



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 [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>

Dear friends and fans,

a big part of the MarleneDietrich Collection Berlin has moved now to our headquarters at Potsdamer Platz. Silke has a new telephone number which is 300 903 639; The fax number is 300 903 13. While the textile archive and the 3dimensional objects still are at the old place they had to move to other rooms temporarily and may be reached only using Silkes telephone number and e-mail address which still is [mdcb@filmmuseum-berlin.de](mailto:mdcb@filmmuseum-berlin.de).

#### **Calendar update:**

**August 15<sup>th</sup>:** Opening of Montreal exhibition "A Legend in Photographs" at Cinemathèque Quebecquoise. Alas, no informations are available on their web site; neither on the web site of the Goethe Institute at Montreal.



**August 27<sup>th</sup>:** Publishing date of Erich Maria Remarque "Sag mir, daß du mich liebst..." Erich Maria Remarque - Marlene Dietrich. Zeugnisse einer Leidenschaft. Herausgegeben von

Werner Fuld und Thomas F. Schneider. Kiepenheuer & Witsch. Köln. [Erich Maria Remarque - Marlene Dietrich. Tell me that you love me... Testimonies of a passion.] Publication in german.

The first delivery of the book contains a photograph which is replaced by another photograph in the second delivery. Make sure to get your collector's item.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>:** Universal Studio Party at the occasion of the screening of Marlene Dietrichs films at Universal Studio. Hotel Adlon, Berlin.

**November 30<sup>th</sup> - February 1<sup>st</sup>:** "Cool Diva. Marlene Dietrich". Theatrical performance by The Right Idea, Filmpark Babelsberg.

#### **More News:**

[www.fffb.de](http://www.fffb.de) has a Marlene Special which is worth looking at.

For all of you who are interested in more than just Marlene. The Fritz Lang exhibition we did at the Filmmuseum Berlin is now showing in Los Angeles at the Academy Gallery. Their website is at

<http://www.oscars.org/events/fritzlang/index.html>

Teddy Morazzani from Gagny , France, wrote: "I received a letter from the Mayor of Paris (Mister Delanoe). A 'platz' will take the name of Marlene Dietrich in Paris XIV."

#### **Hints at literature:**

We read a short article by film historian and theorist Thomas Elsaesser. Elsaesser is fascinated by the many meanings of the "Singing Saw" in connection with Marlene. So what? We must have lost the point somewhere. By the way, is this a version of 'Deeuwig zingende zaag: MarleneDietrich' which was published in the dutch *Skrien* 185, Aug-Sep 1992, pp. 66-68? Or is this a version of Elsaessers speech at the University of Bremen from January 2001 on Marlene? Or could it be that this is the same as Elsaessers speech on Marlene in Udine, Italy from March 2001? Obviously, it seems to be a work in progress.

Thomas Elsaesser: Falling in Love Again (and again). Marlene Dietrich und die Singende Sage. In: Die Wiederholung. Herausgegeben von Jurgen Felix, Bernd Kiefer, Susanne Marschall, Marcus Stiglegger. Schuren Verlag, Marburg 2001.

Patricia White has published a very interesting study on Mercedes de Acosta and her relationship to Greta Garbo and Marlene Dietrich in Camera Obscura 45, Volume 15, Number 3.

#### New Book:

JEAN GABIN ET MARLENE DIETRICH

Auteur : COLLECTIF; Editeur : Acropole

Collection: Les couples celebres

This is a new book on Jean Gabin and Marlene Dietrich. We have no other information except that it is published.

#### Focus

of this newsletter is the year 1945 and a very touching piece by Barney Oldfield on the mother of Marlene. We had to shorten this article a bit. The full memory can be read at <http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/5340/meframe.htm>

#### 82nd Airborne Friend in Need

by Col Barney Oldfield, USAF retired.

Marlene Dietrich's mother, Frau von Losch, was only one of the many problems encountered by the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II, but handled in such a manner that makes old-timers from that fighting outfit get teary-eyed even yet.

Marlene Dietrich, when she entertained troops along the front (she played a saw, believe it or not) told all combat troops and warcorrespondents that whoever go to Berlin should go to an address she would give them and ask for Frau Von Losch. She then asked that word be sent to her if Frau von Losch was alive.

Lt Gen James M. Gavin, US Army retired, then the 82nd Airborne Division's commander and I were two who heard Miss Dietrich's request. Another, Lt Col Albert McCleery, has since died. Col McCleery and I were in the first American column to enter Berlin on 1 July 1945. Once inside city limits Col McCleery made a beeline for the Von Losch address, found Miss Dietrich's mother alive and well, but meagerly fed and caring for a 95-year old aunt. Word was sent to Paris to her daughter, who immediately caught a flight to Berlin on the military shuttle, as she was in the USO then. When her estimated time of arrival was known at Berlin's Tempelhof airport, I gathered up Frau von Losch and two photographers, and took them to meet her.

Frau Von Losch was instructed to stand alone on the runway's great cement apron and I asked the tower to have a shuttle taxi up for her. When her daughter burst from the plane, it made for one of the most touching reunions of the war.



© Filmmuseum Berlin - MDCB

Later, when Gen Gavin and I were in London, two terrible messages were forwarded to us - the Army had selected the 101st Airborne Division to be the regular Army's postwar airborne unit so the 82nd would be dismantled and Frau von Losch had died. As our plane flew us back to Berlin, Gen Gavin, softspoken as always and with his own grief about seeing the division which was so much a part of him consigned to oblivion, turned to me and said: "Do everything you can about her". He did not say her name, but it was obvious that he meant Frau von Losch. After all, the nonfraternization regulation was in existence and no legal interrelationships were possible between Americans and Germans, even concerning burial of dead.

Once on the ground in Berlin, we learned that Miss Dietrich was flying in. There was not much time. I got four 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers to go to a nearby cemetery and dig a grave. A German undertaker was contacted to perform his role, which included the hiring of three professional mourners, who were part of such ceremonies.

Under the cover of darkness, the four paratroopers went to the second-floor flat once occupied by Frau von Losch, where her body lay in a plain coffin. They took the coffin down the steep stairs, placed it reverently in a truck and transported it to the cemetery, where it was placed in a grave. The sun was about to come up on the dreary scene, so they went into hiding.

Marlene Dietrich arrived, escorted by Time magazine war correspondent William Walton. He had jumped with the 82nd in Normandy and since he was a member of the press, attending a German funeral would not be held against him. The graveside finalities were short. Miss Dietrich cried constantly. At the end of the service, she and William Walton cast handfuls of dirt on the coffin, turned their backs and walked away. That night, the four paratroopers filled in the resting place. It was a macabre scene, as the cemetery had been heavily bombed by artillery. Only the grave of Frau van Losch was intact.

To this day, Marlene Dietrich loves every member of the 82nd Airborne Division. They could do anything - and did - including giving her mother a descent burial, no matter what the regulations said. Not many know this story. So many war correspondents then in Berlin wrote stories which questioned picking the 101st over the 82nd that the headquarters of the Army ground forces switched signals and saved the 82nd, thus canceling the 101st. To live in the 82nd's neighborhood was to be engulfed by the specialness of it, even the hard-bitten press types were. Those who served with that division feel sort of sorry for all who do not know what it is like to have been in an outfit like that.

End of Newsletter