



PRESS RELEASE

THE DRAGON OF DRAGONS AWARD OF 51ST KRAKOW FILM FESTIVAL GOES TO PIOTR KAMLER

Krakow, 15th March 2011 - Piotr Kamler – master of worldwide animation, awarded three times in Krakow, laureate of Grand Prix at Annecy Film Festival (1975) – will receive the Dragon of Dragons Award at 51st Krakow Film Festival (23rd-29th May 2011).

The Dragon of Dragons Award has been given by the organizers of Krakow Film Festival, one of the oldest film events dedicated to documentary, animated and short fiction films in Europe, to outstanding documentary and animation filmmakers since 1998. Among previous winners there are such well-known artists as Kazimierz Karabasz, Allan King, Albert Maysles, Werner Herzog, Stephen and Timothy Quay, Raoul Servais, Jerzy Kucia and Jonas Mekas.

Piotr Kamler was born in 1936. He graduated from the graphics department at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. He debuted in 1959 with an amateur animated film "Miasto" (The City). In the same year he won a scholarship in Paris, where he met Pierre Scheffer, a famous composer of concrete music and an experimental artist at studio Groupe de Recherche de Musique Concrète (GRMC). Scheffer was so interested in visions of the Polish artist, that he has created favorable conditions for Kamler's work in the GRMC, which henceforth became co-producer of his films.

Kamler's animations can be divided into two types - abstract and narrative. *Kamler's films have many elements of science fiction, but irony applies – film critic Marcin Giżycki writes. - They are full of strange devices, weightless, flying disks, futuristic landscapes, unearthly civilization. But also magic and alchemy, the transmutation of matter, magic sticks. Even the very geometric forms, as in "Le pas" (Walk) or "Une mission éphémère" (One Ephemeral Mission), move in a magic or a telekinetic manner. Despite all the uniqueness of Kamler's vision, the spirit of Georges Méliès lives in his movies.*

The music plays an important role in these works. Kamler cooperated with composers representing the elite of French contemporary music: Bernard Parmegiani (author of music for films by Walerian Borowczyk), François Bayle, Robert Cohen Solal.

In 1982, after five years of work, the artist completed his only feature film. Kamler's biggest project and the most amazing sci-fi film in the history of cinema - "Chronopolis". The history of the encounter of two civilizations at different stages of development was completed with such a precision that the author was repeatedly asked about the use of the computer, however he consistently denies.

Piotr Kamler is the author of a dozen films, almost all produced in France. He, however, considers himself as Polish filmmaker. For his work the artist has won numerous awards

including the prize for the best animated film of the last 30th years at Annecy International Animated Film Festival for "Le pas" (1975). He received the Silver Dragon, main prize for animated films in Krakow three times - for "La planete vert" (1966), "Le trou" (1968) and "Coeur de secours" (1973).

The Dragon of Dragons Awards ceremony will be held on 24th May 2011 in Kijow.Centrum cinema. During the Festival a retrospective of films by Kamler and an exhibition of his work and meetings with the audience are planned.

FILMOGRAPHY:

1959 - "Miasto"
1960 - "Conte"
1961 - "Lignes et points", music : François Bayle
1962 - "Reflets"
1963 - "Meurtre"
1963 - "Hiver"
1965 - "Tournoi", dir. with André Vaisin
1966 - "La Planete verte"
1967 - "Le depart"
1968 - "L'araignèelefant", music: Bernard Parmegiani, lyrics: Jacques Rouxel,
1968 - "Le trou", music: Robert Cohen-Solal.
1969 - "Le labyrinthe", music: Bernard Parmegiani
1970 - "Délicieuse catastrophe", music: Robert Cohen-Solal
1973 - "Coeur de secours", music: Francois Bayle
1975 - "Le pas", music: Bernard Parmegiani
1977-1982 - "Chronopolis", music: Luc Ferrari
1988 - "Chronopolis", middle-lenght version
1993 - "Une Mission Éphémère", music: Bernard Parmegiani

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***** Krakow Film Festival** is one of the oldest film events dedicated to documentary, animated and short fiction films in Europe. During 7 festival days viewers have an opportunity to watch about 250 films from Poland and abroad. Films are presented in competitions and in special sections like retrospectives, thematic cycles, archive screenings. Festival is accompanied by exhibitions, concerts, open air screenings and meetings with the filmmakers. Every year Krakow Film Festival hosts about 750 Polish and international guests: directors, producers, film festival programmers and numerous audience from Krakow.