Polish Cultural Collective
DMV, USA

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The Very Hungry Caterpillar Speaks Polish! Five Eric Carle Animations Get Polish-Language Narration

Premiere November 8 in the Washington, DC area. The films will then be released on YouTube for free, for families in Poland and around the world.

Five animated films based on the work of Eric Carle, author of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, now feature professionally produced Polish-language soundtracks. The project was initiated by the nonprofit Polish Cultural Collective, working with animations originally produced by British studio Illuminated Films. All five films will premiere on November 8, 2026, at The Puppet Co. in Glen Echo, Maryland. Admission is free.

From Screen to Page

The idea grew out of American initiatives in which actors and other public figures read children's books aloud and share the recordings with a broad audience. Polish Cultural Collective wanted to use the engaging medium of animation to inspire children to explore literature and read with their parents. The project is intended for families in Poland and Polish-speaking communities abroad—wherever children are discovering the world in Polish.

"We want children not only to watch Eric Carle's stories, but also to discover his books. An animated film can be a child's first introduction to a story that parents and children can later explore together through reading. And by making these films available in Polish, we hope to reach families both in Poland and around the world," says Katarzyna Grabska, President of Polish Cultural Collective.

Five Stories, Five Polish Versions

The project features Polish-language narration for The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me, The Very Quiet Cricket, The Mixed-Up Chameleon, and I See a Song. Narration is by Waldemar Izdebski and Katarzyna Drucker. The translations were prepared by Marta Kaźmierska-Skupińska and Katarzyna Grabska; David Jaymes of Star View Studio handled sound recording and production. The project was coordinated by Aleksandra Alexander and Katarzyna Grabska.

Following the Washington-area premiere, the films are expected to be released individually on YouTube. They will be free to watch, with no geographic restrictions or time limits. The release schedule will be announced once arrangements with the studio are finalized.

A Family-Friendly Premiere

On Sunday, November 8, at 10:00 AM, The Puppet Co. (7300 Macarthur Blvd, Glen Echo, MD 20812) will host a screening of all five films in Polish. The event will also feature arts and crafts, activities inspired by Eric Carle's stories, photo opportunities with the Very Hungry Caterpillar, and a dubbing booth where children can try recording their own voices. Admission is free.

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The Polish Cultural Collective project was developed in collaboration with THEOS Theater and Opera Society and the Polish Library in Washington, with financial support from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC.

About Polish Cultural Collective

Polish Cultural Collective is a nonprofit organization serving the Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia area. Through reading, the arts, and educational and cultural activities, it helps children and families connect with the Polish language and culture.

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