



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 . 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 friends and fans,

Instead of our usual "Word from the editors" we give you this news from "Variety" which came in the day before yesterday:

DreamWorks will turn Marlene Dietrich's story into a star vehicle for Gwyneth Paltrow. The studio has optioned Maria Riva's memoir "Marlene Dietrich," and has secured cooperation from Dietrich's estate. Jess Money will write the script and produce with Paltrow and David Nicksay. There is no firm timetable on the project, which is just as well because Paltrow has taken a screen sabbatical following the birth of her first child with her husband, Coldplay front man Chris Martin. Paltrow and her producing partners pitched the project to a DreamWorks contingent that included Steven Spielberg.

She becomes the second actress vying to play Dietrich: Louis Malle once worked with the ...
Download the full article at www.soundslikemarlene.de

News

"Women and the silent screen" is the title of a congress to be held in Montreal June 2 – June 6. They have a beautiful website; one lecture is devoted to Anna May Wong.
<http://cinema.concordia.ca/wscreen/en.html>

Mark White, former network radio correspondent and program director of the Berlin radio affiliate of Armed Forces Network, donated an interview with Marlene he did after the press conference in Berlin Hilton Hotel May 1960. Marlene speaks at length about her youth in Berlin and her relationship to Germany as an ex-German. Thank you, Mark.

Peter W. Jansen who recently did a five part radio show on Marlene, donated a radio feature on "The scarlet empress" which he did as part of his series "Jansens Kino". For German or German speaking readers. This is a splendid series on film history published by Bertz Verlag and if you listen to it going home by car you welcome every traffic jam...

Helmut Newton and Marlene

On June 2 photographer Helmut Newton who died on January 23 this year will be buried at the cemetery Stubenrauchstraße in the neighborhood of Marlene's grave.

Newton never photographed Marlene but there is a beautiful portrait of Nastassja Kinski with the Alexander doll of Marlene. Thanks to Frank van Ras for this info.



Letters

hallo liebe mdcb - mitarbeiter.
würde mich für fotos von marlenes Berlin Besuch interessieren, allerdings die noch nicht so bekannten, gibt es da welche. ??
Außerdem würden mich Fotos Ihrer Spanien und Brasilien Aufenthalte sehr interessieren, habe zum ersten mal Fotos aus den Ländern in dem Buch " Marlenes Adressbuch " gesehen. Maybe you have something to show ???
Danke sehr im voraus. Weiterhin gutes Arbeiten mit MD. In Anerkennung für Eure gute Arbeit die Ihr dieser großartigen Frau widmet.
Herzliche Grüße aus München. Robert.

[English summary: I would like to see or have photos from Marlene in Berlin, in Spain or Brasil – but not the well known ones. Praise for the Newsletter]

Dear Robert and all our German speaking readers. This Newsletter is going out to a lot of different countries. We choose the English language for the Newsletter because it is understood worldwide. Although it may seem ridiculous for Germans to correspond in English it would make it easier for us to incorporate your letters in here.

On to the question: We will do that someday, but there aren't so many unknown ones.

Well I have a question: I read an interview with Miss Norma Bosquet where she told that Marlene committed suicide (an overdose of sleeping pill) in her apartment, isn't it true? According to Miss Bosquet, Marlene had an attack in May and then Marlene decided to committed suicide. Why Miss Bosquet told that? It make me feel so sad....Do you have pictures of Marlene's concert in Rio in November 1974?
Emerson Persona

When the so-called-news of the so-called-suicide was published we asked Peter Riva to give a statement for the archive. Here is the statement:

There is no physical way Marlene could have committed suicide. She had had a stroke, we had washed, changed and removed her (I carried her) from her bedroom to the couch in her living room (that she hadn't seen for 11 years). She could see well. She could say three words: Yes, no and Maria. She could not move otherwise except to move her hand (not her arm much). She was weak. After the doctor attended to her, with me present, she said Maria and I called Maria (in NY) on the phone and held the phone to her ear, she said yes twice, no once or twice and Maria three or four times. I could hear Maria's voice clearly and knew when the conversation was over when Marlene closed her eyes. After I hung up, when asked if she would like some soup she said yes. We made and served her soup, with the concierge's wife feeding her, not Norma. Then she said Maria again and again I called NY and she spoke (listened really) with Maria for maybe 4 minutes. She seemed tired. The conversation ended, she seemed very peaceful. She was reassured that Maria was on the next plane and that I was there, as family, to attend to her. It was always her plan to have me in attendance at this time of passing. It happened to work out that way (her luck was always good). I asked if she was okay on the couch, she said yes. I told her I had legal matters to attend to and would leave her in the care of her old maid and the concierge's wife.

She said yes and began to sleep. The doctor said she was resting and that she wouldn't pass away "there is no risk for the next 24-48 hours."

The family lawyer Maitre Kam, Norma Bosquet (her secretary) and I went to the mayor's office to acquire an emergency right of control of her medical needs. Under French law this limited division of responsibility for a person's rights is possible. This was necessary to ensure Marlene could not fire her doctors (again) or have the nurse arrested for being an intruder (as had happened before). At the mayor's office we received a phone call saying that the ladies in charge thought she was dying. We rushed back to the apartment. Marlene was lying as we had left her, on the couch, peacefully, asleep, but with her eyes open. I closed them and began to make arrangements for her funeral.

There never was the physical capability for Marlene to acquire sleeping pills, to lift them, to drink water on her own, to do anything. She was vegetative although mentally acute. She simply was calm, peaceful, in a place of beauty (her living room, a Paris spring day, geraniums on the balcony), staring at the pictures of those she loved and admired (family pictures and friends on the wall) and, knowing Maria was on the way, felt she could let go. She heard the doctor that the time was near. She never feared death. Suicide was not in her makeup, it is a selfish act. To accuse her of such an act, which was so unnecessary and impossible given her condition, is itself an act of desperation for attention that it beggars the mind.

New DVD



Pinjra

India 1972

Directed and produced by Rajaram Vankudre Shantaram (1901-1990)

Shreeram Lagoo (Teacher), Sandhya (Dancer)
Runtime: 175 min (part I); 186 min (part II)
Language: Marathi, Hindi, Color.

We watched this DVD and did not understand a word. So we turned to the Encyclopedia of Indian Cinema and found this entry:

“Shantaram’s remake of Josef von Sternberg’s “The Blue Angel” is a belated homage to his German neo expressionist influences. He sets the story in the popular Marathi genre of the Tamasha musical. The upright teacher, vehemently opposed to what he considers degenerate entertainment, is seduced by a Tamasha actress. The two fell in love, forcing the teacher to change his identity. In his new guise he ends up being accused and sentenced to death for having murdered the teacher, i.e. himself. Known mainly for its numerous hit songs, the film uninhibitedly rehearses the emphatic symbologies of Shantaram’s early days. Ironically the film also chronicles Shantaram’s own dissolution as a film-maker closely linked to the formal misery of contemporary Marathi Cinema, performing loknatya musik to garish colour and Sandhya’s actorial contortions. This is the film debut of Dr Lagoo who was making a big impact at the time on the Marathi stage with his highly charged naturalist style.”

Frankly speaking: by watching the movie we didn’t caught the idea of neo-expressionsim. Those things happen if you watch a 6 hour DVD on your TV-set.

Loris Ferrari tells us that Martin Roumagnac is going to be published on DVD June 16.



Here are the addresses where you can order the DVD. Don’t expect any extras like Marlenes Home Movies. Just as we said in our last newsletter: the industry doesn’t care that much...

http://www.amazon.fr/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00022VNQG/qid=1084795695/sr=1-3/ref=sr_1_3/171-6975064-2442665

or Alapage

http://www.alapage.com/mx/?id=283631060757111&donnee_appel=ALAPAGE&tp=F&type=4&VID_NUMERO=583309&support=DVD&devise=&fulltext=gabin&sv=X_ML

Alexandre Andre writes:

I have a lot of news and novelties! But first of all thank you and bravo for the LP section at www.soundlikemarlene.de . It is a very valuable and accurate data I appreciated.

Spring-Summer 2004 seems to be a rich DVD season, full of good movies.

Unless you already know it "Martin Roumagnac" is coming out in France on June 15 by Studio Canal.

And also:

Judgement at Nuremberg:

As mentioned in the DVDgraphy, UK was the 1st country in the world to get it on May 3. Now it is the turn of:

France: Jugement à Nuremberg

Germany: Urteil von Nürnberg

Spain: Vencedores o vencidos

All versions released by MGM during weeks 21 and 22, with the trailer as a bonus. Will be released in some others countries later.

Witness for the prosecution, Also by MGM:

- France: Témoin à charge (May 18)

- Germany: Zeugin der Anklage (June 22)

- Spain: Testigo de cargo (June 7)

- UK: June 7

Other movies:

Double special edition of Around The World In 80 Days by Warner Brothers:

After USA (see the DVDgraphy at

www.soundlikemarlene.de), Spain will get it on June 22 (La vuelta al mundo en 80 dias), UK on July 5 and France on August 25 (Le tour du monde en 80 jours).

And finally, Italy got Shanghai Express and will get on June 25 Scandalo Internazionale (A foreign affair).

End of Newsletter 64 Part One

Part II: 51 Years ago in the desert