

WOMAN ON THE ROOF

A FILM BY
ANNA JADOWSKA



LOGLINE

After trying to rob a bank with a kitchen knife, Mirka discovers her need for money is surpassed only by her need for love.

PITCH

Mirka, a 60-year old woman, appears to have a normal life. One morning she starts her day like any other, wakes up early, puts her family's clothes out to dry and purchases food for her fish and commits a bank robbery with a kitchen knife. She discovers her need for money is surpassed only by her need for love.

Director's Statement

The situation of women in Poland and many other countries remains very difficult. In traditional family relationships, women are forced to limit their own needs. Mirka sees her circumstances as obvious. They could not be otherwise. Although she observes others around her – younger women who make different choices – she cannot even imagine her life changing at all.

Mirka was locked in a very tight stereotype. As wife and mother, she was limited to a mechanical routine which left no room for introspection. She, alone, kept the household going and never asked for help - nor did anyone ever offer it. Asking for help would have been an admission of failure.

When at the bank Mirka whispers that she needs money, she breaks her lifelong silence and sets off on a new path. For me, her story is about how it is never too late to speak up – and for the first time in your life say out loud what it is you really need.

Work on the script went on over four years; and the same was true of closing the budget. Finding someone to fill the main role was difficult. With casting director Piotr Bartuszek, we scouted all Polish theaters, even searching out actresses who had stopped acting. It turned out that Mirka was not very far away at all. Dorota Pomykała is a famous Polish actress who appears in many television series. However, she is usually seen playing characters full of the energy and wit that reflect her real-life character - completely the opposite of Mirka's character. But as soon as she read one of the scenes at the casting, we knew she was right for the part.

In the cinema, the female character over 60 is almost absent. Just as in the real world, women of this age before invisible to society. In making this film, I wanted to show a complex real female figure who, despite the fact that she plays important social roles, also has very personal emotional needs that, suppressed over the years, speak loudly.

Director's bio

Graduated from Łódź Film School and Wajda Masterschool of Directing, her feature *Touch Me* (Berlinale 2003 Forum section) wins the Grand Independent Cinema Prize in Poland in 2004. The same year, her short film *Corridor* is selected to the Cannes International Critics' Week. In 2005, she wins the Best Polish Debut Award for her film *Now, Me*. Her last feature, *Wild Roses* (2017) wins again numerous awards among which the Impact Award Stockholm IFF, 5 Awards Cottbus IFF.

Producer's bio

Specializing in international co-productions, Maria co-founded and has directed Donten & Lacroix Films in Poland since 2006 and Blick Productions in Paris since 2015.

Her industry career started in 2002, as production manager for independent European companies and broadcasters, notably for the producers of Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation USA.

After graduating from three national film schools in Poland, Germany and France, with two Masters degrees in Literature and Arts Management, Maria settled in Paris to work for French producers. Between 2006 and 2008, she worked alongside Margaret Menegoz (Films du Losange) on projects by Andrzej Wajda, Michael Haneke and Arash Riahi. She has been involved in the production of more than 35 films (feature, documentaries and animations) which won acclaim and awards at international film festivals. *Woman on the Roof* is her first feature as both Polish and French executive producer.

Maria is a member of Eurodoc, Eave, ACE Producers, EFA, and was named one of European Film Promotion's Producers on the Move in 2017.





Cast bios

Dorota Pomykała - *Mira*

Dorota Pomykała was born in 1956 in Świerklaniec, Poland. She has played in more than fifty films and TV shows in Poland and all over the world. She has worked on internationally recognized Polish feature films, such as : The Lone Scherfig's 1990 *Birthday Trip* (1990), for which she was named Best Actress at the 1991 Danish Film Awards ; Adek Drabiński's 1997 *A Trap*, and Sławomir Fabicki's 2006 *Retrieval*. She has been a longtime member of the National Stary Theatre cast in Cracow, where she worked with directors like Andrzej Wajda, Krystian Lupa and Jerzy Jarocki. Recently, she starred in Tadeusz Łysiak's 2020 Oscar-nominated short *The Dress*.



Bogdan Koca - *Julek*

Bogdan Koca is a Polish-Australian actor, and theater director graduated from the Academy of Theatrical Arts in Warsaw. After appearing in many Polish productions, he became internationally recognized thanks to his collaboration with the Australian director John Hillcoat's 1988 *Ghosts... of the Civil Dead*. In 2004, Koca worked as actor and rehearsal director for John Hillcoat's 2005 *The Proposition* written by Nick Cave. In 2003, he played in Rolf de Heer's *Alexandra's Project*. He also starred in the 2013 TV series *Spies of Warsaw* with David Tennant. He is an author of over 30 plays. In 1998 he founded Sydney Art Theatre, of which he is Artistic Director. Recently, he has starred in the play "*An Old Woman Sits It Out*", based on the work of Tadeusz Różewicz, at the Polish Theatre in Wrocław.

Crew bios



Katharina Nuttal - *Original music*

Graduated in Film Score Composing from the Royal College of Music, Stockholm (KMH), Katharina Nuttal is a film composer, artist and music producer. Since her debut in 2006 with the feature *Rosa, The Movie*, directed by Mine Lindvall, she has written the music score of numerous projects, among which the features *The Heart* by the director Fanni Metelius, Best Director Award and nominated for Jury Prize at Riviera IFF in 2019, *The Pink Cloud Syndrome* by Alexis Almström, *The Feminist*, by Hampus Linder, for which she received Best Musical Score Award at the Vancouver International Film Festival. She's also the author of music for *Josefin and Florin* by Ellen Fiske and Joanna Karlberg, *An Army of Lovers* by Ingrid Rydberg and *Passion* by Maja Borg. She has released three studio albums and is currently working on her fourth.



Ita Zbronic-Zajt - *DOP*

A Cinematography graduate from the Polish National School of Film, Theatre and Television in Lodz. Nominated at the Camerimage International Film Festival for "*Underdog*" directed by Ronnie Sandahl in the 'Cinematographers' Debuts Competition'. Won Guldbagge 2017 ("Swedish Oscar") for Best Cinematography for the movie "*The Yard*". Awarded Best Cinematography for the film "*Refugee 532*" at the Uppsala International Short Film Festival. Winner of Sven Nykvist Award for Best Cinematography at Göteborg Festival 2019 for the film "*Säsong*".

CREW

DIRECTOR	Anna Jadowska
DOP	Ita Zbronic-Zajt
SET DESIGNER	Anna Pabisiak
COSTUME DESIGNER	Maja Skrzypek
SOUND RECORDIST / SOUND EDITOR	Roman Dymny
EDITORS	Julia Grégory Piotr Kmiecik
SOUND EDITOR / MIXER	Vincent Verdoux
MUSIC COMPOSED BY	Katharina Nuttall
CASTING DIRECTOR	Piotr Bartuszek
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Sylwia Rajdaszka
PRODUCER FR/PL	Maria Blicharska Martin-Lacroix
PRODUCER FR	Damien McDonald
PRODUCERS SE	Mimi Spång, Anna-Maria Kantarius
A POLISH-FRENCH-SWEDISH COPRODUCTION	DONTEN & LACROIX FILMS PL BLICK PRODUCTIONS FR GARAGEFILM SE



CAST

MIRA	Dorota Pomykała
JULEK	Bogdan Koca
MARIUSZ	Adam Bobik
ULA	Agnieszka Suchora
INTERN	Ewa Stańczyk
DAGMARA	Edyta Januszevska
DANA	Aneta Spirydowicz
DANUTA	Milena Lisiecka
MONIKA	Magdalena Mączko
ELA	Karolina Adamczyk



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