

A SEASON OF CLASSIC FILMS: JANKO THE MUSICIAN

26.10.2022 | ILUZJON CINEMA

National Film Archive – Audiovisual Institute cordially invites to the *Iluzjon* Cinema on 26.10.2022 for a screening of one of the oldest surviving Polish sound films, *Janko the Musician*, directed by Ryszard Ordyński in 1930. The screening will take place as part of the 3rd Edition of *A Season of Classic Films*, organised by ACE (*Association des Cinémathèques Européennes*), which includes screenings of restored films and parallel events organised by 22 European film archives. The film was known until recently in an incomplete version without sound; FINA reconstructed and digitally restored the material and supplemented it with the original soundtrack. Nearly 90 years after its premiere, *Janko the Musician* will be presented in its original form during the 18th edition of the *Silent Movie Festival* at the *Iluzjon* Cinema. Admission to the event is free.



**A SEASON OF
2022 CLASSIC
FILMS**

JANKO MUZYKANT
Janko the Musician
National Film Archive – Audiovisual Institute, Warsaw - Poland

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A Season of Classics Films

Filmoteka Narodowa – Instytut Audiowizualny
ul. Wałbrzyska 3/5, 02-739 Warszawa | t: +48 22 380 49 75 | t: +48 22 380 49 76 | promocja@fina.gov.pl
Kontakt dla mediów: Beata Żurawska | t: + 48 662 099 200 | beata.zurawska@fina.gov.pl



The initiative by the Association des Cinémathèques Européennes, coordinated with the support of the EU's Creative Europe MEDIA programme, is presenting a series of free film screenings and parallel activities across Europe to attract audiences to our shared cinematic cultural heritage. The programme aims to raise awareness of the work of European film archives, to connect the public to the history of cinema and the importance of film preservation. Most of the films are premiere digital restorations. Some screenings include live performances and interactive educational sessions. All films are available with English subtitles. Additionally, French or other subtitles may be available in some cases.

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**CELEBRATING FILM HERITAGE
ACROSS EUROPE**

ASSOCIATION DES
CINÉMATHEQUES
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Janko the Musician, dir. Ryszard Ordyński, Poland, 1930, 70 min

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One of the oldest surviving Polish sound films, *Janko the Musician*, until recently was known in an incomplete version devoid of sound. Considered lost, the original soundtrack discs were found in a private collection abroad and bought by FINA in 2018. The film has been digitally remastered and restored. Nearly 90 years after its release, it will be presented again in its original form.

The film score for *Janko the Musician* was created by eminent conductor and composer Grzegorz Fitelberg, and the well-known theatre scholar, director and composer Leon Schiller. The film is, therefore, unique and hitherto unknown addition to the artistic output of these two figures so important for Polish music and theatre.

Janko the Musician is an example of an early European sound film. In this respect, it is a very modern production compared to other European movies from that year. Although there is no dialogue, the score is exceptionally rich compared to its contemporaries.

The film is also a curious example of an adaptation of literary classics. The screenplay is based on a well-known novella by Henryk Sienkiewicz, which is still a required reading in Polish schools. Although the plot is quite different from the original (the film tells the further story of the protagonist who, in the novella, dies as a child), it is an interesting example of the creative approach the scriptwriters chose in this crucial period of world cinema.

The film is also brimming with local curiosities: the initial scenes in the countryside were shot in Rybienko and Barcice near Wyszaków - these are probably the oldest film stills of the local monuments: the Skarżyński palace and the wooden Baroque church. One of the outdoor scenes was shot on the legendary, (now defunct) marketplace on Kercelego Square in Warsaw, the so-called Kercelak. It was one of the places most characteristic of the folklore of Warsaw at the turn of the 20th century.

The main roles are played by the debuting actor Witold Conti, who soon became an idol of Polish cinema and stage, and Maria Malicka, an acclaimed dramatic actress of the younger generation. The supporting roles feature two of the most popular comedians of the interwar Polish revue: Adolf Dymśa and Kazimierz Krukowski, as well as the future most famous film heart-throb, Aleksander Żabczyński.

Further details of the screening:

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