

# CELA [tsèla]

a documentary film produced by

FEMIS & FIDELITE PRODUCTIONS

France / 1996 / 52' 11" / Colors & black and white

Beta SP (Super 16 mm.) 1/66 – Mono

CELA [tsèla] thinks that her grandmother's family happiness is a miracle. She tells the story of her life, as tortured as the one of her country; Poland, and we discover that she cherishes in a romantic and nostalgic way, the disappointed memory of a war love affair which for a long time remained mythical for her. It was during the war, when she met a french prisoner in a camp...

This story has often been told to me ever since my childhood. CELA could always find an audience in me, a privileged listener and, with time passing by, I understood that she considered me as a symbolic extension of what she had been through.

From this warm and intimate relationship which made the existence of the film possible, a double and complementary motivation arose : CELA wanted to bequeath a memory to me. I decided to be the mediator and, in my turn, to transmit it.

The writing of this project was inspired by my meetings with CELA. It is her memories and how she put herself face to face with them, which over the years gave rise to many questions :

*How, from the point of view of his own destiny does Man live and experience history ?*

*Why, in everyone is there a perpetual conflict between the necessity to forget and the need to remember ?*

Thus, CELA is, for me, a symbolic and illuminating character. Above all her personal memories as an old woman, where she narrates nostalgic episodes of her youth, there is a collective cult of memory. The memory of a people, who have succeeded in saving their own cultural identity, in spite of centuries of invasions and occupations. The history of Poland is a series of violent conflicts; the scars can be seen even today in the unconscious of its inhabitants and also on the war-scarred façades of their houses.

My father left Poland in the Sixties. I was born in France and always lived there, yet I keep coming back to Poland, as if I was "haunted" by its tortured past from which I seek the signs and origins. I am also surrounded with this strange nostalgic feeling, which is also painful and romantic. The very same feeling from which CELA has drawn her incredible moral strength.

With the voice of  
**Jean-François Rouziers**

Directing  
**Rafael Lewandowski**

Music  
**Olivier Marie-Catherine**

Script  
**Rafael Lewandowski**  
**Maryannick Bellot & Caroline Vignal**  
Photography  
**Florian Bouchet**

Sound  
**Cyril Holtz**

Editing  
**Christina Hadjizachariou**

Sound editing  
**Philippe Amouroux**

Mixing  
**Jean-Paul Hurier**

Production  
**Olivier Delbosc**

Director's assistant  
**Beata Szostek**

Archives  
**WFDiF (Varsovie)**

**Polish Institute of the National Memory**

**Central Commission of Investigation on Crimes against Polish Nation**

**National Polish Télévision Information Agency**

**Jewish Historical Institut of Warsaw**

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