



Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division of Filmmuseum Berlin - Deutsche Kinemathek

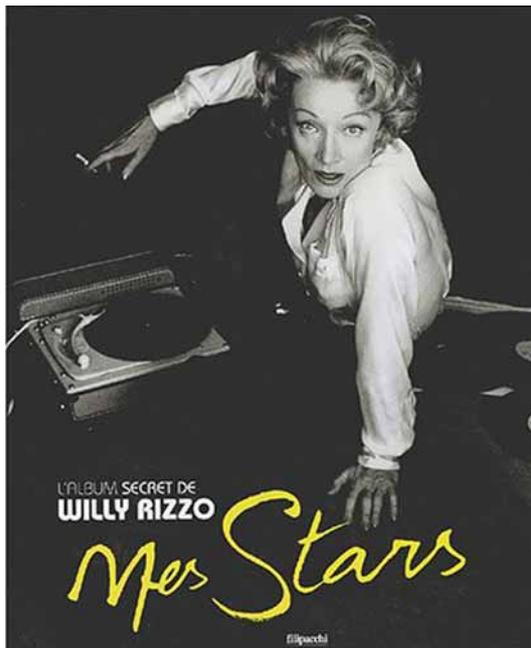
If you want your fellow fans to receive this newsletter or if you just want to add informations write to [mdcb@filmmuseum-berlin.de](mailto:mdcb@filmmuseum-berlin.de) . If you want to support the work of the Filmmuseum Berlin-Deutsche Kinemathek of which Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division you can do so by joining the "Friends and Supporters of Filmmuseum Berlin". Just go to <http://www.fffb.de>

Dear Fans and Friends,

Thank you all for your Christmas greetings and New Years wishes. As usual we got no reaction at all to Alexandre Andre's list of DVDs.

However the list got downloaded more than 100 times. And that is why Alexandre will go on compiling this data.

Alexandre spent some time in Paris, found this new book and sends his commentary:



L'Album secret de Willy Rizzo – Mes stars

Language: French

Edited by Filipacchi (15 October 2003)

ISBN: 2850187720 - EAN: 9782850187728

Size: 27 x 2 x 34, 216 p., 45 €.

Even if the book is full of actresses, actors, models etc. they chose Dietrich for the cover. The contact sheet of the marvellous session with the record player is partly reprinted, and there is also a not very well known picture of Marlene on the beach in Monte Carlo. Bad point: poor graphic design, text printed on the pictures, and a confusing text which doesn't seem to fit the pictures: Mister Rizzo claims Marlene was 45, while telling also about

the making of the session mentioned above in the same time. We all know that Marlene succeeded to be 45 years of age from 1946 till 1976...

Otherwise, the French TV broadcasted an interesting documentary about the Moulin Rouge, and I had the pleasure to here Marlene's introduction for the century in 1989: "Bonsoir ... c'est Marlene ... je ne peux pas être avec vous ce soir mais je tenais à fêter même de loin ... le centenaire de ce Moulin Rouge que j'aime tant".

#### **Honorary Citizen**

On May 16 2002 Marlene was declared Honorary Citizen of Berlin. Now, nearly two years later a portrait of her painted by grandgrandson Matthew Riva was unveiled for the Honorary Citizen gallery at the Berliner Abgeordnetenhaus.

To accompany the unveiling a speech was given in German by Marsha Coats, wife of American ambassador Daniel Coats. Here is the English version:

Herr Praesident Momper, Minister Polenow, Members of the Berlin House of Representatives,  
Ich freue mich, dass ich heute hier sein kann. The achievements and contributions of German-Americans have left an indelible mark on American culture and life. Twenty-five percent of the population of the United States have some German heritage. When we highlight the achievements of the well-known names in the history of German-American immigration, it is only one way of suggesting the magnitude of our debt to the millions of others who have helped create and enrich the American way of life.

Marlene Dietrich was born here in Berlin at the beginning of the twentieth century and laid to rest here in its final decade. She is truly an icon of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – for her contribution to the film industry, but also for her political commitment.

She left Germany for Hollywood in 1930. After Hitler came to power, she refused Nazi attempts to lure her back where she would have added her glamour and renown to the cause of a regime she despised. She and other pioneers in the film industry like -- Erich von Stroheim, Billy Wilder, and Fritz Lang -- helped shape the then still-new medium of film -- first in Berlin, then in Los Angeles, and ultimately around the world. Film presented an unbounded canvas. If a picture is worth a thousand words, imagine the infinite possibilities of film. But as Marlene Dietrich once said, "Art without a purpose is not art." This simple maxim drove her in the dark days before and during World War II.

She became an American citizen shortly before the start of the war. At great risk to herself and family members in Germany, she aided the American War Bonds effort and during the War toured the front, performing for Allied soldiers. Since that tragic period, Berlin has recognized and honoured its famous daughter and honorary citizen, Marlene Dietrich, in many ways. Today, I am pleased to represent the Embassy of the United States at the unveiling ceremony of her portrait. It is a wonderful reminder of the enduring strength of the German-American relationship. Vielen Dank.



Marsha Coats, wife of US ambassador Daniel Coats is unveiling a Marlene Dietrich portrait by Marlenes grand grandson Matthew Riva.

### **Webtime**

Using the holiday season some new listings are available on the Net. First and foremost there is Heinz Becks remarkable new site [www.marlenedietrich-filme.de](http://www.marlenedietrich-filme.de) It is a website written in German but that shouldn't keep you away if you look for poster and photo galleries or the CD-and book listings. Great work and we hope Heinz keeps the site up to date.

[www.soundstlikemarlene.de](http://www.soundstlikemarlene.de) has been restructured and simplified which makes the navigation much easier.

[www.filmmuseum-berlin.de](http://www.filmmuseum-berlin.de) has been revised completely and offers now a special Marlene section. Just give it a try and tell us what you think of all these new places on the Net.

### **Meta-Marlene**

Though we have heard that Quentin Tarantinos "Kill Bill Vol.1" is partly dedicated to Marlene or pays homage to her we haven't been able to find the original quote. Anybody got an idea?

Some of you may have heard of the new German film "Rosenstraße" which tells the story of a group of German women in the forties who fought for their Jewish husbands.

It won a "Coppa di Volpi" for actress Katja Riemann at the Venice film festival last year. In the key scene two women perform the song "Ich weiß nicht, zu wem ich gehöre" for propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels. The performance is meant as a declaration of sexual freedom towards Goebbels and works out all right. But to those who know it lacks any credibility as this Marlene song by Hollaender and Liebmann was forbidden in the Third Reich. And you begin to think: if this is historically wrong which other moments of this film also may be wrong?

Some time ago our friend Laura from Italy pointed out that the song "Wenn die beste Freundin" was performed in the movie "Kissing Jessica Stein". Okay, there is this song to be heard but it is sung by Ute Lemper. And you can also hear "I wish you love" at the end of the movie, again not performed by Marlene. Never mind, it is a good movie and worth to be seen.

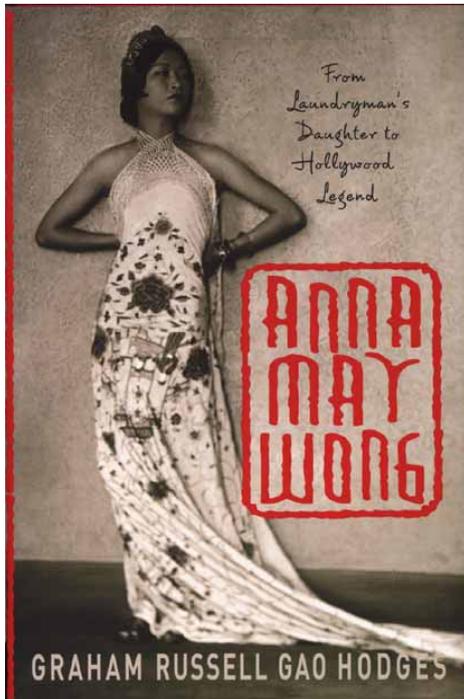
### **Anna May Wong**

In 2005 the Chinese looking American actress Anna May Wong would have been 100 years of age. This is one more year to go but a lot of people seem to fear that their contribution to Anna May Wong may not be recognized. So 2004 is the year of Anna May Wong fans.

There is a sort of a touring retrospective of some of her films; it was on show in Los Angeles at UCLA and moves on to San Francisco and other places inside the USA. And there are at least three new books on Anna May Wong. Anthony Chan presented his book "Perpetually cool. The many lives of Anna May Wong" (Scarecrow press 2003) at a lecture in Los Angeles.

Graham Russell Gao Hodges presented "Anna May Wong. From Laundryman's Daughter to Hollywood Legend" at a screening in New York. This one we got hold of. It looks serious, it reads seriously but it has its unserious moments. The famous Eisenstaedt photograph showing Anna May, Marlene and Leni Riefenstahl at a ball in Berlin makes the author speculate: Did Anna May have a love

affair with Marlene in Berlin; did Marlene have a love affair with Leni; couldn't it possible be that there was a "ménage a trios"? All this leads to the question which we have to ask the author: What kind of sex life do you have to ask questions like this? Certainly not one that satisfies your needs.



Graham Russell Gao Hodges: Anna May Wong. From Laundryman's Daughter to Hollywood Legend  
Palgrave Macmillan, New York 2004, 284 pp.

There is also a third book: "Anna May Wong. A Complete Guide to Her Film, Stage, Radio and Television Work" by Philip Leibfried and Chei Mi Lane more or less introduces a documentary on Anna May which has not been shown yet.

#### Q & A

Q: First of all I want to wish you a wonderful New Year. Well I want to know if was produced a movie based on Marlene's life starring Patricia Kaas the French singer?

Thanks,

Emerson Persona – Brasil

A: Patricia Kaas did some test shots for Louis Malle's film on Marlene. As Louis Malle died shortly afterwards the film was not made.

Q: I have just discovered your fantastic website on Marlene Dietrich and was wondering if you could answer a few questions I have regarding Marlene. Do you know if she ever stayed at Claridges while in London. If not, which London hotels were her favourite? I would also

like to know what her favourite mode of transport was? Which was her favourite brand of car and what kind of car did she own. As a great fan of Marlene I would love to be able to find out these facts about her. Thank-you for providing all the interesting information in the website. I'd really like to know today if possible.  
Kind Regards,  
Sophie

A: This is the kind of question we don't like at all. It could well be put in another wording: There is this big book on Marlene which I don't like to read or to buy. And here is this cross word puzzle which I have to fill out. Gee, I might win a toaster if you answer these questions today....

Q: When did Miss Dietrich appear in Rio? I have a recording (CD) of her performance there, but it gives no date. I'm guessing about 1970.  
Thanks.

Hal Whitmore

A: Marlene performed in Rio twice: In summer 1959 at Copacabana Palace Hotel and in November 1974 at National Theatre.



This photograph taken in the early fifties at an United Nations reception by Leo Rosenthal was recently donated to us. It shows Marlene with a greek producer and Peggy Parson from UN staff NY.

#### Her Own Song

Will be shown on French TV, 3rd program, February 11th with the title: „Marlene Dietrich. La passion d'une vie" (Thanks, Loris).

End of Newsletter