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The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

(UNRECONCILED) (NICHT VERSOHN) - West Germany, 1964-65

Directed by Jean-Marie Straub

Screenplay: Daniele Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub

Based on the novel Billard um halbzehn by H. Boll

Photography: Wendelin Sachtler, Gerhard Ries, Christian Schwarzwald and Jean-Marie Straub

Sound: Lutz Grubnau and Willi Hanspach

Cast: Henning Harmssen (Robert Fahmel at forty), Heinrich Hargesheimer (Heinrich Fahmel, Robert's father, at eighty), Carlheinz Hargesheimer (Heinrich Fahmel when young), Martha Standner (Heinrich's wife, when old), Daniele Straub (his wife, when young)

English subtitles

Black and white

Running time: 55 minutes

"The risk of UNRECONCILED...is to span a half-century in sixty minutes, to show ten characters, to mention about twenty more, to agitate a whole nation, to allude to both the First and Second World Wars. Most of the facts of the two wars were known by experience, reading or newsreel footage, but it remained, so the film seems to say -- to make the official statement on the era through the scars left on the individual and in order to avoid all dissipation...to limit oneself to one family, albeit a rather large one in order to justify the dissension born from the occasion or the purpose of taking part....Speaking without fear and without Manicheanism, also without illusion of the survival of 1945, UNRECONCILED...which employs the calmest dialogues, where the conflicts are invisible, is an interiorisation of acts, passions, and even of emotions where only narrations remain, resumés of past life."

-- Jean-Claude Biette, CAHIERS DU CINEMA

Director Jean-Marie Straub, born in 1933 in Metz, France, studied at the Universities of Strasbourg and Nancy until 1954, when he went to Paris where he worked as an assistant to Abel Gance, Jean Renoir, Jacques Rivette, Robert Bresson and Alexander Astruc. In 1958 he settled in Western Germany. Previous to UNRECONCILED, he made a short entitled MACHORKA-MUFF.

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