

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
October 1990

## KIESLOWSKI'S DECALOGUE

November 2 - 15, 1990

Krzysztof Kieslowski's *Decalogue* (1988), an internationally-acclaimed series of ten hour-long films loosely based on the Ten Commandments, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on November 2, 1990. Originally produced for Polish television, these modern parables, which range from tragic to comic, are imaginative, perceptive, and compassionate insights into the human psyche. During the course of the program, which continues through November 15, each episode will be screened once (complete schedule attached). On November 11, beginning at 11:30 a.m., all ten episodes will be shown in a marathon screening.

One of Poland's most astute social critics, Kieslowski is unforgiving in his insights, yet his affection for and sympathy with humanity lends a deep resonance to his films. *Decalogue* is set in an average Warsaw apartment complex, in which choice and chance play unsettling roles in everyday life. The successive characters in each episode face ethically complex situations that can be interpreted and approached in various ways. In *Decalogue One*, a young father blindly trusts his computer; in *Two*, a woman is married to a dying man and is pregnant by another; in *Four*, a young woman, tormented by incestuous longings, discovers the truth about her father; and, in *Eight*, an ethics professor is shaken by a reunion with a woman from her past.

Although there are recurring characters, locations, and motifs, each segment of *Decalogue* is a self-contained short feature that can be appreciated

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independently of the others. Two of the Decalogue episodes--*Five: A Short Film About Killing* (1988), the story of the brutal death of a cab driver and subsequent trial of his murderer; and *Six: A Short Film About Love* (1988), a portrait of an obsessive relationship between a repressed voyeur and an aggressive older woman--have been reworked into theatrical features. These longer versions will also be screened as part of this program.

Born in Poland in 1941, Kieslowski grew up in the post-Stalinist era which was witness to a general easing of political tensions. While a student at the State Theatrical and Film College in Lodz, from which he graduated in 1969, he was encouraged by the creative efforts of filmmakers Roman Polanski and Andrzej Wajda. Kieslowski made his debut as feature-film director with *From the City of Lodz* in 1969 and has since directed numerous documentaries and award-winning shorts and features. *Personnel*, his first theatrical release, won the Grand Prize at the Mannheim festival in 1975; *Camera Buff* won the Grand Prize at the Moscow festival and the Golden Hugo at the Chicago Film Festival, both in 1979; and *A Short Film About Killing* was awarded the Jury prize at the Cannes festival in 1988.

KIESLOWSKI'S DECALOGUE was organized by Adrienne Mancina, curator, and Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film.

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

KIESLOWSKI'S DECALOGUE

Exhibition Schedule

All films are directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski and are in Polish with English subtitles.

**Friday, November 2**

6:00 p.m. *Decalogue One.* 1988.  
With Henryk Baranowsky, Wojciech Klata, Maja Komorowska.  
53 min.

**Saturday, November 3**

2:00 p.m. *Decalogue Two.* 1988.  
With Krystyna Janda, Aleksander Bardini, Olgierd Lukaszewicz.  
57 min.

5:00 p.m. *Decalogue Three.* 1988.  
With Daniel Olbrychski, Maria Pakulnis, Joanna Szczepowska.  
56 min.

**Sunday, November 4**

2:00 p.m. *Decalogue Four.* 1988.  
With Adrianna Biedrzyńska, Janusz Gajos, Artur Barck.  
55 min.

5:00 p.m. *Decalogue Five.* 1988.  
With Mirosław Baka, Krzysztof Globisz, Jan Tesarz.  
57 min.

**Monday, November 5**

6:00 p.m. *Decalogue Six.* 1988.  
With Grazyna Szapolowska, Olaf Lubaszenko, Stefania Iwinska.  
58 min.

**Thursday, November 8**

6:00 p.m. *Decalogue Seven.* 1988.  
With Anna Polony, Maya Berekowska, Wladyslaw Kowalski.  
55 min.

**Friday, November 9**

6:00 p.m. *Decalogue Eight.* 1988.  
With Maria Koscialkowska, Teresa Marczevska, Artur Barcis.  
55 min.

**Saturday, November 10**

2:00 p.m. *Decalogue Nine.* 1988.  
With Ewa Blaszczyk, Piotr Machalika. 58 min.

5:00 p.m. *Decalogue Ten.* 1988.  
With Jerzy Stuhr, Zbigniew Zamachowski, Henryk Bista.  
57 min.

**Sunday, November 11**

**\*\*MARATHON\*\***

11:30 a.m. *Decalogues One and Two.*

2:30 p.m. *Decalogues Three to Six.*

8:00 p.m. *Decalogues Seven to Ten.*

**Tuesday, November 13**

6:00 p.m. *A Short Film About Killing.* 1988.  
With Miroslav Baka, Krzysztof Globisz, Jan Tesarz.  
85 min.

**Thursday, November 15**

6:00 p.m. *A Short Film About Love.* 1988.  
With Grazuna Szapolowska, Olaf Lubaszenko, Stefania Iwinska.  
86 min.

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