



NEWSLETTER No. 78 Part One

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006

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 information 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> You'll find us on the web at [www.marlenedietrich.org](http://www.marlenedietrich.org) and [www.marlene.com](http://www.marlene.com)

Dear friends and fans,

Europe was freezing, Bavaria for the last forty years has never seen so much snow than this winter season and the 56<sup>th</sup> Berlinale most appropriately opened its doors with the new Signourey Weaver film "Snow cake".

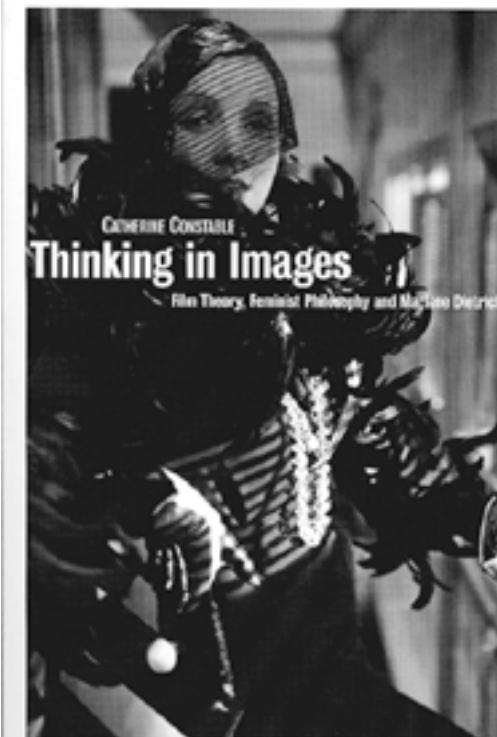
One way to find relieve from the snowy side of life – which in the meantime has turned into the muddy side - is to listen at home to good music, watch good films, read interesting books or go to the theatre. It so happens that this issue offers you possibilities to do just this – you only have to make your choice.

#### Theatre:

There is an excellent new play showing in Berlin at the Volksbühne called "Die Fruchtfliege". It is not a real drama but a combination of different scenes set in a laboratory and the scientists working there are singing songs or quoting from famous scientific studies. Impossible to tell the story as there is none. But it is entertainment on a very high level, theatre at its best and it also has two songs by Marlene. So if you are in Berlin just try to get a ticket at [www.volksbuehne.de](http://www.volksbuehne.de) - and don't worry about your limited knowledge of german. You don't need the language to understand the play.

#### New books:

Frankly speaking we can't do a just review of this study. Quoting from the back cover you'll understand what we mean: "Drawing on the groundbreaking work of Michèle Le Doeuff the author argues that philosophy is reliant on socio-cultural images, such as the figures of the veiled woman, the femme fatale and the seductress. The author traces the key role played by such images of woman in the theorisations of beauty, art and truth offered by Nietzsche and his successors: Derrida, Kofman and Baudrillard." Hmpf...



Catherine Constable: Thinking in Images  
Film Theory, Feminist Philosophy and Marlene Dietrich  
British Film Institute, London 2005, 202 pp.

Films analysed are Shanghai Express, The Scarlet Empress and The Devil is a Woman. The study is not so hard to read as it seems and when Catherine Constable analyses certain scenes or sequences from the films she is really doing a good job. But then she is frequently introducing her statements with "I would argue" or "I like to say". Kurt Tucholsky once reacted to such phrases: "So why don't you just do it?"

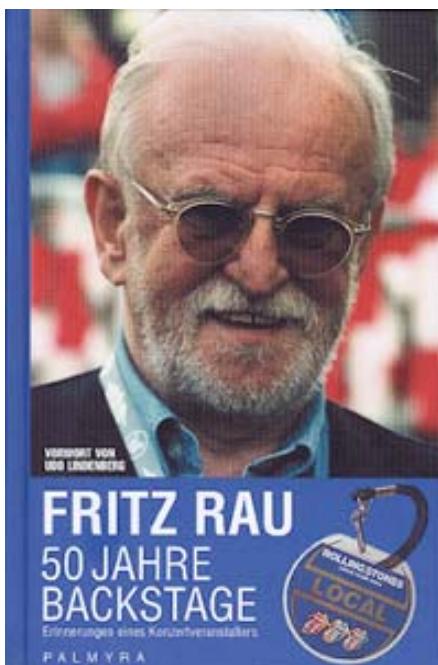


Frieda Grafe: Geraffte Zeit

Grafe Schriften, 8. Band

Hrsg. Von Enno Patalas, Brinkmann & Bose,  
Berlin 2005, 206 pp.:

Volume No. 8 of Frieda Grafe's writing includes her article on Marlene Dietrich centenary „Das große Fräuleinwunder. Zu Marlene Dietrich 100. Geburtstag“ and also some wonderful essays on masters of cinema like F.W. Murnau.



Fritz Rau: 50 Jahre Backstage. Erinnerungen eines Konzertveranstalters

Mit einem Vorwort von Udo Lindenberg;  
Palmyra Verlag, Heidelberg 2005, 303 pp.

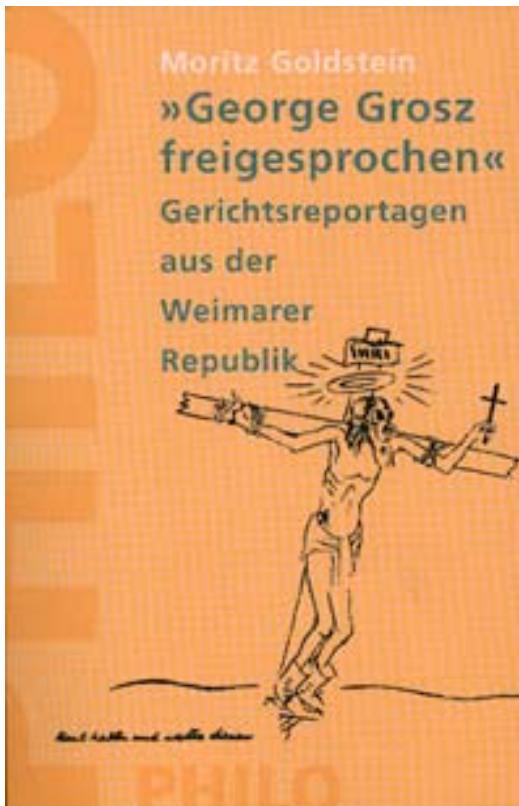
Fritz Rau was the German concert manager for singers and rock groups like Bob Dylan or The Rolling Stones. As member of Norman Granz company Rau was responsible for the organization of Marlene Dietrich's German tour in 1960. He vividly recalls the events in 1960 and lists Marlene as one of the three most important women of the century – the others being Mae West and Madonna. Autobiographies need a good editor. This book had none and so you're often puzzled when even in one and the same sentence the author is speaking of himself as "Fritz Rau" and "I". And you ask yourself: Who wrote this?



Michael Bienert, Elke Linda Buchholz: Die zwanziger Jahre in Berlin. Ein Wegweiser durch die Stadt

Berlin Story Verlag, Berlin 2005, 278 pp.

This is a guide for tourists who are interested in the architecture and the museums of old and new Berlin. It has a chapter on "Filmmuseum Berlin" and one on "Studio Babelsberg". A useful guide even for Berliners.



Moritz Goldstein: "George Grosz freigesprochen". Gerichtsreportagen aus der Weimarer Republik

Herausgegeben von Manfred Voigts und Till Schicketanz.

Philo & Philo Fine Arts / Europäische Verlagsanstalt, Hamburg 2005, 240 pp.  
<http://www.berliner-buchdienst.de>

or via e-mail: [info@berliner-buchdienst.de](mailto:info@berliner-buchdienst.de)

Moritz Goldstein was a journalist who in the twenties and early thirties wrote some classical reports from the different courts of Berlin. His writings offer more than just "reports" – they are little masterpieces of everyday human life with all the comedy and tragedy taking place in a courtroom. In one of those comedies Marlene plays the main character. In 1929 she made a contract with a Berlin theatre; after signing the more important contract with Paramount she was sued by the Berlin theatre for breaking her contract. And this little and widely unknown episode is described by Moritz Goldstein under the headline "Sex Appeal". Great reading.

#### Articles

„Wütende Venus“ (Raging Venus) is the story of the production of the TV show „Time for Love“. Werner has published this article in "FilmGeschichte", Nr. 20. It is written and printed in german and we are looking for somebody who would like to translate this to english. The English version we would publish

on www.Marlene Dietrich.org but if it is not translated in a reasonable time setting we may as well publish the german version

#### *The Affair of A Foreign Affair*

by Sandra Schulberg

The title tells it all – oh, wait a minute, there is something missing. The "affair" is the controversy over Billy Wilders film as published in "The Quarterly of Film, Radio and Television", Hollywood, Vol. VII, No. 1, Fall 1952 followed by a letter from Stuart Schulberg, published in same journal, Vol. VII, No. 4, Summer 1953. In the german version of Sandra Schulbergs article the source is given as "The Quarterly" with no other information at all. Our little biographical hint saves you from looking through 14.200.000 entries for "The Quarterly" at google.

"These articles have come to light thanks to the research of Dr. Elizabeth Heffelfinger from Carnegie-Mellon-University", Sandra Schulberg says. Well, they have been quoted over and over again, among others in a publication of the Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin on Marlene in 1977 edited by Werner. And why is Sandra Schulberg addressing Stuart Schulberg, which actually is her father, as Mr. Schulberg? If you are writing about something your father is involved in, why do you hide that relationship from the readers? This could have been an interesting contribution but it raises a lot of unnecessary questions.

#### Selling Democracy – Friendly Persuasion

Edited by Rainer Rother for the Retrospective on the Marshall plan films at the 56<sup>th</sup> Berlinale.. Deutsches Historisches Museum/ Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin 2006

#### New DVDs

Andrew Leblanc:

Perhaps you already know this, but I haven't seen it mentioned in the newsletter. Universal in France has released 11 of Dietrich's Paramount films and the ones I've starred also have soundtracks in German; otherwise, they are all in English and offer multiple subtitles, including German and English in each case. The films are:

- [1] Morocco \* [2] Dishonored [3] Blonde Venus\* [4] Song Of Songs\* [5] The Scarlett Empress [6] The Devil Is A Woman [7] Seven Sinners [8] The Flame of New Orleans [9] Pittsburgh [10] Golden Earrings and [11] A Foreign Affair

In the UK, Rancho Notorious has been issued on DVD. In the US, The Black Fox was also issued on DVD.

Universal in the USA has announced a Dietrich box set to be released in April with the following: Morocco; Blonde Venus; The Devil Is A Woman; The Flame Of New Orleans and Golden Earrings. The US box set is priced considerably cheaper than the French series, which is not sold as a box and the individual titles cost around 12 – 18 Euros each. Russia issued a big Dietrich box almost a year ago, but I'm not sure of exactly how many films or which ones are included.

#### New exhibition

In occasion of the centenary of photographer Lotte Eckener the Projektgruppe Fotografie am Bodensee shows „Lotte Eckener. Photographien von 1925 – 1965“ At Kulturzentrum am Münster in Konstanz, February 9 – March 26 2006; opening hours every day except Monday 10 – 6, on Saturdays and Sundays 10 – 5.



Portrait of the young Josef von Sternberg by Lotte Eckener done for Atelier Binder in 1929

End of Newsletter 78 part one

Part Two: Special about Lili Marleen and Symphony