

Document Citation

Title	Amator
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Toronto International Film Festival</i>
Date	1989
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Amator (Camera buff), Kiésłowski, Krzysztof, 1979



Amator

Camera Buff

Krzysztof Kieslowski

Poland, 1979, 112 minutes

Colour/35mm

Screenplay: **Jerzy Stuhr, Krzysztof Kieślowski**

Cinematography: **Jacek Petrycki**

Editor: **Halina Nawrocka**

Principal Cast: **Jerzy Stuhr, Malgorzata Zabkowska, Ewa Pokas, Stefan Czyzewski**

Co-winner of the Grand Prize at the 1979 Moscow Film Festival, *Camera Buff* is a comic delight, full of invention and an incisive sense of what to ridicule. It is that rare creation, a comedy with a social conscience. Very little escapes Kieślowski's mercilessly scatological gaze, and we move with ease from uproarious laughter to ironic ridicule. The film is a tart satire on provincial manners and a sly contemplation on the social responsibility of the modern-day artist. The film's unassuming hero, Filip, works as a factory clerk in a small Polish town. He has an attractive wife, a modest apartment, and a healthy newborn baby. To celebrate the birth of his daughter, Filip decides to buy an 8mm camera to record his family's happiness. He quickly shows a talent for filmmaking, but before long becomes obsessed with his new hobby, which causes problems at home. When his wife eventually decides she can no longer tolerate his passion for filmmaking and decides to leave, he films her departure. Filip's compulsion to film the world around him inevitably leads to trouble at work. His pompous factory boss orders him to film the plant's jubilee celebration. When the film wins third prize at an amateur competition, Filip is discovered by progressive Warsaw producers who encourage him to make more frankly political films. Filip soon learns about the personal price that is inevitably paid for artistic freedom, and the erotic attraction and social power of a man with a camera.

Szpital (Hospital) — Krzysztof Kieślowski, 1976, 20 minutes.