

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

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Dear friends and fans,

Back again after the summer break. And what a summer that was! Nobody remembers an European summer as hot as this one except of course when you remember your childhood. All those bygone summers from our youth were wonderful hot and romantic.

News:

CNN's Larry King Live with Maria Riva is postponed. The new date is October 13.

Marlene Dietrich Adressbuch (Marlenes adressbook) edited by Christine Fischer-Defoy will be published early September at Transit-Verlag: <http://www.transit-verlag.de/index.html?buecher/marlene.html&1>
We'll get back to that one in our next number.

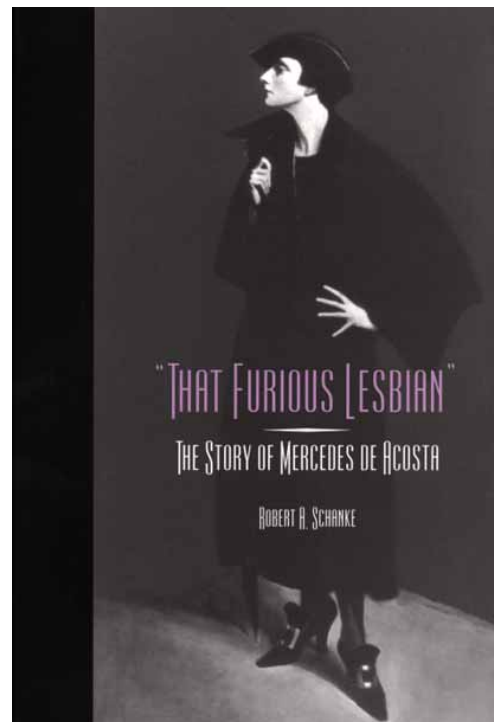
New Books:



Simone Wernet: „Leben ohne Liebe bleibt Imitation“. Melodramatische Leinwandheldinnen

Filmstudien Band 27, herausgegeben von Thomas Koebner; Gardez!Verlag, Sankt Augustin 2003, 296 pp.

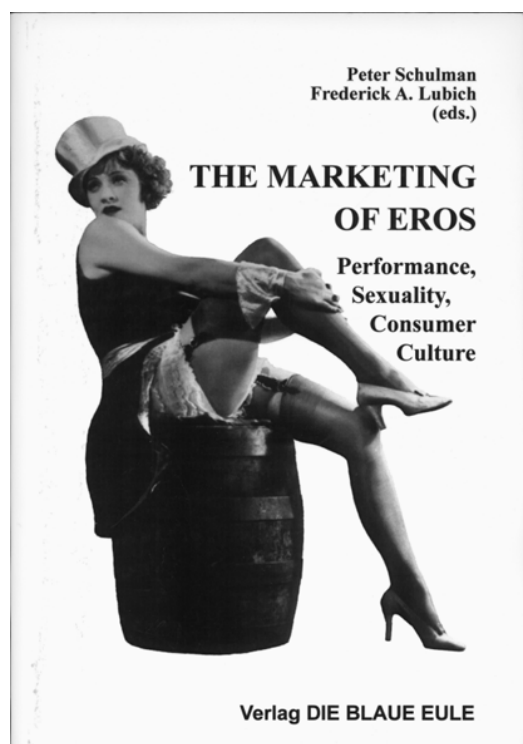
This is a doctor thesis which discusses actresses in melodramatic films. With the exception of a few german silents we never thought of Marlenes films as being melodramatic. The study (in german) is easy to read but a bit exhaustive. One thing we have to criticize is the Bibliography. Miss Wernet states that there basically are no serious books on the stars (not even on Marlene) and she does not mention one single website on Marlene or the Newsletter. We take this as a compliment for our readers. You are the happy few who know better.



Robert A. Schanke: „That Furious Lesbian“ The Story of Mercedes de Acosta, Southern Illinois University Press 2003, 210 pp.

You could find hints and little biographical sketches for the lady in different books, but this one finally is the first biography on

Mercedes de Acosta and it is a truly well done job. It not only tells you the story of her life but also discusses her autobiography and corrects some facts the lady wrote about herself and her career. What makes it good reading is the fact that it is not written - like so many other books about homosexuality in Hollywood - in an attitude of investigating erotic scandals. However completely missing is Mercedes life as part of the entourage of Erich Maria Remarque and Marlene. But for those who have been asking themselves about the true relationship of Marlene and Mercedes – the book delivers the right answer.



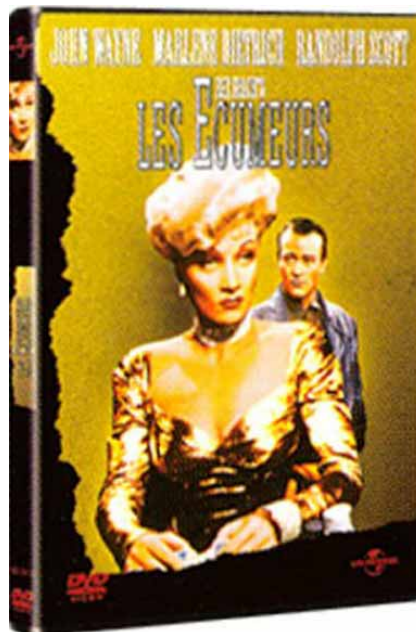
The Marketing of Eros. Performance, Sexuality, Consumer Culture

Edited by Peter Schulman and Frederick A. Lubich; Verlag Die Blaue Eule Essen 2003, 177 pp.

The book is made up of a selected group of papers drawn from the symposium "The Sexual revolution of the Twentieth Century" held at Old Dominion University in April 2000 – therefore it is entirely in English. Among those papers is Linda Mizejewski from Ohio State University with her contribution on "Showgirls, the Historical backstage and Blonde Venus". The paper offers some interesting historical background (namely the Hottentot Venus/ Hot Voodoo Venus) but we have the slight impression that Mrs. Mizejewski did not take too much of her time to concentrate on her subject. She seems to know a lot but she gives too little.

New DVD:

Loris Ferrari made us aware of this one



Les Ecumeurs (The Spoilers)

Date de parution : 20 August 2003

Éditeur : Universal Pictures

Full Screen (Standard) - 1.33:1

Zone 2

Langues et formats sonores : Français (Dolby Digital 2.0), Anglais (Dolby Digital 2.0), Allemand (Dolby Digital 2.0), Italien (Dolby Digital)

DVD List

Alexandre Andre did a great job of compiling the following list of DVDs with Dietrich films. We have no idea if this list really is complete (no DVDs in Russia??). If you have any additions please let us know.

AUSTRALIA

- The Blue Angel - The director's cut edition - Force Video
- Rancho Notorious - Payless Entertainment

BRAZIL

- O Anjo Azul (The Blue Angel) - Flashstar Home Vídeo - Region 0 - (B&w picture with blue gothic style title)
- O Anjo Azul (The Blue Angel) - DVD Collection - Region 0 - (Blue cover, same style as the US double edition)

FRANCE

- L'Ange Bleu (The Blue Angel) - First edition – Films sans frontières, "Collection Auteurs"
- L'Ange Bleu (The Blue Angel) - Second edition - Films sans frontières, "Collection Cinéclub"
- Les Écumeurs (The Spoilers) - Universal Pictures

GERMANY

- Ich Küsse Ihre Hand, Madame – Edition Salzgeber
- Der Blaue Engel - UFA Klassiker Edition – Special double edition
- Her Own Song – Edition Salzgeber

JAPAN

- The Blue Angel - First edition - (CD box, black background, b&w picture, red lines up & down)
- The Blue Angel - Second edition - IVC Classic Film Collection - (DVD box, yellow satin background, b&w picture)
- Morocco - 1st edition - (CD box, black background, b&w picture, red lines up & down)
- Morocco - Second edition
- Shanghai Express - (CD box, black background, b&w picture, red lines up & down)
- Knight Without Armor - Carbon IVC
- The Spoilers - Universal
- Witness For The Prosecution - MGM DVD (Collection Billy Wilder)

UK

- The Blue Angel - Special double edition (First cover) - brownish cover + blue title (failed release??)



Cover of 1st double DVD UK "Blue Angel"

- The Blue Angel - Special double edition (Second cover) - Eureka Video - blue cover
- The Blue Angel - The director's cut edition – Eureka Video
- The Garden Of Allah - Fremantle Home Entertainment
- The Spoilers - Universal Pictures Video
- Paris When It Sizzles - Paramount Home Entertainment UK

USA

- The Blue Angel - Simple edition - Koch Vision Entertainment
- The Blue Angel - Special double edition – Kino Video
- The Scarlet Empress - HOME VISION
- The Garden Of Allah - Anchor Bay Entertainment
- Destry Rides Again – Universal Studios/Universal Western Collection
- Witness For The Prosecution - Mgm/Ua Studios
- Touch Of Evil - Universal Studios
- Paris When It Sizzles - Paramount Home Video
- Marlene - Image Entertainment
- Her Own Song - MGM DVD

Letters

Hello,

I have a program called "Performing Arts" at the Dorothy Chandler pavillion in Los Angeles, California. The date of the program is April of 1974. Marlene Dietrich was to perform on April 15-16, 1974. Could you please tell me anything about this performance: was it her last in the U.S. or anything pertaining to it. Also, in the program is a one column bio on her by Ernest Hemingway. He must have truly loved her to say such nice things. Thanks for your time. Your help is greatly appreciated.

thank you,

Michael

There were some more performances in the USA after that date. The complete list of her performances is in the book "Marlene Dietrich. Photographs and Memories" published at Alfred A. Knopf, New York 2001 and on the Internet at

http://www.soundlikemarlene.de/Listings/Tour_Dates/TD2/td2.html

Hello from Brazil.

Well guys I have a book called: "Legends Joan Crawford – Series Editor John Kobal" that's a wonderful book lot's of Crawford black and white portraits. I want to know if there is a book with Marlene Dietrich portraits, just Marlene black and white portraits I mean...Just as a curiosity I'm sending a picture of my Dietrich gold pendent sent to me by my friend Eryk Hanut as a graduation gift. Marlene used to say that she considered Eryk a real Capricorn like her (I'm a Capricorn too) then she sent that pendent as a sweet joke to him.

Thank you so much. Peace.

Emerson Persona

Thanks a lot Emerson. If we remember correctly Patrick O' Connors "Dietrich. Style and substance" is in black and white only. But what disadvantage would colour be? And Emerson – there are some ladies here too.



Theuns Els from South Africa sends this information:

Hi there -

I've been reading your insightful newsletter again, which is always a joy. I recently stumbled on this obituary for William Blezard, who died in April this year, and I thought it might be of interest:

William Blezard was a pianist, composer and musical director to a host of stars, including Noël Coward, Laurence Olivier and Marlene Dietrich. For many years he worked with Joyce Grenfell, and he accompanied her for her last performance, for the Queen and the Royal Family at Windsor Castle, in 1973. Blezard also served as accompanist and musical director to Dietrich, having taken over from Burt Bacharach in 1965, and toured with her worldwide. He was accompanying her when she broke her leg in Australia in the performance that marked the end of her career on stage.

William Blezard was born near Burnley. His parents worked in a local mill and his father was a semi-professional tenor. William later worked hard at losing his northern vowel sounds, and a stammer, but he was never ashamed of his origins. He initially shone on the harmonium and then he took up the piano. He was discovered when playing at the cinema; one member of the audience was so impressed that she told her brother, a local mill-owner, and he paid for Blezard to have piano lessons with the best teacher in the area. As a teenager Blezard - known to most people as Bill - won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music. When war broke out he joined the RAF and

played several times with the RAF Symphony Orchestra, but he spent most of the war as a Morse code operator in the North of Scotland. After being demobbed he returned to the Royal College to complete his studies.

He then went to work at Denham Film Studios under Muir Mathieson, where he wrote music for documentary films. These included "The True Face of Japan" (1949), describing the changes that had taken place in postwar Japan, for which he had to use Western instruments to make Japanese-sounding music. He also arranged and orchestrated Noël Coward's music for "The Astonished Heart".

Through his wife, the conductor Joan Kemp Potter, whom he had met at the Royal College, Blezard met Donald Swann; and through Swann he was introduced to Joyce Grenfell. He performed with her for the next two decades all over the world. He accompanied the musical sections of her recitals, joined her for duets and later had a solo, the only slot for which he used music.

In 1957 Blezard had worked as musical director with Laurence Olivier in John Osborne's *The Entertainer*, at the Royal Court and in New York, playing the piano, conducting and serving as a musical adviser. He also played for Max Wall in the same role 20 years later, and went on to work with Wall on his solo show, *Aspects of Max Wall*.

In the 1970s and 1980s Blezard worked with many other well-known performers, including Joanna Lumley and Patricia Hodge in *Noël & Gertie*, at the King's Head in Islington. Lumley said that his playing managed both to soothe and to excite the audience.

It was also in the 1980s that Blezard started a long partnership with Honor Blackman, first in her one-woman show *Yvette*, in which Blackman was helped by Blezard's knowledge of French, and latterly in *Dishonourable Ladies*, for which he not only accompanied her but also produced the arrangements.

Blezard was also the first pianist for Play School, adding to the programme with his improvisations for many years. He later accompanied Johnny Ball on his *Think of a Number* tours.

Blezard was passionate about composing; a CD of his piano music was released in 2001 and he had just completed work on a second before his death. He was playing in public the night before he died.

His adopted home for more than 40 years was Barnes, southwest London, where he was a familiar sight on his bicycle; he never drove a car. He cared for his wife Joan after she had a severe stroke in 1994; she died in 2001. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

End of Newsletter