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## The DEFA Film Library Newsletter

The Cinema of East Germany and Beyond

3/30/2007

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**Welcome!**

Thank you to everyone who stopped by at our table at this year's Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference! Having not been there for a number of years, we were glad to have the chance to meet so many of you. If you didn't make it to SCMS this year, look for us in Philadelphia next year - where we may still be the only vendor with DVDs for sale! (More on the SCMS Conference below.)

- **SOLIDARITY! DEFA and Latin America**  
**Application Deadline Extended to April 20th!**

The application deadline for the fourth East German Summer Film Institute, to be held June 23-29, 2007, has been extended until April 20th. Held in the beautiful Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts, the DEFA Film Library's biennial Summer Film Institutes provide an opportunity for scholars to spend a week together in a relaxed setting watching movies and discussing East German film from a variety of perspectives.

Under the direction of Professor Barton Byg, the 2007 East Film Institute will explore the relationship between East Germany and Latin America in the domain of film and filmmaking. The Institute will be preceded by a weekend Cuba-Film Festival, featuring films about Cuba and by Cuban directors, which will provide a counterpoint to East German titles screened during the Institute. The Institute will be held in English and is open to faculty, advanced graduate students and other educators across disciplines. Cost of the Institute will be \$525; this covers a dormitory room for 8 nights, twelve meals and an Institute reader. Please contact us if financial assistance is needed to make your participation possible.



**TO APPLY**, please submit a 2-3 page letter outlining your



This 2-Disc Set includes Andreas Dresen's first feature film, *Silent Country* (1992), as well as an extensive 2007 interview and six of his student films. It is the first project released jointly by the DEFA Film Library and Berlin's *Filmgalerie 451*.

*Silent Country* tells the story of a young director, who comes to a provincial town in East Germany to put on Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" just before the fall of the Berlin Wall. The lethargic theater troupe shows no interest in the play, but he remains undaunted. Meanwhile it is fall 1989 and, somewhere far away in the capital, a revolution is taking place.

*A tragicomedy, the most beautiful and precise film about this turning point in East Germany.*  
-Ralf Schenk, Film historian

**Pre-Order the 2-Disc Set by April 26th and Save 25%!**

interest in participating in **SOLIDARITY! DEFA and Latin America**, along with one letter of recommendation and a cv, to the DEFA Film Library, Attn: Sky Arndt-Briggs, 508 Herter Hall, University of Massachusetts, 161 Presidents Drive, Amherst, MA 01003. (sky@german.umass.edu)

### **Read More...**

- **LAST CALL for *Rebels with a Cause* Tour!**

**The MoMA series will only be touring until the end of 2007**



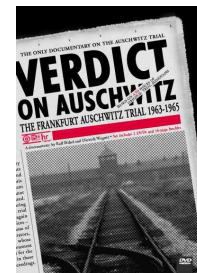
*Rebels with a Cause: the Cinema of East Germany* was a huge success when it screened at The Museum of Modern Art in New York in fall 2005. Since then, it has screened to great acclaim all over the U.S. and Canada. There is STILL time to rent the complete series or a selection of films for fall screenings at YOUR institution.

Curated by MoMA staff, the series features significant films of the East German cinema, all on new 35mm prints with new English subtitles. Titles include: the banned film, *Born in '45*; *The Gleiwitz Case*, a detailed reconstruction of the 1939 Nazi attack which started WWII; *The Second Track*, a re-discovered masterpiece; and *The Architects*, a telling portrait of East Germany just before the fall of the Wall.

### **Read More...**

- ***Verdict on Auschwitz* Commemorates Holocaust Remembrance Day**

*Verdict on Auschwitz: the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial, 1963-1965* opened in theaters in January 2007 to overwhelmingly positive reviews in the national press and media. The following screenings of this documentary on the West German trials commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 15th:



**Winnipeg Film Group:** April 13 - 19  
**Bill Cosford Cinema (Coral Gables):** April 13 - 22  
**Denver Film Society:** April 15  
**Cleveland Museum of Art:** April 15 & 20

### **To read more about the film or to order...**

- **2006/2007 Catalog Update in the Mail**

We hope that you received our new catalog update announcing our exciting new DVD releases. Three landmarks of East German cinema are finally available on DVD.

- *I Was Nineteen* (1968), based on the director Konrad Wolf's war diary
- *Trace of Stones* (1966/1990) by Frank Beyer, banned immediately after its premiere
- *The Wall* (1989/90), a poetic and enigmatic documentary by Jürgen Böttcher



We are also very happy to announce the September release of Konrad Wolf's 1971 film *Goya*, never before released on video or DVD with English subtitles and one of only ten East German films originally shot in 70mm.

**If you are not on our mailing list and you would like to receive our 2006/2007 Catalog Update, please send your name and address to Lorin at [defastaff@german.umass.edu](mailto:defastaff@german.umass.edu) for a free copy.**

#### • DEFA at SCMS 2007

The conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies was held in March 8 – 11 and both DEFA films and the DEFA Film Library were there!

Although the theme of the conference this year was Middle Eastern and Asian cinema, presented papers discussed a wide spectrum of topics related to national and international film and media development. Three papers were directly related to East German film.

In a panel on *Filming German History – "Postwar Phantoms: Public Memory and Film in East Germany - Konrad Wolf's *I Was Nineteen*"* by Anke Pinkert (U of IL); and "Reincursions of the Displaced: Writing in Wolfgang Staudte's Postwar 'Rubble Films'" by Daniel H. Wild (Rutgers).

In a panel entitled *After the Avant-garde: Experiments in the Moving Image from the Austria, the GDR, and the FRG – "Blackbox DDR - Experimental GDR Film Beyond the Wende - the Director Ulrich Weiss,"* by - Reinhild Steingroever (Eastman School of Music).

[defa@german.umass.edu](mailto:defa@german.umass.edu)  
<http://www.umass.edu/defa>

(413) 545-6681

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