

# Dig Deeper



***Open a grave, sell a skeleton and settle accounts between nations...***

***Will a sexy Polish girl accept an unexpected proposal from an old German?***

***A daring black comedy involving the bitter history of Polish-German relations.***

Genre: comedy

Screenplay: Konrad Szolajski

Director: Konrad Szolajski

Producer: Ewa Zukowska

Production company: ZK Studio Ltd.

Partners attached: Polish Film Institute, Syrena Films, Poland; AZAF Ltd, Poland; 42Films, Germany, East-West Distribution, Austria

## **Synopsis:**

Hugo and his grandson Martin, two German citizens, arrive in a Masurian village. Despite all appearances, they haven't come all this way to admire the majestic lakeland, but to re-discover their origins. Hugo manages to find his family house, a place where he was born, raised and forced to leave during the second World War. Not only he lost his home as a child but also his parents - shot by the Russians and buried in the backyard...

Now, Hugo is determined to locate his parents' remains and provide them with a proper burial ceremony. He is prepared to bribe the 'new' Polish owners of the estate to their trust, time and help in the upcoming exhumation...

The Polish family discuss the matter and decide to go along with the plan as they are debt-ridden and are keen to cooperate for the cash.

Soon after, it turns out the remains are nowhere to be found. The Polish grandfather confesses he had come across the bones many years ago when digging up old apple trees and threw them away... It seems the transaction has fallen flat. However, the young granddaughter Ola, comes up with a sneaky plan to "borrow" appropriate remains from a nearby cemetery.

And so the tragicomedy begins; a story about Polish-German reconciliation sealed with a love affair between the youngest members of the families – Martin and Ola...

## **Director's note:**

The tragic history of nations entangled in conflicts for hundreds of years has finally found its happy symbolic finale within the structure of a peacefully united Europe. Today we can dare to approach the dramatic past with some distance and humour – using the black comedy style. Irony and slapstick are deliberately chosen on the one hand to deliver an entertaining film, on the other – to look at the events without traditional prejudices.

The main heroes are Ola and Martin, young people representing Polish and German youth. They have been chosen as the leading characters of this story – their lives colliding when an old man decides to heal old wounds.

We follow the development of the relationship – a natural affinity between two young people and become involved in their emotional journeys. It is important to stress that the main plot evolves through the "conspiracy" initiated by Ola, who seeks a "better life", and find resolution through Martin - when he finally discovers the truth and decides to hide it. Their collaboration contributes to a happy end to the old man's mission.

Ideologies intermingle with a love story of young people for whom the sad events of the war and their disastrous consequences are equally distant – these young people are more interested in the future and their passions than in historical events and opening ancient wounds. But in order to achieve what they want they collude with the digging up of old graves.

The lost bones serve here to trigger off the course of events and to show the relativity of the truth which depends on those who examine it. Most of the characters do not realize that what they believe in is not quite what really happened but it does not interfere with their vision of the world, it actually ironically strengthens it.

### **Production company**

ZK Studio Ltd. is a company established in March 2005. The owner of the company is Konrad Szolajski, an experienced director and producer. The company has produced: *Wkręcacze* (Entrappers, 2006) – 50' creative documentary, *Parafia Księdza Kustosza* (The Parish of Father Custodian, 2006) – 25' creative documentary, "Good Morning, Lenin!" (creative documentary), "Niejedzenie" ("Living on Light ") – 50' creative documentary, "Sex, Church & Marriage" (creative documentary), "Seduction Camp" (creative documentary). In development: "Dig Deeper" (feature fiction film), "1=2" (feature fiction film).

### **Contact**

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