



NEWSLETTER No. 42

August 16th, 2002

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 Friends and Fans,

Summer break is over – eh, wait a minute, anybody mentioned the word summer? There was snow in Greece and Italy, a Hurricane over Berlin, rainstorms and disasters in Austria, Germany and Czec. And in our little world of film archiving in Berlin we had to fight disasters too: Our storage building far from the museum itself is being renovated. At the moment we are moving to a new building with all our apparatuses, posters, the Marlene library and textile, the Special Effects section and ... and. Wisely enough we are now located at the top level of a five floor building. In these times you better beware from rising water than from rain coming down. Still waiting for the summer...



His Excellency, the Ambassador of the United States in Germany, Mr. Daniel R. Coats, visited the Filmmuseum Berlin July 27th. As you can plainly see he is having a great time while Marlene is looking rather skeptical. Or is she smiling? That old Kuleshev effect is fooling us again...

Leni Riefenstahl

Our congratulations for her 100th anniversary go to Leni Riefenstahl. There has been much speculation about Leni and Marlene. Did Leni and Marlene had

anything in common? Were they friends, even lovers? Haven't they been seen together at a Berlin gala?

Yes, there are two photographs by Alfred Eisenstaedt taken at a Berlin journalists ball in early 1930. Marlene is chatting with Anna May Wong and Leni Riefenstahl. So what? Remember, the year is 1930, the Blue Angel hasn't yet been shown in public and it took another three years till Hitler came to power. Leni Riefenstahl in her memoirs remembers that she suggested Marlene to Sternberg for the part of Lola Lola. The story was first published in the german yellow press journal „Bunte“ in May 1987. Marlene cabled „Bunte“ on June 3rd 1987: „The Riefenstahl story is so ridiculous that Sternberg and Remarque would have laughed themselves to death if they wouldn't be dead already.“ „Bunte“ in reply offered Marlene as many pages as she would like to tell her version of the story. Awaiting the scoop of his lifetime „Bunte“ editor told the biggest german daily „Bild“ about the „Last showdown of the old ladies“. But this did not happen as Marlene wisely did not react. In June 1991 Marlene was asked in a letter to meet Leni Riefenstahl. „She would like to clear up a few things which to the great regret of Leni Riefenstahl might be standing between her and you“. Marlene just noted on that letter „Nazi“. They never met again.

The main difference between Marlene and Leni? Leni Riefenstahl fell for the Nazis, Marlene fought against the Nazis. And that sums up the whole story of their relationship.

Hollywood Entertainment Museum

The Berlin exhibiton on Marlene will be at the Hollywood Entertainment Museum. Thanks go to our good friends Chris Horak from the museum and the never-tiring staff at the Goethe Institute, especially Ute Kirchhelle and Margit Kleinman. Gero Gandert, senior curator of the Filmmuseum will be there plus Kristina Jaspers and Nils Warnecke from our exhibition department. Give them a warm welcome. This is the press release of the Museum: "Marlene Dietrich: Forever Young", a bravura

exhibition of rare photographs, costumes, love letters, props and other exotic artifacts, curated for the star's 100th birthday, will make its exclusive North American appearance at Hollywood Entertainment Museum (7021 Hollywood Blvd.), opening Thursday, September 5.

Contents of "Forever Young" number about 120 individual pieces and span four decades dating from 1930, reflecting Dietrich's most notable years. They include glamour portraits and candid photographs, correspondence and gifts from lovers and admirers (Douglas Fairbanks Jr., Ernest Hemingway, Edith Piaf, Erich Maria Remarque, Alfred Hitchcock, David Bowie, Richard Nixon and then-senator George Bush, Burt Bacharach, Yul Brynner, Jean Cocteau, Vittorio de Sica, Christian Dior, Grace Kelly, Hildegard Knef, Jean Louis, Robert Redford, Maximilian Schell, Frank Sinatra, Billy Wilder and Orson Welles are among them), a circus outfit she wore at a charity event, her famous Swan Coat, jewelry and a bust of French film star Jean Gabin, one of her most infamous lovers.

"Everyone that was important in Marlene's life is somehow represented in the exhibition, either by photograph, letters or some other very special piece of memorabilia," said Jan-Christopher Horak, curator of Hollywood Entertainment Museum. "It is a party peopled by ghosts from her past."

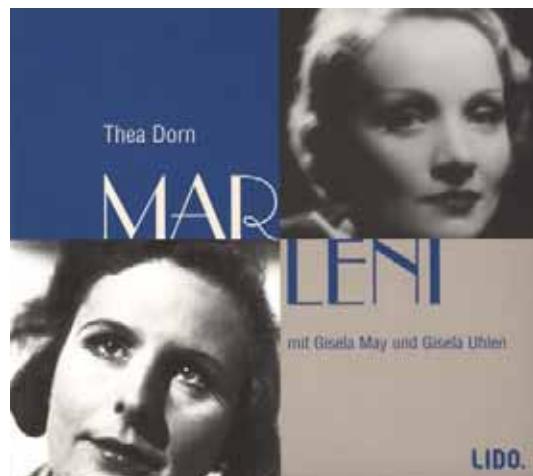
Other major elements of the exhibit include recordings of Dietrich singing various songs that will be accessible via MP3 players and video and film clips of actresses who have imitated the star's most famous role of Lola from "The Blue Angel."

The Goethe Institute Los Angeles is co-sponsoring "Marlene Dietrich: Forever Young," with major funding from Lufthansa Cargo, Lufthansa German Airlines, Berlin Tourist Office, Kino International and Villa Aurora. On view through Sunday, December 1, it will be the only opportunity to see the rare memorabilia in the U.S. Open daily through Labor Day (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.), the Museum is located one block west of Grauman's Chinese Theatre in the lower level of the Hollywood Galaxy complex. Parking is off Sycamore Avenue and is \$2 for two hours with Museum validation. For more information call (323) 465-7900.

Film Series at LACMA

Ian Birnie from the Los Angeles County Museum is organising a film series on Marlene. About fifteen sound films will be on the program. Alas, we do not know any titles or dates. So you better check www.lacma.org for more informations.

New CDs :



"Marleni". Radioplay by Thea Dorn. Gisela May speaks Marlene Dietrich, Gisela Uhlen as Leni Riefenstahl, directed by Jörg Jannings. What would have happened if Leni Riefenstahl would have visited Marlene in her Paris apartment to offer her a part in Leni's newest film production? A rather bizarre plot which makes a great comedy if you like that sort of entertainment. Billy Wilder would have loved it. Produced by SFB/ORB and Radio Bremen. Lido Verlag 2002, in German.



Erich Maria Remarque "Sag mir, daß Du mich liebst..." Zeugnisse einer Leidenschaft – Briefe an Marlene Dietrich. Spoken by Stephan Benson. Hoffmann und Campe 2002, German version.

Questions and answers

Julian from England wants to know: "When in the early sixties/late fifties did Marlene appear in Edinburgh? Have you got an information about that appearance?"

A: During Edinburgh Festival in September 1964 she performed there at Royal Lyceum Theatre and once more in August 1965 at the same place.

Gino Empry wrote:

We have been searching for stores where we can buy the Documentary of Marlene Dietrich - Her Own Song here in Toronto, Canada. Can you tell us if it is available here or in the United States and which stores?

A: It is not available yet but you can ask the director J. David Riva, AskAPG@aol.com

Kimi Clark: I am desperately trying to obtain a copy of Martin Roumagnac for my sister, an unbelievable devout Marlene Dietrich fan. I know that this is no simple task, and I would appreciate any help you can give me in the matter. She wants to see this movie so badly and has for some years been trying to get a copy.

If any of you can help Kimi write to
greenruskie@yahoo.com

Doesn't MDCB have a video of "Martin Roumagnac"? Oh yes, we have one but according to the german and probably also the international law we are not allowed to lend it or to draw copies. If you are in Berlin you can watch it here. Isn't that another good reason to visit Marlenes hometown?

After we have been asked over and over again for the meaning of the inscription on Marlene's tombstone („Hier steh ich an den Marken meiner Tage“) we finally asked Maria Riva what the translation would be like: And here is her answer:

„Here I stand in the benchmark of my days.“
(Literal)

„I remain as/in the proof of my days.“ (loose)
What Dietrich liked was what she interpreted as its meaning:

1. I am what I am.
2. I remain the proof of me.

Bernard from Bruxelles: I would like to find the video cassette of the last concert of Marlene.
A: There is only one which was published officially. That is „I wish You Love“ aka „An evening with Marlene“. If you do not find it on amazon.com go to www.ebay.com. I have seen this and also other videos on their list. It may take some time till it comes up but it surely will. Or is there anybody who gets this newsletter who can help Bernhard. His e-mail adress is reform@belgacom.net

Internet:

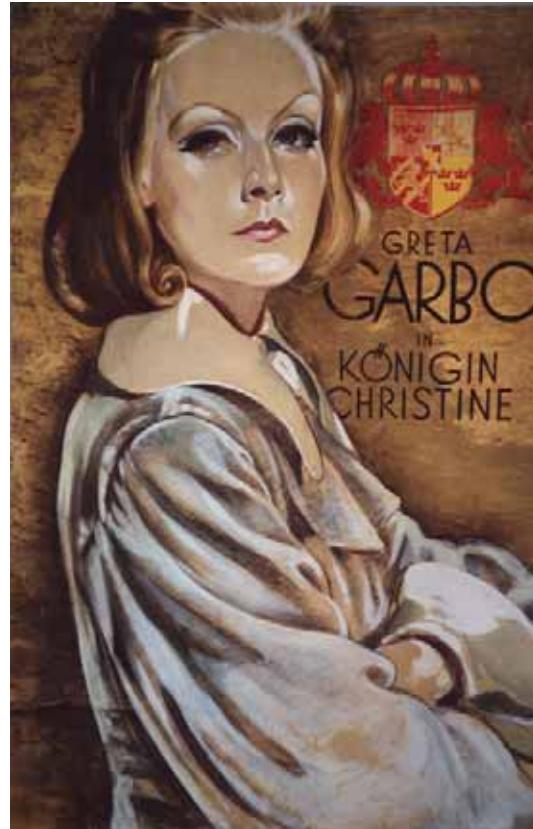
www.soundslikemarlene.de now features lyrics to more than fifty Marlene songs, a listing of her tour dates, posters, 78 rpm labels and much more.

Slightly Off-Topic

A restored print of Josef von Sternbergs "Saga of Anatahan" was shown in Bologna at "Cinema Ritrovato" in July. Bernard Eisenschitz reports on the restauration "The Saga of Anatahan. La tragédie du dernier Sternberg." In: Cinegrafie 15, 2002 Cineteca di Bologna/ Le Mani Microart's Edizione. E-mail:

lemani.editore@tin.it

The "Freunde und Förderer des Filmmuseums" are publishing a newsletter. Alas, it is in german only . If you want this newsletter write to info@fffb.de



The fffb-Newsletter will also allow a glimpse on new acquisitions of Filmmuseum Berlin like the "Queen Christine" poster by A.M. Cay , an Austrian designer who emigrated to Paris in 1935 and 1943 from Paris to Switzerland. The poster was donated by Dr. Felix Rogner to the Filmmuseum.

End of Newsletter