

Pressemitteilung



Berlinale Series: *Selling Democracy II – Winning the Peace*

In 2004, with *Selling Democracy – Welcome Mr. Marshall*, the Berlinale launched a highly regarded series of films from the USA's recovery programme for Europe after World War II. The series was conceived to run for a total of three years; it is continuing this year at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2005 and will conclude in 2006.

At the 55th Berlinale (Feb. 10 – 20, 2005), under the heading *Selling Democracy – Winning the Peace*, films will be screened which are for the most part from the early post-war years. In addition to the actual "Marshall Plan films", emphasis will be on so-called re-orientation films, on the one hand, as well as the reconstruction films made by the SBZ (Soviet Zone of Occupation) and the GDR (German Democratic Republic), on the other. How this difficult period of recovery was accompanied and propagated on the screen, can be seen by comparing the films from these different political systems. Another focus of the series constitutes US-feature films made directly after the war in Germany and which attempted to give a more precise and subtle picture of the situation.

In 2006, the project will conclude with *Selling Democracy – Friendly Persuasion*. The emphasis will then be on how Western Europe changed as a result of modernization, mechanization and its emulation of the "American way of life". This year's "*Selling Democracy – Winning the Peace*" series will be held from February 12 to 20, 2005 in the Zeughauskino. 37 films will screen in all: three full-length features – *Berlin Express*, Jacques Tourneur, 1948; *A Foreign Affair*, Billy Wilder, 1948; *The Big Lift*, George Seaton, 1952 – and a total of 33 shorter films. They will run in six blocks arranged by theme and always begin at 5 PM in the Zeughauskino.

The basic idea behind the entire film series is to pay tribute to an exemplary political initiative: "The political and humanitarian idea of these Marshall Plan films and their contribution to the democratization process constitute one of the most impressive political initiatives of the post-war years", Berlinale director Dieter Kosslick emphasizes. "We would like to reawaken an awareness for the unique and richly varied films produced in this era."

The discussion of the Marshall Plan films which began last year will be continued and intensified in 2005 at four workshops: international experts will illuminate aspects of US post-war policies and the Marshall Plan, as well as of Cold War propaganda. Historians, film historians and witnesses from the period will give their accounts of the films' intentions, which were produced both pro- and anti-Marshall-Plan. There will be many opportunities for discussion. Most of the lectures will substantiate their contents with footage, and during the course of the workshops a few additional films will also be presented. The workshops have been conceived to address interested international audiences as well as Berliners, and will be held between February 14-17, 2005 (from 10 AM to 1 PM respectively) in the auditorium

**55. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
10. – 20.02.2005**

Presse

Potsdamer Straße 5
10785 Berlin

Tel. +49 • 30 • 259 20 • 707
Fax +49 • 30 • 259 20 • 799

press@berlinale.de
www.berlinale.de

Ein Geschäftsbereich der
Kulturveranstaltungen des
Bundes in Berlin (KBB) GmbH

Geschäftsführung:

Dieter Kosslick
(Intendant Internationale
Filmfestspiele Berlin),
Dr. Thomas Köstlin
(Kaufmännischer Geschäftsführer),
Dr. Hans-Georg Knopp,
Dr. Joachim Sartorius

Vorsitzende des Aufsichtsrats:
Dr. Christina Weiss

Handelsregister: Amtsgericht
Charlottenburg Nr. 96 HRB 29357
USt ID DE 136 78 27 46



Pressemitteilung

of Pei's new exhibition wing at the German Historical Museum.

Rainer Rother, curator of *Selling Democracy*, comments: "The victors did not consciously ask themselves how to attain peace until after the war. The brilliancy of the Marshall Plan is that it helped people to help themselves and paved the way for the vision of a free and confident, reconstructed Europe. And of course the Soviet Union responded with counter-propaganda. As the GDR saw it, West Germany was under the heel of the USA; while in the eyes of the young Federal Republic of Germany, West Germany was on its way to freedom and prosperity. It is fascinating to explore these opposing positions today."

The Workshops

Monday, Feb. 14, 2005

Ein guter Plan – zwischen Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe und Kaltem Krieg

(A Good Plan – Helping People to Help Themselves and the Cold War)

The first workshop will be devoted to the history of the Marshall Plan and examine the changes in film policy accompanying it. The "phases" of recovery aid from the USA, the political objectives and expectations of the US government, the actual effects of the European Recovery Program, etc. are all crucial questions in this context. In addition, the political implications will be investigated, especially those which altered films' messages in later years.

Speakers

David Ellwood (Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, Bologna)

Daniel Leab (Seaton Hall University, New Jersey)

Hans Beller (film director, "Der Marshall Plan in Action - Filme für Europa")

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2005

Bilder des Grauens

(Images of Horror)

The second workshop will examine how the German public faced the atrocities of concentration and extermination camps confronting them in documentary films and weekly newsreels. This workshop will reconstruct the first screenings in which German audiences saw footage from the sites of genocide. The survey presented here extends from the earliest examples to Hanus Burger's "Die Todesmühlen" ("Death Mills").

Speaker

Heiner Roß (Kinemathek Hamburg)

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2005

Demokratie lernen?

(Learning Democracy?)

The third workshop will concentrate on so-called re-orientation films.

Between 1948 and 1952, the USA and Britain produced some one hundred short



Pressemitteilung

documentaries in Germany made exclusively for address German audiences. These films no longer concentrated on National Socialist crimes, but were geared toward the future and the prospects of building a new democratic society. They propagated involvement and a proactive role, presenting models for the peaceful co-existence of civilians, opening people's eyes to the world and encouraging them to build new lives out of the rubble, The propagated boom in productivity was ultimately to lead to a "democratization of consumption".

Speakers

Jeanpaul Goergen (film historian, Berlin)

Peter Stettner (Hanover College)

Ramon Reichert (University of Linz)

Thursday, Feb. 17, 2005

Aus eigener Kraft

(By One's Own Efforts)

The fourth and last workshop will concentrate on how the reception of the Marshall Plan differed in the East and the West. In both German states, the Marshall Plan played an important role in legitimising respective achievements – in the West as initial spark for the boom then brought about "by one's own efforts"; in the East as that "subjugation by imperialist forces" escaped thanks to the help of the Soviet Union. Moreover, one of the priorities of the DEFA films was "grass-roots democracy" and it articulated itself in a confidence in the proactive powers of each East German worker and their individual prospects for the future.

Speakers

Günter Agde (film historian, Berlin)

Matthias Steinle (film historian, Marburg)

Round table discussion with

Alfons Machalz (director), Kurt Eifert (screenwriter), Hans-Eberhard Leupold (cinematographer) und Matthias Steinle (film historian). Chair: Günter Agde

February 14 –17, 2005 from 10 AM to 1 PM

In the auditorium in Pei's new exhibition wing at the German Historical Museum, admission free

For further information, contact: Kathi Gormász at gormasz@berlinale.de

The retrospective has evolved in cooperation with Berlin's German Historical Museum (Deutsches Historisches Museum) and the Federal Film Archive (Bundesarchiv/Filmarchiv); the workshops, in cooperation with the Federal Center for Political Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung).

The programme has been supported by the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Press Office

January 31, 2005