

WERONIKA  
**KSIĄŻKIEWICZ**

WOJCIECH  
**SOLARZ**

OLGA  
**BOŁADŹ**

GRZEGORZ  
**MAŁECKI**

# love is nearby

THE SWEETEST COMEDY FOR  
**VALENTINE'S DAY!**



LOVE IS NEARBY SCENARIUSZ MARIUSZ KUÇZEWSKI MAREK BACZYŃSKI ANNA DRZEŹO CZARAJA SZCZOLIC EDYTORIAL AND ARGUMENT DEVELOPMENT PIOTR DREWENDA REŻYSER RADEK DUNASZEWSKI PRODUKCYJNY MATEUSZ SKAŁSKI PPS PRODUCER WOJCIECH WIDELSKI EKSYKUTYWNY PRODUCER KATARZYNA ANŻARSKA KRZYSZTOF GRABOWSKI  
GŁÓWNI WYKONAWCY WOJCIECH SOLARZ WERONIKA KSIĄŻKIEWICZ OLGA BOŁADŹ GRZEGORZ MAŁECKI WERONIKA WACHOWSKA JAN POLDNIKOW MICHAŁ STARSKI JANUSZ CHABIOR KAZIMIERZ MAZUR  
MUSICA MICHAŁ WOŹNIAK PRODUKCYJNY MANAGER TERESA PASZKIEWICZ THE PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT JUSTYNA PODŁĘCKA PRODUKCYJNY DESIGN ANIKO KISS COSTUME DESIGNER ELŻBIETA RADKIE KATARZYNA PIĄTEK MAKEUP NATALIA SCHABOWSKA EDITOR WOJCIECH MRÓWCZYŃSKI PSM SOUND GRZEGORZ KUCHARSKI

TVP

IN CINEMAS FROM FEBRUARY 11

TVP  
DYSTRYBUCJA KINOWA

## Intelligent entertainment that moves you to tears - synopsis

Natalia and Adam have known each other since childhood. They have never been a couple, but they always stick together. They are neighbours, share rooms in their apartments, and their bedrooms are separated only by a thin wall. Natalia wants a man, preferably a caring homebody who would support her and her son. After the divorce, Adam is longing for powerful emotions and would love to go to the Amazon. One day Natalia and Adam's dreams come true. He meets a beautiful woman, Marika, who is a traveller and writer, and gets to taste her world by her side. Meanwhile, Natalia falls in love with Bruno, a rich dentist who wants to fulfil all her dreams. Their new relationships seem promising...



## CAST

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Weronika Książkiewicz  
Wojciech Solarz  
Olga Bołądź  
Grzegorz Małecki

Natalia  
Adam  
Marika  
Bruno

Janusz Chabior  
Kazik Mazur  
Michał Sitarski  
Milena Suszyńska  
Yan Polovnikov  
Weronika Wachowska

building site manager  
construction worker  
Rafał  
Bela  
Kuba  
Gabrysia  
and others



## CREW

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Directed by	Radek Dunaszewski
Script	Mariusz Kuczewski, Marcin Baczyński
Photos	Mateusz Skalski PSC
Scenography	Aniko Kiss-Zgliczynska
Costumes	Elżbieta Radke
Characterization	Natalia Schabowska
Music	Michał Woźniak
Production management	Teresa Paszkiewicz
Producers	Katarzyna Anczarska, Krzysztof Grabowski
TVP producer	Wojciech Widelski
Production	Telewizja Polska S.A. Poland, 2021
Time	103 min.

## PLOT OUTLINE

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Natalia and Adam have known each other since childhood. They are neighbours and closest friends. They live in a house that has been divided into two independent apartments. One of them has a large bathroom, while the other has a large kitchen. Natalia and Adam share these rooms and their bedrooms are separated by only a thin wall. They talk on the phone every night before going to sleep.

They have always been together, but they have never been a couple. Adam proposed to Natalia when he was ten, but when they grew up they chose other partners. Today he is the father of the teenage girl, Gabrysia, runs a small travel agency with his friend and is recovering after getting divorced. After her husband's death, Natalia raises Kuba alone and bakes meringue for a local cake shop. The parents as well as the kids like and support each other in every situation. Adam teaches Kuba how to ride a bike and Gabrysia helps Natalia with her career as a culinary video blogger.

Natalia is looking for a man who would support her and her son, a caring homebody and a bore. Adam, whose wife left him because of him being a bore, has decided to finally experience something big. His goal is to travel to the Amazon, and his idol is a traveller and writer, Marika Szwarc.

One day, Adam's dream comes true and he meets Marika, a true beauty, who invites him to experience her world. First, she invites him to a book launch, and then to a party with businessmen ready to sponsor her next trips to the end of the world. Adam is enchanted by her and fascinated by the life she leads.

In the meantime, Natalia goes with Kuba to a dentist she met at the Meringue Festival. It all starts looking very promising...



## Radek Dunaszewski – director's view

### Feel better, laugh and dream

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Since Ernst Lubitsch made “The Shop around the Corner” in 1939, the romantic comedy genre has undergone numerous changes. Nothing, however, has changed the main premise that every director of the genre strives for: to create a world that you enter without fear, without worrying about what will happen to the characters, and that their hearts will be broken. That is why our film is a romantic comedy full of an intelligent sense of humour. It is a cheerful story about destiny and discovering true love, which strengthens the belief in happy endings. It is a film for viewers who wants to feel better, laugh and dream. And that, after all, is what cinema entertainment is all about.



### Chemistry

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Natalia is warm, sensible and romantic, Adam is a classic example of a man with Peter Pan syndrome, but also a dreamer who is actually a coward at heart. They are ordinary, modern middle-class people, who do not quite know how to find their way in life offered to them by the feisty traveller Marika and the rich dentist Bruno. This is why the actors themselves emphasize the differences between these worlds. The Chemistry between the actors was the most important thing I was looking for during the casting process. Piotr Solarz and Weronika Książkiewicz show that their characters are made for each other. That's why I focused on natural acting, without exaggeration, without forcing love or comedy. I wanted the actors to become their own characters, to show their inner predispositions, and not to give in into theatrics too much. Moreover, I managed to select the film crew based on friendship and affection. Both the crew and the cast were like one family motivating and supporting each other. The actors' emotions were real and did not have to be acted out. This is my greatest directorial success, and that is why we believe in what we see in the cinema.

I was inspired by the cast of “Notting Hill” and “Sleepless in Seattle”. The roles played with grace and finesse by Hugh Grant, Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan are what I wanted to base my characters on.

Our film set was filled with one of a kind atmosphere, a combination of positive vibrations which the actors transferred onto the film set. Weronika, Olga, Wojtek and Grześ were (and I hope still are) at the perfect moments of their lives. Wera and Olga are in love. Wojtek has a wonderful little son, Grzesiek is also full of peace and love. The rest of the cast presented me with this great gift and honoured me with their participation in the film. The supporting roles of Janusz Chabior, Kazik Mazur, Arek Janiczek, Rafał Szałajko and Milena Suszyńska are truly exquisite.

On top of that, fate was on our side... really! We didn't have extra days up our sleeve for shooting in case of bad weather, although the summer was rainy. However, wherever we were, the sun was always shining, and storms magically disappeared. I believe that all this influenced the film. Without this positive energy a film about emotions cannot succeed, and in turn, it becomes a romantic film devoid of emotions.



## How to be happy

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As the screenwriter put it, Adam “walks in the wrong shoes”. He tries to be someone he’s not because he thinks that’s what the world, and especially women, expect from him. He thinks his first relationship ended because he was too ordinary. And women don’t like average guys. That is why Adam dreams of distant travels and Marika is supposed to make all of his dreams come true.

Natalia, on the other hand, is looking for a good father for her son. She chooses Bruno out of common sense. The mother, however, preoccupied with Kuba, forgets about her own desires and happiness. Adam and Natalia want to be different than they are and do not appreciate the potential they have, which they carry in their hearts.

## Magical Lower Silesia

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The over-stylized romantic comedies tend to be on a verge of kitsch and when you remove their candy wrapper there is often a rather bitter pill to swallow. Our film breaks away from this commercial style of the glamorous world. We tried to emphasize it with outdoor, unhurried and, above all, charmingly picturesque shots.

The script suggested the location of the film set, but it was unusual when and where I had the opportunity to read it for the first time. One day I was in Wiązów and with a view of Ślęza in front of me I read the first sentence: “the market square of a small town in Lower Silesia with a view of Szczeliniec”. I was in the very heart of this magical region and already then I had no doubts where my new film would be made. Nowa Ruda turned out to be perfect, as it combines fairy-tale architecture with nature, a historic town hall on a sloping market square with breathtaking views of Szczeliniec. Mateusz Skalski, the cinematographer, knew the locations of Lower Silesia very well because he had shot commercials here before. I also felt at home, because as an amateur cyclist I had cycled there more than once. You can see me in the film in the peloton which passes Marika and Adam.

The surroundings were beautiful, and the locals turned out to be extremely supportive. They were happy that we were filming “at their place”. That is why real inhabitants are the extras in the scenes of the Meringue Festival in the market square in Nowa Ruda. Patryk, a disabled boy in a wheelchair, also appears in several scenes. He came to the set every day and spent several hours with us. He was interested in everything and was happy that so much was happening in his town. It was impossible not to draw positive energy from his enthusiasm. Patryk simply had to be in our film!



## Genius loci

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The world of romantic comedy always has a warm and friendly allure. This is emphasized by the setting of the film in a small town. The viewers are transported into a safe, fairy-tale world contrasting with the big-city jungle, where time passes faster and life is tense. Surrounded by nature, ordinary characters become extraordinary, they move into an idyllic landscape where their love becomes romantic. Adam and Natalia's shared house with its hidden door is also a metaphor for the overlooked feeling that is waiting right there for the taking. The house is old but built on strong foundations with a picturesque garden. It is a “genius loci”, a caring spirit that provides happiness and security.

I chose the villa in Konstancin near Warsaw because I wanted to create a French or Italian atmosphere in the film, to show charming surroundings in a small-town, without unnecessary additions. And it was quite a challenge. The house had to be magical, quirky, easy to divide into two apartments, and architecturally fitting

for the market square in Nowa Ruda. However, we didn't have the perfect property until the very beginning of the shoot. Again, fate was on my side. I live in Konstancin and I just happened to find a perfect house while I was on a walk. That was it: grand, but a bit run-down, as if inherited from the parents of the characters. It belonged to a famous soccer player, Roman Kosecki, who lived there and put it up for sale at the time. And that saved us. We found a building like the one from the market square in Nowa Ruda!



### We weren't afraid to go a bit overboard

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I love to watch the themes unhurriedly develop as the action unfolds. Music is supposed to carry the viewer and add value to the narrative. This was beautifully achieved by Yann Tiersen in "Amelia" or Thomas Newman in "American Beauty". Our film is set in a small town, in an intimate world of characters and their funny adventures. There is no room for a single sappy note, so common in American romantic comedies. Even the moment when Adam is moving out or moments of loneliness are always interrupted by some funny events and sounds. In scenes that were just plain funny, we weren't afraid to go crazy with the music. Bicycle races, pulling teeth, dynamic scenes in the house are adequately accompanied by music.

Composer Michal Wozniak has perfectly captured the spirit of our film. It features six songs by a group with the ridiculous name of "Sekcja Muzyczna Kołłątajowskiej Kuźni Prawdziwych mężczyzn" (Musical division of real men from Kołłątaj's Forge). The men appear on stage during the Meringue Festival with their hit "Superhero" which along with their other songs perfectly complement the entire plot. You also get the feeling that some of them were actually written specifically for our film. I just couldn't believe it when I listened to "Cartography" about love that can't work. It is, after all, about a traveller named Marika and an average Adam. "On foot to your heart" fits Adam and his discovery of his feelings for Natalia. "Superhero" is Adam's biography, a description of his motivations in life and what he has to offer.