

## Document Citation

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**Versuchung**  
(Temptation)  
(WEST GERMAN-COLOR)

Variety  
2-10-82 Berlin, Jan. 13.

A Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) Film Production, Cologne. Features entire cast. Written and directed by Krzysztof Zanussi. Camera (color), Slawomir Idziak; music, Wojciech Kilar; editing, Liesgret Schmitt-Klink; sets, Wolfgang Schuenke; costumes, Anna Biedrzcka-Sheppard; tv-producer, Hartwig Schmidt; production manager, Fred Ilgner. Reviewed at the Berlinger Screening Room, Berlin, Jan. 13, '82. Running time: 103 MINS.

Cast: Maja Komorowska (Martha), Helmut Griem (Ludwig), Eva Maria Meineke (Johanna), Rolf Becker (Stafan), Ellen Frank (Mother), Matthieu Carriere (Psychiatrist), Irmgard Foerst (Waitress), Walter Buschhoff (Factory Manager), Halina Labonarska (Maria), Irene Marhold (Christine), Werner Buck, Christine Steiner, Heinz Kipfer, Yor Milano, Hans-Joerg Frey, Rudolf Juergen Bartsch, William Okwiri, Virginia Mackenzie, Penina Munoru.

Back in 1979, Polish director Krzysztof Zanussi made a West German WDR-TV production, "Ways in the Night," which won wide acclaim and recently has been released for theatrical sales and screenings in cinemas. Now he's back at the same station, Westdeutscher Rundfunk in Cologne, to make "Temptation" with his Polish team (camera, music, costumes), which should also find its way to a prominent film festival on the season's circuit.

"Temptation" follows in the wake of Zanussi's other tv-films, made in both Poland — and West Germany.

In "Temptation," Zanussi and Co. open the drama by winging their way from Poland towards Switzerland — Martha's the wife of a Swiss merchant, Ludwig, now pulling up roots in warm-hearted Poland and returning to the cold-and-indifferent West. Right at the very beginning, Martha (Maja Komorowska) fidgets and frets over meeting Ludwig's spinster sister, Johanna, and everything goes wrong. In short, it's hard to figure out what's bugging our heroine — save that this is the thread to keep the story going over a change of landscape. Zanussi shoots in Cologne, Lugano, Zurich, Solothurn, Paris, Genoa, and Kenya.

There is no script to speak of in "Temptation" — only situations for improvisational conversation without resolution of any definable sort. Ludwig loves Martha even when she's digging up the lawn, playing Cowboys-and-Indians with the kids in the neighborhood, spoiling a dainty get-together by dancing wildly around the room, and running off to a convent in Italy to become a nun while hubby toils dutifully to make the family business go in Kenya. As for the sister, Johanna one day expires of a heart-attack after suffering a bit more humiliation than expected from her kid-brother. And there are scenes in between depicting Ludwig in pursuit of his true-love in some corner of Europe, as Komorowska's Polish blends into a trifle more understandable German.

—Holl.