

GERMAN-MALTESE CIRCLE

11th German Film Festival 25. November – 29. November 2020

With the participation of two French films – courtesy of the Embassy of France

Synopsis of the films being screened during the Festival:

I Was, I Am, I Will Be (Es gilt das gesprochene Wort)



As rational as Marion appears, both as a pilot and in her private life, she soon stops functioning properly when she meets Baran, a gigolo, on the Turkish coast and gets involved in a fictitious marriage to enable him to obtain German citizenship. What begins as a kind of trade-off soon turns into an emotional story of love and identity at the interface between two cultures.

YEAR OF PRODUCTION 2019

DIRECTOR: İlker Çatak

CAST: Anne Ratte-Polle, Oğulcan Arman, Godehard Giese, Jörg Schüttauf, Sebastian Urzendowsky

RUNTIME 122 min

AWARDS: German Film Awards 2020: Best Feature Film Bronze

Relativity (Mein Ende. Dein Anfang)



Have you ever had a déjà vu experience? Have you ever met a person you think you already know?

For Nora and Aron, it's love at first sight when they meet in the subway one rainy day. A complete chance meeting, Nora says. Everything is fated, says Aron. But then, the young couple winds up in the middle of a bank robbery. Aron is shot by one of the masked robbers and dies in Nora's arms. Time stands still for Nora. She tries to numb her pain, spending a night with a stranger – Natan. He offers Nora support and stability. She has the odd feeling she already knows him, without realizing what they really share...

RELATIVITY is a story about first love, a crime and the fateful power of destiny.

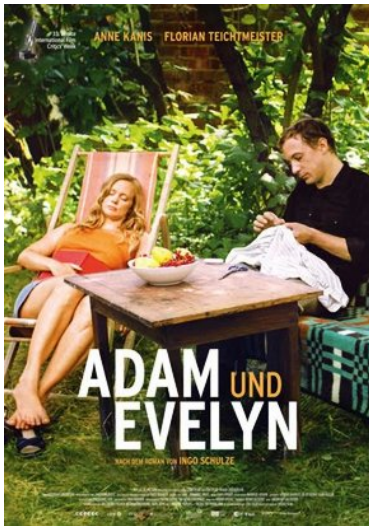
YEAR OF PRODUCTION 2019

DIRECTOR Mariko Minoguchi

CAST Saskia Rosendahl, Edin Hasanovic, Julius Feldmeier

RUNTIME 111 min

Adam & Evelyn



A love story against the backdrop of Summer 1989 in East Germany. Adam and Evelyn live in the countryside, where time seems to move as slow as their turtle. Adam works as a tailor, Evelyn as a waitress. They are planning a vacation at Lake Balaton together when Evelyn, angry about Adam constantly flirting with his female clients, decides to leave for the holiday without him. Adam follows her in his old Wartburg car when suddenly the border between Hungary and Austria is opened: for Evelyn a chance to build a new life; for Adam a threat to the life, in which he felt comfortable.

YEAR OF PRODUCTION 2019

DIRECTOR: Andreas Goldstein

CAST: Florian Teichtmeister, Anne Kanis, Lena Lauzemis

RUNTIME 100 min

The Goldfish (Goldfische)



A German comedy about disabled people that actually works: After becoming a paraplegic due to a car accident, portfolio manager Oliver tries to use the therapeutic field trip of the disabled shared flat known as 'The Goldfish' as way to smuggle his illegal earnings out of Switzerland. And thus begins a fast-paced road movie that takes a swipe at everything 'normal'.

YEAR OF PRODUCTION 2019

DIRECTOR: Alireza Golafshan

CAST: Tom Schilling, Jella Haase, Axel Stein, Birgit Minichmayr

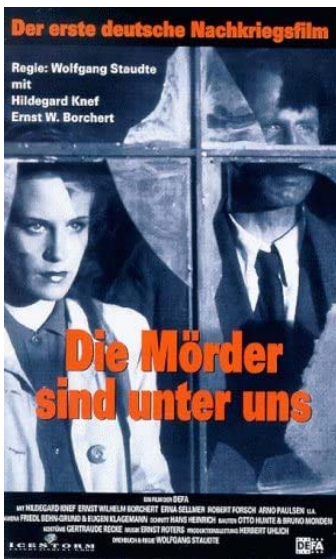
RUNTIME 112 min

AWARDS: Winner Bavarian Film Award – Best Young Direction

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II

In collaboration with the Embassies of Germany and France

The Murderers are amongst us (Die Mörder sind unter uns)



Berlin 1945. Susanne Wallner, a young photographer, returns home from the concentration camp, but her flat is occupied. The surgeon Mertens, who recently returned from the war, is trying to suppress his terrible memories through excessive drinking. They come to an arrangement and, with Susanne's help, Dr. Mertens slowly returns to his former self. Then he meets his former captain Bruckner, now a slippery businessman who couldn't care less whether he makes cooking pots out of steel helmets or vice versa. Mertens' conscience rebels, and on Christmas Eve 1945, he wants to demand atonement for a massacre of men, women and children which had been ordered three years previously by Bruckner. At the last moment, Susanne is able to convince him that the retaliation of such guilt is not a private affair and that the war criminal should be brought before a court.

This DEFA production is the first movie filmed and produced in Germany after the war.

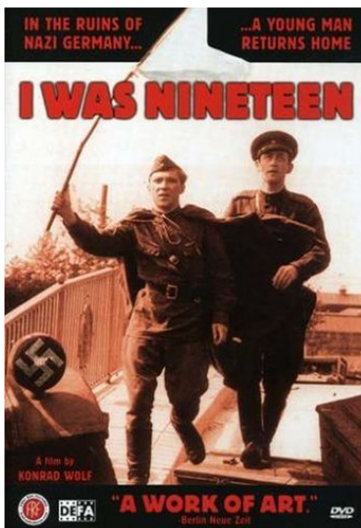
YEAR OF PRODUCTION 1946

DIRECTOR Wolfgang Staudte

CAST Erna Sellmer, Ernst Wilhelm Borchert, Hildegard Knef, Elly Burgmer

RUNTIME 91 min

I was nineteen (Ich war 19)



April 1945: Gregor Hecker returns to Germany as a soldier in the Red Army. Born in Cologne, he grew up in Moscow after his parents were forced to flee the Nazi dictatorship. He is now nineteen and already an officer. One of his most important responsibilities in the last weeks of the war is to call on the German soldiers to capitulate instead of continuing their useless fight on the front lines. Gregor is made town commander of Bernau near Berlin. When he has to set up quarters for his staff, he comes across a German military unit that is not even aware of the Red Army's arrival. He is present when the Sachsenhausen concentration camp is liberated and meets an intellectual who seeks to play down German fascism as a harmless historical fact. He is ordered off to the citadel in Spandau on a special mission as an interpreter at the negotiations leading to the German capitulation. The German officers do not agree to a

surrender until the very last minute and some continue to exhort the others to "hold on" and demand that the emissaries be shot. Later, he takes part in a Red Army celebration to which liberated German prisoners have been invited. Two days later, Gregor's efforts to persuade German soldiers to surrender appear to bear fruit for the first time.

YEAR OF PRODUCTION 1967

DIRECTOR Konrad Wolf

CAST Jaecki Schwarz, Wassili Liwanow, Alexej Ejboshenko, Galina Polskich, Jenny Groellmann

RUNTIME 119 min

Wooden Crosses (Les Croix de Bois)



Wooden Crosses is a well-known 1932 French war movie directed by Raymond Bernard. Based upon a novel written by Roland Dorgelès, the film plunges us into the terrifying and endless trench warfare in Champagne. With fervor and exaltation at the beginning of the war in 1914, Demachy, still a student, joins the French army. He meets Sulphart, Bréval, Bouffiaux and the others, once a worker, a baker, a cook, then all united as soldiers. In the fog of the trenches, they face the cruelty of daily life, wait for mail, witness the death of comrades. Little by little, Demachy ends up losing his ideals...

« *We didn't have to act, we just had to remember* », said Charles Vanel, who had experienced the horror of the war, like most of the actors casted in the movie.

YEAR OF PRODUCTION 1932 (Restored in 2014)

DIRECTOR Raymond Bernard

RUNTIME 110 min

COLOUR Black & White movie

The Train (Le Train) **Note: Film is in French with no subtitles**



In May 1940 a packed train takes refugees from a French village near the Belgian border fleeing advancing German forces. The passengers include Julien, a short-sighted radio repairer, his daughter and pregnant wife. The women are assigned to a carriage for women at the front while he has to scramble into a cattle truck at the rear. There he becomes entranced by a mysterious and beautiful young woman travelling alone.

Three years later, back in his village with his family, Julien is called into the police station. A Jewish woman in the [Resistance](#) has been captured with false papers issued in La Rochelle in the name of his wife. He professes ignorance, but the inspector then calls the woman in. For a while the two pretend not to know each other, until Julien eventually gives her a last silent caress.

YEAR OF PRODUCTION 1973 (Restored version)

DIRECTOR: Pierre Granier-Deferre

CAST: Jean-Louis Trintignant, Romy Schneider

RUNTIME 100 min