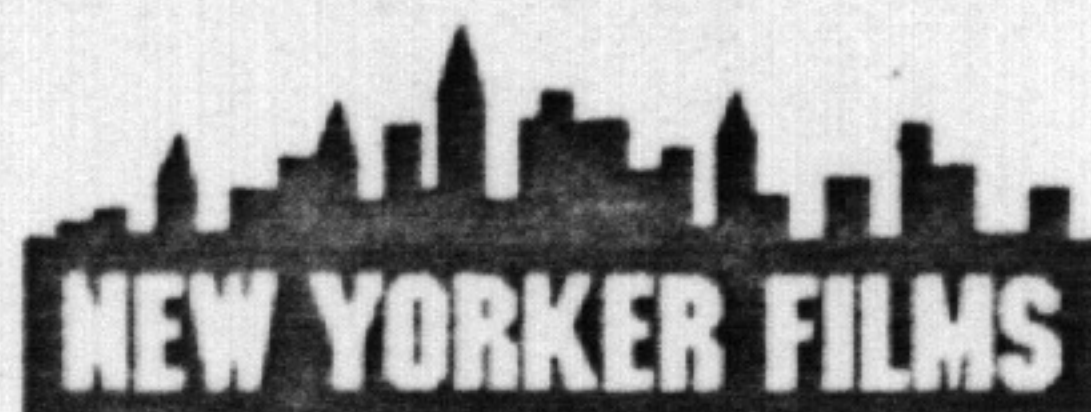


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ARIA FOR AN ATHLETE

Director.....Filip Bajon
Screenplay.....Filip Bajon
Photography.....Jerzy Zielinski
Stage design.....Andrzej Kowalczyk
Music.....Zdzislaw Szostak
Production manager.....Lechoslaw Szuttenbach

CAST

Wladyslaw Goralewicz.....Krzysztof Majchrzak

with

Pola Raksa, Roman Wilhelmi, Bogusz Bilewski, Wojciech Pszoniak,
Ryszard Pietruski, Zdzislaw Wardejn.

Poland. 1980

In Polish with English subtitles.

Running time: 108 min.

Produced by the Polish Corporation for Film Production, "Zespoly
Filmowe", Film Unit "TOR".

A NEW YORKER FILMS RELEASE

SYNOPSIS

ARIA FOR AN ATHLETE is the romantic and exotic story of the 19th century wrestler Wladyslaw Goralewicz who, based on the real life stories of Polish wrestlers Zbyszko Cyganiewicz, Pytlasinski and Garkovyenko, became world renowned as "The Strongest Man in the World."

His story is told in retrospect, the reminiscences of an elderly man who is about to donate his collection of Atlas figures, gathered from around the world, to an opera house. He is being interviewed about his past, the 1890's or "la belle epoque" during which he lived, a time of both refined tastes and tawdriness. His story follows:

One day a circus troupe arrived in the provincial town where he lived. Intrigued by the galaxy of midgets, bearded women, clowns and wrestling contests, Wladyslaw Goralewicz makes his way into the circus. He trains at wrestling, developing his skill until one day he defeats a renowned wrestler and infuriates the circus director and his prize wrestlers -- the Abs Brothers.

They assault him and force him to leave the circus, but he does not give up his sport. His excellence in fighting as well as his fine manners and kind personality open the world to him. Soon he is fighting in Europe's most glamorous and publicized arenas. He develops a taste for high class women, narcotics and fame. One day a famous tenor becomes so enchanted with the beauty of his fighting that he sings an aria for him from the balcony of the arena.

Goralewicz becomes as renowned for his uncompromising attitude as his wrestling style. His fame grows and spreads throughout Europe. Finally, the day arrives when he is able to challenge and defeat one of his longtime adversaries -- the younger of the Abs Brothers. His past is cleared and any dreams of revenge are satisfied.

He is now revered as the world's most famous wrestler. He has a beautiful wife and a valuable collection of sculpture. Yet he accepts a dangerous challenge from the elder Abs brother who owes his previous victories to brute strength and brutality rather than technique. During the fight Abs force Goralewicz to adopt his brutal style and it proves deadly. Tragically, Goralewicz kills Abs in the arena.

His wife, meanwhile, has eloped with the handsome tenor. Goralewicz is left standing alone, gazing at the magnificent opera edifice and hearing an aria in the distance. He remains with his memories -- the memory of his fame and the memory of a world during a brief golden period, a time when the universe was small and men could dare to be giants.

FILIP BAJON

Writer and director Filip Bajon was born in 1947. He originally studied law and, after graduating from law school, studied at the Lodz School of Theatre, Film and Television. His early work includes several collections of short stories entitled "Polar Bears Don't Like Sunny Weather" (1970) and "Will You Come With Me Upstairs, Please" (1975), and a novel, "A Serial Entitled."

His filmmaking career began in 1972 with a documentary entitled A CASE FOR THE THEORY OF LINGUISTICS and his diploma film, SOOT, completed in 1973. In 1976 he made VIDEO CASSETTE and in 1977, RETURN and WORLD RECORD, both for television. These were followed in 1980 by his two feature films, ARIA FOR AN ATHLETE and INSPECTION OF THE SCENE OF ACTION 1901. He has also completed other films for television including GREEN WALL (1978), SHILLY-SHALLY (1981) and, most recently, DAIMLER LIMOSINE (1982).