

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
October 1986

RECENT FILMS FROM WEST GERMANY

November 14 - December 9, 1986

The independent spirit and social relevance of West German cinema is demonstrated in eighteen films to be screened at The Museum of Modern Art beginning on Friday, November 14. The ninth season of recent films from the Federal Republic of Germany opens at 3:00 p.m. with Tefvik Başer's chamber drama 40m² Deutschland/40 Square Meters of Germany (1986), about the incarceration of a Turkish wife, locked into her apartment by her husband, a foreign worker living in Hamburg. A screening will follow at 6:30 p.m. of Werner Schroeter's Der Rosenkönig/The Rose King (1986), a poetic drama with an operatic sensibility that features the last performance of the late Magdalena Montezuma.

Filmmakers represented in this year's program whose works have been previously screened at the Museum include Schroeter, Herbert Achternbusch, Dagmar Beiersdorf, Reinhard Hauff, Alexander Kluge, Lothar Lambert, and Rosa von Praunheim. Directors with first features include Başer, Pia Frankenburg, Gustáv Hámos, and Daniel Helfer, whose Der Rekord/The Record (1984) is a caper about a young video pirate. The exhibition also includes a first short, Ismet Elci's The Last Rendezvous (1986), and five unconventional documentaries on a wide range of topics. A complete schedule is enclosed.

Five of the works in RECENT FILMS FROM WEST GERMANY have a pronounced comic tone. Achternbusch's Heilt Hitler!/Heal Hitler! (1986) was originally shot on super-8mm film. Von Praunheim uses black humor provocatively in Ein Virus Kennt Keine Moral/A Virus Respects No Morals (1985), his vaudeville

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on AIDS. Hámos's Der Unbesiegbare/The Invincible (1985) uses a mix of film and video to recreate and extend the American science-fiction serials of the thirties. A gentle satiric spirit underlies Frankenburg's Nichts Nichts ohne Dich/Noisy Martha (1985), in which the protagonist's greatest problem is her superficiality. Lambert's film about a film, Die Liebeswüste/The Desert of Love (1985), is the improvised result of a laboratory's destruction of much of the filmmaker's original footage.

Several fictional dramas, besides 40m² Deutschland and Der Rosenkönig, are included in the exhibition. Hauff's Stammheim (1985), which won the Golden Bear at the 1986 Berlin Film Festival, depicts staged scenes based on the court transcripts from the Baader-Meinhof trial. A series of staged interviews with a negative thread punctuated by short narratives concerning disappointment characterizes Kluge's Der Angriff der Gegenwart auf die Übrige Zeit/The Blind Director (1985), which was presented at this year's New York Film Festival. Die Wolfsbraut/The Wolf Girl (1985), about the short, intense relationship between two very different women, is directed by Beiersdorf, previously known for her performances in Lambert's films.

The documentaries in RECENT FILMS FROM WEST GERMANY include Helga Reidemeister's Mit Starrem Blick aufs Geld/With One Eye on the Money (1983), a critical but intimate look at the filmmaker's sister, a model who participates in the creation of herself as object; Christian Blackwood's Mein Leben für Zarah Leander/My Life for Zarah Leander (1986), a musical portrait of a fan's obsession with film star Leander, "the diva of Nazi Germany"; the avant-garde director Werner Nekes's Was Geschah Wirklich Zwischen den Bildern?/Film Before Film (1985), an archaeology of the cinema and an examination of the filmmaker's own collection of early optical toys;

Stefan Paul's Sera Posible el Sur- Un Viage por Argentina de la Mano de Mercedes Sosa (1985), a musical about the triumphant return to Argentina of popular singer Mercedes Sosa, "the Mother Courage of Latin America"; and Jörg Gfrörer's Günter Wallraff- Ganz Unten/ Günter Wallraff- At the Bottom (1986), a revelation on anti-Turkish prejudice shot surreptitiously in cinéma verité style.

RECENT FILMS FROM WEST GERMANY continues in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 through Tuesday, December 9. The exhibition is made possible through the cooperation of the Export-Union des Deutschen Films, Munich, and is organized for the Museum by Laurence Kardish and Adrienne Mancia, curators in the Department of Film.

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For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.

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November 14 - December 9, 1986

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

Unless otherwise noted, all films are in German with English subtitles.

Friday, November 14

3:00 p.m.: 40m² Deutschland / 40 Square Meters of Germany. Tefvik Başer. In Turkish and German. English subtitles. 80 min.

6:30 p.m.: Der Rosenkönig / The Rose King. 1986. Werner Schroeter. With Magdalena Montezuma. In several languages, no English subtitles. 103 min.

Saturday, November 15

2:30 p.m.: Der Unbesiegbare / The Invincible. 1985. Gustáv Hámos. With Kurt von Ruffin, Lotti Huber, Udo Kier. 85 min.

5:00 p.m.: 40m² Deutschland / 40 Square Meters of Germany. See Friday, November 14, 3:00.

Sunday, November 16

2:30 p.m.: Was Geschah Wirklich Zwischen den Bildern? / Film Before Film. 1985. Werner Nekes. English narration. 83 min.

5:00 p.m.: Der Rosenkönig / The Rose King. See Friday, November 14, 6:30.

Monday, November 17

3:00 p.m.: Der Unbesiegbare / The Invincible. See Saturday, November 15, 2:30.

Tuesday, November 18

3:00 p.m.: Heilt Hitler! / Heal Hitler! 1986. Herbert Achternbusch. 150 min.

6:30 p.m.: Ein Virus Kennt Keine Moral / A Virus Respects No Morals. 1985. Rosa von Praunheim. 85 min.

Friday, November 21

3:00 p.m.: Mit Starrem Blick aufs Geld / With One Eye on the Money. 1983. Helga Reide-meister. 106 min.

6:30 p.m.: Was Geschah Wirklich Zwischen den Bildern? / Film Before Film. See Sunday, November 16, 2:30.

Saturday, November 22

2:30 p.m.: Nichts Nichts Ohne Dich / Noisy Martha. 1985. Pia Frankenburg. With Frankenburg. 88 min.

5:30 p.m.: Die Wolfsbraut / The Wolf Girl. 1985. Dagmar Beiersdorf. With Imke Barnstedt, Martine Felton, Lothar Lambert. 85 min

Sunday, November 23

2:30 p.m.: Heilt Hitler! / Heal Hitler! See Tuesday, November 18, 3:00.

5:30 p.m.: Ein Virus Kennt Keine Moral / A Virus Respects No Morals. See Tuesday, November 18, 6:30.

Monday, November 24

3:00 p.m.: Die Wolfsbraut / The Wolf Girl. See Saturday, November 22, 5:30.

Tuesday, November 25

3:00 p.m.: Die Liebeswüste / The Desert of Love. 1986. Lothar Lambert. With Lambert. 60 min. Preceded by The Last Rendezvous, directed by Ismet Elci. 7 min.

6:30 p.m.: Nichts Nichts ohne Dich / Noisy Martha. See Saturday, November 22, 2:30.

Friday, November 28

3:00 p.m.: Sera Posible el Sur - Un Viage Por Argentina de la Mano de Mercedes Sosa. 1985. Stefan Paul. In Spanish with English subtitles. (Gray City, NY). 76 min.

6:30 p.m.: Mein Leben für Zarah Leander / My Life for Zarah Leander. 1986. Christian Blackwood. With Paul Sieler, Zarah Leander. 85 min.

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Saturday, November 29

2:30 p.m.: Mein Leben für Zarah Leander / My Life for Zarah Leander. See Friday, November 28, 6:30.

5:30 p.m.: Sera Posible el Sur - Un Viage Por Argentina de la Mano de Mercedes Sosa. See Friday, November 28, 3:00.

Sunday, November 30

2:30 p.m.: Mit Starrem Blick aufs Geld / With One Eye on the Money. See Friday, November 21, 3:00.

5:30 p.m.: Die Liebeswüste / The Love Desert and The Last Rendezvous. See Tuesday, November 25, 3:00.

Tuesday, December 2

3:00 p.m.: Der Angriff der Gegenwart auf die Übrige Zeit / The Blind Director. 1985. Alexander Kluge. With Armin Müller-Stahl, Jutta Hoffman. 113 min.

6:30 p.m.: Der Rekord / The Record. 1984. Daniel Helfer. With Uwe Ochsenknecht. 85 min.

Friday, December 5

3:00 p.m.: Günter Wallraff- Ganz Unten / Günter Wallraff- At the Bottom. 1986. Jörg Gfrörer. With Günter Wallraff. 101 min.

6:30 p.m.: Stammheim. 1985. Reinhard Hauff. 107 min.

Saturday, December 6

2:30 p.m.: Der Rekord / The Record. See Tuesday, December 2, 6:30.

5:30 p.m.: Der Angriff der Gegenwart auf die Übrige Zeit / The Blind Director. See Tuesday, December 2, 3:00.

Sunday, December 7

2:30 p.m.: Stammheim. See Friday, December 5, 6:30.

5:30 p.m.: Günter Wallraff- Ganz Unten / Günter Wallraff- At the Bottom. See Friday, December 5, 3:00.

Tuesday, December 9

3:00 p.m.: Auf Immer und Ewig / Now or Never. 1986. Christel Buschmann. With Eva Mattes, Werner Stocker. In association with Goethe House, New York. 96 min.

6:30 p.m.: Auf Immer und Ewig / Now or Never. See 3:00. Christel Buschmann will be present.