



NEWSLETTER No. 87

May 24th, 2007

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,

If you ever look for a city where the living seems to be very easy just go to Vienna in spring. It's such a lovely city and it is even nicer if you have some friends there to take care of the foolish tourist that you are. On the left side of the picture below you see Regina and Alexander of Österreichisches Filmmuseum. They were our wonderful hosts at the Josef von Sternberg retrospective in April. Next to Alexander is Janet Bergstrom from UCLA who gave a fascinating lecture on Sternbergs "Salvation Hunters". And at the right is Catherine Dupont, neé Sternberg. Janet flew in from Los Angeles and Cathy came from Geneva. She surprised us with a warm and touching speech on her father. We may publish this in one of our next newsletters. Vienna was the right place to screen the recently discovered short take from the lost Sternberg "Case of Lena Smith" and present the new book on this film. Why is Werner not part of the group? Because the picture was taken at the Prater when the four came out of the giant ferris wheel and Werner did not dare to enter because of vertigo. He is only stepping into a ferris wheel when there are people around who are more scared than he is. And that is a very rare case.



Obituaries

Curtis Harrington (September 17 1926 - May 6 2007)

Onetime experimental filmmaker Curtis Harrington who earned a reputation in the 1960s and '70s as a master of the macabre with films such as "What's the Matter With Helen?" and "The Killing Kind," died at the age of 80. In June 2004 he came to Berlin to show us his new film "Usher" at a private screening. In 1948 Curtis wrote the first book ever on Sternberg. Say hello from us to Joe up there in cinema heaven, Curtis.



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Curtis Harrington at Filmmuseum Berlin

Donfeld (Born Donald Lee Feld) (July 3 1934 – February 3 2007)

Oscar nominated Hollywood costume designer died at age of 72. He created the kimonos for Marlenes tour in Japan.

Centenaries

John Wayne

(May 26 1907 – June 11 1979)

He was the male lead in some of the minor 40s film which Marlene did with "Seven Sinners" topping them all. If he was not the lead he surely was the sexiest male in the picture. There are some wonderful home movies in the collection showing "The Duke" off set but it seems that nobody wanted them for the many features on his centenary. Nobody wanted them? Wrong, stupid, they just don't know that they are in existence.



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Off set photo at Pittsburgh, 1942

Laurence Olivier

(May 22 1907 – July 11 1989)

Marlene Dietrich and Laurence Olivier - what did these two had to do with each other? Nothing spectacular except that they highly respected each other which is proved by some letters in the collection. Taken from Marlene's "Questions" file: Which actors would you like to play with? – Richard BURTON, although I would have been fainting with delight at every step. OLIVIER, but I am afraid he would have been a hard task-master.

New Books



Birk Meinhardt: Im Schatten der Diva

Eichborn, Frankfurt am Main 2007, 293 pp.

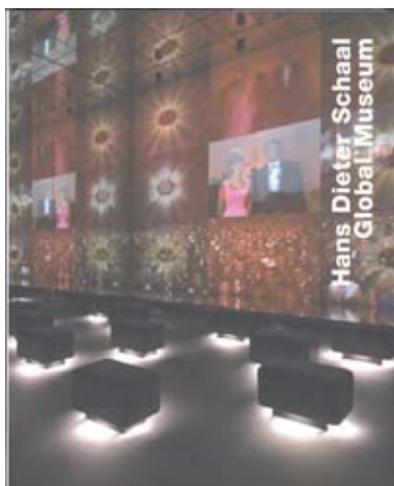
This is a facton book. The "Diva" is Marlene and standing in her shadow is Tamara Matul, Rudi's life long lover. Is it not pure fiction, no. Birk Meinhardt has very carefully researched all the places Rudi and Tami went to, her families and friends. The trouble is that for us this is nothing new and thrilling; we may be too close to the main subjects to be fascinated by their fate. We may be blind to see the literary values in the novel. But fact is that we both, Silke and Werner, lost interest after reading 100 pages. This may not be the author's fault. In some way we are also standing on the shadowy side, especially with this book.



Katharina Prager: „Ich bin nicht gone Hollywood!“ Salka Viertel – Ein Leben in Theater und Film

Wilhelm Braumüller Universitäts-Verlagsbuchhandlung, Wien 2007, 275 pp
For those who do not know, from the twenties to the forties Salka Viertel had a kind of "European salon" in her house in St. Barbara. Among her guests and close friends were director F. W. Murnau, Christopher Isherwood,

Gottfried Reinhardt and most prominent of them all Greta Garbo. When writing on Europeans in Hollywood a lot of people are referring to Salka Viertel's published memoirs but till today nobody took the trouble of looking at her letters which are preserved at Deutsches Literaturmuseum Marbach. Katharina Prager did and she found a treasure. If you are interested in émigrés in Hollywood or if you want to get an insight look at Greta Garbo's life in Hollywood this study is the right book for you. After reading Katharina Prager's book you may as well kick out all the "glamour" biographies.



Hans Dieter Schaal: Global Museum

Edition Axel Menges, Stuttgart / London 2007, 200 pp.

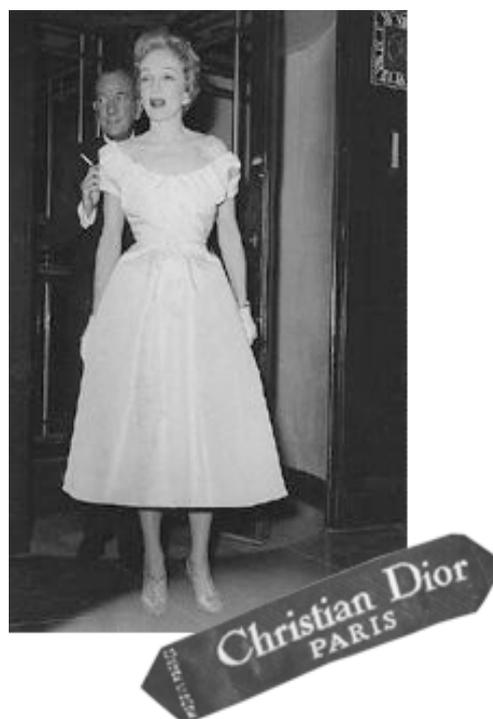
If you ever visited the Permanent Exhibition of the Museum for Film and Fernsehen you will surely remember the mirrors in the first room. Two out of three visitors are asking for the name of the architect who did the design which is unique for a film museum. Hans Dieter Schaal is the name; he has now published a book on his work of the last ten years. Yes, the Filmmuseum and Marlene are very well represented in here as well as the Television museum. And seeing the other work he has done for museums and theatres one regrets of not having seen all his stage and museum designs.

Wonderful photography, great design and an inspiring display of his work this is a book for art lovers as well as for museum curators. The book gives an index of his works; if you want to know about his most recent work go to <http://www.hansdieter-schaal.de/>

Article on Christian Dior

The first issue of new magazine „Recherche Film und Fernsehen“ of Deutsche Kinemathek contains

„Kleider für's Image. Modelle des Modehauses Christian Dior in der Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin“ by Barbara Schröter.



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Marlene Dietrich accompanied by Noël Coward wearing the dress "Muguet" from spring Collection 1954

New CD

There are so many "Best of Marlene" CDs that you may not take notice of this new one. Although there are no unknown songs or new arrangements to be found here it is a quality CD which every Marlene collector should have. Good design, good printing and a high quality journalist writing on BB and MD makes this a CD which you won't regret to have bought.



bureau b, Hamburg 2007
LC 12227

New exhibition

Mythos Marlene Dietrich

The Österreichische Filmgalerie opened the exhibition in the presence of David Riva who also showed his film "Her own song" and discussed it after the show with Werner. Also present at the opening were costume designer Elisabeth Urbancic and Barbara and Melanie Langbein, the nieces of Willi Forst.



Entry to Filmbar and exhibition area



David Riva, Barbara and Melanie Langbein, Werner and Silke

A video of the exhibition can be seen at www.marlenedietrich.org/video/krems_de/video.html

The English version is at www.marlenedietrich.org/video/krems_en/video.html

More on the exhibition and on Austria and Marlene in our next Newsletter.

End of Newsletter