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ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS

Starring Adaś Siemion as Andrzej
 Ewa Skibińska as Ola
 Krzysztof Globisz as Alexander

based on the Memoirs of Ola Wat

a film by Robert Gliński

produced by Marek Nowowiejski





"That was a sad childhood.
Sounds, remembrances, dreams
in which he always soared one inch above earth.
Then he fell.
The fall of a child...
The levitation of a poet."

(from 'Childhood of a Poet' by Aleksander Wat)



Short Synopsis

All That Really Matters is a Film about tenacity and courage and about holding on to memories of all that was once fine and good during upheaval and chaos. It is also a Film which testifies to the unspoken yearning within us all that the past is never dead and can always be repeated. It is, moreover, a film about love and the strength of family bonds as seen through the eyes of a 10-year old boy.

Poland 1939. To avoid the German invasion, the family flee East from Warsaw, straight into the path of the advancing Soviet army intent on dismembering Poland. In January 1940, the boy's father - the poet and political activist, Aleksander Wat - is arrested. He disappears without trace - swallowed up by paranoid Soviet bureaucracy - leaving the boy and his mother to fend for themselves.

They are quickly rounded up with other emigre Warsaw intellectuals and aristocrats and people from the lower classes - peasants, artisans etc. from the surrounding areas - and sent into international exile to Kazakhstan, Asia, a land of wild, grim, haunting beauty where they are forced to work in a desert settlement - a kolkhoz - 3,000 miles from anywhere.

In this forgotten landscape two cultures interact and clash, sometimes violently: the Poles with their hitherto sophisticated lifestyles, and the Asiatics - the guards and local people whose entire philosophy of life is so radically different from that of the refined, intellectual city dwellers.

Here the boy has to adapt quickly or go under, but with remarkable maturity he quickly grows up, replacing his father in his mother's eyes. The boy and his mother - a beautiful, sensitive, intelligent woman - are rejected by some of the 'emigres' because they are Jews. However, they refuse to be broken and their willpower and tenacity to survive inhuman conditions - hunger, attempted rape, near-fatal illnesses - and be re-united with the husband and father is so strong that, finally, it is all that really matters.

Aleksander Wat (1900 -1967)

Aleksander Wat was regarded as one of the leaders - certainly one of the foremost poets - of the Polish Futurist/Dadaist movement in Poland. He was born a Jew, in Warsaw, in 1900 into a bookish, middle-class household. In 1917 he began to study philosophy at Warsaw University and there co-founded a Futurist (Dadaist) writing group. Two years later he published his first book of poems which reflected the crisis and collapse of European civilisation during the Great War.

Wat saw only one solution to Europe's ills - Communism - and although never a member of the Party he edited its most important newspaper in Warsaw from 1929 until closed down by the authorities in 1932.

On the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, Wat and his wife and young son fled East, only to be trapped by the advancing Soviet forces. Imprisoned as a subversive, Wat lost all trace of his family who had been sent into exile to Soviet Asia.

Released under an amnesty in 1941, Wat spent years searching for his family, but it was not until 1946 that they could all return to Warsaw.

Until his death in 1967 Wat continued to write poetry, living mainly in southern France and Italy, and teaching at Berkeley in California.

His poetry has been edited and collected by the Nobel Prize-winning Polish writer, Czeslaw Milosz - in the book 'With The Skin, Poems of Aleksander Wat' (Translated and edited by Czeslaw Milosz, Leonard Nathan) - who says of Wat's work:

"Wat is a light... (he) provides a light and guidance in the labyrinth of the twentieth century... he was a very brave man, very courageous and his personal suffering is integrated in his poetry into a larger picture of the world which is beautiful."



Production

Marek Nowowiejski Film Productions Ltd.
Powszechny Zakład Ubezpieczeń SA

Sponsors

Animex
Elektrim



Elektrim S.A.

Director

Robert Gliński

Producer

Marek Nowowiejski

Director of Photography

Jarosław Szoda

Screenplay & Dialogue

Dżamila Ankiewicz - Nowowiejska

Original Music

Jerzy Satanowski

Production Manager

Iwona Ziulkowska

Józef Jarosz

Sound Supervisor

Mariusz Kuczyński

Recorded in DOLBY SR

Editing

Elżbieta Kurkowska

International Distribution:

Cine Electra

