

# FACTSHEET

## BEFORE TWILIGHT

European Cinema for Active Ageing

CINAGE

LIGHTS,  
CAMERA,  
ACTION!

65+



<b>Title</b>	<b>JESZCZE NIE WIECZÓR (<i>Before Twilight</i>)</b>
<b>Release date</b>	September 16, 2008
<b>Running time</b>	96'
<b>Director</b>	Jacek Blawut
<b>Country</b>	Poland
<b>Language</b>	Polish
<b>Producer</b>	Anna Mazurkiewicz
<b>Writers</b>	Jacek Blawut, Jacek Piotr Blawut, Stanislaw Józefowicz
<b>Cast</b>	Jan Nowicki as Jerzy, Lech Gwit as Henryk, Stefan Burczyk as Sodolski, Danuta Szafarska as Barbara, Fabian Kiebicz as Fred, Beata Tyszkiewicz as Róża, Maria Białkowska as Zósia, Robert Jurczyga as Czarek.
<b>Genre</b>	Comedy-drama and romance
<b>Awards</b>	Nominated for the Polish Film Awards, 2010: Best Editing (Jacek Blawut and Jaroslaw Kaminski). Winner of the Polish Film Festival, 2008, in two categories: Best Actor (Jan Nowicki) and Special Jury Prize (Jacek Blawut).

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### Plot

Jerzy is an acclaimed Polish actor who enters a retirement home for artists in order to recover from physical exhaustion. However, Jerzy has too much life in him and soon finds the routine of his old actor friends in the retirement home quite boring. He is an old man with a youthful spirit: we see him go out at night to a nightclub, where he drinks and raps, and he tries to insinuate himself on Zosia, the young and blonde kitchen aid. Due to a weird coincidence – the meeting of a large black poodle who follows him from town into the retirement home – he decides to convince the retired artists to embark on a dramatic project: the re-enactment of Goethe's play Faust, with the poodle playing Mephisto. Thanks to the nursing aid Czarek, who is very friendly and tender with the old people of the home, Jerzy comes to realize the dog collar has four commands that force the dog to "perform".

Barbara and her husband, an advanced Alzheimer's and Parkinson's patient, do not take well to the dog and, eventually, Barbara manages to have the poodle removed from the retirement home and sent to a theatre in Weimar, where he actually belonged and from whence he had escaped. The other residents are sad, since they were beginning to like the Faust project, including an old lady in her nineties and Soldolski, twice victim of a heart-attack and presumably with little time to live. He had accepted to play the title role of Faust, at his own recognizance, just for the joy of being an actor again. On the very first meeting of the Faust project, the living room is filled with music and the old actors engage in joyous dancing. So much so, that they have to be dismissed and sent to bed by the loving caretaker and manager of the retirement home for the artists. Jerzy has definitely brought a new life to the institution.

He also manages to bring back the dog, by convincing Czarek and a young rapper who is to appear in the play to go and kidnap him. The production of Faust is resumed and many of the retired actors take part, with gusto, in the rehearsals. Finally, the day comes for the actual performance, which is to take place in a prison. Among the people who stay behind is Fred, now a widow since Barbara has passed away, and Róża, an old flame of Jerzy, who lives in her in the retirement home, without ever wanting to come out. She passes her days receiving the many attentions bestowed on her by Henryk, one of Jerzy's closest friends from the theatre, and collecting roses, given her by Czarek, as well as cigarette lighters. She is a vamp but thinks of herself as a lady.

Once at the prison house, the group of elderly actors and actresses are met with scorn and vulgarity from the inmates, but little by little the recluses begin to appreciate the poignant performance of the old but extremely talented group of artists. Not even Soldolski's lack of memory can stop the show from going on. On realizing that he doesn't remember the lines from Faust, Soldolski embarks on the monologue "to be or not to be" from Shakespeare's Hamlet in order to keep the momentum going, which he succeeds in doing. Ultimately, the performance is a hit with the inmates, who shower the actors, old and new (the rapper, Czarek and Zosia are also part of the cast), with petal roses. Even Róża, unexpectedly shows up at the end, having finally decided to abandon her quarters at the retirement home. Only Fred, unable to live by the theatre again, especially now that Barbara is gone, is miserable and truly an old man, in spirit as well as in body.

Active ageing  
competencies

All the six competencies