

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
December 1989

RECENT FILMS FROM WEST GERMANY

January 5 - 22, 1990

The twelfth annual presentation of new films from the Federal Republic of Germany opens at The Museum of Modern Art on January 5, 1990. RECENT FILMS FROM WEST GERMANY presents the New York premieres of twelve feature-length films which demonstrate the continued vitality of an independent cinema. The exhibition continues through January 22, 1990.

Four of the twelve directors featured in this year's series have a significant international reputation. Elfi Mikesch's The Moroccan (1989) is a poetic film about displacement and maternal attachment. Rudolf Thome's The Philosopher (1988) is a comedy about a bewildered academic and his "muses." Bernhard Wicki's The Spider's Web (1989) carefully describes one young man's moral disintegration in the period between the world wars. Michael Klier's It's So Much Nicer Wherever We Are Not (1989) is a narrative about emigration.

Works by directors who have been previously represented in this program include Turkish native Tefvik Baser, whose Farewell to False Paradise (1988) describes the liberating effect of prison on one woman; and Philip Gröning, whose short work Stachoviak! (1989) reflects the rituals of daily life through the eyes of a disturbed and murderous man.

Other films included in this series are Dominik Graf's Tiger, Lion, Panther (1989), a contemporary comedy of sexual manners; Nico Hofmann's Land

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of Fathers, Land of Sons (1988), a drama about a son's discovery of his father's complicity with the Third Reich; Uwe Janson's Paths of Survival (1989), a love story set in 1946; Berthold Mittermayr's Ice (1988), a strange thriller set on an eastern border of Germany; Christian Wagner's Waller's Last Walk (1983), a portrait of a railway man on his retirement day; and Kai Wessel's Martha Jellneck (1988), a revenge story and chamber mystery with an octogenarian heroine.

A presentation by Super 8 filmmaker Penelope Buitenhuis on January 22 at 6:30 p.m. concludes the exhibition. The Berlin-based filmmaker will show and discuss her recent work as part of the Museum's ongoing Cineprobe program.

RECENT FILMS FROM WEST GERMANY has been organized by Laurence Kardish and Adrienne Mancina, curators, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art. It was made possible by the cooperation of the Export-Union des Deutschen Films (Munich).

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.