

The Museum of Modern Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTEMPORARY WEST GERMAN FILMS TO BE SHOWN AT THE MUSEUM

With the participation of Goethe House, New York, The Museum of Modern Art will present "Seven Recent Films from West Germany" on seven consecutive Thursday evenings at 8 o'clock from September 25 to November 6. All the films, independently made in the current or past year, will have English subtitles.

Of the seven new German pictures to be shown, five will have their New York premiere at the Museum; two others were shown only at The New York Film Festival. Among the pictures to debut is Wim Wenders' latest film, "Wrong Movement." Der Spiegel describes it as one of the most important pictures made in Germany since the days of Lubitsch, Lang, and Murnau. Wenders is known here for his "The Goalie's Anxiety at the Penalty Kick" which was widely acclaimed when it was introduced in the annual New Directors Series a few years ago. His current film, inspired by Goethe's novel "Wilhelm Meister" was written by the well-known playwright Peter Handke, who considers the gap between Goethe's Germany of 1795 and his own Germany of 1975. Like the novel, the film describes a writer's journey through Germany, and its protagonist's attempt to find himself.

In addition to Wenders, there are three other directors familiar to American audiences who saw Das Neue Kino, an earlier Museum presentation of West German films. Reinhard Hauff, whose "Mathias Kneissl" was shown in the former series, contributes to the current one, "The Brutalization of Franz Blum." It is a clinical autobiographical exposé of prison violence, based on a first novel by Burkhard Driest, a former prison inmate, who also plays a leading role in the film.

Peter Lilienthal also participated in Das Neue Kino and now offers "School-teacher Hofer," considered one of the most successful German historical pictures. It is the story of a progressive-minded teacher in a backward farm community of German Alsace.

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Not only does this program offer contemporary film efforts, but it also presents two octogenarian actors from the '20s, Lina Carstens and Fritz Rasp, who star in "Lina Braake." Rasp was featured in "Metropolis," "The Loves of Jeanne Ney," and "Threepenny Opera," and Miss Carstens, largely of the theater, was last seen here on the screen in "The Broken Jug" shown in 1938. In the present picture, "Lina Braake," Miss Carstens portrays an old woman, unjustly swindled by a bank, who, in turn, defrauds the bank and acquires a desirable property. Bernard Sinkel directed, and it is his first feature film.

Alexander Kluge's new film, co-directed by Edgar Reitz, is "The Middle of the Road Is a Very Dead End." It is a blend of fiction and documentary. Set in Frankfurt during the Mardi Gras, and seen through the eyes of two women, it gives an insightful look into many social problems of Germany today. According to the critic of Die Zeit, "Kluge looks at our reality with the astonished eyes of a traveler from afar. His disquieting image sequences do not allow any intimacy with our well-known fragile, unsafe, contradictory world."

As a complement to the previous program of Das Neue Kino, the Department of Film believes the current series establishes some continuity by which to judge the most recent work of non-commercial independent German filmmakers. It also provides an opportunity to observe the development of directorial styles and to study the concerns and preoccupations of contemporary filmmakers in West Germany.

The entire Museum program will be circulated on an educational basis by Goethe House, New York, throughout the United States and Canada, and included are the two pictures shown previously at Lincoln Center, "Alice in the Cities," by Wim Wenders and "Part Time Work of a Domestic Slave," an Alexander Kluge film. Program notes on all the pictures will be available with information provided by Goethe House, New York, and Film Verlag Der Autoren in

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Munich, the Association of Independent Filmmakers.

The schedule follows:

- September 25 THE BRUTALIZATION OF FRANZ BLUM. (DIE VERROHUNG DES FRANZ BLUM). 1974. Reinhard Hauff. 100 minutes.
- October 2 WRONG MOVEMENT. (FALSCHER BEWEGUNG). 1975. Wim Wenders. Adapted from Goethe's 'Wilhelm Meister' by Peter Handke. 105 minutes.
- October 9 PART TIME WORK OF A DOMESTIC SLAVE. (GELEGENHEITSARBEIT EINER SKLAVIN). 1974. Alexander Kluge. With Alexandra Kluge. 88 minutes.
- October 16 LINA BRAAKE AND THE INTERESTS OF THE BANK. (LINA BRAAKE DIE INTERESSEN DER BANK KÖNNEN NICHT DIE INTERESSEN SEIN, DIE LINA BRAAKE HAT). 1975. Bernhard Sinkel. With Lina Carstens, Fritz Rasp. 85 minutes.
- October 23 ALICE IN THE CITIES. (ALICE IN DEN STÄDTEN). 1974. Wim Wenders. 110 minutes.
- October 30 SCHOOLTEACHER HOFER. (HAUPTLEHRER HOFER). 1975. Peter Lilienthal. 100 minutes.
- November 6 THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD IS A VERY DEAD END. (IN GEFAHR UND GRÖßTER NOT BRINGT ER MITTELWEG DEN TOD). 1975. Alexander Kluge, Edgar Reitz. 95 minutes.

All films with English subtitles.

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