



Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division of Filmmuseum Berlin - Deutsche Kinemathek

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Dear fans and friends,

May again has been a busy month. It marked the tenth anniversary of Marlenes death date with the highlight of journalists at the grave who did not ask questions but simply hold their microphones to your mouth and said: "Say something". At least, they could think of a question, didn't they.

On May 16<sup>th</sup> Marlene was declared Honorary Citizen of Berlin – the first person ever to receive this honor after her death. We listened to music, to speeches and again Marlene made the headline as she did all her lifetime. Peter Riva was in Berlin to receive the honor as representative of the family; and as always Peter was busy, busy, busy to promote the Marlene Dietrich Collecection and the Filmmuseum to journalists worldwide.



President of Berlin Parliament Walter Momper (l.) and the mayor of Berlin Klaus Wowereit (r.) hand the document of honorary citizenship to Marlene's grandson Peter Riva (m.).

And here is an excerpt of the speech the Mayor Berlin held at the ceremony:

"Ernest Hemingway once said about Marlene Dietrich: 'If she only had her voice, she could break your heart.' Today we are once again able to see how right he was.

Marlene Dietrich's voice touches us – not only with its modulation, which is colored by age and her experience in life, but especially because of her clear and uncompromising attitude towards Berlin and her role as a Berliner in Germany's political history. And not least also because of the many images that her voice evokes.

Marlene Dietrich and Berlin: this had not always been a harmonious relationship, indeed for a long time it was not harmonious at all. Berlin is the city where Marlene Dietrich was born, from here she plunged into a great international career that took her to Hollywood, New York, Paris, Rome, and London. She had the audience around the world at her feet.

Berlin, however, did not appreciate Marlene Dietrich properly, Berlin treated her rudely. We remember not without shame the degrading incidents in the year 1960 when the great actress, the international show star was accused because of her actions against the Nazis and was welcomed with signs saying 'Marlene, go home'. Back then Berlin showed Marlene its ugly side. There can be no sympathy for such behavior.

But Marlene Dietrich presented to the world the best sides of a Berliner. Three years after her terrible experience she published a book in which she underlined here affection for Berlin despite all her experience. Under the heading 'home town' she writes, 'My home town is Berlin. I am a Berliner and I will continue to be a Berliner and I am grateful for being a Berliner.'

Why does Marlene express her feelings for Berlin so clearly? The explanation is surprising and unconventional: because of the Berlin humor. It is, as Marlene says, 'a sharp, dry,

natural humor, mixed with gallows humor and self-mockery’.

Her gallows humor, meaning ‘the ability to laugh about one’s own fate even when faced with disasters’, was – as she tells us in her writing – Hemingway’s greatest pleasure: ‘It was one of the reasons for our friendship.’ In other words: What Hemingway appreciated in Marlene was the Berlin traits in her character. Is there any nicer compliment for a home town?

Today we are honoring a woman who with her charm, elegance, and self-discipline presented Berlin’s best sides to the international public from 1930 until today and will most certainly also do so way into the 21st century.

This honor comes at a late point in time, maybe some people think that it is too late. But Marlene Dietrich is a personality who sets unusual standards. She had deserved the honorary citizenship as early as in the 1940s, or in the 1960s the latest. Berlin, however, first had to build up a clear attitude towards its famous daughter. This was a long process that was not without pain and embarrassment. I will spare you and myself the details. And once again Marlene Dietrich and together with her, her daughter Maria Riva took the decisive step towards us.

Marlene Dietrich chose Berlin as her final resting-place. This was also a sign of reconciliation. And in 1993 Maria Riva entrusted Berlin with her mother’s extensive estate for the city to take care of it and evaluate it. Part of this collection is permanently exhibited at the Berlin Film Museum. Only a few yards from this place, we now have the ‘Marlene-Dietrich-Platz’.

And not only that: the Berlin Film Museum receives requests from many cities in the world for exhibits from the Marlene Dietrich Collection – and wherever there is an exhibition about Marlene Dietrich, Berlin also presents itself with its new, unconditionally positive attitude towards the only world star from Germany. This year Los Angeles is going to exhibit a selection from her estate, and next year a great exhibition is to take place in Paris. Berlin is quite right to be proud of its famous daughter. She is dear to us and she is precious to us.

Today I would like to especially welcome Peter Riva, Marlene Dietrich’s grandson who will receive the certificate of honor on behalf for her family. I can assure you, Mr. Riva, that the work of the Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin will be continued also in times of financial difficulties. We will not risk the opportunities that your grandmother and your mother

presented Berlin with. So please also understand this ceremony as a confirmation of our commitment.”

#### **Questions and answers:**

We publish this question from the UK because we are not sure that Neil Fox, co-director of the FILMSTOCK International Film Festival in Luton, UK, ever got our answer:

Our festival is in June and we are pleased to welcome Angie Bowie, author and ex-wife of David to do a talk at the event. Her talk is about bisexuality, to promote her new book on bisexuals and icons and we are following the talk with a screening of a Dietrich film. Ms Bowie has asked us to get hold of the film where she sings the song 'Jonny'.

A: Marlene sang the song “Jonny “ (by Friedrich Hollaender) in the film “Song of Songs” (US, 1933 directed by Rouben Mamoulian).

Emerson Persona from Brazil asked:

I know that Marlene had a sister called Liese. I want to know if Liese lived here in Brazil and if there are some Marlene's relatives living here too, please?

A: We don't know of any relatives of Marlene living in Brazil. Her sister Elisabeth never left Germany except for holidays in European countries. But take a look at the family tree below.

And this question goes out to Alexandre Andre from South America. Although pushing the return mail button our mail to you came back as “Undeliverable”. What happened to your e-mail adress?

#### **Family tree:**

As promised in our last newsletter here is the first part of a family tree of Marlene which was published by Peter Bahl in “Herold-Jahrbuch, volume 6” . We admit it is hard to read even for those who understand german. It starts with the grandfather Christian Dietrich and his 11 children. Within the children section you'll find more data on the grandchildren. Child No. 8 is the father of Marlene and in this margin you will find the information on Marlene, her child Maria and her grandchildren. For all those who are wondering if they are related to Marlene this is your basic stuff. You better get out your dictionary. And give us some corrections please. We thank Peter Bahl for giving us permission to reprint this piece of fine research.

**Marlene Dietrichs relatives on the side of the father** (Nachfahren der Großeltern väterlicherseits; \* = born, ∞ = married to, † = died):

### Dietrich (DIEDRICH), Christian,

\* Schmargendorf (Kr. Angermünde) 18. 9. 1820, † Eberswalde 26. 9. 1898, Sattlermeister u. Krüger in Schmargendorf, dann Gastwirt in Angermünde, zuletzt Rentner in Eberswalde; ∞ Herzsprung (Kr. Angermünde) 22. 12. 1850 Auguste *Ottlie* OTTO, \* Klein Ziethen (Kr. Angermünde) 19. 4. 1829, † Eberswalde 4. 2. 1918, hinterläßt 11 Enkel u. 7 Urenkel. Kinder:

1. DIETRICH, Christian Friedrich Rudolph,  
\* Schmargendorf 28. 2. 1851, † ebd. 7. 10. 1853.

2. DIETRICH, Otilie Auguste Wilhelmine,  
Schmargendorf 7. 7. 1852, † Prenzlau 28. 7. 1923; ∞ Angermünde 2. 4. 1872 Ernst SCHMIDT, \* Pyritz/Pommern 11. 9. 1845, † Hirschberg/Schlesien 6. 1. 1896, Kgl. Eisenbahnmaterialienverwalter. Sohn (vermutlich weitere Kinder, jedoch bislang unbekannt):  
1) SCHMIDT, Richard, \* Angermünde 23. 9. 1879, † Minden/Westf. 10. 2. 1962, Dr. jur., Rechtsanwalt u. Notar in Prenzlau, dann desgl. in Minden, Änderung des Familiennamens in SCHMIDT-DIETRICH durch Ermächtigung des Preußischen Justizministers Berlin 23. 12. 1930; ∞ Berlin 15. 10. 1920 Auguste ERNESTI, \* Münster/Westf. 30. 10. 1893, † Minden 27. 4. 1985. Einziger Sohn: (1) SCHMIDT-DIETRICH, Hartmut, \* Prenzlau 24. 5. 1922, Rechtsanwalt u. Notar in Minden; ∞ Minden 25. 7. 1968 Hertha MARX, \* Dessau 24. 8. 1924.

3. DIETRICH, Marie Charlotte Wilhelmine,  
\* Schmargendorf 21. 3. 1854, † Anklam 1878 oder 1879; ∞ Angermünde (Hl. Geist-Kirche) 18. 9. 1874 Osmar KRIEGLER, \* Berlin (KB Dreifaltigkeitskirche) 1. 5. 1847, † Bad Freienwalde (Oder) 1874. Mechanicus bei der Berlin-Stettiner Eisenbahn in Stettin, (1877) Telegraphen-Aufseher in Anklam. Sohn:  
1) KRIEGLER, Ernst, \* Anklam 12. 8. 1877, † Berlin-Charlottenburg 24. 8. 1936, Kaufmännischer Angestellter in Berlin; ∞ Berlin Febr. 1900 Emma KLÖPFEL, \* Berlin 19. 1. 1878, † Berlin-Schmargendorf 2. 12. 1941. Tochter: (1) KRIEGLER, Edith, \* Berlin-Charlottenburg 16. 7. 1900, † München 26. 11. 1960, Sekretärin; ∞ Berlin-Tempelhof 16. 7. 1928 Karl HEINICKE, \* Halle/Saale 9. 9. 1886, † München 2. 12. 1968, Kaufmann in Berlin. Tochter: HEINICKE, Helga, \* Berlin-Tempelhof 16. 6. 1929, Sekretärin; ∞ Horst ALEXANDER, Beamter. 1 Sohn.

4. DIETRICH, Hermann Adolph Christian,  
\* Schmargendorf 11. 5. 1856, † Metzeltin (Kr. Templin/Uckermark) 5. 7. 1930. Ehrenbürger in Prenzlau, Politiker; ∞ Ida FROWEIN. Kinderlos.

5. DIETRICH, Christian, \*Angermünde 12. 4. 1858, † (vor 1898), Förster in der Uckermark.

6. DIETRICH, Anna Agathe Auguste,  
\* Angermünde 11. 5. 1863, lebt 1930 in Eberswalde.

7. DIETRICH, Wilhelm Carl Heinrich,  
\* Angermünde 1. 6. 1865, † (vor 1898).



8. DIETRICH, Louis Erich Otto, \* Angermünde 26. 8. 1867; † (Berlin-)Westend 5. 8. 1908, Kgl. preuß. Polizei-Leutnant in (Berlin-Schöneberg); ∞ ... Dez. 1898 [?] Wilhelmine Elisabeth *Josephine* FELSING., \* Berlin 27. 11. 1876, † Berlin-Friedenau 6. 11. 1945. ∞ Anf. Aug. 1914 *Eduard* Louis Ferdinand Alwin V. LOSCH, \* Dessau 20. 12. 1875, † Feldlazarett Miroslavo/Galizien 16. 7. 1916, Kgl. preuß. Hauptmann. Kinder:

1) DIETRICH, Otilie Josephine *Elisabeth*, \* (Berlin-)Schöneberg 5. 2. 1900, † Bergen (Kr. Celle) 8. 5. 1973; ∞ Berlin-Charlottenburg 26. 11. 1927 Georg WILL, \* Teplitz 19. 9. 1899, † Hannover 10. 12. 1965, Filmtheaterbesitzer. Sohn: (1) WILL, Hans-Georg, \* Berlin-Charlottenburg 7. 6. 1928, Werbeberater; ∞ Gudrun ZEH, Kindergärtnerin. 1 Sohn.  
2) DIETRICH, Marie Magdalene (*Marlene*), \* (Berlin-)Schöneberg 27. 12. 1901, † Paris 6. 5. 1992, Schauspielerin; ∞ Berlin-Friedenau 17. 5. 1923 *Rudolf* Emilian SIEBER, \* Aussig/Böhmen 20. 2. 1897, † Sylmar, Calif., Ende Juni 1976, Regisseur. Tochter: (1) SIEBER, *Maria* Elisabeth, \* Berlin 13. 12. 1924, Schauspielerin; ∞ I. Hollywood 23. 8. 1943 [1944?] (gesch. 1946) Dean GOODMAN,

\* Heppner, Oregon 2. 7. 1920, Schauspieler, Theaterregisseur; ∞ Il. New York 4. 7. 1947  
William RIVA, \* Detroit/USA 18. 7. 1919,  
† ... 2. 7. 1999, Bühnenbildner u. Spielzeug-  
designer. Kinder:  
1) RIVA, John *Michael*, \* New York 28. 6. 1947,  
Filmdesigner; ∞ Wendy MICKELL. 3 Söhne.  
2) John *Peter*, \* New York 11. 5. 1950,  
President "International Transactions, Inc." in  
Wassaic, New York; ∞ Sandra Anne HAY. 2  
Söhne.  
3) John *Paul*, \* New York 30. 5. 1957; ∞ Marilee  
Anne WARNER. 2 Kinder.  
4) John *David*, \* New York 6. 6. 1961,  
Filmproduzent in Hollywood.

9. DIETRICH, Richard Friedrich Carl,  
\* Angermünde 27. 11. 1870, † (Angermünde)  
31. 3. 1873. Zwilling mit:

10. DIETRICH, Max Conrad Johannes,  
\* Angermünde 27. 11. 1870, † (gefallen)  
Hartlepool, Grafschaft Durham/England 28. 11.  
1916 als Kapitänleutnant d. Res. u.  
Kommandant eines Marineluftschiffs, Kapitän  
des Norddeutschen Lloyd; ∞ Alwine KÜLKEN,  
\* (Bremerhaven-)Geestemünde 7. 12. 1882,  
† Seewalchen bei Kammer/Oberösterreich 17.  
3. 1944. Kinder:  
1) DIETRICH, *Luise Ottilie* (Lilo), \* Bremen 1. 6.  
1907, † Vöcklabruck/ Oberösterreich 18. 3.  
2001; ∞ Hamburg 31. 12. 1929 Franz  
SCHERER, \* Vöcklabruck 22. 1. 1895, †  
Seewalchen 16. 5. 1981, Kaufm. Angest.  
Kinder: (1) SCHERER, *Monika*, \* Hamburg  
1932, † Seewalchen 1942. (2) SCHERER,  
*Kathrein*, \* Berlin 1934, Chemielaborantin; ∞  
Marc GOLDBIRSCHE, Psychiater in Florida. 4  
Kinder. (3) SCHERER, *Karola*, \* Berlin 1938; ∞  
Gerd JANTZEN, Dipl.-Ing. für Maschinenbau in  
Lenzing. 3 Kinder. (4) SCHERER, *Rixa*, \* Berlin  
1939, † London 1998, diplomierte  
Privatlehrerin für Englisch in Cambridge/UK; ∞  
John STOWELL, PhD, Hydrologe. 4 Kinder. (5)  
SCHERER, *Franz*, \* Berlin 1941, Dr.,  
Betriebswirt, Vorstandsmitglied eines  
Unternehmens in Köln; ∞ Christine  
HOHENHAUS. 2 Kinder. (6) SCHERER, *Annette*,  
\* Salzburg 1947, † Hamburg 1982.  
2) DIETRICH, *Christian Hermann Max*,  
\* Bremerhaven 28. 4. 1909, † Baden-Baden  
12. 1. 1983, Dipl.-Ing., Maschinenbau- u.  
Flugzeugtechnik-Ingenieur; ∞ München 13.  
12. 1938 Barbara BÜHLMAYER,  
Kostümbildnerin. Kinder: (1) DIETRICH,  
*Christian*, \* Röbel (Kr. Waren/Müritz) 1939,  
Dipl.-Ing., Maschinenbauingenieur, Techn.  
Angestellter in Schondorf; ∞ Notburga  
WICHERT, Katechetin. 2 Söhne. (2) DIETRICH,  
*Alke*, \* Röbel (Kr. Waren/Müritz) 1940; ∞ *Oskar*  
Franz PUTZ, Dr. med., Facharzt für Chirurgie in  
Augsburg. (3) DIETRICH, *Jan*, \* Rechlin (Müritz)  
1944, Dr.-Ing., Maschinenbauingenieur,

Techn. Angestellter in Bühl/Baden; ∞ *Marion*  
Irene Bettina SCHERER. 2 Kinder.

11. DIETRICH, Elise Clara Sophie,  
\* Angermünde 10. 8. 1872, † (Angermünde)  
2. 9. 1872.

12. DIETRICH, Selma Frieda Flora,  
\* Angermünde 8. 2. 1875, † Berlin-Wannsee  
5. 6. 1955; ∞ ... 17. 7. 1897 Hugo LOEWE,  
Landgerichtsrat in Posen, dann  
Amtsgerichtsrat in Potsdam.

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