversy? How did the Polish church react when they heard about the project?

I don't know if I'm afraid of it. I'm curious, and certain at the same time that a group of people, a large group, will reject this film in Poland, that's for sure. The groups close to the Church and conservative parties, that is rather obvious. In Poland it's still a taboo, even though media talk about this tricky subject more and more often, but it always causes a big scandal. What I wouldn't like is a cheap sensation, a bunch of people simply shouting at the movie. I'd prefer a serious discussion. In Poland, we still have a problem with accepting differences and

manifestations of being different. The society still calls itself 90% catholic, and unfortunately, very often that's a synonym of being closed-minded. I think that this film may be an important voice in a discussion.

What were your major influences when working with Michal Englert, your director of photography?

I've worked with Michal Englert right from the beginning, since our school projects. This time, he co-wrote the script with me, which is somehow a comeback to school beginnings, when we were writing the projects' scripts together as well. It's a great thing to understand someone artistically without words. When he takes care of the camera, very often staging, I get to work with the actors, which is my favorite job. Thanks to Michał I can focus on this completely. It's quite unusual, such cooperation with a DOP, but this is what Polish DOPs formed at the Lodz school are known for in the world. They are creative; they work hand in hand with the director. But even so, Michał is exceptional. We work together on every stage of making the film, including the editing and sound editing. It's exactly the same situation with our editor, Jacek Drosio, who also edited all of my films. In a way, we form an artistic group. I can't imagine making a film without them.

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Małgośka Szumowska – Filmmaker and Scriptwriter

Małgośka Szumowska was born in 1973 in Cracow. She graduated from the Łódź Film School. She began her career making short feature films. *Ascension* was presented in Cannes at Cinefondation. Her first feature film, *Happy Man*, and second one, *Stranger*, were nominated to the European Film Awards as Discovery. *Stranger* was also presented at the Panorama Berlinale 2005. Her *33 scenes from Life* won the Silver Leopard at IFF Locarno 2008. *Elles*, starring Juliette Binoche, opened Panorama IFF Berlinale 2012 and was sold to more than 40 countries around the world.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY:

2013 - IN THE NAME OF

2012 - ELLES – Opening film of Panorama, Berlinale

2008 - 33 SCENES FROM LIFE - Special Jury Prize at Locarno Film Festival

2004 – STRANGER - Official Selection at Sundance Film Festival

2000 – HAPPY MAN

1999 – THE SILENCE (Short)



CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Andrzej Chyra – Priest Adam

Andrzej Chyra, born in 1964, is one of the most prominent and awarded Polish actors ever. He has played hundreds of leading roles in feature films and TV productions. He has worked with the best Polish filmmakers, such as Andrzej Wajda, Krzysztof Krauze, Krzysztof Zanussi, Feliks Falk, Marek Koterski, Juliusz Machulski.

For his unforgettable roles he was awarded twice at Gdynia PFF for best actor. Moreover, he received twice the Eagle - the most important award for Polish actors. With theatre companies from Rozmaitości and Nowy Teatr, he regularly received splendid reviews and was acclaimed at international theatre festivals like the one in Avignon. Chyra also holds a degree theater direction.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2013 - IN THE NAME OF by Małgośka Szumowska
2012 - LASTING by Jacek Borcuch
2012 - MÖRKT VATTEN by Raphael Edholm
2011 - DAAS by Adrian Panek
2011 - ELLES by Małgośka Szumowska
2011 - AGAPE by Krzysztof Pietroszek
2010 - MISTYFIKACJA by Jacek Koprowicz
2010 - TRICK by Jan Hryniak
2009 - ALL THAT I LOVE by Jacek Borcuch
2007 - KATYN STORY by Andrzej Wajda
2006 - LONELINES ON THE NET by Witold Adamek
2006 - STRAJK. DIE HELDIN VON DANZIG by Volker Schloendorf
2006 - WE ARE ALL CHRISTS by Marek Koterski
2005 - THE COLLECTOR by Feliks Falk
2005 - PERSONA NON GRATA by Krzysztof Zanussi
2004 - STRANGER by Małgośka Szumowska
2004 - TULIPS by Jacek Borcuch
2003 - SYMMETRY by Konrad Niewolski

CREDITS

CREW

Director	Małgośka Szumowska
Scriptwriters	Małgośka Szumowska Michał Englert
Producer	Agnieszka Kurzydło
Co-producers	Małgośka Szumowska Peter Garde Beata Ryczkowska
Cinematography	Michał Englert
Film Editing	Jacek Drosio
Production Design	Marek Zawierucha
Costumes	Katarzyna Lewińska Julia Jarza-Brataniec
Sound	Maria Chilarecka Krzysztof Stasiak
Composers	Paweł Mykietyn Adam Walicki

CAST

Priest Adam	Andrzej Chyra
Humpty	Mateusz Kościukiewicz
Ewa	Maja Ostaszewska
Teacher Michal	Łukasz Simlat
Adrian	Tomasz Schuchardt