



Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division of Deutsche Kinemathek - Museum für Film und Fernsehen

If you want your fellow fans to receive this newsletter or if you just want to add information write to mdcb@deutsche-kinemathek.de. If you want to support the work of the 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 and www.marlene.com

Dear Friends and Fans,

After more than 80 newsletters I am not sure if we ever told you how this Newsletter is made. If not it has to be now. Silke is compiling every bit of information, scanning book covers and adding bibliographic information. Werner – that's me – is then trying to write some readable commentary on all the things that we present. As Silke and Werner now for a long time have been working together very closely in the archive we mostly share the same opinion about books, CDs or whatever comes our way regarding Marlene. In this issue of the Newsletter you will find three new publications to which either Werner – that's me – or Silke and Werner contributed. It wouldn't be hard for us to write a great review but we would like to invite you to do it.

So the first three e-mails asking for a copy will get one – as long as we don't have to send it to China or to the North-Pole. We'll be sending them out in the middle of May. And yes, we expect some reaction. Not much, just a few lines like the ones we do.

But let's start with a
Letter by Nicholas von Sternberg

Re: MD Newsletter 85

I read Cesar Romero's comments about working with my father with such great interest and amusement it brought tears to my eyes. Imagine that he accused my father of being difficult to work with. That's like saying a Bengal Tiger isn't a pussycat. Imagine that someone with the artistic genius, the ingenuity, the integrity, and the imagination of my father actually had the opportunity to make films in Hollywood. How difficult it must have been for him to mold the clay of his imagination into a reel of celluloid some 8,000' long. I only wish that I could have had the opportunity to work beside him, and make something that could be seen and studied so many years later, as opposed to the work that I actually accomplished in making over fifty movies and

two television series. I could relish with pride that I could have endured his genius and helped in the creation of such timeless work. With fond regards,
Nicholas von Sternberg

Thanks, Nic – we hope to see you in Berlin sometime in the future.

Centenary



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Katharine Hepburn (May 12 1907 – June 29 2003)

Katharine Hepburn was called the "Pants Pioneer" and received the 1986 Fashion Award. The following year the Council of Fashion Designers of America honoured Marlene with the Life Time Achievement Award. Katherine Hepburn contributed the following words to the brochure:

MARLENE --
 Isn't it fascinating.
 When we say MARLENE --
 It conjures up a picture:
 Beautiful beautiful legs --
 Attached to a gorgeous torso --
 Draped -- dressed -- decorated with
 material or dresses or pants or coats or furs --
 And one looks --
 And --
 OH!
 There's that lovely head commanding
 this great show --
 With its soft and suggestive message
 of all the joys life offers us --
 And she is fun and sweet and true --
 Thank you --
 Dear MARLENE --

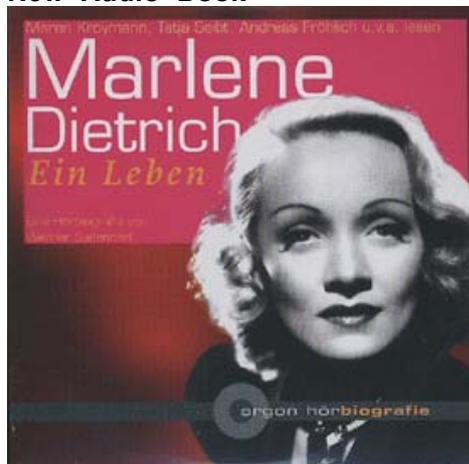
*Affectionately
 Jette*

Past event

In 2003 Ernest Hemingway's letters to Marlene were given by Maria Riva to the J.F.K. Library in Boston. Since April 2 2007 scholars can now study these letters. There were TV reports all over the world asking the question if the letters would reveal that Hemingway and Marlene were lovers, meaning: did they have a sexual relationship? The letters did not reveal the secret. Why not? Because there is none. Press release at

<http://www.jfklibrary.org/JFK+Library+and+Museum/News+and+Press/Ernest+Hemingways+Letters+to+Actress+Marlene+Dietrich+to+be+Made+Available+for+the+First+Time+by+JFK.htm>

New Audio Book



Marlene Dietrich. Ein Leben
 Hörbiografie von Werner Sudendorf
 Argon Verlag, Berlin 2007

This is in German only. Some people can read German but don't understand the spoken word. Mind that if you send an e-mail asking for this.

Be one of three readers to get a free copy



Ikonen: Marlene

Gisela May / Judy Winter

2 CD : Radioplay "Nachtgedanken" by Jörg Jannings with Gisela May

"Judy meets Marlene" Songs from Theatrical Play "Marlene" at Renaissance Theater Berlin sung by Judy Winter

Random House Audio, duo phon and NDR kultur 2006

This is a double CD with Jörg Jannings rather avantgardistic and experimental radioplay of Marlene's "Nachtgedanken" and a simply unbearable life story as told and sung by Judy Winter. It's not the songs, not Judy Winter but the script of "Judy meets Marlene" which is tragically bad. You have the impression that Marlene was fighting against the Nazis even in her childhood when there were no Nazis at all. How did they ever know?

Back to the events. Here's one you should not miss. It's the rare chance to see

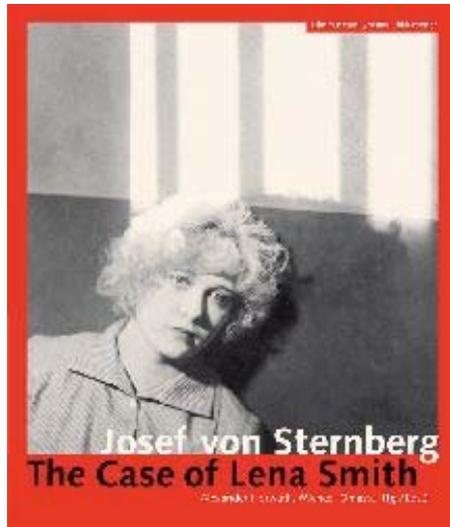
The complete Films of Josef von Sternberg

April 16 –27, Austrian Film Museum, Vienna

The most comprehensive European Sternberg retrospective yet gives an idea of the richness and the paradoxes in an oeuvre which is all too often reduced to the seven "Marlene Dietrich Classics".

This is the press release. The retrospective screening started April 16. Guest of honor is Catherine Dupont, the daughter of Josef. Werner will give a speech on Thursday April 19 on "Sternberg and Sound" with reference to the "Dietrich-Classics". On Friday April 20th its

Janet Bergstroms turn to make us familiar with "Sternberg, a study in Paradox".
For the full program see:
<http://www.filmmuseum.at>



Josef von Sternberg. The Case of Lena Smith
by Alexander Horwath, Michael Omasta (Hg./ Eds.) FilmmuseumSynemaPublikationen Band 5, Wien 2007, 304 pp, german/english

The lost film "The case of Lena Smith" will be featured in a book edited by Alexander Horwath and a presentation following Werners lecture on Thursday.

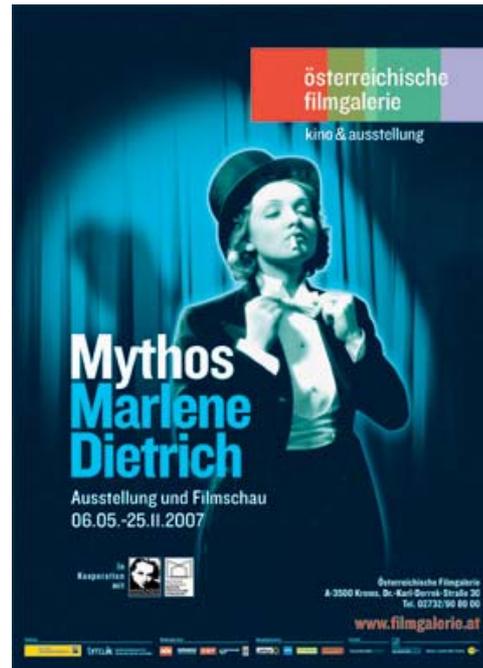
Here's the press release for the book:

In his 1929 Hollywood production The Case of Lena Smith, director Josef von Sternberg vividly brought to life his youthful memories of Vienna at the turn of the last century. Critic Dwight Macdonald called it "the most completely satisfying American film I have seen". But only a short fragment survives – Lena Smith is one of the legendary lost masterpieces of the American cinema.

Assembling 150 original stills and set designs, numerous script and production documents as well as essays by eminent film historians, the book reconstructs Sternberg's dramatic film about a young woman fighting the oppressive class system of Imperial Vienna.

New exhibition

About 80 kilometers from Vienna in the city Krems a new Marlene Dietrich Exhibition will be opened on May 6th. Krems is famous for its wines, his lovely landscape and for Dr. Ludwig Ritter von Köchel. Who is Köchel? If you ever heard somebody announce a piece of Mozart he will add: Köchel-inventory Nr. So-and-so. That's him. And Krems is Austria as any Hollywood film would picture Austria to be.



On 400 square meters at Filmgalerie Austria MDCB will display until November objects, documents and photos – some of them known, some of them never shown before. The exhibition will be opened in the presence of David Riva, who also will present his film and his book "Her own song". Show will be open until November and will hopefully attract a lot of visitors and readers of our Newsletter. Make sure not to taste the wine before going to the exhibition.

A catalogue will be published and sold only at the Krems museum. It contains a very rare piece on Marlene by Nobel Price winning author Elfriede Jelinek, a letter by Maria Riva on Marlene and Austria as well as essays by Silke and Werner. Hmm, finally we found the company we always thought we deserve.

Website: <http://www.filmgalerie.at/>

More on the exhibition in our next issue. The brochure is in german if you care to have it and would like to e-mail.

New Books

In 2002 the editors organized a symposium "Marlene at 100" at Dartmouth College, USA. It took a long time to publish the papers and speeches of the conference but looking through and reading the book the five years were worth waiting for. In Germany we have a saying if somebody made a definite study on a subject: "Da wächst lange kein Gras mehr." (For some time there will be no grass growing there). Not only covers the book aspects of Marlene and the recent literature but it also discusses subjects which have been neglected until today.



Dietrich Icon

Edited by Gerd Gemünden and Mary R. Desjardins. Duke University Press, Durham and London 2007, 420 pp.

Yes, it is academic in the best sense of the word: you can learn a lot but you may also enjoy the design, the wonderful photos, the careful editing. Thanks Gerd and Mary for working on Marlene and giving us this book.

We can't discuss the essays in detail but you can see it all on the website http://www.dukeupress.edu/cgi-bin/forwardsql/search.cgi?template0=nomatch.htm&template2=books/book_detail_page.htm&user_id=4167422782&Bmain.item_option=1&Bmain.item=13870

Or just go to www.dukeupress.edu, click on the Search button, then type "Dietrich" and there you are.

By the way: the book is quite expensive, but you won't regret that investment.

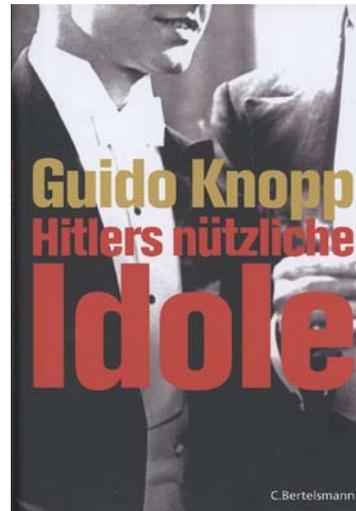
One more event

MARLENE DIETRICH'S BERLIN
Fotografie & Film

Celebrating the 15th anniversary of Marlene's death there will be a show on the Schlossplatz in the centre of Berlin showing photographs of Marlene from MDCB. Show starts May 15th at ten p.m. and will be running through June.



Instead of the pictures each Friday night in June there will be a free showing of the film "The Blue Angel".



Guido Knopp: Hitlers nützliche Idole
C. Bertelsmann München 2007, 333pp.

Guido Knopp produces and directs one documentary after another mostly beginning with "Hitler and ...". Each film is accompanied by a book edited and written by Guido Knopp. That is if you believe that one man alone can produce, direct and write as many products as Guido Knopp does.

This book is on screen actors in the Third Reich and Marlene is ever present of having gone to the USA before.

**Another Exciting New Exhibition at
Museum für Film und Fernsehen**



“Filmkostüme! Das Unternehmen Theaterkunst”

Deutsche Kinemathek – Museum für Film und Fernsehen, Berlin March 29th – September 2nd.

The exhibition covers 100 years of the company “Theaterkunst” who is providing Film and TV productions with all sorts of costumes. It is a truly excellent exhibition and there is also a book in German to accompany the centenary.



Beautiful looking invoice of Theaterkunst of February 26 1931 to Marlene Dietrich for putting some trimmings onto her trousers.

End of Newsletter