

# Ida

Cert 12A Poland 2013 82 mins

## Crew

Director	Pawel Pawlikowski
Screenplay	Pawel Pawlikowski & Rebecca Lenkiewicz
Cinematography	Ryszard Lenczewski & Lukasz Zal
Film Editing	Jaroslav Kaminski
Original music	Max Richter

## Cast

Agata Trzebuchowska	Anna
Agata Kulesza	Wanda
Dawid Ogrodnik	Lis, a saxophonist
Joanna Kulig	A singer
Adam Szyszkowski	Feliks Skiba
Jerzy Trela	Szymon Skiba

## Synopsis

*Poland, the 1960's. Anna, an orphan and a young novice nun, is waiting to take her vows, but is told by her prioress that she must visit her family first.*

*Anna travels to Lvov to meet her Aunt Wanda, who is a former prosecutor associated with the Stalinist regime.*

*From Wanda, Anna learns for the first time some unexpected and disquieting information about her parents. Together, she and Wanda embark on a journey that sheds light on their shared past, and determines their futures.*



## Booking Information

**Distributor:** Artificial Eye

**DVD bookings:** via BFI Bookings Unit  
0207 957 8935

bookings.films@bfi.org.uk  
www.bfi.org.uk/distribution

**Available:** Now



## Reviews

Tragedy hangs like smoke over this spectral, startling return to form for Polish-born, British-based writer-director Pawel Pawlikowski. First and foremost there's the historical catastrophe of the Holocaust that drives the story, shot in b&w. But there's also a pervasive, underlying layer of personal hardship and struggle...

... Few scenes run longer than a minute or two, and the dialogue is sparse and functional, in stark contrast with Pawlikowski's poetic, chatty earlier works like *My Summer of Love*. In addition, the painterly, painstakingly composed camera angles are all self-consciously "off," with faces and bodies confined to corners of the empty, TV-square frame.

The effect is somewhere between incredible beauty and mounting discomfort...as the story unfolds and the outrages pile up like corpses, it's impossible not to be thrown in there with [Anna], standing helplessly by as life's cruelty becomes ever more horribly apparent. Pawlikowski's film may be bleak and unforgiving, but it's also richly sympathetic and deeply moving.

*Tom Huddleston, Time Out, April 2014*

...Wanda is the embodiment of Poland's past hopes and disappointments, the self-destruction she wreaks on herself the damning evidence that, to paraphrase Terry Eagleton, European history turns on a tortured body. Anna is its legacy, and it's little wonder that her first response to the horrors she unveils is to preserve what innocence remains to her, sequestering herself away from the world, seeking refuge in her Catholic God.

But this is ultimately not a film about finding salvation through belief, and at its end we can't be sure where Anna is going. Crafted with deceptive simplicity, riven with uncertainty, *Ida* has no answers to the questions it raises about how we protect ourselves and our loved ones from the burdens of the past, nor how we move forward. But its indelible images are a stark reminder of Bazin's dictum that film itself is a kind of miracle..

*Catherine Wheatley, Sight and Sound, September 2014*

## Awards, commendations, and so on...

London Film Festival 2013 : **Best Film**

30 other wins and 6 nominations at International Film Fests.

Poland's official submission for Best Foreign Language Oscar 2015

Pawel Pawlikowski 's first film made in his country of birth