

WENDE FLICKS

LAST FILMS FROM EAST GERMANY

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall
 Honorary host of the series, Academy Award nominee Armin Mueller Stahl

Los Angeles Premiere February 28 – March 12, 2009

LACMA, Hammer Museum, UCLA, Goethe-Institut Los Angeles, The Wende Museum

PRESENTED by The Wende Museum and the DEFA Film Library

All screenings FREE and open to the public. | Films shown in German with English subtitles.

Sat. Feb. 28 7:00 pm LACMA, Bing Theater
The Tango Player (1991, Dir. Roland Gräf)
 Introduced by Barton Byg, DEFA Film Library, UMass Amherst
 Honorary host, Academy Award nominee Armin Mueller Stahl

Dr. Dallow has been released after 21 months in prison for playing piano in a "subversive" cabaret act. Now the Stasi wants him to become an informant.

Sun. Mar. 1 1:00 pm LACMA, Bing Theater
Burning Life (1994, Dir. Peter Welz) US Premiere
 Introduced by Stefan Kolditz, screenwriter

Anna and Lisa become a popular gangster duo as they rob banks and give to the poor in the desolate eastern states of a newly unified Germany.

3:00 pm LACMA, Bing Theater
The Mistake (1991, Dir. Heiner Carow)
 Introduced by Stefan Carow, composer

Jacob, from West Germany, falls in love with Elisabeth in East Germany. When an informant makes it impossible for them to be together, Elisabeth plans her revenge.

Tues. Mar. 3 7:00 pm Goethe-Institut Los Angeles
Silent Country (1992, Dir. Andreas Dresen)
 Introduced by Skyler Arndt-Briggs, DEFA Film Library, UMass Amherst

A lethargic provincial theater ensemble rehearses Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" ... and almost misses out on the revolution taking place in Berlin.

Wed. Mar. 4 7:00 pm Hammer Museum, Wilder Theater
whisper & SHOUT (1988, Dir. Dieter Schumann)
 Introduced by Stefan Carow, composer

Rock and punk groups flourished even behind the Iron Curtain. This documentary travels through East Germany with bands like Silly, Chicorée. Sandow and Feeling B.

Thurs. Mar. 5 7:00 pm Goethe-Institut Los Angeles
Herzprung (1992, Dir. Helke Misselwitz) US Premiere
 Introduced by Helke Misselwitz, director

Almost nothing has changed in the little town of Herzprung since unification, except growing unemployment ... that is, until Johanna falls in love with a dark-skinned, roving adventurer.

Locations:

LACMA, Bing Theater, 5905 Wilshire Blvd.
 Goethe-Institut Los Angeles, 5905 Wilshire Blvd.
 Hammer Museum, Billy Wilder Theater, 10899 Wilshire Blvd.
 UCLA, Charles E. Young Research Library, Room 11348, UCLA Campus, Hilgard Ave.
 James Bridges Theater, 1409 Melnitz Hall, UCLA Campus, corner Hilgard Ave. & Sunset Blvd.
 The Wende Museum, 5741 Buckingham Pkwy, Culver City

Fri. Mar. 6 9:00 am–12:30 pm UCLA, Charles E. Young Research Library

WENDE FLICKS SYMPOSIUM

Panel I – Making Movies as the World Changed
 Panel II – Twenty Years Later: Coming to Light

2:00 pm James Bridges Theater
Land beyond the Rainbow (1991, Dir. Herwig Kipping)
 Introduced by Reinhild Steingröver, Eastman School of Music

A harsh yet poetic critique of Stalinism in East Germany. Critics credit this film with giving one of the most radical views of the GDR's past.

3:45 pm James Bridges Theater
Jana and Jan (1992, Dir. Helmut Dziuba)
 Introduced by Barton Byg, DEFA Film Library, UMass Amherst

Jan meets Jana in a reformatory, and what starts as a bet becomes true love. When Jana gets pregnant, the situation spirals out of control, and they flee into the unknown future of a new Germany.

8:00 pm James Bridges Theater
Latest from the Da-Da-R (1990, Dir. Jörg Foth)
 Introduced by Reinhild Steingröver, Eastman School of Music

In a series of cabaret pieces, Stefan Mensching and Heinz-Eckhard Wenzel – a highly acclaimed satirical duo – satirize East German life as the Berlin Wall fell and Germany was unified.

Sun. Mar. 8 4:00 pm The Wende Museum
Eastern Landscape (1991, Dir. Eduard Schreiber)

An East Berlin dump accumulates the residue of history, as people try to shed their former lives.

Leipzig in the Fall (1989, Dirs. Gerd Kroske & Andreas Voigt)
 Introduced by Andreas Voigt, director

The revolution, close-up. This most comprehensive documentation of the 1989 Leipzig demonstrations includes interviews with citizens' rights movement activists, officials, and bystanders.

Tues. Mar. 10 7:00 pm Goethe-Institut Los Angeles
The Architects (1990, Dir. Peter Kahane)
 Introduced by Justinian Jampol, The Wende Museum

In this somber and nuanced portrait of life in East Berlin, a young architect feels his life being strangled by communist dogma and the older generation.

Wed. Mar. 11 7:00 pm Hammer Museum, Wilder Theater
The Wall (1989/90, Dir. Jürgen Böttcher)
 Introduced by Jan-Christopher Horak, UCLA

This poetic and enigmatic documentary contemplates the Berlin Wall's historic and symbolic significance. Shot by renowned cinematographer Thomas Plenert.

Thurs. Mar. 12 7:00 pm Goethe-Institut Los Angeles
Miraculi (1991, Dir. Ulrich Weiß)
 Introduced by Reinhild Steingröver, Eastman School of Music

Who'll steal some cigarettes? This theft starts a symbolic odyssey... A surreal parable about the downfall of a society.

World premiere with English subtitles!

For more information, please visit: www.wendemuseum.org | www.umass.edu/defa

WENDE FLICKS: Last Films from East Germany has been made possible by: UCLA Library, DEFA-Stiftung, German Information Center USA, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany Los Angeles, LACMA, Hammer Museum, Goethe-Institut Los Angeles, Arcadia, University of Massachusetts Amherst, ICESTORM International, ANTAEUS Film, defa-spektrum, Kinowelt International, Medien Bildungsgesellschaft Babelsberg, PROGRESS Film-Verleih, VSI HD media services, Babelsberg Postproduction, LVT Laser Subtitling, zenon design, durchblickreisen.

