

**SEX, GENDER & VIDEOTAPE:
LOVE, EROTICISM & ROMANCE IN EAST GERMANY**

**A Public Film and Lecture Series
19 - 24 July 2015**

**Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall, Smith College (except where noted)
Films in German, with English subtitles or voice over
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & FREE (except where noted)**

**Organized by the DEFA Film Library at UMass Amherst
* North American Premieres**

SUNDAY 19 JULY – OPENING EVENTS

4:00 - 5:15 pm – KEYNOTE LECTURE (201 Seelye Hall, Smith College)

Dr. Josie McLellan, Univ. of Bristol: "From Private Snapshots to *Coming Out*: The Queering of East German Visual Culture"

7:15 – 9:30 pm – SCREENING

- **Our Short Life (Unser kurzes Leben)** DVD Release*
GDR, 1980, dir. Lothar Warneke, 109 min., color
A 26-year-old architect works for a famous professor. Yet, she feels restrained by her dependence on him. When her marriage falls apart, she moves to a small town for a fresh start. **Intro and Q&A by Skyler Arndt-Briggs, UMass Amherst.**

MONDAY 20 JULY – GENDER & SOCIALISM

2:00-4:15 pm – SCREENING (201 Seelye Hall, Smith College)

- **Destinies of Women (Frauensicksale)**
GDR, 1952, dir. Slatan Dudow, 105 min., color
Berlin, seven years after WWII. Four women are looking for happiness in the divided city. Their destinies are loosely connected through one person: the West Berlin womanizer, Conny. **Intro and Q&A by Barton Byg, UMass Amherst.**

7:00-9:30 pm – SCREENINGS – Intro and Q&A by Victoria I. Rizo Lenshyn, UMass Amherst.

- **Monologue for a Taxi Driver (Monolog für einen Taxifahrer)**
GDR, 1962, dir. Günter Stahnke, 36 min., b&w
An East Berlin taxi driver's adventurous shift on Christmas Eve turns into a self-reflection on life, society, and his strained relationship with his wife.
- **The Seventh Year (Das siebente Jahr)***
GDR, 1968, dir. Frank Vogel, 82 min., b&w
Shortly before her seventh wedding anniversary, a heart surgeon doubts her ability to keep up with the double burden of career and home.

TUESDAY 21 JULY – FAMILY & COLLECTIVE

2:00-4:30 pm – SCREENING (201 Seelye Hall, Smith College)

- **Daily Life on 8mm: Home Movies from the Wende Museum Collection**
GDR, 1968-1977, 25 min., b&w/color, no dialogue, doc.
Four Super-8mm shorts by GDR film hobbyists who documented their personal lives—holidays, trips, family events—for private use only. **Intro & Q&A by Kate Dollenmayer, The Wende Museum.**
- **Sabine Kleist, Age Seven (Sabine Kleist, 7 Jahre)** **CHILDREN'S FILM!**
GDR, 1982, dir. Helmut Dziuba, 70 min., color
Since her parents died, Sabine has lived in an orphanage. When Edith—her beloved caretaker and the only adult she trusts—takes maternity leave, Sabine runs away. **Intro and Q&A by Benita Blessing, Univ. of Vienna.**

7:00-9:30 pm – SCREENINGS – Intro and Q&A by Benita Blessing, Univ. of Vienna.

- **Relations between Boys and Girls: Will You Talk to Your Child?***
(*Beziehungen zwischen Jungen und Mädchen – Sagst du's deinem Kinde?*)
GDR, 1963, dir. Götz Oelschlägel, 22 min., b&w, docu-drama
Discussing puberty at home and school. Part 1 of a sex ed mini-series.
- **Seven Freckles (Sieben Sommersprossen)**
GDR, 1978, dir. Hermann Zschoche, 76 min., color
Caroline and Robert knew each other as children. Years later, they meet again at summer camp and fall in love.

WEDNESDAY 22 JULY – PLEASURE, PLANNING & THE BODY

2:00-4:30 pm – SCREENINGS – Intro & Q&A by Kyle Frackman, Univ. of British Columbia.

- **Relations between Boys and Girls: Partners (Beziehungen zwischen Jungen und Mädchen – Partner)***
GDR, 1964, dir. Götz Oelschlägel, 38 min., b&w, docu-drama
How to handle marriage, parenthood, and education at a young age.
- **She (Sie)***
GDR, 1970, dir. Gitta Nickel, 30 min., b&w, doc.
Women discuss their ideas about emancipation, work, and family planning.
- **Man and Woman Intimate (Mann und Frau intim)***
GDR, 1984, dir. Detlef Tetzke, 26 min., color, docu-drama
A married couple looks for answers to their sexual problems.
- **Love without Fear (Liebe ohne Angst)***
GDR, 1989, dir. Frank Rinnelt, 25 min., color
The only GDR AIDS prevention film presents erotic scenes and discussions with young people.

7:00-9:45 pm – SCREENINGS – Intro and Q&A by Victoria I. Rizo Lenshyn, UMass Amherst.

- **Good Morning, Beautiful (Guten Morgen, du Schöne)***
Barbara (GDR, 1979, dir. Vera Loebner, 28 min.)
Rosi (GDR, 1980, dir. Thomas Langhoff, 29 min.)

East German TV adapted women's portraits from Maxie Wander's cult book, *Guten Morgen, du Schöne* (© Susanne Wander, Vienna).

- **Apprehension (Die Beunruhigung)**
GDR, 1982, dir. Lothar Warneke, 81 min., b&w
Inge is a divorced, single mother involved with a married man. After a routine physical exam, she learns she may have breast cancer. In the next hours she re-evaluates her life.

THURSDAY 23 JULY – G(ay)DR: QUEER SEXUALITY IN EAST GERMANY

2:00-4:15 pm – SCREENING (Amherst Cinema – *Regular ticket price applies*)

- **Her Third (Der Dritte)**
GDR, 1972, dir. Egon Günther, 107 min., color, 35mm
A humorous and touching story of an independent woman's willingness to break with social conventions in order to experience intimacy and romance. **Intro and Q&A by Victoria I. Rizo Lenshyn, UMass Amherst.**

7:00-10:00 pm – SCREENINGS (Amherst Cinema – *Regular ticket price applies*)

Intro and Q&A by Kyle Frackman, Univ. of British Columbia.

- **The Other Love (Die andere Liebe)***
GDR, 1988, dirs. Axel Otten, Helmut Kissling, 35 min., color, doc.
In interviews, GDR lesbians and gay men talk about their first sexual experiences and the difficulties they faced in coming out.
- **Coming Out**
GDR, 1989, dir. Heiner Carow, 108 min., color, 35mm
Philipp cannot deny his desire for a young man. After years of repressing his sexuality, he accepts himself for who he truly is. The only East German feature film about gay life.

FRIDAY 24 JULY – PROMISCUITY, PROSTITUTION & PORNOGRAPHY

2:00-4:00 pm – SCREENINGS – Intro and Q&A by Sebastian Heiduschke, Oregon State Univ.

- **Pornography Made in the GDR? (Pornografie – Made in DDR?)***
Germany, 2006, dir. Frank Otto Sperlich, 45 min., color, doc.
This documentary gives insight into an unknown side of life and takes the viewer into a subculture that refused state-sanctioned morality.
- **On Lust & Sin: In Divided Germany (Von Lust & Laster: Im geteilten Deutschland)***
Germany, 2009, dir. Frank Otto Sperlich, 45 min., color, doc.
Stories about free love, homosexuality, pornography, and prostitution, based on research and accounts of actual events.

7:00-9:00 pm – SCREENING

- **Rhinestones (Der Strass)***
GDR, 1990, dir. Andreas Höntsch, 89 min., color
East Berlin, 1989: 30-year-old photojournalist Georg follows the beautiful and mysterious dancer Ms. Albena. Blinded by love, he dreams about her. His imagination and reality get mixed up. **Intro and Q&A by Skyler Arndt-Briggs, UMass Amherst.**