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KŁOSOWSKI, Roman (1929-2018) – film and theatre actor, theatre director.



Born on 16 February 1929 in Biała Podlaska, the son of Kazimierz and Franciszka née Lewicka. **K.** lived at 15 Garncarska Street. His father was an honest, honorable, and hardworking craftsman who ran a saddlery and upholstery workshop. His mother, patient, understanding, and thrifty, managed the household. The family was devoutly Catholic. **K.** had two older sisters, Ina and Lena. During the war, **K.** took part in underground education, and his father tried to train him in the family trade, but gave up when it became clear that he lacked the aptitude. **K.** also struggled academically. Teachers viewed him as lazy and truant; he was disobedient and unruly, reluctant to study, and had taken up smoking. At that time, **K.** seriously considered a career in sports, seeing himself as a footballer or boxer, but came to realize that his physical condition was not sufficient to achieve success in that field.

His first theatrical experiences came thanks to his English teacher, Karolina Beylin, later a renowned Warsaw historian and theatre critic, who was in hiding during the occupation in Biała Podlaska under the alias Maria Maliszewska. **K.** played the role of Jacuś Matołek in Beylin's play *Tuesday, 16 December (Wtorek 16 grudnia)*. During that time, **K.** also edited the school's student newspaper. In 1947, he graduated from the J.I. Kraszewski middle school with the so-called "small matura" and continued his education in the humanities class at the girls' high school of Emilia Plater (as Kraszewski did not offer a humanities track). He performed in school productions such as *The Rosemary Twig (Gałązka rozmarynu)* by Zygmunt Nowakowski, *Polish Bethlehem (Betlejem polskie)* by Lucjan Rydel, and *Balladyna* by Juliusz Słowacki. Through theatre activities and the guidance of excellent teachers – Aniela Walewska, Halina Łuczycka, Edmund Szejnert, and Bronisław Mazurkiewicz – he read widely and improved his linguistic skills. He ran a literary club and wrote theatre reviews of performances at the Kraszewski and Plater schools and the Commercial School. A failing grade in mathematics ended his education in Biała Podlaska. In the winter of 1948, he moved to his sister's place and completed his secondary education in Warsaw.

He began working at the Central Headquarters of the "Service to Poland" organization. He wrote scripts for community center activities. In Warsaw, he encountered a completely different social environment than in his hometown. **K.** met people with leftist views, and this ideology captivated him. A key figure at the time was Halina Koszutska, a left-wing activist and editor of the flagship magazine *Przyjaciółka*. She hosted an open house in Warsaw's Żoliborz district, frequented by many young people; she persuaded through humor, openness, charm, and kindness.

She was the complete opposite of Kłosowski's mother, which may explain his fascination with her friendly yet authoritative persona. He became a member of the Union of Polish Youth (ZMP), and later of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR), much to the disapproval of his parents.

In 1949, **K.** passed the entrance exams to the State Theatre School (PWST) in Warsaw, although his short stature and distinctive appearance were not advantageous. Among the distinguished professors who influenced his artistic development were Aleksander Zelwerowicz, Marian Wyrzykowski, Jan Kreczmar, Janina Romanówna, Stanisław Lindner, and Stanisław Nawrot. **K.** graduated from the Acting Department in 1953 and from the Directing Department in 1965. In 1953, while still in his fourth year, he played a small part in Jerzy Kawalerowicz's film *Cellulose (Celuloza)*. That same year **K.** debuted in the film *Three Stories (Trzy opowieści)* by Czesław Petelski and on stage in *Franek's Luck (Szczęście Frania)* by Włodzimierz Perzyński at the Polish Theatre in Szczecin, where he had been assigned to work after graduation. It was in Szczecin that he met his future wife while advising aspiring acting students.

In January 1955, **K.** returned to Warsaw and became affiliated with the Theatre of the Polish Army House (1955-1957), the Dramatic Theatre (1957-1961), the People's Theatre (1961-1974), and the New Theatre (1974-1976). In April 1955, he married Krystyna Macniak, and in November their only son, Tomasz, was born. **K.** lived modestly. As a student, he subsisted on a scholarship and stayed in a dormitory. Upon returning from Szczecin, not much changed financially. **K.** used to say that although he never became wealthy as an actor, he was never hungry either. His marriage was considered exemplary, and despite the challenges, they remained together for 58 years until Krystyna's death. After her passing in 2013, he experienced a deep emotional crisis.

From 1976 to 1981, **K.** served as general and artistic director of the Powszechny Theatre in Łódź. Thanks to his efforts, the productions gained audience acclaim, as he engaged renowned Polish directors, revitalizing the theatre's repertoire. Notably, celebrated film directors such as Janusz Zaorski and the Kondratiuk brothers (Janusz and Andrzej) debuted there during his tenure. From 1981 to 1991, **K.** worked at the Syrena Theatre in Warsaw. In his later years, **K.** collaborated with the J. Osterwa Theatre in Gorzów Wielkopolski.

K. was an outstanding actor who excelled in both dramatic and comedic roles. His most famous film role was Maliniak in Jerzy Gruza's television series *The Forty-Year-Old (Czterdziestolatek)* where the lead role was played by Andrzej Kopiczyński, a native of Międzyrzec Podlaski. He also acted under directors such as Andrzej Munk, Jerzy Kawalerowicz, Czesław Petelski, and Aleksander Ford. He appeared in over 70 films. In 1980, **K.** starred in the Czechoslovak romance *I Love, You Love (Ja milujem, ty miluješ)*, which was shelved for nine years due to its realistic portrayal of life in Czechoslovakia, at odds with the propaganda of the time. When finally screened in Berlin in 1989, it won the Silver Bear award. His last film role was in the 2011 dramedy *Dig Deeper (Kop głębiej)* by Konrad Szolajski.

K. dreamed of acting until the end of his life. Though retired, he continued to perform in theatre and film. However, due to serious vision problems, his final stage performance was in Samuel Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape* in 2013.

During his theatrical career, he performed in dozens of plays, taking on major roles such as Hamlet, Richard III, Švejk, the Mayor, and Khlestakov. It was not easy

for him, being a character actor. At his theatre school entrance exam, he was told: “Your voice is fine, but that’s about it,” and Professor Zelwerowicz bluntly told him he looked like a “dachshund-shaped runt.” Still, he met challenges head-on, and through hard work and ambition, succeeded. **K.** received many decorations and honors, including: the 1000th Anniversary Badge of the Polish State (1967), the Knight’s Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (1970), the Commander’s Cross of the same order (1978), the Prime Minister’s Award for artistic achievements in theatre, television, and film (1979), the Honorary Badge of the City of Łódź (1979), the Medal of the 40th Anniversary of the Polish People’s Republic (1985), the Gold Honorary Badge of the Polonia Association (1987), the Warsaw City Award (1970, 1989), the Crystal Grenade at the Lubomierz Comedy Film Festival (2001), the Honorary Award at the 16th National Film Art Festival “Prowincjonalia” in Września (2009), and the Silver Medal “Gloria Artis” for Merit to Culture (2013).

K. often visited Biała Podlaska, where his acting journey began. In 2006, he was the guest of honor at “May Fest with Mr. Bialczanin,” organised by the local Culture House and the Bialczanin Circle. Films in which he acted were screened for a week. In 2005, he became an honorary member of the Bialczanin Circle, and in 2008, an honorary citizen of Biała Podlaska. In 2013, **K.** returned with a stage production titled *Beckett and My 60 Years of Artistic Work* (*Beckett i moja 60-letnia praca artystyczna*). In 2015, **K.** received the Biała Podlaska Anna Radziwiłł Cultural Award.

In 2016, due to health issues, **K.** moved into a care home. He passed away on 11 June 2018 in Łódź, and on 18 June 2018, his ashes were laid to rest in the Avenue of the Meritorious at the Powązki Military Cemetery in Warsaw.

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Anita SMYK

SOBOLEWSKI, Piotr Stanislaw Zygmunt Konstantynowicz (1868-1949)
– Russian and Soviet scholar, founder of subsurface geometry research in Russia,
Doctor of Technical Sciences, professor, lecturer.



He was born on 7 October 1868 in Biała Podlaska, into a family of the Grodno nobility. He used the first name Piotr, though his children were officially recorded using the patronymic “Stanislavovich”. **S.** had several siblings. His father, Konstanty Adolf, was a district official. His mother, née Zarijasova, was a well-educated woman who gave foreign language lessons to support the family financially. **S.** was a versatile talent with aptitude for languages and music. With his mother’s help, he mastered German, French, Italian, Belarusian, and Ukrainian, in addition to Polish and Russian.

In 1881, he began attending secondary school. By the third year, he was tutoring weaker students, financially supporting himself and easing the burden on his parents. **S.** independently studied physics, mathematics, and astronomy – subjects not covered in the school curriculum – using books and pamphlets he purchased. In 1889, he enrolled at the Mining Institute in Saint Petersburg, but soon withdrew, judging his preparation in physics and mathematics insufficient. **S.** then began studies at the Pulkovo Astronomical Observatory, where he studied astronomy under the eminent A.A. Belopolsky and geodesy under Professor V. Wiatowski of the General Staff Academy. At the same time, he attended mathematics lectures at the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics of Saint Petersburg University. **S.** also pursued anatomy courses under the renowned P.F. Lesgaft, took composition lessons from A. Lyadov and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, and improved his piano skills at the Moscow Conservatory, where he met his future second wife, Olga von Giebschman, a student of chamber singing. During this time, he supported himself through music, performing at balls, weddings, and funerals.

In 1895, **S.** returned to the Mining Institute, completing his degree after three years and qualifying as a mining engineer. He then entered professional service in the Donetsk Basin, where he oversaw various mining and exploratory operations. In 1899, he also began teaching at the newly established Higher Mining School in Yekaterinoslav (now the National Mining University in Dnipro), where he lectured in mathematics, mine surveying, and geodesy. He introduced a course in practical magnetometry, founded geodetic and magnetometric laboratories, and authored a geodesy textbook. He also undertook scientific study tours abroad to mining-oriented institutions.

S. remained at the Higher Mining School until 1903, when he was invited to assume a similar post at the Tomsk Technological Institute (now Tomsk Polytechnic University). Beginning in September 1903, he lectured in geodesy and mine surveying. A year later, **S.** established Russia’s first academic program in mine surveying (markscheidekunst). **S.** personally organized and taught all astronomical and geodetic disciplines within the curriculum and supervised all practical and laboratory observation and calculation activities. He created the first mine surveying laboratory, with sections in astronomy, cartography, and photogrammetry. In 1906, a four-story

geodesy building was constructed according to his design to house the planned laboratories, equipped with a precision workshop and photographic studio.

In 1907, **S.** conducted the first magnetic surveys of iron ore deposits near Temirtau (in the Kuznetsk Coal Basin – KUZBAS). In 1910, under the Russian Academy of Sciences, he conducted magnetic surveys in Eastern Siberia. On 24 October 1911, **S.** was appointed Acting Associate Professor in the Department of Geodesy and Mine Surveying. He stood out among the faculty for his broad intellectual interests. Fluent in several languages and an accomplished pianist, he performed concerts for the Tomsk branches of the Russian Musical and Choral Societies. He hosted Thursday music evenings at his home, attended by musicians and musically inclined university professors and lecturers.

While in Tomsk, **S.** published numerous scientific works, including *Course in Magnetic Ore Prospecting* (Tomsk, 1908), *Contribution to the Theory of Geophysical Instruments: Instruments for Measuring Angles* (Tomsk, 1908), *Mathematical Theory of the Tubular Level in Connection with Multiple Axial Assemblies* (Tomsk, 1909), *Lectures on Spherical and Practical Astronomy* (Tomsk, 1914), and *The First Geodynamic Station in Siberia: Its Foundation, Construction, and Observation Organization* (Tomsk, 1919), among others.

S. was decorated with the Order of Saint Stanislaus, 3rd Class (1905) and 2nd Class (1917), and received the Medal “In Commemoration of the 300th Anniversary of the Romanov Dynasty” (1913). In 1912, he was awarded the rank of State Councilor. Sobolewski had a difficult personality and frequently clashed with faculty and students. Despite his academic achievements, he was dismissed from the Tomsk Technological Institute by order of the Provisional Government on 20 March 1917 and moved to Yekaterinburg (Sverdlovsk). After the fall of the Provisional Government, he returned to the Institute. **S.** was the initiator of the First All-Siberian Congress of Mine Surveyors (Tomsk, 1925).

From 1920 to 1933, he worked at the Ural Institute and later at the Polytechnic and Mining Institutes. There he founded the geodesy specialization and a laboratory for geophysical prospecting methods. In 1928, this became the Research Institute of Geophysical Prospecting Methods and Mining Geometry. In 1927, **S.** was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Mining. From 1933 to 1947, he was Head of the Department of Surveying and Subsurface Geometry at the Moscow Geological Prospecting Institute, and from 1939 to 1947, at the Moscow Mining Institute. In 1936, **S.** was awarded the title of Doctor of Technical Sciences without defending a dissertation. **S.** authored 41 publications and held 6 patents. His work was of great scientific and practical importance, laying the foundation for new academic disciplines.

S. was an avid book collector. His personal library held around 20,000 books and journals in Russian and foreign languages, covering geology, physics, mining, and other fields. After his death, his daughter donated a large portion of the collection to the Library of the Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan and foreign-language books to the Foreign Literature Library in Moscow.

S. died in the spring of 1949 and was buried on 4 March at the Novodevichy Cemetery in Moscow. He was married twice. His first marriage (3 February 1892) to the English dancer Małgorzata Tayberg was unsuccessful; she left him after a few years. Their son, Jurij (Georgiy Vasily), born in 1896, was killed during the Civil War fighting for the White Army. **S.** married a second time on 2 August 1912 to Olga Maria

von Giebschman (1879-1947), a member of the Vilnius nobility and graduate of the Saint Petersburg Conservatory in vocal music. They had three children: their daughter Olga (1900-1994), an opera singer; son Piotr (1904-1977), a popular film actor; and youngest son Konstantin (1911-1942), a graphic artist who was repressed during his university years and died in a labor camp.

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