

German Film Series — Spring 2007

Deutsches Haus Modern Language Program

Send suggestions to: mbelcher@sas.upenn.edu

Gregory College House — Large-screen TV Lounge



24. Jan. 07 8:00 pm **Sommer vorm Balkon**
Andreas Dresen 2005 German with English subtitles

Katrin and Nike live in the same house in eastern Berlin and are best friends. The single women spend hot summer nights together on the balcony, talking, drinking and commiserating about their misfortune with men, until the trucker Ronald comes into the picture. Based on the screenplay by Wolfgang Kohlhaase, Dresen's film tells a convincing story taken straight out of everyday life and skillfully maintains a delicate balance between comedy and tragedy.



07. Feb. 07 8:00 pm **Grün ist die Heide**
Hans Deppe 1951 German

A poacher is on the loose, and the new forest ranger Walter is out to catch him. Things become complicated, however, as Walter learns that the wanted man is the father of his new love interest, Helga. *Grün ist die Heide* begins as a suspenseful mystery, but its title suggests its inclusion in the popular 1950s *Heimatfilm* genre. Deppe presents a postwar film complete with untouched landscapes, folk music, and even clowns.



21. Feb. 07 8:00 pm **Netto: Alles wird gut**
Robert Thalheim 2005 German with English subtitles

Marcel has a new roommate in his post-reunification Berlin apartment: his son, Sebastian. The East German electrician has enough problems coming to terms with new economic conditions, but takes the fifteen-year-old in regardless. The resulting relationship gives father and son new purposes and life perspectives. Filmed on a small budget by film student Robert Thalheim, *Netto* depicts the often-overlooked hardships of German reunification.



14. Mar. 07 8:00 pm **Kurz und Schmerzlos**
Fatih Akin 1998 German

Gabriel returns to his friends Costa and Bobby in Hamburg after fifteen months in prison. Reformed, Gabriel dreams of owning a boat shop on the southern Turkish coast, but his friends still roam the streets of the Kiez, making going straight extremely difficult for Gabriel. Bobby's new girlfriend Alice is curious about the ex-con, and conflicting attractions and secret rendezvous do little to ameliorate tensions. Ultimately, Gabriel must decide between his relationships and the respectable life he hopes to lead.



28. Mar. 07 8:00 pm **Die Nachrichten**
Matti Geschonneck 2005 German with English subtitles

After building a successful news career in Hamburg and starting a new relationship, Jan Landers' world is turned upside down. Born in East Germany, Landers thought his past was safely buried with the East's demise, but years later documents surface causing rumors to swirl of Landers' involvement with the East German Ministry for State Security, the Stasi. Landers, however, cannot even remember working for the state, and finds himself having to sort through the truths and lies to save his new life.



11. Apr. 07 8:00 pm **Stalingrad**
Josef Vilsmeier 1993 German with English subtitles

Compared to *Apocalypse Now* and *Platoon* in its unromanticized depiction of war, *Stalingrad* renders the brutal battle through the eyes of German officer Hans von Witzland and his battalion. After suffering substantial losses, the originally unwilling participants' idealism wanes, and Witzland leads his men to desert. Upon its release the film sparked much discussion about the benignant portrayal of subordinate soldiers, while winning multiple awards at the Bavarian Film Festival.

GRMN 180 – German House – Spring 2007

Instructor: Matthew Belcher

Phone: 215 417-8396

Email: mbelcher@sas.upenn.edu

The German House is a half-credit course with concentrations in German conversation culture, and contemporary film. Students may enroll for credit or simply participate without enrolling. All interested parties are welcome.

Coffee Hour: Mondays, 9pm-10pm, Gregory College House, Class of 1925 Dorm (at the corner of 40th Street and Locust Walk)

Though we seldom actually drink coffee, we meet on Mondays to converse in German about everyday life or any other topics that interest us. During coffee hours, we will often play German board games, read short articles from German publications as a group or prepare German recipes.

German Film Series: alternating Wednesdays, 8pm, Class of 1925 TV Lounge (Basement), see film list.

Dinner: Thursdays, 6pm, 1920 Commons downstairs

We eat dinner together every Thursday evening, and the language around the table is, of course, German. If there is a film screening on a given week, we will discuss the film over dinner. (**If you do not have a university meal plan, contact Matt Belcher if you are interested in coming to the weekly dinner.**)

Media Night: Alternating Thursdays, 7pm, Class of 1925 TV Lounge

During weeks in which no film is shown, we will adjourn to the TV Lounge in Gregory after dinner (usually 6:45 or 7:00 pm). Here we will watch German music videos, TV shows, and news, view German websites and explore other electronic media.