

GRUSZECKA Helena née BIRNBAUM, also DETKE-GRUSZECKA (1900 or 1901-1982), Polish theatre and film actor. She was born on 16th April 1900 or 20th July 1901 in Częstochowa, the daughter of cantor → Abram Ber Birnbaum and Małka Laja Leonora née Frenkiel.

From 1913, she lived with her family in Łódź, where she graduated from high school and completed acting courses, In the 1920/21 season, she made her debut as an actor in the local Polish Theatre, using her maiden name. She appeared in the Municipal Theatre in Wilno (1921–23), in the Reduta Theatre (1923–26), the Nowy Theatre in Poznań (1926–29), in the Municipal Theatre in Lublin (1929- 1930) and in the Kameralny Theatre in Warszaw (1930–31). With her husband, she left for Persia.

Again, she appeared on the stage of the Reduta Institute in Warsaw (1933–34), the Kameralny Theatre in Warsaw (1933), the Ateneum Theatre Warsaw (1934–38), the Actor's Theatre in Warsaw (1935) and the Buffo Theatre in Warsaw (1938–39). She did not perform during the occupation.

After the war, she was associated mainly with Warsaw theatres: the Municipal Dramatic Theatre (1945-48), the Estrada Theatre (1954–57) and the Komedia (1957–71). She also performed in the Dramatic Theatre in Częstochowa (1950–51) and in the A. Węgierki Theatre in Białystok (1955–56), where she also directed (1954–55). In 1971, the Ministry of Culture granted her a special pension (in recognition of her achievements), however she was still able to perform. She performed until 1981. She appeared in many films, mostly in episodes.

It is unknown as to when she converted to the Evangelical religion. She died on 5th August 1982 in Warsaw and was buried in the Powązki Cemetery, the former Military Cemetery. She was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit (1955), the Medal of the 10th Anniversary of the People's Republic of Poland (1955) and the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (1965).

Her husband was painter Wiktor Detke (1899–1944).

Wikipedia and the online *Encyklopedia Teatru Polskiego (Encyclopedia of Polish Theatre)*.

Wiesław Paszkowski