



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,

In the early sixties there was only one TV Channel in Germany West and one in Germany East. Werner lived in a little german village in the north of Germany West, Silke in Berlin East which was the capital of the "DDR". Oh, those horrible times.

In that one West German TV Channel there was a program called "Pariser Journal". It was outstanding because it brought a touch of international culture into the petit-bourgeois households both in West as in East Germany. "Pariser Journal" was made by Georg Stefan Troller who is an émigré from Vienna. As member of the American army he came to Paris in 1945 and lives there ever since. At the age of 86 he gave all his documents to Peter Paul Kubitz, director of the TV-Museum at Deutsche Kinemathek.



Troller pushing the door open to his archive



Kubitz and Troller. Kubitz is holding two folders with documents on Trollers feature about Muhammad Ali

Troller started as a radio journalist and met Marlene 1956 during the filming of "The Monte Carlo Story" for an interview. You can hear it at <http://www.marlenedietrich.org/filmMonte.htm>

Centenaries

Brigitte Helm (March 17 1908 – June 11 1996)

She was the good and the evil Maria in Fritz Langs "Metropolis", she was "Alraune" twice (1928 and 1931), the "Mistress of Atlantis" and Olga aka Madeleine de Beaupré in the 1933 movie "Die schönen Tage von Aranjuez" which shortly after was remade as "Desire" in Hollywood. "Desire" certainly is superior in style. Also, the german filmmakers had to do a lot of outdoor-shooting as there was a lack of studio facilities at that time.



Helm filmed from 1925 to 1935, then left UFA and filmmaking and never talked about her films to any journalist. She married a businessman by the name of Kuenheim and gave birth to four children. Bearing the name of her husband one of her sons in a recent interview said: "I never knew Brigitte Helm." That quote is from Daniel Semlers new book on Helm which will be out in April.

SDK is showing the wonderful 1928 silent Brigitte Helm movie "Abwege" (Crisis) by G. W. Pabst on March 30th at 19:30 p m in the cinema Arsenal.

See also

http://www.welt.de/kultur/article1810402/Brigitte_Helm_Maschinenmensch_und_Vamp.html

Bette Davis
(April 5 1908 – October 6 1989)

Bette and Marlene – it seems to me that these ladies were swimming in different pools all of her lifetime. But there was a time when they were working together at the Hollywood Canteen where they both entertained American soldiers. The ladies respected each other. In December 1944 Bette writes to Marlene "in the field": "We so often think of you at the Canteen and look forward to the day when you will be back in this part of the world again. You are doing a wonderful job – I envy you – am hoping to get over myself this year – it seems to me the truly worthwhile experience presented to all of us in these times."



Bette and Marlene at the first anniversary party of the Hollywood Stage Door Canteen in 1943

Elizabeth Allan
(April 9 1908 – July 27 1990)



© Deutsche Kinemathek – MDCB

Allan was a british actress and a friend of Marlene in the thirties. Here she is seen in 1935 as Marlene and Marlene as Leda with the swan and the inevitable Clifton Webb disguised in some unspeakable costume – probably naked underneath. Marlene was so fond of her Swans outfit that she kept it. We had it on display in our permanent exhibition for a while and you could instantly recognize that it wasn't made to party in.

Melodie Hollander



Melodie Hollander, daughter of Friedrich (yes, the composer of “Von Kopf bis Fuß”) visited the Kinemathek in January. Quite appropriately the picture is showing Melodie from head to toe in the Marlene archives.

Legal Affairs

Peter Sachs is the son of the poster collector Hans Sachs who had to emigrate in the thirties from Nazi-Berlin. Hans Sachs collection of about 12.500 posters was confiscated in 1937 and part of it later turned up in the East Berlin “Museum für deutsche Geschichte”. When Germany was reunited it became the property of the Deutsches Historisches Museum. The remaining collection is worth an estimated \$ 5 Million – which to our humble opinion is underestimated. Peter Sachs wants the collection back or an equivalent in money. This is a very complicated matter as Hans Sachs in the 50s received some money and declared he was fully satisfied with that. But he did not receive the money for the collection but as general amends.

It would cost the son of Hans Sachs a fortune to sue for the whole collection. So he goes for the “Blonde Venus” poster as pars pro toto. And if he wins that one he wins them all.

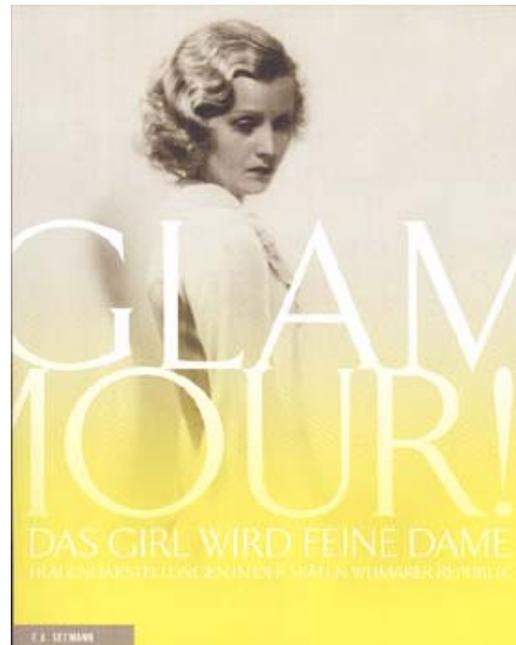
There are a lot of articles on this on the Internet. If you’re interested, google for “Blonde Venus”+”Sachs”. For our german readers there is a shortcut:

<http://www.spiegel.de/kultur/gesellschaft/0,1518,538921,00.html>



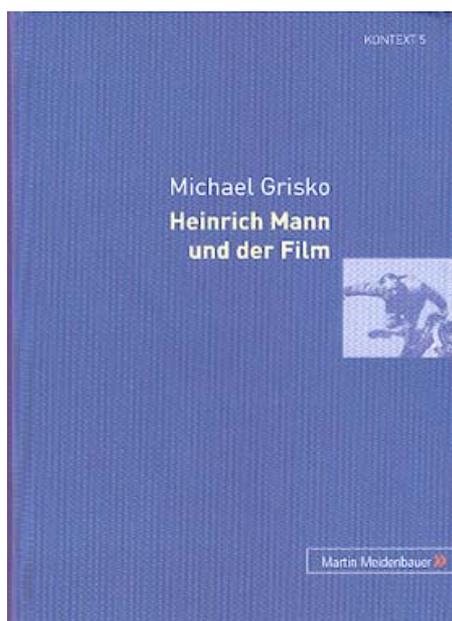
Window card of the german „Blonde Venus“-poster. Part of the Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin and on display at the “Glamour” exhibition.

Exhibition and Books



Glamour! Das Girl wird feine Dame
Frauenvorstellungen in der späten Weimarer Republik. Catalogue accompanying the exhibition at Georg-Kolbe-Museum, Berlin, February 17 – May 12;
E.A. Seemann Verlag , Leipzig 2008, 135 pp.

If you're in Berlin at the time of exhibition you should see it. It is a must for every friend and fan of the era and it contains a lot of photographs and posters from SDK. They simply filled a room with film glamour and Marlene certainly plays a big part. The catalogue has fabulous photos and a lousy article by Werner on Glamour in the film of the thirties. Well, you know the stuff he usually writes in his arrogant attitude this time even comparing Brigitte Helm and Marlene Dietrich in the two versions of "Desire". Guess who wins. You're right, it's him.



Michael Grisko: Heinrich Mann und der Film
Martin Meidenbauer Verlagsbuchhandlung,
München 2008, 451 pp.

This is a doctor thesis which you instantly recognize by the table of content. It goes: 2. – 2.1 – 2.2. – 2.2.1 and so on. And you may think: Gosh, another unreadable academic study. No, you're wrong. It is quite readable, intelligent and well researched. Grisko is the director of the Buddenbrook - Haus in Lübeck and his chapter on "Der blaue Engel" fills about 80 pages including way over 220 footnotes. The good thing is that the footnotes are on the same pages as the text itself. If you look for the latest state of research on that film, on film and literature in Germany and Heinrich Mann in Hollywood, the book fulfils your expectations. Although we may have some more surprises on the "Blue Angel" in the bag ...

Auction:

"Profiles in History" is offering in their new sale several vintage prints of Marlene by Richee and Hurrell. Highlight is CatNr. 310 with an estimate of \$ 4,000 – 6,000.



CatNr. 310: vintage print by George Hurrell

Another highlight is a three sheet poster of „Shanghai Express“. Well, if it is a highlight depends on your attitude to posters. As the third part of the three sheet is missing it was completely redone. If you collect posters as art then this should not be your cup of tea. If you regard it as simply a wonderful decoration and you have no problem to spend several ten-thousands on decoration you may go for it. Praise goes to "Profiles in History" for being open with the status of the poster. Auction houses don't do that very often.

www.profilesinhistory.com

Precious Gift



A Cartier pin given to Marlene is for sale by Partridge Fine Art Ltd - 144-146 New Bond Street – London. Looks like a real nice present for a fan. If you're interested write to michael.pick@partridgefineart.com