

The Museum of Modern Art

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL SURVEY OF FILMS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

**Now in Its Eighteenth Year, This Acclaimed Series Presents
the New York Premieres of Fifteen New Feature Films
Including Seven Non-Fiction Works**

Recent Films From Germany
December 6-31, 1996
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

Recent Films from Germany, the eighteenth annual survey of new films from the Federal Republic of Germany, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on December 6, 1996. This year's edition introduces fifteen feature films, including seven non-fiction works and numerous writing-directing debuts by new and veteran filmmakers. As well as showcasing a cross-section of German filmmaking talent, the series features several works that address twentieth-century German history and its ramifications and the changing social conditions brought on in the 1990s by reunification. The series concludes on December 31.

"Current German cinema seems to me particularly strong in two areas," says Laurence Kardish, Curator and Coordinator of Film Exhibitions, Department of Film and Video, who has organized the series since its inception. "There are the unabashed, thoroughly professional comedies of the sexes, as exemplified this year by *Workaholic*. And there are the works that use the documentary form in new and fresh ways, as in the case of Werner Schroeter's *Embers of Love*, about passion and song, and Andrei Ujica's *Out of the Present*."

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American-born Sharon von Wietersheim's *Workaholic* (1996), the tale of a young woman's plot to gain her busy boyfriend's attention, is one of four comedies in the series. The others are Hans-Christian Schmid's *Nach fünf im Urwald (It's a Jungle Out There)* (1995), the story of a provincial politician's teenage daughter who runs away to Munich; and, sounding a blacker comic note, Matthias Glasner's *Sexy Sadie* (1996), which follows an escaped prisoner and his nurse/hostage, and Volker Einrauch's *Die Mutter des Killers (The Killer's Mother)* (1996), the saga of an undertaker who dreams of killing his unfaithful wife.

Among the other highlights of the series are seven unconventional non-fiction films, including *Abfallprodukte der Liebe (Embers of Love)* (1996), the opening night feature by veteran film and stage director Werner Schroeter. In this compelling work, which rests intriguingly between documentary and fantasy, acclaimed opera singers and their intimates are invited to a chateau to explore the language of love.

The other documentaries are Donatello and Fosco Dubini's life study *Jean Seberg—American Actress* (1995), which uses rare interviews, film clips, private photographs, and conversations taped by the FBI to trace the actress's rise and fall; Wolf Gaudlitz's *Taxi Lisboa (Lisbon Taxi)* (1996), which takes the viewer on a tour of Lisbon as seen through the eyes of a 100-year-old taxi driver; Thomas Mitscherlich's *Reisen ins Leben (Journey into Life)* (1995), a powerful examination of the lives of children who survived Auschwitz; Andres Veiel's *Die Überlebenden (The Survivors)* (1996), an exploration of the high incidence of suicide among young West Germans; Helmut Wietz's *Wüste WestBerlin (West Berlin Desert)* (1995), which chronicles the art scene in West Berlin between 1961 and 1991; and Andrei Ujica's *Out of the Present* (1995), a highly unusual and lyrical study, most of it shot in outer space, of a cosmonaut mission that begins in the Soviet Union and ends, following the fall of Communism, in Russia.

Recent Films from Germany also includes four powerful dramas. Gordian Maugg's *Die Kaukasische Nacht (The Caucasian Night)* (1995) looks at a German family's experience of Caucasia after the fall of Communism; Ivan Fila's *Lea* (1996) follows the relationship between a German man and the traumatized woman whom he buys from her stepparents; Oliver Storz's *Drei Tage im April (Three Days in April)* (1995) relates a historical tale set in a small German village during the final weeks of the Third Reich; and Heiner Stadler's *Warshots* (1996), filmed in Northern Ireland, Somalia, and Lebanon, plumbs the characters of a group of war correspondents and press photographers in battle.

Recent Films from Germany is presented in association with Susanne Reinker, Public Relations Director, and Tanja Englhart, Public Relations Assistant, Export-Union des Deutschen Films in Munich; and with the help of Stephan Nobbe, Director, and Brigitte Hubmann, Program Coordinator, Goethe House, New York. The program is made possible with the support of the participating filmmakers, producers, and German distributors.

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To preview these films on videocassette, or for more information, please contact Graham Leggat, Film Press Representative, at 212/708-9752.