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The DEFA Film Library Newsletter

East German Cinema and Beyond**9/14/07**

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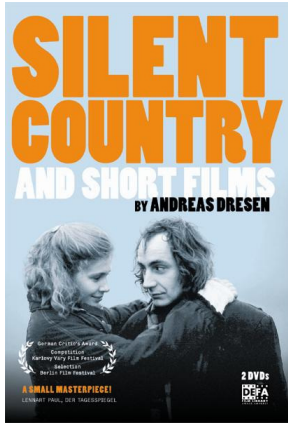
• Two DEFA Greats Die

German stage and screen actor **Ulrich Mühe**, best known as the tormented Stasi officer in the Oscar-winning film *The Lives of Others*, died on July 22, 2007. Mühe started his career in East Germany. He earned acclaim with his performance as Friedrich Hölderlin in Herrmann Zschoche's DEFA film *Half of Life* (1984) (pictured at right) and in leading roles at the Deutsches Theater.



Ulrich Plenzdorf, one of East Germany's most radical young writers and sought-after scriptwriters, died on August 9, 2007 in Berlin after a protracted illness. His debut screenplay was for Herrmann Zschoche's film *Carla* (1965). He was catapulted to fame by the smash movie hit, *The Legend of Paul and Paula* (1972), and his play, entitled *The New Sorrows of Young W.* in reference to Goethe's classic novella, This play, which has been published in more than 30 languages, expressed the frustrations of East German youth.

• Meet Kati Klee - aka Krystyna Stypulkowska



Don't miss your chance to save on the first feature film by Andreas Dresen! ([Changing Skins](#)) This prize-winning title is accompanied by an extensive 2007 interview with the director and six of his student films, all newly subtitled by the DEFA Film Library.

Order the 2-DVD set by October 15th and **save 25%!**

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Two years ago, film historian Ralf Schenk followed the trace of **Krystyna Stypulkowska**, the female lead in Frank Beyer's [Trace of Stones](#) (1966), to Arlington, VA. Last spring, Professor Peter Rollberg interviewed the Polish actress on film for our upcoming DVD release of the DEFA film classic together with Nikodimos Fikru and other students from George Washington University in Washington, DC. In the interview, Stypulkowska talks about working with director Andrzej Wajda, as well as Frank Beyer. Special thanks to Peter Rollberg and his students, who made this very special feature possible!



[Learn More...](#)

- **Come to the 4th Annual GSA Film Series!**

We will be hosting our 4th annual film series on the first evening of the [2007 German Studies Association](#) (GSA) conference in San Diego on Thursday, October 4. Focusing on the *Wende* period, this year's program features early works by Andreas Dresen - including his tragicomedy, [Silent Country](#) (1992), and a selection of exemplary short films - as well as Peter Kahane's somber classic, [The Architects](#) (1990) (pictured above), and animations by Klaus Georgi and Lutz Stützner. The films will be screened from 5:00 -11:00 p.m. in the Town Room at the Town and Country Resort Conference Hotel. Conference participants are also invited to drop by our table in the exhibitors' hall from Friday to Sunday for special discounts and offers. See you there!



[Learn More](#)

- **defa-spektrum: A New Source for East German Historical Research**

As a way to make the materials in the Contemporary Witnesses Archive (*Zeitzeugen-Archiv*) available to the general public, *defa-spektrum* was founded in 2006, offering a collection of filmed interviews with GDR intellectuals



and officials as well as documentaries about East Germany and German unification to the public. Owned by the DEFA Foundation in Berlin, this archive now also includes a newly-acquired collection of over 500 films made for the East German Foreign Ministry, from 1962 to 1989. The films presented the world with the image of an East Germany that was economically powerful, as well as socially and culturally sophisticated. These shorts were never screened for ordinary citizens; instead, they were shown at embassies, cultural centers, and consular offices abroad, as well as during the visits of foreign delegations to East Germany.

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For more information about this unique historical resource, please contact Manja Meister at info@defa-spektrum.de or visit www.defa-spektrum.de

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