

TOMASZ MAN

A LITTLE FIFTEEN

I am currently working on a spectacle that chills the blood in my veins, for which I wrote the lyrics and music and which I also direct. The case concerns the tragic event of July 18, 1948. The place of the event is Lake Gardno, near the village of Wielkie Gardno in the north of Poland, 20 kilometers from Słupsk, between the Łeba and the Ustka.

Imagine this situation: your daughter goes to a scout camp by the sea. In those post-war times it was really something extraordinary. The child has never seen the sea. Unfortunately, she can't swim... maybe she will learn there. My daughter goes to the seaside across Poland in a rickety bus and arrives 12 hours later. Her tutor wants to make the girl a wonderful attraction. Well, she learns that it is possible to swim through the lake into the sea! The tutor also never saw the sea and, in addition, took her little eight-year-olds to the camp. nieces. in the evening the tutor goes to the local mechanic and asks him to take a ride across the lake to the sea. A mechanic turns out to be a soldier of the AK,¹ which opposes the communist and, in fact, the Russian authorities in Poland. He has to flee the partisans because the communists crashed his unit. He escapes to the so-called Regained Territories, which actually belonged to Poland, but in the Middle Ages... Our hero escapes there. Hides under a false name. On the train he falls in love with a young girl who runs away from "bloody memories of Wołyń," where the Ukrainians murdered innocent Poles during the war. They go to Lake Gardno. They set up a shop and a diner. A child is born to them. The mechanic wants to escape across the green border from Poland to West. He is afraid for his own life and that of his family, because the communists track down and eliminate the opposition. The mechanic needs a lot of money for a guide who will lead him and his family across the border. In the evening, a teacher from a scout camp comes and offers

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¹ AK is an abbreviation for Armia Krajowa [The Home Army], the dominant resistance movement in German-occupied Poland during World War II.

to pay for the service. The mechanic sets the price: PLN 50 for each girl scout. That's a lot in these times. Some of the girls did not get that much money for the camp because their parents could hardly afford to pay for the camp. The tutor pays for some of the girls herself. The boy scout is 40. A mechanic who does not have his own boat goes to a neighbor who has boats. Turns out he does, but he has never ridden a boat. The boats were taken from German fishermen. They want to go for a living, and they will take their wives to attract them. It's Sunday. God said don't work on Sunday. They prepare their boats in the morning. Scout girls are to come at 10 o'clock. It turns out the boats have holes in them. They cover the holes with tar. Motor boat engine is not running. The mechanic gets the idea that he will remove the engine from the motor and install it in the boat. And it does. Girl scouts come after the mass, where they heard w the time of the sermon that the greatest love is when you lay down your life for friends. Unfortunately the boats are not ready. They must wait. They wait 6 hours ... on the pier in the heat. They are tired, hungry and have no desire to go on a trip. Tutor no gives up. She wants to make her dream come true. Watch out for dreams... German fishermen come to the mechanic, warn that the mechanic takes too many girl scouts on the boat. mechanic therefore he is attaching a second flat-bottomed boat to a chain. They are sailing out at last! Girl scouts sit like herring. 10 scouts on the roof of the motorboat. In the motorboat cabin, there are 10 second scouts with a teacher. On board 10 more. 14 girl scouts in a small boat.

Before leaving, the camp commandant comes running. I don't want to let the girl scouts sail. The babysitter is on her own. Come out. Apart from the girl scouts, there are the mechanic's wives and his neighbor. Suddenly on in the middle of the lake the engine stops. There is nothing you can do. The mechanic argues with a neighbor. The teacher runs out of the cabin and says the boat leaks. The tar did not have enough time to fill the holes. The mechanic decides to transfer the Girl Scouts from the motorboat to the smaller boat. Everyone is to pour out the water motorboats. Unfortunately the overloaded small boat capsizing. Only at this point the teacher learns that only two out of 40 girl scouts can swim. Girl scouts are drowning. The mechanic says that they will be fine because the lake only has two meters, but there is also a black moth that is about 1.5 meters girl scouts are drowning. One another. They hit the water with their hands like melting cats. To make matters worse, the motorboat capsizes due to the attached chain and holes in the days. all the girl scouts are in the water. They are all in the water. One of the scouts who trains swimming swims to the shore. He is two kilometers long, but he is wearing a heavy uniform and heavy military boots. The second girl scout, very pious, tries to save her friends. she manages to save the couple, but w in the end she fails and is pulled to the bottom by the melters.

The tutor tries to save her eight-year-old nieces, are in cabin, she overturned motorboat and couldn't open the cabin door. The twins are drowning and the tutor trying to save them with them. After leaving, the mechanic learns from his wife that she is pregnant. The mechanic's wife is drowning while trying to save the girl scouts. The dead mechanic pulls her onto the overturned boat and laments. The money he got in the scout scarf floats on the water. The neighbor's wife is also drowning. She couldn't swim. People on the shore people on the shore of the lake hear shrill screams and prayers. They rescue those who managed to hold overturned boats. 25 girl scouts drilled in age 10–15 years. The girl scout swimmer swam to the shore. The mechanic escaped on his way to the workshop. After a year he was shot while trying to cross the green Czechoslovak border German.

Parents come to the lake. They don't know if their daughter is alive. Communistic government does not want a scandal. Authority wants it to be sabotage, But it's not like that. Parents find the dead bodies of their beloved children. Those who were lucky and their daughters survived turned gray ...

Now what to do with this terrible story? How to write a play? What idea to find? In the end, I decide it will be a "metaphysical judgment." The audience will be jurors. I don't want to judge anyone. I have no right to do so. There are four characters: Mechanic, Tutor and two swimmers. Each one With the character presents his point of view. The set design is a long court table and a rostrum. Protocols on the tables. Props. In the background, there is a "devil's band" that "turns" scout songs into screams. Macabre and horror.

This is the art that I am dealing with now, where reality connects with metaphysics. Where the cruelest thought is lack of awareness and lack of imagination, lack of preparation and, above all, GREED is in it yet the dream that blinded my eyes.

Thank you for your attention and I invite you to the premiere to Teatr Nowy in Słupsk on December 17.