

# International Polonaise Ball 2004

## SALUTE TO POLISH FILM THE 32ND INTERNATIONAL POLONAISE BALL



**February 7th, 2004 Organized by the American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc.**

**A SALUTE TO POLISH FILM** – The 32nd International Polonaise Ball was organized to emphasize the importance of Polish film and pay tribute to movie directors, actors and actresses working in Poland and the United States.

On February 7th, 2004 the annual ball held in an elegant hotel on Miami Beach and organized under the auspices of the Polish Ambassador in the US gathered over 420 international guests studded with stars, diplomats, aristocracy, artists and business people. This high society, comprised of guests who represented some twenty different countries and ethnicities: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Lithuania, Monaco, Native American, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela had one thing in common - a recognition and admiration for Poland and her people. By participating in this memorable event they also supported the American Institute of Polish Culture' funded and presided over by the Honorable Lady Blanka Rosenstiel.

The evening started at 7 PM with the cocktail hour. Ladies arrived in most exquisite and elaborate evening dresses and gentlemen looked handsome in tuxedos and tails. The official part of the evening started at 8:00 PM in the grand ballroom adorned with sparkling lights, stars and beautiful flower arrangements.

Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund, the Master of Ceremonies, read congratulatory messages from U.S. President George W. Bush, the President of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewski, the Polish Ambassador Przemyslaw Grudzinski, the Governor of Florida and several Senators.

Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. and Mrs. Roman Cooper, Mrs. Monica Heftler and Mrs. Harriet Irsay were the Chairpersons for the Ball. Lady Blanka thanked all the movie directors for their films, and the actors for superbly acted roles. She paid tribute to Polish American actors and filmmakers. Then she greeted many distinguished guests including: Deputy Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the US Dr. Boguslaw Winid, Assistant to the Ambassador of Lithuania Jarek Neverovic, Ambassador and Mrs. Loucas Tsilas, Ambassador Arnold Willen, Hon. Consul of Hungary George de Pozsgay, Hon. Consul of Belgium Pascale van Cleemput, Hon. Consul General of Belgium Gui Govaert, Hon. Consul of Slovenia Maria Bacinich.

Many participants traveled long distances to be at this prestigious ball: Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Schietse from Monaco, Mrs. Margareta de Gea from Sweden, Dr. and Mrs. Adam Tyszkiewicz, from LA, Mr. John Lenczowski, Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz, Drs. Krzysztof and Maria Michejda, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zachariasiewicz from Washington DC, Co-Adjutor Bishop Thomas Wenski from Orlando. There was a large group of over 30 people from Chicago who came as friends of Mr. and Mrs. Roman Cooper, as well as a group from Boston, MA, Dallas TX, New York, NY, Detroit, MI and from the state of Florida.

It is a wonderful tradition that the Ball opens with the Polonaise, a stately dance, by distinguished guests. Lady Blanka with Mr. Ryszard Rynkowski led 27 pairs on the dance floor. The following persons; Mr. Krzysztof Zanussi and Mrs. Ednagene Schofman, Mrs. Barbara Krafftowna and Mr. Andrzej Pawilkowski, Count Adam Tyszkiewicz and Countess Magdalena von Freytag, Mrs. Harriet Irsay and Mr. John Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Beaman, and Mr. and Mrs. Witold Sulimirski were among dancers.



**Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. Ryszard Rynkowski**

After this spectacular dance Lady Blanka thanked "the Super Angels" for their generosity and support. They were applauded by all, as they came onto the stage: Mr. Walter and Mrs. Regina Beaman, Mr. Roman and Mrs. Basia Cooper , Ms. Monika Heftler, Mrs. Harriet Irsay, Dr. Irena Rytel and Mr. Jan Stosio Miklaszewicz, The Honorable Pascale van Cleemput, Ms. Pat Riley, Mr. Adolf Shering, Mr. Mariusz Fliski, Mr. Czeslaw Paradowski. Next she introduced celebrities – one of the most popular singers and composers Mr. Ryszard Rynkowski; actor, director and play write -Andrzej Strzelecki; movie producer Jerzy Michaluk from Poland and actor Piotr Andrzejewski from Hollywood, CA .

It was then time for awards and recognitions. The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland awarded friends of the Institute with "Amicus Poloniae" for their outstanding efforts in promoting development and cooperation between Poland and the U.S. Dr. William Hipp, Dean of the School of Music at the University of Miami, Mr. Gerald Jaski lawyer and Board member of the Institute, and Mr. Wallace West, President of the American Institute of Polish Culture in Pinellas County received special plaques for their continued support and promotion of Polish culture from the hands of Deputy Ambassador Dr. Boguslaw Winid.

Special recognition from the AIPC was given to three gentlemen who have been organizing Polish Film Festivals in different regions of the US. Dr. Michal Freidrich – Seattle WA, Mr. Krzysztof Kamyszew – Chicago, IL and the Honorable Zbigniew Wojciechowski – Houston, TX.

During the delicious dinner The Polish – American Dance Company from New York City performed an artistic program of dances to music from Polish films, which they choreographed especially for the occasion. Included were waltzes from the Oscar nominated movies - Night and Days and Promised Land and the tango from Kieslowski's film White. The performance was beautiful and original.

This year the American Institute of Polish Culture gave the Excellence Award to Krzysztof Zanussi – world-renowned film director from Poland who has made movies in his homeland and many European countries. He is considered the most famous Polish

movie director of intellectual cinema. Mr. Zanussi honored the Ball with his presence and personally received the Award.

The Gold Medals were presented to Mr. Jerzy Hoffman and Mrs. Barbara Krafftowna. Mr. Hoffman is an outstanding movie director of historical films about Poland, whose career spans five decades. His movie Deluge was nominated for an Oscar in 1974. Mr. Hoffman thanked Lady Blanka for this great recognition that he values very much.



**Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. Jerzy Hoffman, Mrs. Barbara Krafftowna**

Mrs. Krafftowna is an actress successful on stage, television and film. She has played in over 30 television and movie productions and has proven her remarkable talent in dramas and comedies alike. Mrs. Krafftowna was moved and happy when receiving the Gold Medal – she said that this recognition was a beautiful surprise to her.

Next John Wayne, Jr. sang a medley of lovely songs. After the artistic program and the official part of the ball was over the guests danced to the tunes of the Frank Hubbell orchestra. Elegance, charm and happiness filled the ballroom throughout the evening.

The grand finale of the Ball was the Polonaise danced by the Polish American Dance Company from New York and all the guests. The Ball once again proved to be the most elegant Polonia ball in the US, gathering distinguished guests from all over the world. This year they had an opportunity to meet in Miami and celebrate the contribution of Polish films to the international movie industry. It was a delightful, lovely and educational event from which the guests took unforgettable memories.

### **Special Brunch**

The day after the ball on February 8, a very special and elegant brunch was served in the Starlight Room on the top floor of the hotel. The guests were able to enjoy delicious food as well as a rich artistic program. The Polish American Dance Company performed the Krakowiak and Mazur. Next Mr. Ryszard Rynkowski sat at the piano and sang the most popular of his songs. It was a great performance that was generously applauded.

Lady Blanka thanked the guests for coming and especially Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund, the MC, and Ms. Beata Paszyc, Director of Public Relations of AIPC as well as members of the committees and volunteers for making this event a spectacular success. The orchestra played throughout the brunch and many couples twirled around the dance floor. This event was a delightful combination of fun, entertainment, music and dancing. What a way to say "Goodbye", au revoir, Do zobaczenia until next year!

***by Beata Paszyc***