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Top Dog

Wodzirej

Director: Feliks Falk

Producer: Polish Corporation for Film Production, "X" Film Unit

Screenplay: Feliks Falk, Jerzy Stuhr

Cinematographer: Edward Klosinski

Cast: Jerzy Stuhr

Print Source: Film Polski

1978/color/115 min.

A sardonic story of steely ambition and cunning, *Top Dog* is seen today as one of the most colorful and culturally revealing films produced in Poland before martial law was imposed in 1981. Ludwik Danielak is a ruthless young man who bribes, lies, blackmails and even prostitutes himself to secure a key position in a televised New Year's Eve celebration. A man who will truly stop at nothing to get what he wants, at one point he seduces an older woman merely to acquire information damaging to his competitors. He also coldly offers his girlfriend to an influential cohort who can help him latch onto the desired spot. His wild run of calculated tactics builds in such a frenetic manner that the instant we think we have seen him at his most heartless, he performs an even more monstrous act of betrayal or greed. The surprising swiftness with which Danielak succeeds in his mission makes a clear and bitter statement about the demoralization of Polish society.

In Person: Feliks Falk

9:30 pm Monday, October 12 (F21) Tivoli