

German and Scandinavian Studies and the DEFA Film Library present

UNVEILING OF THE BERLIN WALL PIECE

Event Series in March and April

UMass received a segment of the Berlin Wall painted by acclaimed French artist Thierry Noir, entitled "The Power of Creativity Over Concrete." In the 1980s, Noir risked arrest by East German authorities by painting illicitly on the west side of the Wall, which was built 3 meters beyond the western border. In celebration of the installation of this Berlin Wall segment outside Memorial Hall, we invite you to an upcoming event series.

MEET GERMAN FILMMAKER GERD KROSKE

Award-winning German film director Gerd Kroske will visit UMass Amherst campus from April 24 until April 28. He will join German and Scandinavian Studies classes and present two of his documentaries.

Free and open to the public!

MONDAY
April 24
7:00 PM
UMass
ILC 240 S



DRAWING A LINE
(Germany, 2014, 96 min., EN ST)

In 1986, five former East Germans members of the punk and underground scene planned an art project: They wanted to paint a line all around the Wall from the west side.

Introduction by Mariana Ivanova (Academic Director of the DEFA Film Library).



WEDNESDAY
April 26
7:00 PM
UMass
ILC 240 S



THE WALL
(GDR, 1990, dir. Jürgen Böttcher, asst. dir. Gerd Kroske, 98 min., EN ST)

An awarded film about the deconstruction of the Berlin Wall in 1989 which makes no use of vocal commentary but instead focuses on visual impressions.

Introduction by Victoria Rizo Lenshyn (Associate Director of the DEFA Film Library).



Gerd Kroske was born in Dessau, East Germany in 1958. He focused on cultural studies at Humboldt University in East Berlin and then studied directing at the Academy for Film and Television in Potsdam-Babelsberg. Kroske joined the DEFA Studio for Documentary Films in 1987, first as a dramaturg and writer and then, in 1989, as a director. As of 1991, he started working as a freelance writer and director and founded his own production company [see: realistfilm.de].

Kroske became known for his long-term documentary series on the street sweepers of Leipzig that now covers almost twenty years. He recently released *Heino Jaeger – Look Before You Kuck*, the last part of his Hamburg-Trilogy. Several of his films, including *Voksal – Train Station Brest*, *The Box Prince* and *Drawing a Line*, have won prestigious international awards.

OTHER EVENTS IN THE SERIES:

- German and Scandinavian Studies invites undergraduate students from any of the Five Colleges to participate in a project competition, "The Berlin Wall: Borders and Barriers in the Past and Present." There will be prizes for the best works: \$100 for first prize, \$75 for second prize and \$50 for third prize.
- The DEFA film Library recommends ten (East) German documentary and feature films that spotlight the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, life with the Wall and the peaceful revolution that brought it down in 1989. Stream these films on Kanopy.com with your UMass campus login credentials. Follow us @defafilmlibraryamherst for more about these films in March and April!

For more information about the event series, please visit umass.edu/defa or scan the QR code.



The event series is supported by the Goethe-Institute Boston, the Chancellor's Office, German and Scandinavian Studies and the DEFA Film Library at UMass Amherst.