



## NEWSLETTER No.16

October, 27th 2000

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 [mddb@filmmuseum-berlin.de](mailto:mddb@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>

We still get complaints about the impossibility to order the newsletter through the tool at [www.filmmuseum-berlin.de](http://www.filmmuseum-berlin.de). We will install another tool at [www.marlene.com](http://www.marlene.com) and have to make a big excuse for any inconvenience. And if you will do us a favour, please send your complaints directly to [info@filmmuseum-berlin.de](mailto:info@filmmuseum-berlin.de) and not to the webmaster.

You can download the flyer of Berlin Tourismus Marketing on Marlene now at [www.fffb.de](http://www.fffb.de) going to the News section and to the Specials. It may take you some time to download so here is a tip. If you do not need the italian/french version you should download only the first part.

The Linda Darnell / Loretta Young photo initiated some discussions. Steven Bach thinks – if we got him right – that it was Loretta Young allright and not Linda Darnell while Erik Lund from Denmark thinks it is clearly Linda Darnell and agrees to Dany Leab. Well, we will install the photo on <http://www.marlene.com>, at the usual section News and Views, leave it there for four weeks and see what the experts have to say.

Erik also received complaints of some visitors of the museum who stated that there is too little room for Marlene. Well, we have been working hard on it, but obviously we have to work harder. The Filmmuseum Berlin is not a Marlene Dietrich museum – it is a museum on german/american film history and Marlene plays a big part in this history and the museum. But it is only a part. And Eric, if your friends expected to see more of Marlene they should join the e-mail club, visit the archive and then go to the museum. Is it a condition to be a member of the e-mail club to get access to the archive? If you want to get just a tour through the archive: Yes. If you do serious research: No.

### Will the real Else please stand up?!

Steven Bach adds to our statement on Marlene Dietrich not being in "The joyless street": "Re FREUDLOSE GASSE: see my biography of Dietrich. The picture was being made while

Marlene was giving birth to Maria. Dietrich's being in the film is, therefore, unlikely, to say the least."

Welcome, Steven, to the "Read my book"-club. Yes, we forgot to mention that Steven Bachs book "Marlene. Life and Legend" was reissued in April as soft cover book at DaCapo Books, New York, for a reasonable price of 18,- \$. This reminds us that David Brets biography "Marlene, my friend" has also been reissued as soft cover for 9.99 \$. Adding a personal note: we feel that this is 9.99 \$ too much.

But back to Stevens statement on "The joyless street". It is not quite correct, we are sorry to say: Maria was born December 13, 1924. Filming of "The joyless street" was done from the end of February 1925 till the end of March 1925. So she could have been in the picture, but she was not. Here is the original cast list of "The joyless street":

**Die freudlose Gasse**  
Nach dem Roman von Hugo Bettauer / Manuskript: Willi Haas  
REGIE: G.W. PABST  
Photographie: Seebor, Oerel, Lach / Architekt: Solnte und Erdmann  
Regie-Assistent: M. Sorkin

D		I		E		T		S		C		E	
Hilmi Runkel	.....	Jaro Firth	.....	Greta Garbo	.....	Henry Stuart	.....						
Greta Runkel	.....	Lothi Neri	.....										
Maria	.....	Asta Nielsen	.....										
Maria Lechner	.....	Max Feglbauer	.....										
Ilse Elbern	.....	Silvia Tied	.....										
Generaldirektor Rosenow	.....	Karl Esslinger	.....										
Sonja Figg	.....	Elia Grönberg	.....										
Regina Rosenow	.....	Alexander Murley	.....										
Rechtsanwalt Dr. Leid	.....	Tanara	.....										
Lia Leid	.....	Henry Stuart	.....										
Egon Stinner	.....	Robert Garrison	.....										
Canon	.....	Ernst Hanson	.....										
Leutnant Davy, U.S.A.	.....	Maria Cernich	.....										
Colonel Irving, U.S.A.	.....	Valencia Gert	.....										
Frau Greder	.....	Gertha Tolson	.....										
Fräulein Heuzette	.....	Frau Macken	.....										
Frau Merkl	.....	Werner Krauss	.....										
Flaschenmeister	.....	Herta von Walthier	.....										
Ella	.....	Otto Reisswald	.....										
Der Mann	.....	Grigori Chimara	.....										
Der Kellner	.....	Richard	.....										
Freischütz	.....	Kraft Raschig	.....										
Ein amerikanischer Soldat	.....		.....		.....		.....		.....		.....		.....

SOFAR-FILM-PRODUKTION G.M.B.H.  
Tel. Daub-11 2293 94 BERLIN SW 48 Friedrichstrasse 23  
Berlin-Charlotten in eigenem Verleih.  
Veranstaltung für Nord-, Mittel- und Südamerikanische Kinematheken/Wiederholungen:  
Firma J. & M. Heusch, Hamburg 36, Deutscherwall 27

Hertha von Walther is credited as Else in this original program from 1925. It is hard to read and you have to enlarge it a bit with the Adobe program tools. Hertha is pictured on the bottom line of the photos, second from right.

Hertha von Walther confirmed her acting in "The joyless street" in a letter to Werner Sudendorf in 1977 while he was preparing the first volume of the book "Marlene Dietrich. Filme – Dokumente – Essays." This, by the way, is one of the rare books which has not been reissued though it is one of the few ones that Marlene did not dislike.



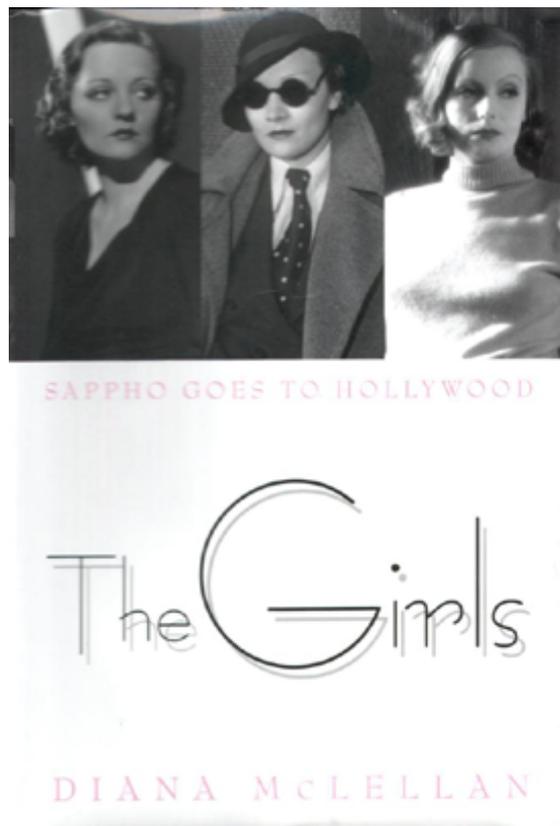
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Hertha von Walther - an Ufa Star portrait

A detailed report on the production of "The joyless street" is printed in: G.W. Pabst. Edited by Wolfgang Jacobsen. Argon: Berlin 1997 (all in German, we are sorry to say).

Why concentrate so much on "The joyless street"? First, this is a truly remarkable film which not only stars Asta Nielsen and Greta Garbo, the two stars from Northern Europe, but is also one of the finest works of German silent cinema. And secondly, this film is one of the revelations of a

## New book



Diana McLellan. The Girls. Sappho Goes To Hollywood. An L A Weekly Book for St. Martins Press, New York. October 2000. XXII plus 440 pages, 26.95 \$

We have been writing about this book in our last newsletter and now that the book is published we will un-reveal by and by the facts in contrast to the suspicions of Mrs. McLellan. You may quite rightly ask: if it is such a silly book why do you care at all? Is it for the sake of history, is it for the sake of serious research? Yes, and it is even more: it is for self protection too. We expect to get letters asking us: I have read that Marlene made love to Greta Garbo in Berlin. Is that true? Any documents? Are you people from the archive hiding the most interesting things from the public? And we will answer all these questions with just one line: Read no books, read our Newsletter. St. Martins Press by the way is a subsidiary of Macmillan Books which is owned by the German Holtzbrink group. Back to McLellan: having said so much on "The Joyless street" (we might return to it in a latter issue of the Newsletter) we turn to another subject of fun and fantasy. The year is 1923, the pages turn from 107 to 108: "Marlene's career boomed" (1923 - some news that is!)

"...And then she became pregnant. ... Marlene plainly told Otto [Katz] that he was the father of the child she bore on December 12, 1924. ...But the baby needed a name. And in 1924 Berlin, the name of a Jewish communist ... was a bad choice." How come? Nazis all around Berlin streets in 1924 already? Oh, come on. Or was Marlene antisemitic? "Again, Rudi came to the rescue.

Supposedly, he married Marlene. This purported event has always been surrounded by lies. If it occurred at all, it was probably on May 17, 1924."(We got it, one year later and not in 1923, because in that year there was this booming carrier. Remember?)

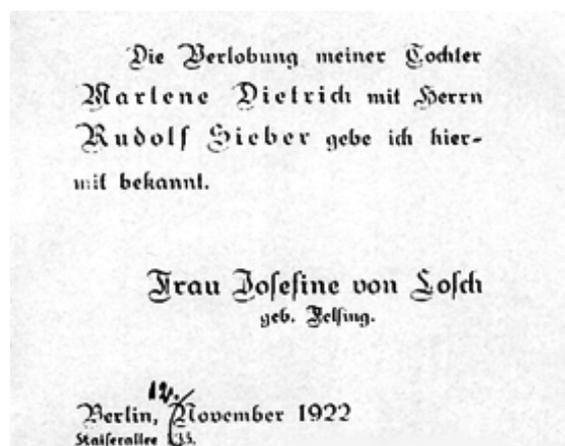
"... The wedding photograph she left her daughter looks much like a staged costume shot, with no other recognizable faces, or recognizable landmarks, in it." Frankly speaking we are not familiar with the art of wedding photographs. But we have rarely seen "recognizable landmarks" in wedding photos at all.

McLellan further refers to a lawsuit from 1939 during which a demanded proof of Marlenes marriage was constantly denied by the star. So piling speculation on speculation she comes up with nothing but an even more absurd speculation. Here is another mountain of nonsense McLellan proudly climbs up: "The question of bigamy or divorce was never raised publicly. It's possible, however, that Marlenes schoolmarm sister, Elisabeth, who stood politically far to the right of Marlene and Otto, and whose husband would later be an enthusiastic Nazi, threatened to blow the whistle. Her nonexistence in Marlene's memory began now." Why don't you make it: Nazi sister blackmails Marlene?

Now let's get away from fantasy which turned out not to be so funny at all and turn back to the facts:

The official engagement ceremony took place on November 12, 1922.

Here is the formal invitation:



I hereby announce the engagement of my daughter Marlene Dietrich to Mr. Rudolf Sieber.

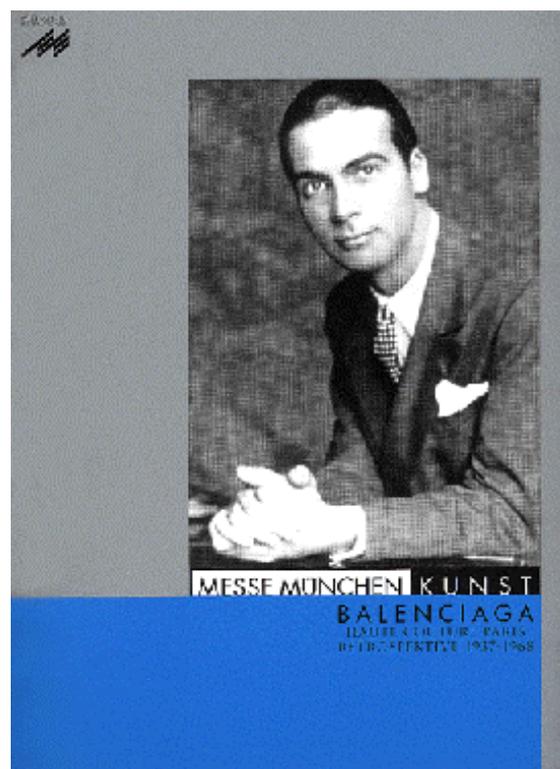
Josefine von Losch, born Felsing  
Berlin, November 12, 1922  
Kaiserallee 135

The day of the engagement was added by a relative.

The wedding took place on May 17, 1923 as the wedding document in our archives shows. We won't bother you with this well known piece which we displayed in our exhibit on the centenary of film at Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin. It is reprinted in Renate Seydels book: Marlene Dietrich (see Newsletter 10 part two), first published 1984.

### Exhibitions

An exhibit on Balenciaga clothes opened on October 10<sup>th</sup> at Stadtmuseum München and is running till January 7<sup>th</sup> 2001. MDCB lended five items.



Balenciaga. Haute Couture Paris.

Retrospektive 1937 – 1968

Edited by Messe München GmbH,  
München: Verlag Karl Weibl, 2000, 67 pp.  
Catalogue available at Stadtmuseum München,  
St. Jakóbs Platz 1, 80331 München.

Website at: <http://www.stadtmuseum-online.de/aktuell/balenc.htm>

End of Newsletter