

NEWSLETTER No. 7

May, 12th 2000

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@kinemathek.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 Sponsors of Filmmuseum Berlin". Just write an e-mail to HHassenpflug@t-online.de

Our last newsletter provoked mixed reactions: some had fun reading it, some had the impression that it is not serious enough for a Newsletter by MDCB and some are still waiting for the follow-up. To tell the truth the article was taken originally from the papers of Fritz Lang. We do not know who wrote it; we only know it was published somewhere someplace. And yes, we took the liberty of changing it a bit.

IN MEMORIAM

Douglas Fairbanks Jr. died on Sunday, May 7th at the age of 90. He was a close friend of Marlene since the mid-thirties. This photograph shows Marlene and Douglas Fairbanks Jr. vacationing at the Wolfgangsee in Austria 1937, disguised as peasants.



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NEW BOOKS

Christian Pfannenschmidt/Joseph Vilsmaier: Marlene.Der Film.

Europa Verlag Hamburg/Wien, 158 p., DM 28,50.

This is the script of the "Marlene" film by Christian Pfannenschmidt (the scriptwriter) and Joseph Vilsmaier (director). If you haven't seen the film and you want to know why so many critics thought that the script was the main reason for "Marlene's" failure you may read this book and make up your mind yourself. If you are not interested in a failure, you may just as well pass it by. The book is illustrated with a lot of colour stills from the film.





Adolf Heinzlmeier: marlene. die biografie.

Europa Verlag Hamburg/Wien, 158 p., DM 28,50.

This is for collectors who don't read books just collect them. You are waisting your time by reading it. Heinzlmeier himself admitted that he did not have enough time to look at the films of Marlene. So he selected informations he derived from Steven Bachs and Maria Rivas books, put them all together and here it is: a new book.



Steven Bach: Marlene Dietrich. Die Wahrheit über mich gehört mir.

List Taschenbuch Verlag München, 572 p., DM 16,90.

At least, Steven Bachs biography is available as paperback on the german market. It is more and at the same time much less than the hard cover edition. There are a lot of new photographs to illustrate the biography. But: no index, no sources given, no discography, no filmography. In other words: The publisher cut the appendix which makes it less useful to the more serious audience.



Maria Riva: Meine Mutter Marlene.
btb, Goldmann Verlag München, 895 p.,
DM 25,00.

Maria Rivas biography is unabridged, even the index is there. It may well be discussed if Katja Flint on the cover impersonating Marlene is the right idea to promote Maria Rivas book. But it does not do any harm to the biography itself. Much has been said about this book: Some love it, some hate it, some love to hate it. But all agree - you have to read it.



**Helga Bemmann: Marlene Dietrich.
Im Frack zum Ruhm. Ein Porträt.**
Gustav Kiepenheuer Verlag Leipzig, 255
p., DM 39, 90.

Until recently you could get Helga Bemanns "Marlene Dietrich. Ihr Weg zum Chanson" for 5,- DM on the tables of selected bookshops. If you missed it you may now pay 39,90 DM for the same book in a new and better design. You also get an extra chapter for your pay and a new title. But basically, it is the same old book again.



Marlene Dietrich. Series “apropos”.
With an essay by Lars Jacob. Verlag Neue Kritik Frankfurt am Main, 143 p., DM 25,00.

Lars Jacob is a young writer from Munich. This is his first publication. It is a fine little book; not only does it contain a very interesting essay on Marlene by Mr. Jacob with a fresh new look at her prussian heritage. It also assembles a variety of articles written on Marlene by various writers during the last 40 years. Makes a nice present.



Helma Sanders-Brahms: Marlene und Jo. Recherche einer Leidenschaft.

Argon Verlag Berlin, 290 p., DM 39,80.

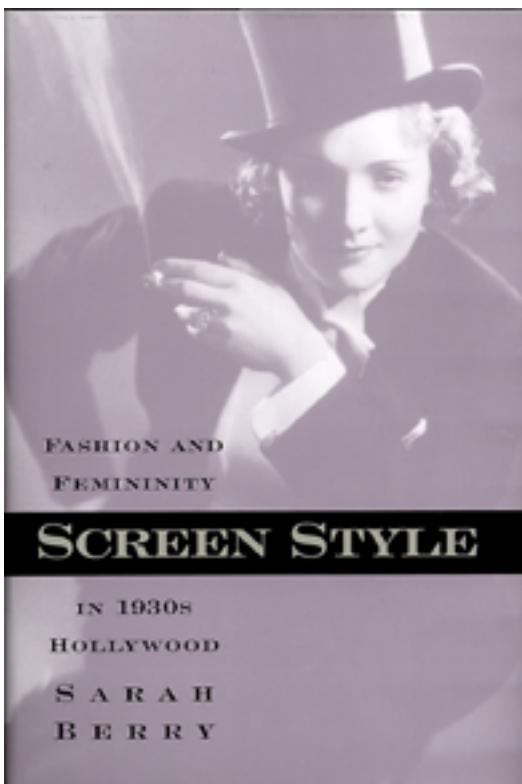
Helma Sanders-Brahms, a woman director from Berlin, is writing on the edges of fantasy and research. The problem is that it is not enough fantasy and even less research. Although it is called a "Research into a Passion" do not expect to much passion, surely not "Passion for Research".



**Luise Dirscherl/ Gunter Nickel
(Hrsg): Der blaue Engel. Die
Drehbuchentwürfe.**

Zuckmayer-Schriften Band 4. Röhrig
Universitätsverlag, St. Ingbert. 518 p., DM
78,00.

The book contains the original shooting-
script in its different stages plus a continuity
of the lost german trailer, the continuity of
the „Blue Angel“, an introduction and a
production chronology.



**Sarah Berry: Screen Style. Fashion
and Feminity in 1930s Hollywood.**
University of Minnesota Press
Minneapolis/London, DM 69,80 / 25,95 \$.

The title should not frighten anyone by its
academic approach. Author Sarah Berry is
an academic, but she writes in a way which
makes the book easy to read and to
understand. It has some interesting theses
on the relation of the fashion industry and
Hollywood films and it has Marlene on the
cover

More reprints

In the past years Donald Spoto, Alexander Walker and David Bret have published biographies on Marlene, which are now reprinted with new covers and the old story. To put it mildly, they are somehow outdated in the light of Maria Rivas efforts. Do we have to read it all again and even pay for it? A new (or is it the old one just reprinted?) english edition of Donald Spotos book "The Blue Angel" will be on sale in the U.S. beginning June 2000.

NEWS

Reminder: Eight years ago, on May 16th, Marlene was buried in Berlin.

Exhibitions

A Legend in Photographs.

Goethe-Institut Glasgow

8 May - 23 June, Mon - Thurs: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri - Sat: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Goethe-Institute London

July - mid-August 2000 at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 8XT, tel: 020-7928 3232

Press release:

"I have been photographed to death," complained the ageing Marlene Dietrich to Maximilian Schell. He was desperately trying to film her for his documentary Marlene (1983), but while the legendary diva allowed her voice to be heard, she completely refused to be seen. Throughout her career Dietrich cultivated her photographic image with extraordinary care, herself supervising her photographers and demanding the highest standards of quality. This selection of 39 photographs, showing the star at work and at play, is taken from Dietrich's own private collection of 15,000 pictures of herself, including images by Horst P Horst, Cecil Beaton and George Hurrell.

To accompany the exhibition, the NFT will be showing a season of dozen Dietrich films including the rare German silents The Woman That Men Long For (1929) and I Kiss Your Hand, Madam (1929).

Goethe-Institute Buenos Aires

July 2000, Teatro General San Martín, Cinemateca Argentina

Press Release:

Die Ausstellung gibt Einblick in Leben und Werk von Marlene Dietrich: Schauspielerin, Filmdiva und vor allem couragierter "Captain Dietrich" als Freiwillige der amerikanischen Armee, wo sie sich gegen Hitler an die Kriegsfront begab. Außerdem kommt die Ausstrahlung der Diva in der gleichzeitig laufenden Filmretrospektive zur Geltung.

Film Shows

London

The National Film Theatre will show a nitrate print on Tuesday June 6, 20.45 h of Rouben Mamoulians "The Song of Songs" from the vaults of the UCLA; on June 9, 20.45 h there will be a screening of Josef von Sternbergs personal print of "The Devil is a woman" (UCLA).

This is a rare occasion to see these prints as they were screened at the time of their initial release.

For informations please call the National Film Theatre, London or go to:

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/showing/nft/index.php3#calendar>. Showing may be for a pre-selected audience, so you should try really hard to get a ticket.

PERSONAL NOTES

Support your local bookshop! Enjoy an inspiring talk with your bookdealer.

The Newsletter of MDCB is not an official statement by the Filmmuseum Berlin - Deutsche Kinemathek. More often it reflects the personal opinion of the people at MDCB and sometimes only the opinion of Werner Sudendorf and Silke Ronneburg

End of Newsletter