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GDR Films

various authors

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Mr. Peet fought in the Spanish Civil War with the British Battalion of the International Brigade. After service with the British Army in the Middle East during World War II he became editor of the Jerusalem Radio. He later became a correspondent for Reuters in Vienna, Warsaw and West Berlin. In 1950 he established his newsletter in East Berlin.

Mr. Peet has never before visited the United States but has made many successful lecture tours of England.

Please address all inquiries to: GDR Society, 777 United Nations Plaza (Room 1), New York, N.Y. 10017.

FILMS FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 1946-1974
Presented in Association with The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and By Special Arrangement with the State Film Archives of the G.D.R., DEFA (the G.D.R. Film Industry), and Macmillan Audio Brandon Films, American distributors of most of the films in this series.

This series of 21 films from the German Democratic Republic will be presented throughout January and February 1976; the films were presented in association with The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and by special arrangement with the State Film Archives of the G.D.R., DEFA (the G.D.R. Film Industry), and Macmillan Audio Brandon Films, American distributors of most of the films in this series.

This program of selected films (from approximately 600 feature films produced to date) begins with the first feature of the new G.D.R. paper, THE BLUM AFFAIR (1949), the G.D.R. film society's first feature film. The film was produced by the G.D.R. film society's first feature film, and was remarkable not only for its subject, a significant one for the period, but also for its use of an artistic, experimental style called "narrative" that should find its echo everywhere. Directed in the British film industry, "BLUM AFFAIR" was an extraordinary success in its presentation of the adventures of a young man who lived in Paris and his subsequent rise to power in the Communist Party, and his success in keeping people alive and happy by pretending to hear good news on the radio. The first part of the film, the one-man imitation of the BBC by Brodsky, is a remarkable example of "an imitative small girl is sheer delight, including an interview with Winston Churchill and full symphonic concert." The screen adaptation is directed from a script by Kurt Martens. The story is about the marriage of the actor Jochim Gottschalk and his Jewish wife, the actress Meta Wolfl, who were driven by persecution under the Nazis to commit suicide together during the war. Directed by Kurt Martens, With Paul Klimker, The Support, Alfred Balduin. (1949, 96 mins, 35mm, English titles)

MARRIAGE IN THE SHADOWS (EHE IM SCHATZEN)
The premiere of MARRIAGE IN THE SHADOWS took place October 2, 1947, simultaneously in all of the four occupation zones of Berlin. It opened in New York in 1948, and remains one of the most important post-War German films. The screenplay was based on the true story of the marriage of the actor Jochim Gottschalk and his Jewish wife, the actress Meta Wolfl, who were driven by persecution under the Nazis to commit suicide together during the war. Directed by Kurt Martens, With Paul Klimker, The Support, Alfred Balduin. (1949, 96 mins, 35mm, English titles)

THE BLUM AFFAIR (AFFARE BLUM)
The BLUM AFFAIR is based on a celebrated murder trial of 1926 that earned Dreise's most famous novel, "The Prodigal." It has been performed with a virtual exactitude. The film was produced by the G.D.R. film society's first feature film, and was remarkable not only for its subject, a significant one for the period, but also for its use of an artistic, experimental style called "narrative" that should find its echo everywhere. Directed in the British film industry, "BLUM AFFAIR" was an extraordinary success in its presentation of the adventures of a young man who lived in Paris and his subsequent rise to power in the Communist Party, and his success in keeping people alive and happy by pretending to hear good news on the radio. The first part of the film, the one-man imitation of the BBC by Brodsky, is a remarkable example of "an imitative small girl is sheer delight, including an interview with Winston Churchill and full symphonic concert." The screen adaptation is directed from a script by Kurt Martens. The story is about the marriage of the actor Jochim Gottschalk and his Jewish wife, the actress Meta Wolfl, who were driven by persecution under the Nazis to commit suicide together during the war. Directed by Kurt Martens, With Paul Klimker, The Support, Alfred Balduin. (1949, 96 mins, 35mm, English titles)
STÄRKER ALS DIE NACHT

According to French film historian Georges Sadoul, this film deals with "the clandestine resistance of an anti-Fascist against the Nazi regime after Hitler's rise to power. It ends with his arrest and execution. This is one of the best East German films. Beautifully moving, and totally unpretentious in its effects." Directed by Stanislav Dubow, who is best known in this country for his collaboration with Brecht on the 1932 film KUHLE WAMPE. With Karl Georghiou, Kurt Odimmuller. (1954, 112 mins, English titles)

THE SUBMISSIVE (DER UNTERTAN)

An expressionistic satire, THE SUBMISSIVE is an adaptation of Heinrich Mann's novel about the "little superman" type in German culture, specifically the anti-hero of Mann's delineation of the ruling class in late 19th Century Germany. The "littlelady" Diedrich Hessling, who, as a child, lives in terror of his parents, his teachers and other schoolboys. As an adolescent, Diedrich determines that he will make others tremble before him. His further rise is chronicled in a fast-paced, visually experimental narrative. With Werner Peters, Paul Esser, Blandine Ebinger. (1951, 107 mins, English titles)

Lissy

One of the few good DEFA films of the late 1950s, LISZY was reviewed in Variety in 1957, where Gene Moscovitch observed: "It examines the early growth of Nazism via a poor family during 1932-34. Ideological aspects do not swamp a growing drama of awareness, and the people remain real to give this a jolting effect...Lissy is a young girl whose weak husband turns to the Nazis when he is unable to find work. Film details her hatred of Nazism and her final desertion from her husband because of it as it grows into a scourge...Directed by Konrad Wolf. With Sonja Sutter, Horst Breide. (1957, 88 mins, English titles)

THEY CALLED HIM AMIGO (SIE NANN'TEN HIM AMIGO)
The scenario for THEY CALLED HIM AMIGO deals with a fifteen year old boy-known as Amigo-who has rescued an escaped resistance fighter and is himself dragged off to a concentration camp. Director Heiner Carow proves extremely skilled in his handling of children, in this and in his later films THE LEGEND OF PAUL AND PAULA and I CARUS, with Ernst-Georg Schwill, Erich Fritz. (1950, 82 mins, English titles)


FILMS FROM THE GDR FOR RENTAL

The following films were among those listed in the Newsletter of the U.S. Committee for Friendship with the GDR, 130 East Sixth St. New York, N.Y. 10003 as being available for rent. Price listed does not include postage.

MAN IS AT THE CENTER OF ALL EFFORT (English)

Health care in the GDR. (15 min.) $5.00

COURSE NORTH EAST (English)

Water sports, training of sailors, water sport school. (15 min.) $5.00

UND DES KIBERNE AUCH (German)

A feature film from the early sixties, portraying two brothers reacting in opposite ways to the building of the wall in Berlin. Interesting political and psychological study of that period. 90 min. $15.00

ICH WAR 19 (German)

A feature film of the last days of the war. The son of an anti-fascist German returning with a unit of the Red Army to Germany. Directed by Konrad Wolf. 120 min. $15.00

I WAS THERE (English)

An extravaganza about the World Youth Festival in Berlin, 1973. 50 min. $10.00

25 YEARS GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (English)

A short history of the GDR in its 25 years of existence and the celebration. 25 min. $5.00

WEIMAR IS WORTH A VISIT (English)

Presents the epoch of German Classicism and preserves its wealth of literature. It shows education of modern man, the progressing literature, the fine arts and philosophy of the period between 1750 and 1850. The Weimar National Research and Memorial Center of the classical German literature is featured. 40 min. $10.00

MUSEUM CITY BERLIN (English)

30 min. $10.00

LEIPZIG (English)

About the founding of the city, fair, Bach, St. Thomas Church, Goethe and other celebrities, the old and new universiteis, etc. 30 min. $10.00

THEIR OWN FACTORY (English)

Features workers of an Automobile Works in a small town south of Berlin, the everyday events and the festive highlights in the life of a socialist workteam. Members of the team give their views on the co-determination and responsibility of workers in the GDR. 40 min. $10.00

EVERYTHING LIES IN THEIR POWER (English)

Developments and prospects of the intellectual and cultural life of the working class and the integration of culture and art in all spheres of social life. The film conveys an idea of the way of living and the living conditions of GDR citizens and makes visible the scope of the concept of culture in a socialist country. 40 min. $10.00

GESTERN WAREN SIE NOCH KINDER (German)

Youth in a small town of an agricultural cooperative. 40 min. $10.00

UNSER LAND DIE DDR (German)

A beautiful tour through the scenic beauty of the country. 40 min. $10.00

ZWISCHENFALL IN BENDERATH (German)

Feature film. 90 min. $15.00

THEN AND NOW (English)

This documentary is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the defeat of German fascism, with vivid scenes up to the present. 40 min. $10.00

GDR MAGAZINE (English)

SOCIALIST INVENTORS.

Within one year seven million Marks were saved by inventions of workers at the GDR nationally owned enterprises. CONFLICT COMMISSIONS. Within the framework of work teams at the nationally owned enterprises, conflict commissions work as social courts. As organs of socialist jurisdiction they are formed by direct ballots. SOCIALIST
DEMOCRACY. At Guben young people have a problem. In the solution of this problem they are supported by their local people's representative bodies.

25 min. $5.00

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TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE

STUDY TOUR IN THE GDR

A unique study tour which focuses on the relation between church and state in the GDR and visits most of the places significant in Luther's Reformation will be conducted by Dr. Carl and Mildred Soule, June 28 to July 19, 1976. The Soules have led many tours to Eastern Europe, five of them to the GDR. Now retired from the United Methodist Office for the United Nations, Soule was one of the founding members of the American Society for the Study of the GDR and served as its president for two years. Currently he is a member of the Working Committee of the Christian Peace Conference (headquartered in Prague) and represents that organization at the UN. In the GDR the group will be served by Carl Ordnung, a special assistant to Gerald Gotting, head of the CDU and secretary of the Christian Peace Conference, and Rev. Martin Lange, pastor of a Berlin suburban church and chairman of the interdenominational Youth Council of the GDR. These two men will be responsible for contacts and conferences with persons in all walks of life.

The tour will include stops in Berlin, Potsdam, Magdeburg, Halle, Wittenberg, Leipzig, Erfurt, Weimar, Eisenach (Wartburg), Meissen and Dresden, with time divided equally between sightseeing, conferences with religious leaders and meetings with political officials. The tour fee of $1250 includes air transportation from New York, bus transportation within the GDR, all hotel rooms and meals, excluding gratuities and beverages. Those who wish to continue the tour beyond the GDR into another country of Eastern Europe may do so at additional cost by contacting the travel service or the Soules. Mail requests for reservations or information to Dr. and Mrs. Carl Soule, P.O. Box 458 Lady Lake, Florida 32659 or to Menno Travel Service, 102 East Main St., Ephrata, PA. 17522.

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SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS

The U.S. Committee for Friendship with the GDR is planning for group tours to the German Democratic Republic in 1976. The tours will include person-to-person visits and on-the-spot dialogues with GDR citizens from various walks-of-life, organized around such special interests as would attract trade unionists, various professional groups, artists, academics, clergy, youth and, for the summer months, German language seminars for teachers and students.

Although tours are open to anyone who is interested, sponsors of the committee enjoy special travel discounts within the GDR. Interested persons should write to: U.S. Committee for Friendship with the German Democratic Republic, 130 East 16 St. (3rd floor) New York, N.Y. 10003.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS


