

Document Citation

Title	Top dog
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Film Polski</i>
Date	
Type	distributor materials
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Falk, Feliks (1941), Stanislawow, Poland
Film Subjects	Wodzirej (Top dog), Falk, Feliks, 1978

TOP DOG

A great ball is to be given in a newly-built hotel for the 50th anniversary celebration of a town. Many journalists and TV reporters are to be present and the list of invited guests is strictly limited. It will certainly be quite an occasion for those providing the entertainment and will lead to rivalry in the choice of top dog. The four best specialists in this field are the main rivals. Ludwik Danielak, the main character, a compère in his thirties, always on the move, running to and fro, arranging minor business and events of secondary importance, does not see any chance for himself to compete for the job of top dog. However, because of certain unforeseen circumstances, he gradually becomes convinced that he should compete, as the ball could provide him with an opportunity to show off his abilities and to gain a better position in life. At first he tries a round-about way of achieving his purpose by seeking the backing of the Town Council but when this fails, he decides to achieve it by hook or by crook and eliminates individual rivals by various foul methods. In the course of his activities, he breaks moral barriers one by one. He uses increasingly foul methods and does not shy away from cutting his best friend, Romek, out of the competition.

The news that he has succeeded in achieving his purpose comes unexpectedly from a councillor. Ludwik Danielak leads the dance, applauded loudly by the guests, and receives many congratulations for his splendid performance. Suddenly Romek, his friend, appears in the ball-room and slaps his face. He thus gives the punishment not only on behalf of himself but also on behalf of the audience and the director of the film. Perhaps this will make Ludwik aware that the price he has paid in pursuing his aim is much higher than success, that for one dazzling performance as a top dog he has paid with friendship, love and human dignity.

TOP DOG

Wodzirej

Screenplay and direction

– Feliks Falk

Photography

– Edward Kłosiński

Music

– Jan Kanty Pawluśkiewicz

Dialogues

– Feliks Falk and Jerzy Stuhr

Set design

– Teresa Barska

Production manager

– Ryszard Chutkowski

Leading players:

Jerzy Stuhr (Danielak)

Ślawa Kwaśniewska (Mela)

Wiktor Sadecki (Lasota)

Michał Tarkowski (Romek)

Jerzy Kryszak (Przybylski)

Jana Svandova (Ula)

Alfred Freudenheim (Manager)

Ryszard Kotys (Danielak's brother) and others

Production Polish Corporation for Film

Production "Zespoły Filmowe", "X"

Film Unit, 1978

35 mm, colour, 3123 m, 115 mins.



FELIKS FALK

Born in Stanisławowo in 1941. Graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw (1966). During his studies his works were displayed at many exhibition and fine art events, such as symposia of painters and scientists. In 1966 he was awarded a prize for his sound-and-picture spectacle entitled *"The Labyrinth" (Labirynt)*. He is the author of plays which have been produced on theatre stages and on television and of many radio plays. In 1973 he graduated from the film direction faculty of the Higher State Film Theatre, and Television School in Łódź. He cooperates with the Polish TV. He is affiliated with the Film Unit "X" directed by Andrzej Wajda. His two etudes *"Questions" (Pytania)*, and *"Piercing Force" (Siła przebicia)* won awards at the Warsaw Festival of School Etudes in 1973.

Plays:

TV – 1968 *"Reception" (Przyjęcie)*,

1969 – *"A Pentagon" (Pięciokąt)*,

1970 – *"The Lion" (Lew)*.

1970, Atheneum Theatre, Warsaw *"The Snare" (Wnyki)*

TV films: 1973, *"A Place to Spend the Night" (Nocleg)* the journalists' award in Gdańsk, 1974.

Feature films:

1975 – the story *"Actress" (Aktorka)* in

"Pictures from Life" (Obrazki z życia),

1975 – *"At the Height of Summer"*

(W środku lata)

1978 – *"Top Dog" (Wodzirej)*

1979 – *"Beside" (TV film)*

1979 – *"Chance" (feature film)*

1981 – *"There Was Jazz" (film)*

1978 – *"Dance of Death" by Strindberg (theatre)*

1981 – *"The Removallists" by David Williamson (theatre)*

1981 – *Three Plays by Havel (theatre)*