

GARDAN Juliusz, actually GRADSTEIN (1901-1944), director, screenwriter. He was born on 12th November 1901 in Częstochowa, the son of Markus Gradstein and Augusta née Wiernik, brother of → Alfred Gradstein.

He studied law and Romance literature at the University of Warsaw. He worked together with Henryk Szaro on the films *Czerwony błazen* ["Red Clown"] and *Zew morza* ["Call of the Sea"]. After Szaro left the Leo-film studio, he made his debut as a director and screenwriter in the film *Kropka nad I* ["The Dot on the I"]. Later, he created the films *Policmajster Tagiejew* ["Policmajster Targiew"], *Urodę życia* ["The Beauty of Life"], *Serce na ulicy* ["Hearts on the Streets"] and the comedy *10% dla mnie* ["10% for Me"].

As a director, screenwriter and art director, he worked with various studios. He was one of the leading Polish film directors of the inter-War period. He was known for his reliability, efficiency and the high artistic and technical quality of his films.

One of his greatest achievements was *Wyrok życia* ["Life Sentence"] (1933), screened in many countries. Its French version was *Femmes* (dir. Bernard Roland, 1936). The comedies *Czy Lucyna to dziewczyna* ["Is Lucyna That Girl?"] (1934) and *Pani minister tańczy* ["Madam Minister Dances"] (1936) met with great success, as did the novel adaptations *Trędowata* ["Leper"] (1936), *Wrzos* ["Heather"] (1938), as well as the adaptation of Moniuszko's opera *Halka* ["Petticoat"]. In 1937, this film was screened at the Paris World Fair as one of the best Polish films of an operatic work. Between 1928 and 1939, he made eighteen films, working for the Leo-film, Sfinks, Rex-film, Elektra-film and Parlofilm studios.

The outbreak of World War II interrupted the production of two films: *Dewajtisa* ["Devastation"], based on the novel by Maria Rodziewiczówna, and *Niepotrzebnego serca* ["An Unnecessary Heart"] with Jadwiga Smosarska in the lead role. In September 1939, together with director Mieczysław Krawicz and cinematographers Jerzy Zarzycki and Stanisław Lipiński, he formed the film crew of the Warsaw Defence Command. He documented the fighting in defence of the capital.

Circa 28th September 1939, following the end of the fighting in Warsaw, he managed to reach Lwów and then Kiev. There, in 1940-43, he worked in the Kiev Film Studio. When the German-Soviet war broke out, he was evacuated to Ashgabat (now the capital of Turkmenistan). There, he chaired the Union of Polish Patriots. Due to the harsh living conditions, he contracted tuberculosis.

He died on 29th December 1944 in Ashgabat.

Juliusz Sętowski