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Brzezina
(Birch Forest) *WOOD*
(POLISH-COLOR)

Variety ——— 2-16-72
Belgrade, Feb. 8.

Polski Film release of TOR production.
Written and directed by Andrzej Wajda.
Camera (Eastmancolor), Zygmunt Samosiuk.
Reviewed at Belgrade Film Fest, Jan. 24, '72. Running Time, 92 MINS.
Brother Olgierd Lukaszewicz
Caretaker Daniel Olbrychski
Girl Emilia Krakowska
Man Marek Perepeczko

Film Polski's Andrzej Wajda here tries a romantic intimate drama taking place on a farm in pre-war Poland. Made with Polish tv backing, it has the flair, character insight and pictorial flow for big screens, Wajda amply reveals his deft dramatic knowhow as a tubercular young man comes to stay with his brother on a farm. The former, dying, is in love with life and constantly plays 1930s music on the piano, getting embroiled with his brother's brooding problems and becoming the lover of a simpleminded farm girl.

It appears his brother's dead wife may have carried on with the hired man who is to marry the farm girl. His daughter will not confirm his suspicions about her mother. But brother's death leads to his accepting the past, forgiving his wife's memory and making up with his little daughter.

Film has beautiful photography as the drama unfolds to a background of birch trees. The tubercular boy's death is a lyric point as he seems to drift through the woods and comes to rest in his bed. The town background is lightly sketched in. Pic may be more effective on tv with its tight dramatic theme but it has the breadth and acting sweep to hold its own well on the big screen. Acting is good down the line with Daniel Olbrychski's scene with little girl especially effective. *Mosk.*