

NEWS



WHO HAS MADE THE KEY MOVE?

Łukasz Kośmicki
DIRECTOR

A director, a scriptwriter and an acclaimed cinematographer. Łódź Film School graduate. He penned the script for the film *The Dark House*, for which he received the Best Script Award at the Gdynia Film Festival. His cinematography for the films *Poznań 56* and *Street Games* also brought him accolades at Gdynia. The script for *The Dark House* and the cinematography for *Gniew* earned him nominations at the Polish Film Awards. He won Polityka's Passport (an annual prestigious Polish award presented by the weekly magazine Polityka) in the Film category. An acclaimed creator of over five hundred ads produced on five continents.

Paweł Edelman
CINEMATOGRAPHY

The most highly acclaimed Polish cinematographer. Nominated for an Academy Award and a BAFTA for Polański's *The Pianist*. He was awarded by the American Society of Cinematographers, and received Eagle statues at Polish Film Awards, Golden Ducks (a Polish award presented by the monthly magazine *Film* since 1956), as well as Golden Lions at Gdynia Film Festival. He has worked with Andrzej Wajda, Roman Polański and Władysław Pasikowski. He graduated in culture studies from Łódź University and in cinematography from Łódź Film School.

Allan Starski
PRODUCTION DESIGN

The man behind set designs of many renowned features. He won an Academy Award for the production design of *Schindler's List*, as well as the Palm d'Or as well as a Cesar for the production design of *The Pianist*. He's been nominated for Emmys and BAFTAs, and has received Polish Film Awards. Starski has worked with Steven Spielberg, Faith Akin, Andrzej Wajda, Krzysztof Kieślowski, Agnieszka Holland, Roman Polański, Władysław Pasikowski. He was honored with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and Gloria Artis - the Medal for Merit to Culture. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw.

Ewa Gronowska
COSTUME DESIGN

A costume designer nominated for the Polish Film Awards in the

Discovery of the Year category. She has worked on over 20 productions, and takes credit for costume design in such films as: *Gods*, *The Art of Loving*, *The Story of Michalina Wisłocka*, *Panic Attack*, and *The New World*.

Ewa Drobiec
MAKE-UP ARTIST

A make-up artist who has worked on several dozen Polish film productions, among them on some of the most significant ones in the recent years. She is credited for make-up in Wojciech Smarzowski's films. Her work on the film *Volhynia* won her an award at the Gdynia Film Festival.

Agnieszka Hodowana
MAKE-UP ARTIST

A make-up artist who has gained experience by working on such productions as *Katyń*, *Demon*, *Body/Ciao* and *Baby Bump*. In 2014, her work on *Gods* won her an award at the Gdynia Film Festival. She has also worked on many music video and commercial sets, and has participated in Neil Gorton's special effect course in Great Britain.

Magdalena Malisz
PRODUCTION MANAGER

She was the production manager of the Oscar-winning *Ida*, a feature film *Memories of Summer* and *Zbrodnia* TV series. Currently she's working on Paweł Pawlikowski's new film - *Zimna Wojna* (*The Cold War*). She debuted in the film business on the set of Andrzej Żuławski's *Szamanka*. Since then, she worked on such productions as: *The Congress*, *Ewa*, *November*, *Past Life*, *I Am Lying Now*.

Piotr Woźniak-Starak
PRODUCER

The founder of the Watchout Studio production company. He worked on *Gods* as the producer, and on *The Art of Loving*, *The Story of Michalina Wisłocka* as the executive producer. These films have received i.a.: Golden Lions at Gdynia Film Festival and Eagle statues at the Polish Film Awards, an award for the Best Producer at the PKO Off Camera Festival in 2015, and Golden Tapes by Polish Filmmakers Association. Piotr Woźniak-Starak graduated from Emmerson College in Boston and Parsons in New York.

Krzysztof Terej
PRODUCER

The co-producer of *Gods* and the producer of *The Art of Loving*. *The Story of Michalina Wisłocka*, who has been associated with Watchout Studio since 2012. He gained experience in Aloha Productions and WB Electronics. Krzysztof Terej graduated in law and psychology from Koźminski University in Warsaw.

Daniel Baur
PRODUCER

Producer and co-founder of K5. He recently produced Andrew Niccol's *Anon* starring Clive Owen and Amanda Seyfried, that is going to have its world premiere on May 4, 2018. He also executive produced Martin Zandvliet's Foreign Academy Award nominated *Land Of Mine* and Jim Jarmusch's *Paterson*. He lived in Los Angeles for many years running the sales and production arm of K5.

Justyna Pawlak
LINE PRODUCER

She graduated from the University of Silesia in Katowice with a Master of Arts degree in Film & TV Production, as well as from the Film Academy in Cracow with Film Critic & Lecturer Certificate. She gained professional experience on all levels of production during numerous feature film, TV and commercial productions. *Munich*, *Get Low* and *True Crimes* are among her international production credits.

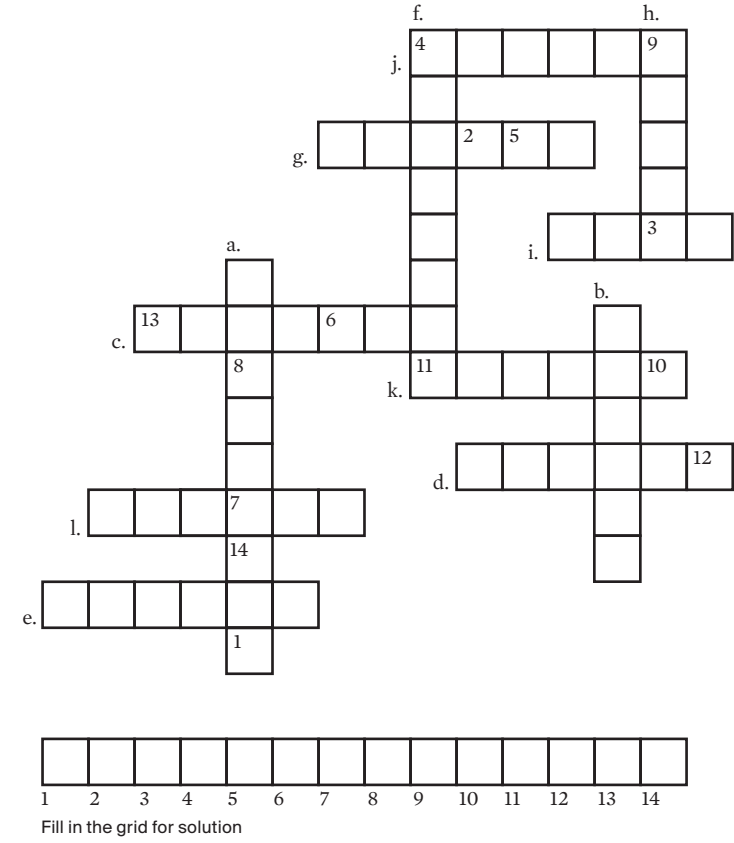
Marcel Sawicki
SCREENWRITER

Polish-American screenwriter/director and a commercial creative. Before turning to advertising he directed several award-winning short films, among them *The Loneliness of the Short-Order Cook*, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and received several awards on the festival circuit. He divides his time between Los Angeles and Warsaw.

Łukasz Targosz
COMPOSER, MUSIC PRODUCER

He graduated from the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice in the Jazz and Popular Music Department. He scored such films as: *Planet Single*, all the films in the *Letters to Santa* series, as well as both seasons of two HBO Poland series: *The Pact* and *The Border*.

CROSSWORD



CLUES

- a. Jackie's famous husband's occupation.
- b. Alluring and deadly dangerous atoll.
- c. She was singing for Mr. President... but did she just sing?
- d. Comrade Khrushchev.
- e. City of columns, home of Fidel.
- f. A chess move involving a player's king and either of the player's original rooks.
- g. Clergy on a chessboard.
- h. If it was removed, Palace of Culture and Science would be 70 metres shorter.
- i. Old-fashioned way - ... with swords.
- j. A time of intense difficulty or danger.
- k. A chess opening in which a player sacrifices material with the hope of achieving an advantageous position.
- l. Should not be crossed without appropriate documents.

ABOUT HYDE PARK

Hyde Park Entertainment Group, led by internationally renowned award-winning producer Ashok Amritraj, is a global force in the entertainment industry encompassing film, television and digital media, and has a history of blockbuster (*Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance*, *Machete*) and critically acclaimed films (*99 Homes*, *Blue Valentine*).

ABOUT K5

K5 Film and K5 International are part of K5 Group that is a dynamic and growing development, sales, financing and film production company founded by film veteran producers Oliver Simon and Daniel Baur based in Munich, Germany and New York, USA.

ABOUT WATCHOUT STUDIO

Watchout Studio is run by Piotr Woźniak Starak and Krzysztof Terej with the head office in Warsaw, Poland, working across production and post production of films and commercials. Provides services for international partners. It's a leading production company in Poland. Two recent productions hit box office no 1 in Poland: *Gods* (2.2 M. admissions) and *The Art of Loving* (1.8 M. admissions). Both films were not only highly acclaimed by the critics and audience but also received numerous awards from prestigious festivals, including Best Cinematography at the Camerimage Film Festival for Piotr Sobociński (*The Art of Loving*), and Best film, Best Script, Best Actor at the Gdynia Polish Film Festival (*Gods*). Watchout Studio carefully chooses their projects and is famous for its detailed development process. The company works with the best talents at the Polish market and with professional English speaking team.

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THE COLDEST GAME



Times change - the stakes remain the same. International cast, Polish production. The latest film by Watchout Studio, credited with features such as *Gods* and *The Art Of Loving*. *The Story of Michalina Wisłocka*, is underway on the latest film.

The film's set, a unique scenery of the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw, will witness a meeting of world-famous film stars and award-winning Polish filmmakers. Among them: **Bill Pullman** (*Independence Day*, *The Sinner*, *Lost Highway*, *Sleepless in Seattle*), **Lotte Verbeek** (*Nothing Personal*, *Outlander*, *The Borgias*), **Corey Johnson** (*Captain Phillips*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *The Mummy*) **Aleksey Serebryakov** (*Leviathan*), **Robert Więckiewicz** (*In Darkness*) and **Allan Starski** (*Schindler's List*, *Aftermath*, *Pan Tadeusz*), **Paweł**

Terej, who have successfully told real-life tales before, this time leave it to the viewer to answer the question: "did this story actually happen?" The partners of the film are the capital city of Warsaw and the Management Board of the Palace of Culture and Science Ltd. The film is co-financed by the Polish Film Institute. Hyde Park Entertainment Group is the international sales agent. The film shoots in Poland from February to April 2018, and is planned for release in 2019.

“ Due to the escalation of tensions in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the USA authorities have refused to send the national chess master John Konigsberg to USSR, where he was to face the Soviet grandmaster – Alexander Gavrylov. The fate of the game, which has been deemed more important than the World Cup, is unknown. – October 7th 1962

“ The American government's hysterical reaction to the aid granted by the Soviet Union to the Cuban nation only comes to show the true intentions of the imperialists marching towards an armed confrontation. We shall not leave our Cuban comrades alone in the fight for freedom, equality and independence. – The General Secretary Nikita Khrushchev's speech – Moscow, September 9th 1962

DID THIS STORY REALLY HAPPEN?

Is it possible that once in Poland a chess game took place, that could have resulted in World War III?

It's the 60's. The American Dream is turning into a nightmare, the Soviet forces are sailing towards Cuba and Khrushchev is threatening the USA with a nuclear attack. Tensions between the USA and the USSR are reaching boiling point. In Warsaw, two grandmasters are preparing for a chess game: an American and a Russian. It's not only the Grandmasters participating in the game, but also U.S. and Soviet counterintelligence agencies. At the time, the world holds its breath in fear of nuclear war, whereas for Warsaw the game is an unprecedented event, organized with a bang in the Palace of Culture and Science's Congress Hall. But terror takes hold right at the very beginning of the tournament, when it turns out that there's one person missing from John Konigsberg's team...and it's John Konigsberg himself. He died suddenly three days before the game and was replaced by Joshua Mansky – the now forgotten, former wunderkind from the early 20th century after all the years. The fate of the game is in balance up until the very end. What happens during this meeting? Who turned out to be the real winner? One thing is certain: Joshua Mansky (Bill Pullman) will play the game of his life, and this match may potentially determine the fate of the world. “The chess game, the Cuban Missile Crisis, President Kennedy and Secretary Khrushchev all existed. The Palace of Culture and Science still towers over the centre of Warsaw. By mixing facts and fiction, we hope that the emotions as well as the intrigue between the two chess masters and intelligence agents from the two superpowers will deliver unforgettable thrills to the audiences” – Łukasz Kośmicki, the director of *The Coldest Game*.

TIMES CHANGE, BUT THE GAME REMAINS THE SAME

The Coldest Game tackles not only the past, but also the modern era; the eternal struggle for power and influence, the war between intelligence agencies and the unknown facts that shape the world. Man is capable of making huge discoveries, but can he bear them? The film depicts nameless heroes, whose true stories will never be fully known. A modest, forgotten chess master Joshua Mansky unexpectedly becomes the main strategist in the Cuban Missile Crisis, talking with the U.S. President John F. Kennedy on a secure line. Usually, after many years we discover new layers to the “true stories” that have changed the world. It was in the Autumn of 1962 when Kennedy, deciding to impose a blockade on Cuba and standing on the brink of war, said these words: “Mankind must put an end to war - or war will put an end to mankind”. Is that true? Who knows, but these words went down in history, so they had to be said at some point. However, not only Americans and Russians are involved... The Poles of the Cold War era, the out-of-focus heroes, played a major role in the course of the events. The strategic geographical position of Poland has been influencing the ways of the world for centuries...

“ The Soviet and American parties have accepted the invitation from the Polish People's Republic to play out a game of chess between grandmasters Konigsberg and Gavrylov in the freshly rebuilt capital city, in the Palace of Culture and Science, a great gift from the Soviet Union. – October 16th 1962

NEWS



WHO HAS JOINED THE GAME?

Bill Pullman
JOSHUA MANSKY

Bill Pullman is an American actor known for films such as *Independence Day* (in which he played the President of the United States) *Lost Highway*, *Sleepless in Seattle*, the Mel Brooks' hit *Spaceballs*. He's worked with David Lynch, Lawrence Kasdan, Nora Ephron, Rob Reiner, among others. He's played in over 90 films. He is the winner of the Locarno Film Festival Excellence Award for his unique contribution to cinema. He is the winner of many film awards including the CinemaCon Award, the Excellence in Acting Award at the Woodstock Film Festival and the Special Jury prize at the CineVegas film festival. He was recently nominated for a Critics Choice Award for his role in the critically acclaimed Golden Globe nominated television series, *The Sinner*. Besides acting, he has a passion for building construction, which he studied in college. Pullman is active in his local communities. He has built a barn that is used as a community center, he works with the Cornerstone Theater in Los Angeles, Concerned Citizens Montana and supports the St. James Hospital and Alfred University near his hometown of Hornell, NY.

Aleksey Serebryakov
MAJOR KRUTOV

One of the most popular Russian actors. Aleksey Serebryakov is known for such films as the award-winning *Leviathan*, *9th company*, *Cargo 200* and *Once Upon a Time There Lived a Simple Woman*. For years Serebryakov has been working with famous theatre companies in Russia: Tabakov Theatre and Lenkom Theatre.



in projects executed in Great Britain. His recent films include: *A Private War* with Rosamund Pike and Jamie Dornan; *The Titan* with Sam Worthington and Tom Wilkinson; *The Current War* with Benedict Cumberbatch and Matthew McFadyen, and *Leavey* with Kate Mara.

Robert Więckiewicz
ALFRED, THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE PALACE OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE

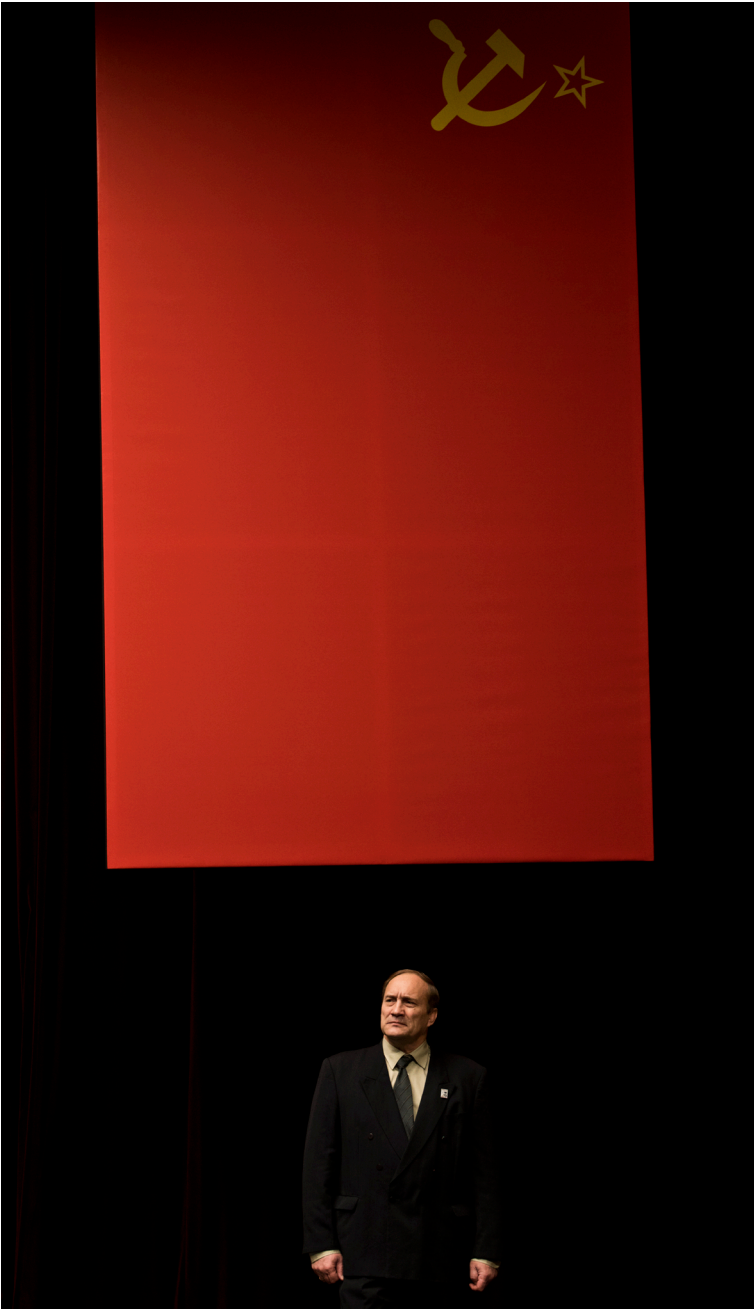
One of the most renowned Polish actors. He has worked with the best Polish contemporary directors, including: Juliusz Machulski (*Vinci*, *How Much Does The Trojan Horse Weigh?*), Wojciech Smarzowski (*The Dark House*, *The Mighty Angel*), Agnieszka Holland (*In Darkness*), Marek Koterski (*Baby są jakieś inne*). In *Waleśa*. *Man of Hope* by Andrzej Wajda, he portrayed the legendary leader of Solidarity. He gained popularity i.e. thanks to his appearance in the TV series *Odrwóceńi*. He has won four Polish Film Awards, two Gdynia Film Festival awards, and several international awards at such events as Chicago International Film Festival and Tokio International Film Festival. In 2014 he was honoured with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Resituta. He started his career in theatre, where he worked with such directors as Grzegorz Jarzyna and Krzysztof Warlikowski.

Evgenij Sydkhin
ALEKSANDER GAVRYLOV

Evgenij Sydkhin is an actor well known to Russian audiences. He has appeared in such films as: *A Woman in Berlin*, *Dark Planet*, and *Leningrad*. Born in 1964 in Petersburg, he's an actor and a presenter. In 1989, he graduated from the Department of Drama and Dramatic Arts at the Leningrad State Institute of Theatre, Music and Cinematography (now in Petersburg, Russia). In his junior years, he was very successful in martial arts.

Nicholas Farrell
GRISWALD MORAN

He's a British actor known for his exciting theatre roles, as well as performances in both cinema and TV shows. His filmography includes: Oscar-winning *Chariots of Fire* and the blockbuster *Pearl Harbour*. Highly acclaimed for his performance as Horace in Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet*, he's also famous for his appearances in *The Iron Lady*, *Bloody Sunday* and *Legionnaire*.



THE EPONYMOUS GAME IN THE PALACE OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE

The film is set in the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw, which akin to the iconic Gotham City, will serve as a witness to the unfolding events of the eponymous game.

The ever-present mystery of the place, its undiscovered rooms and secret passages which rarely can be seen in other films, will once again make the Palace a witness to its times. Through Allan Starski's set design and Paweł Edelman's lens, the Palace of Culture and Science will become one of the protagonists of this electrifying game.

The Palace of Culture and Science has been at the centre of events and history, thus becoming the symbol of Warsaw rebuilding after the war. The decision to construct the Palace was made in the capital of the Soviet world, by Josef Stalin himself. It was designed by the architect Lev Rudnev. In the words of prime minister Józef Cyrankiewicz, it's been "radiating over Warsaw" since 1955.

The Palace's splendour was so intimidating, that when admiring its golden reliefs, many guests from outside Warsaw put their hands in the prayer position. The marble

used for finishing the building's interiors was brought from the Ural Mountains, The Caucasus, and the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. The film is set in a number of rooms, corridors, as well as in never-before seen canals and the Palace's secret passages.

- The Palace of Culture and Science remains the tallest building in Poland until today.
- From the ground floor to the top of the spire, it is 230m and 68cm high.
- The Palace has 46 floors and 3,288 rooms.
- 3,500 Soviet and 4,000 Polish workers were involved in the construction of the Palace.
- 34 million bricks and 50,000 tones of steel were used for the construction.

THE PIECES IN THE GAME: WHO IS THE DOUBLE AGENT?

SURNAME: MANSKY
NAME: JOSHUA
OCCUPATION: AN EX CHESS PLAYER AND A SCIENTIST, CURRENTLY A LECTURER
AGE: AROUND 60
HEIGHT: 185 CM / 6'07
BIRTHPLACE: USA



A brilliant mind: a naturally talented chess player, a math prodigy, but at the same time withdrawn and unpredictable, with a tendency to isolate himself. At the age of 27 he received the grandmaster title. Alcohol dependence has been observed, which significantly affects his behaviour. We don't know how he will do in moments of crisis, will he retain his rationality and clear sense of judgement? He was last seen in a bar, near his place of residence, where he was approached by an attractive woman. Enlisted by the CIA, he is to replace Konigsberg who was supposed to represent the USA, before dying under mysterious circumstances. However the chess game is not his only challenge. As he states: "I knew it's not about the chess, I just didn't know I'm caught up neck-deep in this". Will the genius mathematician become the silent hero of the Cuban Missile Crisis, or will he turn out to be a traitor?

SURNAME: NOVAK
NAME: DONALD
OCCUPATION: ATTACHÉ OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN WARSAW
AGE: AROUND 56
HEIGHT: 180 CM / 5'11
BIRTHPLACE: USA



An ex military man, currently posted in the American embassy in Warsaw. He knows the answer to every question before it's even asked. Sceptical of J.Mansky's involvement: "And you want this guy to win the Cold War for us? Are you all crazy? That's Kennedy's ingenious plan to beat the Russians?" Hostile at first, in the finale he provides support for Mansky.

SURNAME: GIFT
NAME: JOHN
OCCUPATION: AN OFFICER OF THE WARSAW PACT FORCES
AGE: NO DATA
HEIGHT: NO DATA
BIRTHPLACE: NO DATA



EVERYONE IS TRYING TO FIND OUT WHO HE IS. The real data on him is unknown. A Soviet intelligence operative, probably providing Americans with the information on the possibility of installing nuclear warheads on Cuba. Due to exposure which resulted

in expelling a few employees of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, it's been decided to cease all contact with John Gift. Warsaw may be the new point of contact, his life is in extreme danger.. Will he save himself? Will he be able to deliver the precious information?

SURNAME: WHITE
NAME: BRIAN
OCCUPATION: CIA AGENT
AGE: AROUND 28
HEIGHT: 178 CM / 5'10
BIRTHPLACE: USA



A young, inexperienced CIA agent who is going to fight hard... His significance in the game gradually increases. He may have a special mission to accomplish during the chess game. Because of his limited experience and the weight of the task, his vigilance and the ability to assess the situation might be weakened. He is the one that must get in contact with the Russian informer. This absorbs him so much, that he doesn't notice a grave threat which is closer than he thinks.

SURNAME: KRUTOV
NAME: GENNADY STEPANOVICH
OCCUPATION: MAJOR GENERAL OF THE USSR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE
AGE: AROUND 66
HEIGHT: 176 CM / 5'9
BIRTHPLACE: USRR



The General of the Russian counterintelligence is feared even by his colleagues. He is a member of the official USSR chess delegation. Tough, relentless and cruel. He is a firm believer of the communist cause: "We believe that everyone deserves a good life and for this belief we are not afraid to make sacrifices. Such future will come to fruition only if we follow orders" - he said. His task is to identify the spy amongst the officers of the Warsaw Pact.

SURNAME: ŚLEGA
NAME: ALFRED
OCCUPATION: THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE PALACE OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE IN WARSAW
AGE: AROUND 60
HEIGHT: 178 CM / 5'10
BIRTHPLACE: POLAND



A member of the Polish Socialist Party before the war, an ex soldier of Armia Ludowa (The People's Army), currently the general manager of the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw. The observation of comrade A.Ś makes one doubtful of his ideological purity. His war record should be

thoroughly examined (to further observation). His task is to take care of the guests of the chess game. He demonstrates a tendency to befriend Americans over vodka, and his unusual hospitality gains him J.Mansky's trust.

SURNAME: GAVRYLOV
NAME: ALEXANDER
OCCUPATION: CHESS PLAYER
AGE: AROUND 55
HEIGHT: 192 CM / 6'4
BIRTHPLACE: USSR



A famous Soviet chess grandmaster, forced to accept humiliation from the authorities, capable of playing rough. In Warsaw he is playing against J.M. During the game he is focused and collected, but reacts very nervously to the change of the player on the Americans' side. When he loses the match, he flips his chair, storming off stage... Is it just a pretense and the truth about him will turn out to be different?

SURNAME: MORAN
NAME: GRISWALD
OCCUPATION: THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION
AGE: AROUND 63
HEIGHT: 175 CM / 5'9
BIRTHPLACE: USA



A chess aficionado suddenly caught up in a complicated intrigue and a war between two intelligence agencies, which he is not aware of. Responsible of ensuring that the Warsaw tournament proceeds correctly. He unexpectedly becomes a major player in the duel. Moran discovers how the Russians intend to win the game. How did he gain this knowledge?

SURNAME: STONE
NAME: ELEANOR
OCCUPATION: CIA AGENT
AGE: AROUND 36
HEIGHT: 168 CM / 5'5
BIRTHPLACE: USA



An experienced CIA agent; cold and disciplined. However, she can also be seductive and feminine, for example when recruiting Mansky in a lowly bar, to whom she will later say: "We wouldn't have been able to achieve so much without you. There is still hope". She participates in the brutal events in the Palace of Culture. Is it possible that she is putting on a cruel act? Or maybe she will be a victim? Is she the double agent? Can John Gift be a woman?