100 Years of Andrzej Wajda: Cult Classics Meet a New Generation at FilmFestival Cottbus

Cottbus, 10 September 2026

Andrzej Wajda would have turned 100 this year. The 36th FilmFestival Cottbus (3–8 November 2026) is marking the anniversary with a special focus on one of the most important directors in European cinema. In the **DON'T CALL ME VINTAGE!** section, four of Wajda's works meet films by a new generation of Polish and German filmmakers. At the heart of the programme is the question: What does Wajda's cinematic and political legacy mean to young directors today?

FFC presents four films from different periods of Wajda's career: **ASHES AND DIAMONDS** (1958), **INNOCENT SORCERERS** (1960), **LANDSCAPE AFTER THE BATTLE** (1970) and **THE PROMISED LAND** (1975). They explore the struggle over Poland's political future after the Second World War, a young generation in search of a new way of life, life in the aftermath of the Holocaust, and the social upheavals brought about by industrialisation.

Wajda, who received an Honorary Academy Award for his lifetime achievement in 2000, repeatedly addressed Poland's political, social and historical upheavals in his films. His diverse body of work established him as a chronicler of Polish history while shaping European cinema far beyond the borders of his home country.

Wajda's Legacy Meets a New Generation

FFC does not, however, stop at looking back. Films by students and graduates of the **Wajda School in Warsaw** and **Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF** enter into dialogue with Wajda's work. The films bring questions that shaped Wajda's cinema into the present: How do filmmakers respond to political and social conflicts? How can cinema tell stories of responsibility and moral choices? And what remains of the "cinema of moral anxiety" for a new generation?

The focus is accompanied by a study project in the **World Heritage Studies programme at Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg (BTU)**, which uses Wajda as a case study to explore film as cultural heritage and its role in Polish memory culture.

The Wajda focus is part of **DON'T CALL ME VINTAGE!**. Launched in 2024, the section brings significant works of Central and Eastern European film history back to the big screen while asking what they mean to audiences and cinema today.

36th FilmFestival Cottbus

3–8 November 2026

For further information, interview requests, film stills and screening opportunities, please contact Marthe Gärtner (m.gaertner@filmfestival-cottbus.de).

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