



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. 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 fans and friends,

this newsletter started with about 55 recipients, mostly friends and supporters of the archive. Now, about 18 months later it has grown to more than 600 recipients from various countries all over the world. Thank you all for participating.

It has been a hectic christmas for those who organized events for the centenary and a grand party for those who just came to celebrate. If you came to the museum between christmas and the new year you had to wait in line to get a ticket and those who just wanted to see the centenary exhibition had to wait in line to get a good look at the items displayed. Well, Dietrich, the MDCB and the Filmmuseum were all over the media.

The LA Times gives this short report on official german reactions to Marlene at 100:
"Germany has marked the 100th anniversary of Marlene Dietrich's birth with a tribute from Johannes Rau, the country's president--and an apology from Andre Schmitz, the Berlin mayor's chief of staff. At issue: the hostile reception the actress received when she returned to the city in 1960 after a 30-year absence. Because Dietrich not only supported the Allies during World War II, but called Hitler an idiot, picketers branded her a traitor and demanded that she go home. "Dietrich was far ahead of many of her contemporaries," Schmitz said. Rau emphasized her commitment to democracy and freedom during the Nazi era, while Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder termed her Germany's first international star."

However the centenary was a bit overshadowed by the sensational news that Marlene may have committed suicide. Sensational news? We have been asked if that could be true and our answer was and still is: there are more decent ways to celebrate the centenary than promoting "May have" news like that.

News:

The sites of the "Freunde and Förderer" have improved their Marlene "Special". It is on their german site only. Even if you do not understand german you will enjoy the pictures. Here is how to get there. Go to www.fffb.de; the site opens very quickly, click on Deutsch. Within in the next picture you click on "Marlene Special". And there you click on "Forever Young" – virtueller Rundgang (Virtual visit). To see more photos you may also visit "Geburtstags-Bildergalerie". Oh, by the way we have a question for all you experts. On the third page of the "Geburtstags-Bildergalerie" there is a photo showing Marlene and Douglas Fairbanks Jr.. You can also see a bit of Tyrone Power leaning in. But who are those other two guys, the one to the left and the one to the right. Any idea?



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Sorry, no price to win for that answer. But if you want to win a DVD of the Blue Angel (the new edition) go to <http://www.arte-tv.com/dossier/dossier.jsp?node=7556>.

They too have a Marlene Special. Alas, there is one mistake in their questions. Arte is asking for the original title of "Cantiques de cantiques". But there is no french film title with Marlene by that name. What they really mean is "Cantique d'amour". You see, this is something for smart people like you are. The site is in german and in french.

Some sad news have to be added:
Paul Landres, editor of „Pittsburgh“, died in December at the age of 89.

Plus: The Museum of Modern Art has closed down its archive of movie stills and kicked out Mary Corliss and Terry Geesken. This is the only department of Moma which has been closed since their very existence – however as officials declared this has nothing to do with Mary Corliss being a member of the union who fought for their rights in last years strike. They both been kicked out on very short notice; to be exact they got information on Wednesday that Friday is their last day – however as officials declared this has nothing to do with Mary Corliss ...

This is all part of a careful plan say Stephen Higgins and Mary Lea Bandy. They move the archive to Pennsylvania, not reachable by any public transport. If you call it a careful plan to pack four million stills in three days we'd rather not ask for all the other careful plans of Moma. Well, it has been said that Moma wants to digitize these photos. But an experienced guy at Corbis states that with the financial means of Moma it would take such a long time that the photos would simply not survive the time it takes to digitize them.

Call it careful, call it what you like – it is simply an act not worthy of any museum. And it states a very bad example for the power of bureaucrats. Congratulations to those filmmakers and stars who did not give their collection to Moma.

This is a loss to all serious film researchers. But as officials declared it has nothing to do...

Read more at

<http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0204/kaufman.php>

The Goethe Institut Inter Nationes Boston will hold a Faschingsparty at the 26th of January. It is called the "Blue Angel Ball" and includes a band singing Marlene Songs, a Marlene Look-Alike Contest and much more. Tickets are 25 \$. For detailed information get in contact with giin@hotmail.com

David Rivas film "Her own song" will have its European premiere at the Berlin Film Festival Sunday February 10th at the "Panorama"-section. More about the film in our next newsletter.

New books:

Peter Bahl has done an excellent research concerning the whereabouts of the Dietrich, the Felsing and the von Losch family. His contribution is illustrated with a lot of unknown photographs and full of facts nobody, not even us did know about. If all you Dietrich people out

there ever wondered if you are related to Marlene this is the piece you were always looking for. Every family tree is there. It is published as a 90 page article in: Herold Jahrbuch, Neue Folge, 6. Band. Verlag Degener & Co., Neustadt a.d. Aisch. Or just write to us and we forward your e-mail to Peter Bahl.



The Haus der Geschichte in Bonn is currently showing an exhibition on the history of the song "Lili Marleen". Yes, you can see some objects from MDCB in the exhibit. Even better for all those who want to know about the song the haus published an excellent and colourful illustrated book to go along with the show. Take a look at their site at <http://www.hdg.de/Final/deu/page2793.htm>. There is even a little section on Marlene.

Questions and answers:

We have to remind you that as an archive we are not allowed to sell or exchange or copy videos. All we can do is to publish your want list and ask our readers to get in contact with you. Also we don't do any appraisals. But from time to time we may publish an offer which we regard as interesting to our readers. And last but not least: We do not answer questions like "Please give me a short impression on the character of Rudi Sieber. I need this for an article."

Martin Wiedemeier asks where the Riva family lives. Maria, Marlenes and Rudies only child and Paul, third grandson to Marlene, are living in Palm Springs. His brothers David and Michael are residents of Los Angeles and Peter is living in the state of New York.

David Moore is asking if there are any plans for Marlene exhibitions in Great Britain. No, Sir, we get a lot of requests for exhibitions which lead to nothing – from Great Britain we do not even get requests.

And is there a reconstruction of Marlenes dressing room in Sanssouci? Well, they have a dressing room at Filmmuseum Potsdam, but it is just a sort of a studio wardrobe with one or two pieces from MDCB.

Patrick Laumann and a lot of other people are looking for a video of "Schöner Gigolo, armer Gigolo". The film is not available in video shops but if somebody of you can help Patrick just write him an e-mail: fabricepb69@netscape.net

Karina Goltz and again a few other people were touched by the way Marlene speaks the poem in Maximilian Schells "Marlene" portrait. It's the poem "Der Liebe Dauer" by Ferdinand Freiligrath:

O lieb, solange du lieben kannst!
O lieb, solange du lieben magst!
Die Stunde kommt, die Stunde kommt,
wo du an Gräbern stehst und klagst!

Und Sorge, daß dein Herze glüht
und Liebe hegt und Liebe trägt,
solang ihm noch ein ander Herz
in Liebe warm entgegenschlägt.

Und wer dir seine Brust erschließt,
o tu ihm, was du kannst, zulieb!
Und mach ihm jede Stunde froh,
und mach ihm keine Stunde trüb!

Und hüte deine Zunge wohl,
bald ist ein böses Wort gesagt!
O Gott, es war nicht böse gemeint -
der andre aber geht und klagt.

O lieb, solange du lieben kannst!
(as strophe 1)

Dann kniest du nieder an der Gruft,
und birgst die Augen, trüb und naß,
- sie sehn den andern nimmermehr -
ins lange, feuchte Kirchhofgras.

Und sprichst: O schau auf mich herab,
der hier an deinem Grabe weint!
Vergib, daß ich gekränkt dich hab'!
O Gott, es war nicht böse gemeint!

Er aber sieht und hört dich nicht,
kommt nicht, daß du ihn froh umfängst;
der Mund, der oft dich küßte, spricht
nie wieder: ich vergab dir längst!

Er tat's, vergab dir lange schon,
doch manche heiße Träne fiel
um dich und um dein herbes Wort.
Doch still - er ruht, er ist am Ziel!

O lieb, solange du lieben kannst!
(as strophe 1)

Heinz W. Puppe from Texas likes to know the kind of relationship between Marlene and Ronald Reagan.

They knew each other from their Hollywood days and corresponded while Reagan was President of the United States. However they never played in a movie together.

What kind of religious confession did Marlene have? She was Protestant.

Deborah Kasnetz would like to have a CD of Marlenes 1960 performance in Israel. So sorry Deborah, the concert was not recorded officially and therefore there is no CD. But it may be that some of our readers do have a tape. If so, get in contact with kasnetzd001@hawaii.rr.com

Stefanie Olsowski is still looking for the german version of "Witness for the prosecution". That should not be a problem. Please get in contact with Stef.K.O.-Sarow@t-online.de

Monique Maurel wants to know if there is a french book on the life of Marlene. Well, Monique, there are more than one. Every bookstore can give you a list. Or just order Maria Rivas book from www.alapage.fr or any other online shop.

Frank Robinson: Can you tell me when Marlene Dietrich appeared in Southport England to open the new theatre there?
From 23rd – 26th of May 1976.

Mystic wrote:

When I was in Paris, my hotel room had a beautiful poster of Marlene Dietrich with the words, "Cantique D' Amour" (Song of Love). Is this the title of a film she was in?

This is the french title for "Song of Songs", 1933 movie by Rouben Mamoulian. Mystic, if you do not want to give us your real name please name at least the hotel in Paris.

Vickie Rivera wrote : For Christmas I received a large framed poster (kind of deco) of Marlene Dietrich, with the name of a French film which was only released in France with all American actors. The name of the movie on the poster is "L'ammaiatrice". I wonder if you can give me some background on this movie and what this French word means?

The original title of the film is "The Flame of New Orleans", a Joe Pasternak production from 1941 with René Clair directing. It is available on video, more data are to be found on www.imdb.com.



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Marlene Dietrich and Bruce Cabot in "The Flame of New Orleans."

Hello, my name is Delano and I wanted to find out if that new Documentary on Miss Dietrich will be available to purchase on VHS(video) because I'm not able to get TCM. Also I would like to know how can I get to see some of Miss Dietrich's less popular films such as "Manpower", "The Monte Carlo Story", "Martin Roumagnac" and "Rancho Notorious". Also Miss Dietrich was in last friday's Daily News!!! Her New York apartment is on the market for \$1.89 million. If I was rich I would buy it! bye!!!

I we would be rich we would donate it to the Marlene Dietrich Collection. If you can not find "Manpower" or "Rancho Notorious" in big video shops try www.ebay.com. "Martin Roumagnac" is not available at the moment but we have heard that the copyright situation of this film finally has been cleared. 2002 may be the year of the re-release. Can somebody help Delano with a video of David Rivas film? Get in contact with delanosampson@hotmail.com

Vasek Hajek from Prague is like so many others looking for lyrics to Marlene Dietrich songs. There is a website with the lyrics in preparation and we will let you know when it's out.

While checking our e-mail box at the end of the year we have found this one which we answered but it came back with a note "adress unknown".

Please refer to my earlier email dated 2/16/01 concerning a diamond bracelet believed to have belonged to Marlene Dietrich. I have since found (from Vendura Jlry, Fifth

Ave., NYNY) that the bracelet was made between 1928 and 1935. If you would like a photo of the bracelet to help identify it, please let me know and the photo can be faxed or emailed to you. Thank you. Yes, a picture would help – if we could only reach you.

I have a serigraph of Marlene, dressed in black with a pink background. She's holding her hand out with a diamond bracklet, catching diamonds from above. It's 59/300 but I can't make out artist name. This was mywife's favorite painting before she died a year ago at 38. I'm trying to find out as much information about it for my own soul searching I guest. I would be most greyful for anything you have on this, and if possible a rough value. – We have no idea but if any of you have please write to victimofrelativ@webtv.net

Laurent Bovas is looking for videos of Marlenes concerts. Yes, these are hard to find. Try www.ebay.com. If any of our readers can help contact lbovas@t-online.de

There was some news about new films with a digitally reborn, the virtual Marlene. Viktoria Wunderlich from Hungary wants to know if any of those plans were realized. – We saw a clip of the virtual Marlenebut as far as we know Virtual Celebrety – the company that produced the clip – went into the virtual nirvana itself.

If you haven't found the question to your answer in this newsletter do drop us a line. And yes we are way behind schedule.

End of Newsletter