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The DEFA Film Library Newsletter

The Cinema of East Germany and Beyond

2/28/2007

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Welcome...

Dear Newsletter Readers!

Thank you for your great feedback on our first electronic newsletter mailing last month. We are very pleased to hear that you appreciate hearing about our work, films and upcoming events.

Those of you who have contacted us about showing the five Cuban films in a non-commercial setting, will be happy to hear that we acquired the necessary rights. These Cuban films will be part of the Massachusetts Multicultural Film Festival this spring and of the 2007 East German Summer Film Institute (June 23-29, 2007) entitled *SOLIDARITY! DEFA and Latin America*. To learn more about the institute, please contact sky@german.umass.edu.

The DEFA Film Library Team

- **DEFA at SCMS**

Meet us in the Exhibition Hall at the annual conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies in Chicago from March 8-11, 2007. We look very much forward to discussing with you our films, upcoming DVD release and the use of our films in your lectures.

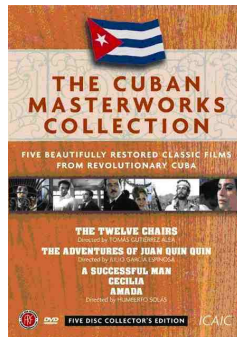


Learn More...

- **The Lives of East Germans – OSCAR Special**

Congratulations! *The Lives of Others*, Florian Henckel





The DEFA Film Library is very pleased to announce its release of five Cuban films for the educational market. Now finally available in North America are five masterworks from revolutionary Cuba. Beautifully restored with new English subtitles and directed by three legendary filmmakers, each film is a worthy addition to the canon of great world cinema.

Slated to be released this month are:

Amada (1982)
Cecilia (1981)
A Man of Success
 (1986)
 (Humberto Solás)

The Twelve Chairs
 (1962)
 (Tomás Gutiérrez Alea)

The Adventures of Juan Quin Quin (1967)
 (Julio Garcia Espinosa)

These five Cuban films continue our efforts to explore and broaden connections that were of importance to East German filmmakers and culture. They join other DEFA Film Library projects that reach beyond the cinema of the GDR, such as the spring 2007 release of Andreas Dresen's Wende film, *Silent Country* (1992).

von Donnersmarck's film debut, has won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, the third Oscar in German film history. This espionage drama, praised by the American press, is set five years before the fall of the Wall and explores life in East Germany under the Stasi. Ulrich Mühe (Captain Wiesler), the leading actor in the film, was born in East Germany in 1953. His breakthrough as a film actor came with the 1984 East German production *Half of Life* in which he played the German poet Friedrich Hölderlin, followed by many national and international engagements for television and cinema productions.



We would like to celebrate this special Oscar with 25% off each of the ten titles below. This selection of films will give an insight into one side of life in East Germany – a life alongside the Berlin Wall (*The Wall*), with censorship (*Carla*, *The Rabbit Is Me*, *Trace of Stones*), Stasi (*That Was the GDR*) and the daily struggle of non-conformists (*Born in '45*, *The Architects*, *Changing Skins*).

[Take Advantage of this Offer...](#)

- **Socialist Dreams of German Director Evelyn Schmidt**

Laura McGee, Associate Professor of German at Western Kentucky University, gave the paper *Socialist Dreams of German Film Director Evelyn Schmidt* as part of the Women's Studies Series



"gen(d)erations" at her university on February 16. Evelyn Schmidt studied directing at the Film and Television Academy in Potsdam-Babelsberg. She participated in Konrad Wolf's master class at the Academy of Arts in Berlin and began directing in the 1970s. Her sensitive film portrait of a woman, *The Bicycle* (1981), was part of the 2005 film series "Rebels with a Cause – The Cinema of East Germany" at The Museum of Modern Art and was shown in a new 35mm print with new English subtitles.

[Learn More...](#)

- **WidoSubtitles.com**

Learn More...**Productions**

As part of its promotion of European cinema that challenges boundaries and crosses borders, the DEFA Film Library is cooperating in the preparation of the landmark touring film series, *The Films of Michael Haneke*. An international conference at Boston University, to be held October 25-27, 2007, will accompany the film series. The DEFA Film Library started the subtitling of five TV productions that Michael Haneke directed between the mid-1970s and early 1990s. These films have never been available with English subtitles and will be premiered at the Harvard Film Archive and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston from October 19-November 2, 2007. This most comprehensive retrospective of Michael Haneke's films ever assembled in North America will be presented by the Goethe-Institut Boston, Boston University and the French Consulate, Boston.

For more information or to book films, please contact: Karin Oehlenschlaeger,
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- **STARRING BERLIN – The Capitol in 40 Films**

Six films distributed by the DEFA Film Library will be part of the groundbreaking program STARRING BERLIN – The Capitol in 40 Films at the Goethe-Institut in Los Angeles from January 29 – December 10, 2007.

They are: *The Murderers Are among Us* (4/30), *Berlin-Schönhauser Corner* (5/21), *Look at this City* (5/29), *The Legend of Paul and Paula* (6/4), *The Wall* (7/9), and *Coming Out* (8/20).



For the complete series schedule, please click here...

- **Acquisition of New Rights**

We are very excited to announce the acquisition of non-commercial public screening rights for the five Cuban films which are part of *The Cuban Masterworks Collection* and the educational DVD rights for the 1975

East German television docu-drama *Kuhle
Wampe - Censored!*

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