

The Museum of Modern Art

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For Immediate Release
December 1994

RECENT FILMS FROM GERMANY

December 30, 1994 - January 10, 1995

RECENT FILMS FROM GERMANY, an annual survey of recent films from the Federal Republic of Germany, is presented at The Museum of Modern Art from December 30, 1994 to January 10, 1995. In its sixteenth year, the exhibition features twelve films that trace the continuing development of German cinema.

Highlights include Werner Herzog's *Lektionen in Finsternis* (*Lessons of Darkness*, 1992), a serene aerial vision of Kuwaiti oil fields aflame, and Peter Sehr's *Kaspar Hauser* (1993), an historical epic about the 1828 "wild boy" of Nuremberg who might have been the true Crown Prince of Baden but fell victim to court intrigue.

Also featured are three contemporary comedies: Rainer Kaufman's *Einer meiner ältesten Freunde* (*One of My Oldest Friends*, 1994) and Joseph Orr's *Oben-unten* (*Up & Down*, 1994), both about young urban professionals; and Jan Schütte's *Auf wiedersehen Amerika* (*Bye Bye America*, 1994), about three elderly New Yorkers who leave Brighton Beach to visit their native Poland.

Several dramas are presented, including Leo Hiemer's *Leni* (1994), the story of a Bavarian farming couple who adopt a Jewish baby in 1937; Niko Brücher's *Marie's Lied -- Ich war ich weiss nicht wo* (*Marie's Song -- I was I Know Not Where*, 1994), set in the early 1800's, which tells of an aristocratic woman who breaks free of social constraints; and Michael Gwisdek's *Abschied*

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von Agnes (*Farewell to Agnes*, 1994), which deals with the still-covert actions of a former East German secret policeman.

Additional highlights include Zorun Solomun's *Weltmeister* (*Worldmaster*, 1993), which focuses on the young violinist son of a Russian military family about to leave Germany, and Sinan Çetin's *Berlin in Berlin* (1993), the story of a young German seeking refuge as a guest of the family of a Turkish worker whom he accidentally killed. *Neues Deutschland* (*New Germany*, 1993), which comprises five separate short fiction and documentary films by Philip Gröning, Uwe Janson, Gerd Kroske, Dani Levy, and Maris Pfeiffer, explores such issues as anti-semitism, political thuggery, and Neo-Nazis. The documentary *Der Reichseinsatz -- zwangsarbeiter in Deutschland* (*Forced Labor in Germany*, 1993), by Wolfgang Bergmann, uses rare archival footage to reveal how eight million foreigners were forced into slave labor by the Third Reich during the Second World War.

RECENT FILMS FROM GERMANY was organized by Laurence Kardish, Curator, Department of Film and Video. The program is presented with the cooperation of the Export-Union des Deutschen Films in Munich, and with the support of the participating filmmakers, producers, and German distributors.

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For further information or film stills, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.

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Exhibition Schedule

Friday, December 30

- 3:00 p.m. *Lektionen in Finsternis (Lessons of Darkness)*. 1992. Germany. Werner Herzog. On the burning of the Kuwaiti oil fields. In German, English subtitles. 50 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Lektionen in Finsternis (Lessons of Darkness)*.
See above at 3:00.
- 7:30 p.m. *Kaspar Hauser*. 1993. Germany. Peter Sehr. With André Eisermann, Katharina Thalbach, Uwe Ochsenknecht. In German, English subtitles. 137 min.

Saturday, December 31

- 2:00 p.m. *Kaspar Hauser*.
See Friday, December 30, at 7:30.
- 5:00 p.m. *Lektionen in Finsternis (Lessons of Darkness)*.
See Friday, December 30, at 3:00.

Sunday, January 1

- 2:00 p.m. *Leni*. 1994. Written and directed by Leo Hiemer. With Hannes Thanheiser, Johanna Thanheiser, Christa Berndl. In German, English subtitles. 86 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Marie's Lied -- Ich war ich weiss nicht wo (Marie's Song -- I Was I Know Not Where)*. 1994. Written and directed by Niko Brücher. With Sylvie Testud, Bastian Trost, Martin Feifel. In German, English subtitles. 98 min.

Monday, January 2

- 2:30 p.m. *Auf wiedersehen Amerika (Bye Bye America)*. 1994. Co-written and directed by Jan Schütte. With Otto Tausig, Jakov Bodo, Zofia Merle. In German, Yiddish, Polish, and English, with English subtitles. 85 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Einer meiner ältesten Freunde (One of My Oldest Friends)*. 1994. Rainer Kaufman. Adapted from a short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald. With Maria Schrader, Richy Müller, Peter Lohmeyer. In German, English subtitles. 81 min.

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Tuesday, January 3

- 2:30 p.m. *Abschied von Agnes (Farewell to Agnes)*. 1994. Written and directed by Michael Gwisdek. With Gwisdek, Sylvester Groth, Gerhard Straus-Joachimsthal. In German, English subtitles. 95 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Neues Deutschland (New Germany)*. 1993. A five-part film on old attitudes resurfacing in the new Germany; includes Dani Levy's *Ohne mich (Without Me)*, Maris Pfeiffer's *Ein ort, ein selbstmord (A Small Town Suicide)*, Gerd Kroske's *Kurzschluss (Short Circuit)*, Philip Gröning's *Opfer, zeugen (Victims and Witnesses)*, and Uwe Janson's *Heilige kühe (Holy Cows)*. In German, English subtitles. 100 min.

Thursday, January 5

- 2:30 p.m. *Neues Deutschland (New Germany)*.
See Tuesday, January 3, at 6:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *Abschied von Agnes (Farewell to Agnes)*.
See Tuesday, January 3, at 2:30.
- 8:00 p.m. *Einer meiner ältesten Freunde (One of My Oldest Friends)*.
See Monday, January 2, at 6:00.

Friday, January 6

- 2:30 p.m. *Weltmeister (Worldmaster)*. 1993. Written and directed by Zorun Solomun. With Alexander Meier, Grit Horning. In Russian and German, English subtitles. 71 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Leni*.
See Sunday, January 1, at 2:00.
- 8:00 p.m. *Marie's Lied -- Ich war ich weiss nicht wo (Marie's Song -- I Was I Know Not Where)*.
See Sunday, January 1, at 5:00.

Saturday, January 7

- 2:00 p.m. *Der Reichseinsatz -- zwangsarbeiter in Deutschland (Forced Labor in Germany)*. 1993. Wolfgang Bergmann. Documentary about the eight million foreigners forced to work in Germany during the Second World War. In German, English subtitles. 117 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Berlin in Berlin*. 1993. Co-written and directed by Sinan Çetin. With Hülya Avsar, Cem Ozer, Amin Block. In German and Turkish, English subtitles. 92 min.

Sunday, January 8

- 2:00 p.m. *Auf wiedersehen Amerika (Bye Bye America)*.
See Monday, January 2, at 2:30.

5:00 p.m. *Weltmeister (Worldmaster)*.
See Friday, January 6, at 2:30.

Monday, January 9

2:30 p.m. *Oben-unten (Up & Down)*. 1994. Written and directed by Joseph Orr.
With Marco Bahr, Nadja Schulz, Sophie Rois. In German, English
subtitles. 82 min.

6:00 p.m. *Der Reichseinsatz -- zwangsarbeiter in Deutschland (Forced Labor
in Germany)*.
See Saturday, January 7, at 2:00.

Tuesday, January 10

2:30 p.m. *Berlin in Berlin*.
See Saturday, January 7, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *Oben-unten (Up & Down)*.
See Monday, January 9, at 2:30.

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