

FILM FORUM 2

FEBRUARY 14 - MARCH 27 SIX WEEKS

FASSBINDER

in association with The Fassbinder Foundation & Wellspring

"The most dazzling, talented, provocative, puzzling, prolific and exhilarating filmmaker of his generation?" - VINCENT CANBY, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"I want to make movies as wonderful and influential as Hollywood's, but without the hypocrisy." Rainer Werner Fassbinder (1929-1982) was a phenomenon, the most prolific filmmaker since the silent era - he once made nine films in a single year.

SPECIAL THANKS TO JULIANE LORENZ (THE RAINER WERNER FASSBINDER FOUNDATION); WENY LOBEL, SUZANNE FEDAK, NATHAN POWELL (WELLSPRING); JOHN KAR, INEKE RAMOS, LAMAYA TAYLOR (MGM); PETER BECKER (JANUS FILMS); JOSE LOPEZ, RUBEN COMET (NEW YORK FILMS); BERNA-FILM (GERMANY); REID ROSSETT (MAGIC LANTERNS); LAURANCE KASHOBI (MOMA); AND JULIANE WAXEL (GOETHE-INSTITUT, NY).

The films in this series are distributed by Wellspring, with the following exceptions: Lili Marleen (MGM Distribution), The Stationmaster's Wife (New Yorker Films), Despair (Bavaria-Film, Munich), and Lola (Janus Films).

ALL 35mm PRINTS!



THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN

FEBRUARY 14/15/16 FRI/SAT/SUN THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN

THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN NEW 35mm PRINT! (1978) Die Ehe der Maria Braun. In Fassbinder's most famous film, Hanna Schygulla (Best Actress, Berlin Film Festival) builds a financial empire parallel with Germany's post-war economic miracle...



THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN

FEBRUARY 17/18 MON/TUE THE MERCHANT OF FOUR SEASONS

THE MERCHANT OF FOUR SEASONS NEW 35mm PRINT! (1974) Der Händler der vier Jahreszeiten. Fruit peddler Hans Hirschmüller watches his exceptional life disintegrate as a slice-of-life melodrama gone slightly amok...



THE MERCHANT OF FOUR SEASONS

FEBRUARY 19/20 WED/THU BEWARE OF A HOLY WHORE

BEWARE OF A HOLY WHORE NEW 35mm PRINT! (1971) Warnung vor einer heiligen Nutte. Fassbinder's own 8 1/2 cast in a luxurious seaside hotel, where a movie cast and crew - including stars Hanna Schygulla and Eddie Constantine...



BEWARE OF A HOLY WHORE

FEBRUARY 21 - 24 FRI - MON FOX AND HIS FRIENDS

FOX AND HIS FRIENDS NEW 35mm PRINT! (1975) Faustrecht der Freiheit. When lower-class carnival entertainer Fox the Talking Head (Fassbinder) strikes it rich by winning the lottery...



FOX AND HIS FRIENDS

FEBRUARY 25 TUE FEAR OF FEAR

FEAR OF FEAR NEW 35mm PRINT! (1975) Angst vor der Angst. Toward the end of her second pregnancy, happily married housewife Margit Carstensen finds her fear of madness - her "fear of fear" - becoming, in the most exquisite achievement in cinema to reach these shores from Germany since the Golden Age of Murnau, Lang, Pabst et al., manages to break the heart without betraying the mind...



FEAR OF FEAR

FEBRUARY 26/27 WED/THU CHINESE ROULETTE

CHINESE ROULETTE NEW 35mm PRINT! (1976) Chinesisches Roulette. Country weekend from hell, as crippled Andrea Schöber separately invites estranged parents Margit Carstensen and Alexander Allerson, who arrive with (surprise!) lovers Ulli Lommel and Ana Karina (bird with Aphelive, Aphelive) in tow. And then they decide to play the "truth game" (Fassbinder's own favorite) after dinner - big mistake! "Mr. Fassbinder is exploring new methods of cinema narrative that are more original and daring than anything I've yet to see by filmmakers who call themselves avant-garde..."



CHINESE ROULETTE

FEBRUARY 28/MARCH 1/2 FRI/SAT/SUN THE BITTER TEARS OF PETRA VON KANT

THE BITTER TEARS OF PETRA VON KANT NEW 35mm PRINT! (1973) Die bitteren Tränen der Petra von Kant. Imprisoned in a room dominated by fleshy nudies and ghastrly white mannequins, three women contended fashion designer Margit Carstensen, her contended assistant/lower-iron Hermann, and sultry model Hanna Schygulla - act out a supercharged melodrama of sadomasochistic passion and camp hysteria, accompanied by the music of Verdi and The Platters. Fassbinder's camera prowls incessantly, in what might be considered his own No Exit. "A tragicomic love story disguised as a lesbian slumber party in high-camp drag..."



THE BITTER TEARS OF PETRA VON KANT



ETTI BRIEST

MARCH 3 MON SATAN'S BREW

SATAN'S BREW NEW 35mm PRINT! (1976) Satansbraten. Arguably setting kinkiness records even for Fassbinder, as self-styled "revolutionary" poet Walter Kranz (Kurt Raab) scrambles for love, money and inspiration. With Margit Carstensen. "The sadomasochism hangs right out in this one. If you want to know where Fassbinder's head is at, this is the film to see..."



SATAN'S BREW

MARCH 4/5 TUE/WED MOTHER KÜSTERS GOES TO HEAVEN

MOTHER KÜSTERS GOES TO HEAVEN NEW 35mm PRINT! Plus unseen alternate European ending! (1975) Mutter Küsters Fahrt zum Himmel. Brigitte Mira, widow of the notorious "factory murderer," takes a Swiflian trek through the internal regions of modern journalism, show-biz and leftwing politics before finally finding Heaven and Earth, in one of Fassbinder's funniest and most - yes - upbeat films. We will be showing both Fassbinder's original European ending and the more hopeful one that he shot for the U.S. release. "A witty, spare, beautifully performed comedy..."



MOTHER KÜSTERS GOES TO HEAVEN

MARCH 6/7/8 THU/FRI/SAT ALL FEAR EATS THE SOUL

ALL FEAR EATS THE SOUL NEW 35mm PRINT! (1974) Angst essen Seele auf. Inspired by Sirk's Lost Heaven Allows and Intimacy of Life, the lumpy love affair between stylish German floorwalker Brigitte Mira and half-Arab, inarticulate Arab mechanic El Hedi Ben Salem: a moving romance, a perverse social comedy, a biting drama of racial prejudice - in Fassbinderland, not always easy to tell where one leaves off and the other begins. Winner, International Critics' Award, Cannes Film Festival. "The most beautiful film of 1974..."



ALL FEAR EATS THE SOUL

MARCH 9/10/11 SUN/MON/TUE VERONIKA VOSS

VERONIKA VOSS NEW 35mm PRINT! (1982) Die Sehnsucht der Veronika Voss. In the '50s, former Third Reich star Veronika Voss (played by Rosel Zech, and based on the real-life Sybil Schmitz) lives on, to be befriended by sportswriter Himmler Thae, but unable to escape her drag-addicted entrapment by her lesbian physician. One of Fassbinder's most stylish works, with Armin Mueller-Stahl (Lola, Shiva, Avalon) and the director in an eerie cameo as a novelist. "A chilly, tough wicked stare disguised as a schmaltzy, black & white 1950s melodrama..."



VERONIKA VOSS

MARCH 12 WED KATZELMACHER

KATZELMACHER NEW 35mm PRINT! (1969) A satirical comedy, as a group of die twenty-somethings, Bavarian slang for "cat f***er..." With Hanna Schygulla. "Hyponotic... simultaneously funny and tough, sympathetic and caustic. An early glimpse of Fassbinder's dazzling talent..."



KATZELMACHER

MARCH 13/14/15 THU/FRI/SAT LOLA

LOLA NEW 35mm PRINT! (1982) As kickbacks, graft, and boodle proliferate in a small town and Germany's Economic Miracle of the 80s, straight arrow new building commissioner Armin Mueller-Stahl (in his Western star-making role after fleeing the East) moves into town, but the local vice-pullers unleash Dietrich's shady lady Barbara Sukowa. Will naive Verus fall to Vice? Or is there a sardonic other way? "A wonderfully updated narrative rendered in gashy primary colors... The pretension metaphors come unlearned from early Godard, the poster art visuals from the magnificent melodramas of Sirk and Mirvis... the provocations are as Fassbinder's own..."

LOLA

MARCH 16/17/18 SUN/MON/TUE

ETTI BRIEST NEW 35mm PRINT! (1974) Fontane Effi Briest. As the eponymous heroine of Theodor Fontane's Dickensian 19th century classic, Hanna Schygulla's Effi - a vacuous mixture of youthful high spirits and bourgeois mediocrity - marries a much older Prussian baron, but then drifts into a seaside affair with Ulli Lommel, with mortal results ensuing. "A beautiful, ironic, intentionally literary-sounding film. It's an achievement of several kinds..."



DESPAIR

MARCH 18 TUE (SEPARATE ADMISSION) DESPAIR

DESPAIR (1979) Despair - Eine Reise ins Licht. In 1930's Berlin, alienated chocolate Dirk Bogarde, finding wife Anouka Ferrel dallying with her ne'er-do-well cousin Volk Spengler, decides to opt out completely by murdering his own Doppelgänger for the insurance money - only trouble is, his "double" bears him no resemblance. Adapted by Tom Stoppard from the Vladimir Nabokov novel, this was one of Fassbinder's three favorites among his works, and "nearly perfect..."



THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

MARCH 19/20 WED/THU THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER NEW 35mm PRINT! (1970) Der amerikanische Soldat. Despite being wanted by the police, small-time gangster/Vietnam vet Ricky (Karl Schötyt) returns to his hometown of Munich, where, residing in a snazzy flat, white suit and bulging shoulder holster, he visits childhood haunts with pal RWF, dallies with chambermaid Margarethe von Trotta, and finds work as a hired killer. "It was loaded with quotes from American and French gangster films, and above all from the films of Raoul Walsh and John Huston..."



LILI MARLEEN

MARCH 21/22 FRI/SAT LILI MARLEEN

LILI MARLEEN NEW 35mm PRINT! (1981) With that legendary title song as her signature, Hanna Schygulla rises to the top of the Third Reich entertainment world, despite Goebbels' hatred for the tune and her romance with Jewish pianist Giancarlo Giannini (later in Swept Away, the original version). Fassbinder's lavish, big-budget recreation of the era created scandal on first release with its cynical depiction of a supposed Jewish underground railway to Swiss freedom, casting Timotheo as his Berlin chief in a typically outrageous touch. "A movie with a fantastic plot and very rich and energetic mise-en-scène..."



THE STATIONMASTER'S WIFE

THE STATIONMASTER'S WIFE NEW 35mm PRINT! (1977) Bowser. Demanding wife Elisabeth Fritzenauer sexually enslaves Kurt Raab's stationmaster Bowser while enjoying a series of affairs herself, even as the self-deluded Raab powders into sullen gloom. Creepily perverse rendition of a 1920s German provincial favorite: marital despair. "An electrifying rendering of a woman's life..."



GODS OF THE PLAGUE

MARCH 25 TUE GODS OF THE PLAGUE

GODS OF THE PLAGUE NEW 35mm PRINT! (1969) Götter der Pest. Fresh out of prison, sleazy hood Harry Baer resumes his peristalsis with girlfriend Hanna Schygulla - among others - and crony Gonio (Günther Kaufmann), the two planning a big knock-off of a supermarket for a tour-de-force climax. "A witty, stylish meditation on American Film Noir, filtered through the decidedly dark and morbid sensibility of its director..."



GODS OF THE PLAGUE

FILM FORUM 2

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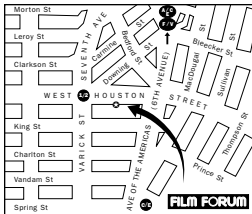


FASSBINDER

FEB 14 - MAR 27 6 WEEKS

FILM FORUM

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