

German Film Series — Spring 2007

Max Kade German Culture and
Media Center

3401 Walnut Street, 329 A, 3rd floor, A Wing,
(entrance at corner next to Starbucks)

Monday, January 22, 2007 4:00 pm *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant (Die Bitteren Tränen der Petra von Kant)*



Rainer Werner Fassbinder 1972 German with English subtitles
Petra von Kant is a successful fashion designer -- arrogant, caustic, and self-satisfied. She mistreats Marlene (her secretary, maid, and co-designer). Enter Karin, a 23-year-old beauty who wants to be a model. Petra falls in love with Karin and invites her to move in. The rest of the film deals with the emotions of this affair and its aftermath. Fassbinder tells his story in a series of 5 or 6 long scenes with extended uses of a single camera shot and deep focus.

Monday, January 29, 2007 4:00 pm *Kings of the Road (Im Lauf der Zeit)*



Wim Wenders 1976 German with English subtitles
A traveling projection-equipment mechanic travels in Western Germany along the East-German border, visiting worn-out film-theatres. meets up with a depressed young man whose marriage has just broken up, and the two decide to travel together.

Monday, February 5, 2007 4:00 pm *Stroszek*



Werner Herzog 1977 English/German
Bruno Stroszek is released from prison and warned to stop drinking. He has few skills and fewer expectations: with a glockenspiel and an accordion, he ekes out a living as a street musician. He befriends Eva, a prostitute down on her luck. After they are harried and beaten by the thugs who have been Eva's pimps, they join Bruno's neighbor, Scheitz, an elderly eccentric, when he leaves Germany to live in Wisconsin. In that winter bound, barren prairie, Bruno works as a mechanic, Eva as a waitress. They buy a trailer. Then, bills mount, the bank threatens to repossess the trailer, Eva wants privacy, and inexorably, the promise of a new life deserts Bruno.

Monday, February 12, 2007 4:00 pm *Sheer Madness (Heller Wahn)*



Margarethe von Trotta 1983 German with English subtitles
Olga and Ruth become friends. Olga is independent, separated from her husband, living with an immigrant pianist, and teaching feminist literature. Ruth is withdrawn, a painter, possibly mentally ill. Ruth dreams in black and white, sometimes of her suicide. Olga lectures on a 19th-century writer, von Günderrode, a suicide after the breakup of her intense friendship with Bettina Brentano. Ruth's husband Franz encourages the women's friendship, then, as Olga draws Ruth out and the friendship deepens, he becomes jealous. After the women travel to Egypt, Franz has a tirade. Ruth seems crushed between her husband and her friend, and how she responds is the film's climax.

Monday, February 19, 2007 4:00 pm *The Practice of Love (Die Praxis der Liebe)*



Valie Export

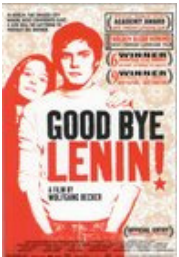
1985

German with English subtitles

Die Journalistin Judith recherchiert einen nicht geklärten tödlichen Unfall in einer Wiener U-Bahn-Station und stößt dabei auf eine internationale Waffenschmuggelorganisation. Probleme in Judiths Beziehung mit dem Arzt Dr. Fischhoff nehmen immer ärgere Ausmaße an und setzen bei Judith aggressive Phantasien frei. Ihr zweiter Freund, der Industrielle Alfons Schlögel, ist in die Waffenschmuggelaffäre verwickelt. Erst langsam entdeckt Judith die Zusammenhänge und durchschaut Schlögels Versuch, Judith für sich auszunützen.

Video-Überwachung in U-Bahnen und im Straßenverkehr, Tonbänder und Fotos nehmen sowohl als Gestaltungselement als auch inhaltsbezogen eine zentrale Stellung ein. Mittelmäßigkeit, Lüge und Gewalt werden als Hauptthemen auf den Handlungsebenen der Privatsphäre, der Gesellschaft und der Medien mit behutsam eingesetzten Stilmitteln aus der Videoavantgardekunst umgesetzt.

Monday, February 26, 2007 4:00 pm *Good Bye Lenin!*



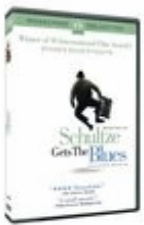
Wolfgang Becker

2003

German with English subtitles

East Germany, the year 1989: A young man protests against the regime. His mother watches the police arresting him and suffers a heart attack and falls into a coma. Some months later, the GDR does not exist anymore and the mother awakes. Since she has to avoid every excitement, the son tries to set up the GDR again for her in their flat. But the world has changed a lot...

Monday, March 12, 2007 4:00 pm *Schultze Gets the Blues*



Michael Schorr

2003

German/English

Schultze is a retired lignite miner living in an East German village and a passionate Polka musician on his accordion. One night he listens to a Zydeco tune in the radio, which changes his taste of music radically. Notwithstanding his complete ignorance of the English language he starts a trip into the heart of the Zydeco; to Louisiana.

Monday, March 19, 2007 4:00 pm *In July (Im Juli)*



Fatih Akin

2000

German/English

Daniel is a young teacher in-spe, who in contrast to everyone else plans to stay in Hamburg for the summer. Juli, a girl at the flea-market, wants to get known to Daniel and manages to sell him a Mayan ring with a sun on it, foretelling him that he will meet a girl with a sun. One day later Daniel is already on his way across Europe. It seems the prophecy came true somehow.

Monday, March 26, 2007 4:00 pm *Heaven*



Tom Tykwer

2002

Italian/English

Turin, Italy: Philippa Paccard, deeply disappointed by the police's lax investigation following her husband's drug death, places a bomb in the dealer's cover office. Unfortunately, the bomb goes off unplanned and kills four innocent people. Philippa is arrested and questioned about her (supposedly terroristic) motives. When she hears about her plan going awry, she collapses. Filippo, the official translator, believes in her innocence, and conceives a plan for her escape. While Philippa does not want to elude the justice she deserves for the four innocent deaths, Filippo discovers he fell in love with the beautiful woman. Finally, the unequal lovers end up as fugitives from justice - but for how long?

