



DROGÓWKA

nowy film WOJTKA SMARZOWSKIEGO

TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

written & directed
by

WOJTEK SMARZOWSKI

Produced by **Film it**

Co-produced by **Agora S.A., Telekomunikacja Polska,
Canal + Polska**

Supported by **The Polish Film Institute**

TECHNICAL SPECS

GENRE - CRIMINAL DRAMA

RUNNING TIME - 117 MIN.

EDITION & FORMAT - COLOR, 1:2,35

SOUND - DOLBY DIGITAL

SCREENING FORMAT - DCP & 35 mm

LANGUAGE - POLISH

SUBTITLES - ENGLISH

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION - POLAND

YEAR OF PRODUCTION - 2013

FILM RELEASED THEATRICALY IN POLAND ON FEBRUARY 1ST 2013.

CAST

KROL – BARTŁOMIEJ TOPA

PETRYCKI – ARKADIUSZ JAKUBIK

MADECKA – JULIA KIJOWSKA

BANAS – ERYK LUBOS

HAWRYLUK – ROBERT WABICH

LISOWSKI – MARCIN DOROCIŃSKI

TRYBUS – JACEK BRACIAK

GOLAB – MARIAN DZIĘDZIEL

EWA – IZABELA KUNA

JADZIA – AGATA KULESZA

ZAREBA – MACIEJ STUHR

PROSECUTOR CZECH – ADAM WORONOWICZ

CREW

SCREENPLAY & DIRECTION – WOJTEK SMARZOWSKI

DOP – PIOTR SOBOCIŃSKI JR PSC

PRODUCTION DESIGN – JOANNA MACHA

EDITING – PAWEŁ LASKOWSKI PSM

MUSIC – MIKOŁAJ TRZASKA

SOUND – KATARZYNA DZIDA-HAMELA, JACEK HAMELA

COSTUMES – KATARZYNA LEWIŃSKA

MAKEUP – KATARZYNA „DROBNA” DROBIEC

CASTING – M.MAGDALENA SZWARCBART

PRODUCTION MANAGER – PAWEŁ BAREŃSKI

PRODUCERS - DARIUSZ PIETRYKOWSKI, ANDRZEJ POŁEĆ,
FELIKS PASTUSIAK

CONTACT FOR INTL. SALES & FESTIVALS

FILM IT

32 Różana Street, 02-569 Warsaw, Poland

Feliks Pastusiak: f.pastusiak@filmit.com.pl

tel. +48 22 853 8668, mob. +48 500 240 177

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Seven friends, officers of the Warsaw's traffic police department, are leading seemingly fulfilled lives. They work together, party together, together they play jokes, cut small deals and sport fast cars. Their small world gets rocked when one of them is found murdered. Sargent Król becomes a chief suspect in the case. He manages to escape arrest and as a fugitive tries to prove his innocence. Slowly he begins to uncover a corruption scheme which points towards high circles of authority in police and politics.

FULL SYNOPSIS

Sargent Król and a group of his colleagues from the Traffic Police Department perform routine duties on the streets of Warsaw. In their line of work they often encounter drivers who are aggressive or try to avoid the ticket by offering bribes. Also superiors constantly press policemen for better results. Stressing job calls for relaxing measures, so when off-duty officers like to sport vodka, or race their old tuned up cars.

One afternoon Krol surprises his wife Eva when she is talking on the phone with her lover. He storms out of the apartment and spends a wild night painting the town red with his friends. Next morning he wakes up in his car parked on the bank of the river hardly remembering events of last night. He barely manages to report in time for duty, which for that day is maintaining order at the large gathering of pilgrims in another town. The bus full of officers is sent there.

Upon return late night, all officers are withheld for interrogation. It turns out that Sargent Lisowski, who didn't show up for duty was found murdered. His body was recovered from the river. All clues seem to point to Król. He owed money to Lisowski, who, as it turns out, was Eva's lover. Prosecutor presses charges and Król is arrested. He manages to break free and escape.

With a little help of his friends Król escapes pursuit and locates Lisowski's secret pied-à-terre where he discovers a bag full of cell phones and memory cards. These contain recordings of various traffic accidents. Król's investigation yields surprising results: some delinquent drivers (businessmen, lawyers, bank officers) were never charged, instead someone anonymously offered them impunity in exchange for certain favors. These favors helped to push through shady business deals. Beneficiaries of these included some high ranking politicians and police officers. Lisowski was a part of this group, but started his own blackmail "side racket" which seems to cost him his life.

Król decides to report his findings to his CO Commander Gołąb, who seems to be "clean". He also gains a proof that on the fatal night he was driven totally drunk by his friend and partner Hawryluk. He tries to contact Hawryluk, but finds him dead. A suicide? Faced with all facts, Gołąb offers to help.

Król is contacted by a mysterious X, who offers him a Ferrari car in exchange for the recordings. Król refuses, but X threatens to have Król or his son killed if he fails to comply. Later that night Król and his friends locate and follow the red Ferrari, which makes stops at various night clubs and brothels. Later the car disappears. All treads seem to be broken except for one information, that the guy in a Ferrari was choosing girls to flavor an informal business meeting next day. Król knows where and when the girls will meet and that Lena, a prostitute he visited on the fatal night, will be among them.

In the morning Gołąb informs Król that his proof of innocence is gone. Yet charges against him can be dropped and he can go back in service, provided he gives back the recordings. Król complies and is reinstated. Later he shows up at the meeting point of prostitutes and blackmails Lena to render him a favor.

At night Lena delivers Król a spy camera with recordings made at the business meeting. Materials compromising prominent political figures make their way to internet.

Next day Król is killed by a truck that rams his cruiser.

Król is buried with full honors. At his funeral internal affairs officers arrest the Chief Commander of the Warsaw's Traffic Police Department.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*To all those who have driving licenses, and those who don't have them yet, or those who already have them suspended by the traffic police; to front-seat and back-seat passengers – sober or drunk ; to pedestrians and bikers; to those who once took or take, or never will take, and to those who offered, offer , or never will,
to all of You I dedicate this film*

Traffic Department is a robust tale about contemporary Warsaw. It is a subjective portrait of the city pulsing with streetlights, blinkers and alarm lights of police cruisers. It is a film about stupid drivers, absurd traffic regulations, about traffic jams, motorways that exist only on paper, and real potholed roads. About an obvious fact that if there are those who take, there must be those who give. And an emerging reflection about the subtle difference between the bribe and the token of appreciation.

Photography is aggressive, intense, almost journalistic with changing angles. I intended to stay close to actors, feel their emotions, hear their breaths and whispers. Actors assignment was "to be" not "to act". Cameras on the set were "to listen", to register and react quickly. They were there for the actors. Never the opposite.

One of the intended results is a strong clash between the film-look pictures from main cameras and the coarse quality of these coming from video-recorders, cell phones and CCTV cameras. Cutting pattern is dense and often scene-to-scene. Action speeds up to a 100 as fast as Sargent Krol's BMW, but it can also sharply break when needed. Boorish reality on the surface, more important motives pertaining to meanings, symbols, morals and culture, buried slightly deeper. Sounds of the city attack and drill into ears. Everything subordinated to the final silence.

For me, most importantly this is the story about people. About the man. About values. I don't mean to say it will be fun, but at least not utterly hopeless. Because things change, people change, even police changes in more aspects then the color of paint on their cruisers. Corruption gives in to honesty... So help us...

Thank you for your attention
Wojtek Smarzowski



Polish Film Awards

EAGLES 2013

6 nominations

2 wins

Best Script – Wojtek Smarzowski

**Best Supporting Actor – Arkadiusz
Jakubik**

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

35th Moscow IFF – June 2013 – Main Competition

67th Edinburgh IFF – June 2013 – Directors' Showcase

48th Karlovy Vary IFF – June 2013 – Variety's 10 European Film Directors to Watch

4th Odessa IFF – July 2013 – Main Competition

POLISH CRITICS ABOUT THE FILM

“How to expose a condensed evil in the film, but to do it in a manly manner, without hysteria? Smarzowski searches for such approach ... and finds it.”

Tadeusz Sobolewski, *Gazeta Wyborcza*

“*Traffic Department*, a superb film about pathology that became norm. ... Brutal and terrifyingly true. ... I am not afraid to say that Smarzowski is now our most important film director.”

Barbara Hollender, *Rzeczpospolita*

EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW WITH WOJTEK SMARZOWSKI

It is your second film with Piotr Sobociński, after *The Rose*. How is your cooperation going along?

In short words – very well. Before starting the shoot of *Traffic Department* we talked a lot about character of this film. We knew that pictures shot with cell phones and cctv cameras will play an important role in this film. We defined all types of pictures that will constitute the fabric of the film and then each of us got busy with his work. Actually I happen to work with actors the same way. We talk a lot about characters' motivations before the shoot, so later I don't need to interfere with their work. I

surround myself with good actors who know what to do. Only instances when their interpretation strays too much from my original idea call for my interference.

What is most important for you in your film work?

I focus on “meanings”. It goes for my work with actors, with my DOP Piotr Sobociński, with my editor Piotr Laskowski, or with sound editors Kasia and Jacek Hamela. Always the „meanings”, details are less important. The same goes for the overall scope of the film – what interests me the most are the “meanings”.

Can you give us a short characteristics of your main characters?

Król (Bartek Topa) he’s accused, needs to defend himself
Lisowski (Marcin Dorociński) a policeman, who likes money.
Petrycki (Arek Jakubik) womanizer.
Madecka (Julia Kijowska) sensitive and in love
Trybus (Jacek Braciak) sports drinking
Banaś (Eryk Lubos) can’t tolerate non-Poles
Hawryluk (Robert Wabich) a turned-over friend

KEY CREW

WOJTEK SMARZOWSKI – WRITER AND DIRECTOR



Graduated from the Department of Cinematography of the Film School in Lodz. Started his career successfully directing music videos. Directed several TV dramas and TV series. Debuted as feature film writer and director with *The Earlobe* in 1998. Writer and director of *The Wedding* (2004) and *The Dark House* (2009). Director of *The Rose* (2011). His films won over 70 film festival awards.

Major Filmography

2013 “Anioł”/ “The Angel” (feature in production), Screenwriter & Director

- 2013 "Drogówka"/"Traffic department"- (feature) –Screenwriter & Director
- 2011 "Róża"/ "Rose"- (feature) – Director
- 2009 "Dom Zły"/ "The Dark House" – (feature) – Screenwriter (Co-Author) & Director
- 2009 "Londyńczycy" / "Londoners" – (TV Series) – Director,
- 2004 "Wesele"/" The Wedding" – (feature) – Screenwriter & Director
- 2003 "Na Wspólnej"/ - TV Series - Director
- 2001 "Sezon na leszcza"/A Season for the Sicker – feature - Screenwriter (Co-Author)
- 1998 "Małżowina" / The Earlobe - (TV feature) – Screenwriter & Director

Major Awards: The Wedding

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2005

- East of West Award - Special Mention for: The Wedding (2004)

Locarno International Film Festival 2004

- Youth Jury Award - Special Mention for: The Wedding (2004)

Eagle - Polish Film Awards 2005

- Best Director (for: The Wedding (2004)
- Best Screenplay for: The Wedding (2004)

Polish Film Festival 2004

- Critics Award for: The Wedding (2004)
- Special Jury Prize for: The Wedding (2004)

Warsaw International Film Festival 2004

- Best Script for: The Wedding (2004)

Major Awards: The Dark House

Polish Films Festival in Gdynia - September 2009

- Best Direction - Wojtek Smarzowski
- Best Script – Lukasz Kosmicki & Wojtek Smarzowski
- Best Editing – Pawel Laskowski

Official selection of Warsaw IFF – October 2009

- Audience Award

Official selection of Tokyo IFF – October 2009

Official selection of Plus Camerimage International Festival for the Art of Cinematography in Lodz – December 2009

- Silver Frog – Krzysztof Ptak

“Golden Film”

Prize for the Best Polish Film of 2009 awarded by the Polish Chapter of FIPRESCI

Polish Film Awards – Eagles 2010

- Best Direction – Wojtek Smarzowski
- Best Photography – Krzysztof Ptak
- Best Editing – Pawel Laskowski
- Audience Award

2010 Kiev IFF May 2010

- Best Direction – Wojtek Smarzowski
- Best Script – Lukasz Kosmicki & Wojtek Smarzowski

Major Awards: Rose

2013 "Zlota Tasma" (Golden Film) for the Best Polish Film of 2012
an Award of Polish FIPRESCI Chapter

2012 Viareggio IFF "EuropaCinema"

- Main Award
- Audience Award

2012 Toronto Polish Film Festival

- The best film

2012 Ourense International Film Festival

- Grand Prix

2012 Polish Film Awards – Eagles 2011

- Best Direction 2011– Wojtek Smarzowski
- Best Film 2011 – Wojtek Smarzowski
- Audience Award

2012 Brooklyn International Film Festival

- Best Photography – Piotr Sobociński jr

2012 Goa (International Film Festival of India)

- Silver PeacockThe - Best male actor Marcin Dorociński

2012 Durres IFF

- " Silver Gladiator " for The Best Female Actor **Agata Kulesza**

2011 Warsaw Film Festival

- Grand Prix / International Contest
- Audience Award

2011 Polish Films Festival in Gdynia - September 2009

- "Golden Clapper", award for the film that received the longest ovation

Major Awards: Traffic Department

2013 Polish Film Awards – Eagles 2013

- Best Script
- The Best Supporting Actor **Arkadiusz Jakubik**

PIOTR SOBOCIŃSKI JR Psc – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Graduated from the Department of Cinematography of the Film School in Lodz. His student film *Winter* won him a Golden Tadpole at Camerimage FF in 2004. His cooperation with Wojtek Smarzowski started on the set of *The Dark House* (2009) where Piotr operated the camera. His photography for *The Rose* (2011) won him several film festival awards and nominations. *Traffic Department* got nominated for Polish Film Award Eagle 2013 for best photography.

MIKOŁAJ TRZASKA – MUSIC COMPOSER

Mikołaj Trzaska is one of the most outstanding contemporary Polish jazz musicians. He recorded over 30 albums, half of them selfcomposed projects. Author of the

scores for Wojtek Smarzowski's *The Dark House* and *The Rose*. Music for *Traffic Department* brought him nomination for Polish Film Award Eagle 2013.

PAWEŁ LASKOWSKI PSM – EDITOR

Graduated from the Department of Cinematography of the Film School in Lodz. Paweł has an impressive record as editor of feature films and tv dramas, yet most outstanding seems the work he has done for all Wojtek Smarzowski's films. *The Dark House* has won him Polish Film Award Eagle 2009 and best editing Award at PFF Gdynia 2009.

MAIN CAST

BARTŁOMIEJ TOPA – KRÓL

Theater and film actor, but also a film producer. Graduate of the Actors Department of Film School in Lodz. Appeared in almost all of Wojtek Smarzowski's films. His role of the Groom in *The Wedding* won him more than a dozen film festival awards. Nominated for the Best Actor Eagle 2013 Award for *Traffic Department*.

ARKADIUSZ JAKUBIK – PETRYCKI

Theater and film actor. Film and theater producer, director and writer. Vocalist of *Dr. Misio* rock group. Graduate of the Actors' School in Wrocław. Performed in almost all of Wojtek Smarzowski's films. Role in *Traffic Department* brought him Polish Film Award Eagle 2013 for the Best Supporting Actor.

ERYK LUBOS – BANAS

Film and theater actor. Graduate of the Actors' School in Wrocław. Winner of the prestigious Zbyszek Cybulski Award for *My Flesh My Blood* (2009) and the Best Actor at Karlove Vary IFF for *To Kill a Beaver* (2012). Appeared in *The Dark House* and *The Rose* by Wojtek Smarzowski.

JULIA KIJOWSKA – MADECKA

Film and theater actress. Graduate of the Actors' Academy in Warsaw. Debuted on the screen in *The Offsiders* (2008) by Kasia Adamik. *Traffic Department* is her first film with Wojtek Smarzowski.

MARCIN DOROCIŃSKI – LISOWSKI

Theater and film actor. Graduate of the Actors' Academy in Warsaw. Among many awards, laureate of The Best Actor Eagle 2009 for *The Reverse* and The Best Actor Award at Gdynia PFF in 2011 for *The Rose*.

JACEK BRACIAK – TRYBUS

Theater and film actor. Graduate of the Actors' Academy in Warsaw. Winner of the Best Supporting Actor Eagle Awards in 2003 for *Edi* and in 2011 for *The Rose*. His role of Jureczek in *Edi* won him the Best Supporting Actor Award at Gdynia PFF in 2003.

ROBERT WABICH – HAWRYLUK

Theater and film actor. Robert graduated from the Actors' Department of the Film School in Lodz. He appeared in almost all of Wojtek Smarzowski's films.

Film Review: Traffic Department

VARIETY May 7, 2013

Alissa Simon



A gritty, gripping, intelligently made crime thriller set on the mean streets of contemporary Warsaw

A gritty, gripping, intelligently made crime thriller, “Traffic Department” takes place on the mean streets of contempo Warsaw and exposes the corruption endemic to the police — and society at large. Polish helmer-scribe Wojtek Smarzowski focuses on seven police officers, members of the eponymous division who are friends as well as colleagues, and whose lives change after one of their number dies under mysterious circumstances. As much a social critique as a genre piece, the pic has already passed 1 million admissions since February in local release, and will soon roar into several prominent international fests, with announcements forthcoming.

As in Smarzowski’s earlier features, “The Wedding” (2004), “The Dark House” (2009) and “Rose” (2011), the multilayered narrative unspools in a nihilistic world where human venality and immorality are the order of the day. One can even see each of the policemen as representing one of the seven deadly sins, although the script never overplays this aspect.

Personifying pride is chief protagonist Sgt. Krol (Bartlomiej Topa), a cocky, independent-minded cop who is having an affair with his partner, Mary (Julia Kijowska). Krol may not be raking in the bribes like his fellow officers, but he’s certainly not averse to some of the department’s dangerous pastimes, such as racing souped-up cars by night through the city streets or sampling the wares — girls, drink and drugs — at local clubs.

When Krol catches his wife, Ewa (Izabela Kuna), talking to her own secret lover, his macho world starts to spin out of control. After a wild night on the town with his buddies, he finds

himself framed for the murder of a colleague, greedy Sgt. Lisowski (Marcin Dorocinski), who turns out to be the man who was cuckolding him.

With the cards stacked against him, Krol turns fugitive and sets out to prove his innocence. But as he tries to reconstruct events, it soon becomes clear that for him to uncover the truth would be anathema to his superiors, who are trying to hide a host of other crimes that indicate collusion between police and politicians at the highest levels.

Despite the thoughtful subject matter, the tone is not always deadly serious, although Smarzowski's daring humor tends toward the cynical. Just as pride must take a fall in the case of Krol, the writer-director engineers an audaciously appropriate comeuppance for the cops who represent lust, unrepentant skirt chaser Sgt. Petrycki (Arkadiusz Jakubik, winner of a Polish Eagle for best supporting actor), and wrath, the racist Sgt. Banas (Eryk Lubos). Working with a group of top thespians, most of whom have appeared in his other films, Smarzowski elicits excellent, in-your-face performances all around; the characters seem to live their jobs in a totally credible fashion.

After the more deliberately paced post-WWII drama "Rose," "Traffic Department" appears hyper-energized, literally pulsing with traffic lights, turn signals and police sirens. Already known for his muscular, visceral style, Smarzowski ups the ante here with dense cutting that rapidly switches among cell-phone footage, CCTV clips and color-desaturated widescreen images shot in near-natural light by ace lenser Piotr Sobocinski Jr. Most shots are so dense with activity and information that the film repays multiple viewings, bringing out new meanings each time.

Smarzowski is already working on a new feature, "Angel," based on Jerzy Pilch's bestseller "The Mighty Angel," using much of the "Traffic Department" cast.

Reviewed on DVD, London, May 1, 2013. Running time: 118 MIN. Original title: "Drogowka"