

The program in Germanic Languages and Literatures at UMass Amherst together with the National Endowment for the Humanities present

Changing Worlds, Shifting Narratives Films from Europe

<http://www.umass.edu/germanic/neh2005>

Public Lecture and Film Series:
Free and open to the public!

Film screenings all in German with English subtitles except *Germanin* (see July 25). For films screened at Academy of Music, please consider a donation of \$10 to support this historic film theater.

Friday July 8
2:45 p.m.
Academy of Music
Head-on

Germany, Fatih Akin,
2004. 121 mins. 35 mm.

In order to escape her family, Sibel asks Cahit to marry her on the condition that she have absolute freedom. This unconventional love story is also a complex urban ballad, providing a depiction of two Turkish Germans that Roger Ebert says "not only includes a car crash, but has the fascination of one." Winner of the 2004 Berlin Film Festival Golden Bear Award.



Sunday July 10

7:30 p.m. Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall,
Smith College

The Woman Patriot

FRG, Alexander Kluge, 1979. 121 mins. 16 mm. Gabi Teichert reflects on air-raids, the Social Democratic Party, convention, the history of bodies, "comes into conflict with her superiors and into contact with fairy tales, examines the relation of a love story to history" (Kluge). Acclaimed director Kluge's funny and self-reflexive New German Cinema classic.

Monday July 11

7:00 p.m. Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall,
Smith College

Wittstock, Wittstock

Germany, Volker Koepp, 1997. 117 mins. 16 mm. This long term documentary project follows three women, Edith, Elsbeth and Renate, in a small Brandenburg town. The film shows the changes in the town with an unexpectedly light touch, exhibiting a constant tension between sadness and comedy through incomparably beautiful images.

9:15 p.m. Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall,
Smith College

Grill Point

Germany,
Andreas Dresen,
2002. 106 mins.
16 mm. An
improvised

adventure featuring a small, intimate cast. Two couples in their thirties recognize the banality of their relationships. Their revolt against the mundane produces explosive events. A piece that possesses, in award winning filmmaker Andreas Dresen's words, "a jam-session character [that] makes it a form of cineastic jazz."



Tuesday July 12

2:30 p.m. Academy of Music

Blind Spot:

Hitler's Secretary

Austria, André Heller and Othmar Schmiderer, 2002. 90 mins. 35 mm. The astonishing true story of Hitler's private secretary, Traudl Junge, coming to terms with working alongside unspeakable evil after remaining silent for nearly sixty years.

Tuesday July 12 (cont)

7:30 p.m. Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall,
Smith College.

Downfall

Germany, Oliver Hirschbiegel, 2004. 156 mins. Charting the last 10 days of Hitler's life, from his 56th birthday on April 20th, 1945 to his suicide on April 30th, this controversial film uses multiple characters, including Hitler's secretary Traudl Junge, to show the chaos of a country coming apart at the seams.

Wednesday July 13

7 p.m. Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall,
Smith College

Too Early, Too Late

France/Egypt, Danièle Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub, 1981. 100 mins. 16 mm. A politically charged experimental documentary that compares the French revolution and Egypt's political state in the late 1980s. "Perhaps the greatest of all landscape films!" (Jonathan Rosenbaum).

8:45 pm. Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall

O logischer Garten

FRG, Ingo Kratisch & Jutta Sartory, 1988. 85 minutes. 16 mm. Experimental film exploring Berlin as a city in which the past always manifests itself both spiritually and physically in the present.

Thursday July 14

1:00 p.m. Graham Auditorium, Smith College

Death is My Trade

FRG, Theodor Kotulla, 1977. 145 mins. VHS. Theodor Kotulla's biography of the concentration camp commandant Rudolf Höß: "Even though one might find Kotulla's low-key production rather didactic nowadays, Death is my Trade is still one of the best films about a fascist character." (Rudolf Worschech)

Special Pre Release Screening!

7:30 p.m. Graham Auditorium, Smith College.

Verdict on Auschwitz.

The Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial of 1963-65
Germany, Rolf Bickel and Dietrich Wagner. 2004. DVD . 60 mins. The December 1963 Frankfurt Auschwitz trial brought to light like no other trial the horrific reality of the Nazi extermination machinery. Bickel and Wagner use original tape recordings of the testimony in conjunction with contemporary film and photo documents to reconstruct the investigations in Frankfurt.

Followed by panel discussion with Eva Brücker, Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe; Sigrid Bauschinger, UMass Amherst; Karen Remmler, Mt. Holyoke College and Katie Trumpener, Yale University. Moderated by Barton Byg, UMass Amherst.

Friday July 15

1:30 p.m. Weinstein Auditorium,
Wright Hall, Smith College

Redupers

Helke Sander, FRG, 1978. 95 mins. 16 mm. Writing and directing as well as starring in her first film (shot on a minimal budget), German auteur Sander created a highly personal, wonderfully observed tale of a West Berlin photographer trying to make sense of the walls (physical and psychological) surrounding her as an artist and single mother in a divided Germany.

3:15 p.m. Weinstein Auditorium,
Wright Hall, Smith College

The Hunger Years

Jutta Brückner, FRG, 1980. 113 mins. 16 mm. Here "hunger" refers to loneliness, confusion, and pain... Set during the years of Germany's "economic miracle," the country's problems are reflected in teenager Ursula's discomfort with her own body. Brückner's autobiographical film makes a dialectical connection between interpersonal relationships and the political events of the Adenauer era.

Tuesday, July 19

7:30 p.m. Weinstein Auditorium,
Wright Hall, Smith College

Good Bye Lenin

Germany, Wolfgang Becker, 2003. 121 mins. DVD. October 1989: Alex's mother falls into a coma in East Germany. Fearing the shock of the changes might kill her when she awakens eight months later, Alex transforms the family apartment into an island of the past. A touching and comic story.

Wednesday July 20

2:30 p.m. Academy of Music.

En garde

Ayse Polat, Germany
2004. 94 mins. 35 mm.
Sixteen-year-old Alice,
isolated by her extreme
sense of hearing, and
Berivan, a Kurdish girl

waiting for a residence permit, meet at a Catholic girls' school. A moving story about two girls' friendship, dreams, and their favorite sport: fencing. En garde was awarded the Silver Leopard at the 57th Festival Internationale di Locarno. **U.S. Premiere!**



Thursday July 21

7:30 p.m. Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall,
Smith College

The Empty Center

Germany, Hito Steyerl, 1998. 64 mins. DVD. Focusing on Potsdam Square, this visual essay closely follows the processes of urban restructuring in the center of Berlin over the last eight years, tracing global power shifts, and the simultaneous dismantling and reconstruction of borders.

Monday July 25

7:30 p.m. Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall,
Smith College

Germanin – Die Geschichte einer kolonialen Tat

Max von Kimmich, Germany, 1943.
German language - No subtitles.
94 mins. VHS.

One of the most infamous Nazi propaganda films, Germanin features Black German actor Louis Brody and hundreds of unpaid Black extras from German and Italian POW camps whose fate after the production of the film is still unknown to historians. Germanin glorifies the achievements of German tropical medicine and the discovery of "Germanin" by depicting Africa as a disease-ridden continent.

Tuesday July 26

2:30 p.m. Academy of Music

Nobi

GDR. Günter Rätz, 1963. Animation. 35 mins. 35 mm. East-German DEFA animation-short about a young African boy who fights slave-traders who threaten his village. Its humanist and socialist message, however, is flawed by the stereotypical depiction of African life and an only slightly disguised Eurocentric notion of progress.

The Scout

GDR, Konrad Petzold, 1983. 102 mins. 35 mm. Between 1966 and 1985 the East German DEFA studios co-produced more than a dozen "Indian Movies" romanticizing Native Americans. This was one the last films of the series and features the tremendously popular Yugoslavian-born actor Gojko Mitic in a heroic fight against the white settlers.

Wednesday July 27

3:00 p.m.
Academy of Music

Toxi

FRG, Robert Stemmle, 1952.
88 mins. 35 mm.

One evening, a well-to-do Hamburg family finds five-year old Toxi abandoned at the door of its villa. She's the daughter of a German woman (who died) and an African-American GI (who returned to the U.S.). German positions on race and racism are discussed with remarkable honesty and candor.



Thursday July 28

7:30 p.m. Weinstein Auditorium,
Wright Hall, Smith College

Everything Will Be Fine

Fatima El-Tayeb and Angelina Maccarone, FRG
1998. 88 mins. DVD.

Nabou, an anti-establishment Afro-German slacker, finds a job as a housekeeper in order to win back her punk rocker ex-lover Katja. A refreshing romantic comedy with the ingredients of a classic lesbian feature: whimsical sexiness, mistaken identity, and general madness and mayhem. Audience awards at several festivals.

NEH Summer Institute Public Lecture Series

Wednesday July 6, 2:00 p.m.

Neilson Browsing Room, Smith College

Cultural Dimensions of the Estrangement between the US and Europe

Konrad Jarausch, UNC Chapel Hill

and Center for Contemporary Historical Research Potsdam

Thursday July 14, 4 p.m.

Graham Auditorium, Smith College

Visual Documents and the Holocaust

Eva Brücker, Historian, Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, Berlin

Monday July 25, 9:00 a.m.

Neilson Browsing Room, Smith College

Be Real Black for Me: Black Germans and African Diaspora in Europe

Tina Campt, Duke University

Monday, August 1, 9:00 a.m.

Neilson Browsing Room, Smith College

Europeanizing *Zeitgeschichte* in Europe – and in the U.S.

Thomas Lindenberger, Center for Contemporary Historical Research Potsdam

Monday July 11, 9:00 a.m.

Neilson Browsing Room, Smith College

Rethinking German Film History

Katie Trumpener, Yale University

Friday July 22, 9:00 a.m.

Sage 215, Smith College

Feminism, Anti-Racism and Migration

Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez, University of Manchester.

Friday, July 29, 3:00 p.m.

Neilson Browsing Room, Smith College

Panel: African-American and Diaspora Studies in Europe

Sabine Bröck, University of Bremen; Maria Diedrich, University of

Münster; Tracy D. Sharpley-Whiting, Vanderbilt University

Germanic Languages and Literatures, U Mass Amherst

2005 NEH Summer Institute

German and European Studies in the United States

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All events are FREE and open to the public.

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For more information see our website at <http://www.umass.edu/germanic/neh2005>, email Beverly Weber at bweber@complit.umass.edu or call 585-6602.

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Films from Europe

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