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Kontrakt **(The Contract)**

Poland 1980

Director Krzysztof Zanussi

Production Company PRF Zespoly Filmowe-Film Unit
(Televisiune Polacca)

Screenplay Krzysztof Zanussi

Cinematography Tadeusz Wybult

Music Wojciech Kilar

Principal Cast Leslie Caron, Maja Komorowska, Tadeusz Lomnicki, Magda Jaroszowna, Krzysztof Kolberger

114 minutes

North American Premiere

When Zanussi's *Constant* won the Jury Prize at Cannes in 1980, it was clear at last that Poland had produced a filmmaker to match Andrzej Wajda. Here was a director who could shape individual characters as skillfully as he could articulate ideas. While the concerns of most directors emerge from a cultural background, the landscape of Zanussi is mapped out in scientific terms: himself a lapsed physicist, he brings to the cinema a rare grasp of the problems faced by scientists in the modern world.

The Contract is his most recent film. The gathering of diverse people at a wedding party becomes a microcosm of Polish intellectual life. It's the conglomerate gathering of relatives, of ex-wives meeting the new spouses of ex-husbands; included is a kleptomaniac ex-ballerina, a guest on the verge of mental collapse and a mother-daughter hatred that flares into violence. The general undercurrent of pretension and nervous snobbery make *The Contract* a vast playground of psyches run-amok, where the spectator's attention is riveted to the actions of these human symbols of thwarted ideas.

Friday 18 Sept. 11:00 a.m. Towne

Friday 18 Sept. 7:00 p.m. Fox