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WEXNER CENTER PRESENTS FASSBINDER SERIES

“The most dazzling, talented, provocative, original, puzzling, prolific, and exhilarating filmmaker of his generation.” —Vincent Canby, *New York Times*

The Wexner Center starts the new year with a month-long celebration of the work of one of the most influential filmmakers of the last half century, **Rainer Werner Fassbinder**. The retrospective, which features new 35mm prints of the films, begins on January 8 and runs through January 30.

Fassbinder (1945–1982) was one of cinema’s most astonishing prodigies, making over 40 remarkable films in just 15 years. This series showcases Fassbinder’s provocative and dazzling gifts as he expertly moves among genres and periods, dissecting 20th-century Germany in all its political, cultural, and sexual contradictions.

From immigrants to homosexuals to loners to misanthropes to gangsters, Fassbinder’s cinema is that of society’s outcasts and oppressed. Combining the personal and political in ways very few films of the period did and offering scathing indictments of bourgeois culture, Fassbinder offered an approach and style that has influenced filmmakers such as Todd Haynes and Lars Von Trier. This series is sure to offer an insightful look at one of film’s most idiosyncratic and influential voices, the man whose work Luc Sante of *Slate* said “will probably end up dwarfing those of virtually all of his contemporaries, no matter how long they live.”

Tickets for each evening’s screenings are \$6 for the general public, \$4 for Wexner Center members, students, and senior citizens. All screenings take place in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater, 1871 N. High St. Call 614-292-3535 for advance tickets.

FASSBINDER SERIES SCHEDULE:

Thursday, January 8 / 7 pm

Fox and His Friends (1975)

Ali: Fear Eats the Soul (1974)

Fox and His Friends (123 mins.) is a film about a working-class gay man whose lottery winnings attract unwelcome friends. *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* (93 mins.) tells the heartbreaking story of an elderly cleaning woman whose marriage to a much younger Arab mechanic threatens everyone around them.

Saturday, January 10 / 7 pm

The Marriage of Maria Braun (1979)

Veronika Voss (1982)

The Marriage of Maria Braun (120 mins.) stars Hanna Schygulla as a woman using cunning and intelligence to survive and prosper during WWII and its aftermath. Compared by one critic to *Sunset Boulevard*, *Veronika Voss* (104 mins.) is a wickedly satiric saga of a former Third Reich movie star grasping at her former glory.

Thursday, January 15 / 7 pm

Mother Küsters Goes to Heaven (1975)

Fear of Fear (1975)

A witty look into the world of cynical journalism and left-wing politics, *Mother Küsters Goes to Heaven* (128 mins.) is one of Fassbinder's funniest films, here screened with both its European and American endings. *Fear of Fear* (88 mins.) is a chilling portrait of a pregnant woman whose anxieties only increase after giving birth.

Saturday, January 17 / 7 pm

Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant (1972)

The Merchant of Four Seasons (1972)

Critic Molly Haskell described *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant* (124 mins.) as "a tragic-comic love story disguised as a lesbian slumber party in high-camp drag." In the touching, slice-of-life melodrama *The Merchant of Four Seasons* (89 mins.), a working-class peddler watches his life disintegrate into drinking, violence, and despair.

Thursday, January 22 / 7 pm

Satan's Brew (1976)

Chinese Roulette (1976)

Preceded by ***The City Tramp*** and ***The Little Chaos*** (1976)

One of Fassbinder's most perverse films, *Satan's Brew* (113 mins.) focuses on a revolutionary poet whose delusions are grounded in misanthropy. A weekend in the country becomes a

comic nightmare in *Chinese Roulette* (86 mins.) when family members arrive with unexpected lovers and friends. Starting tonight's program are the rare shorts *The City Tramp* (10 mins.) and *The Little Chaos* (9 mins.).

Saturday, January 24 / 7 pm

Effi Briest (1974)

The American Soldier (1970)

Hanna Schygulla takes the title role in *Effi Briest* (141 mins.), Fassbinder's exquisite period piece based on Theodor Fontane's romantic 19th-century novel. *The American Soldier* (80 mins.) is Fassbinder's love-hate letter to hard-boiled Hollywood moviemaking.

Thursday, January 29 / 7 pm

Katzelmacher (1969)

Love is Colder than Death (1969)

Fassbinder's genius for ensemble acting found early expression in *Katzelmacher* (88 mins.), which focuses on a group of Munich twentysomethings with nothing better to do than drink, hang out, and taunt immigrants. Fassbinder himself appears in that film and also in *Love Is Colder than Death* (88 mins.), where he plays a small-time pimp fending off two-bit gangsters.

Friday, January 30 / 7 pm

Beware of a Holy Whore (1971)

Gods of the Plague (1970)

Set in a seaside resort, *Beware of a Holy Whore* (103 mins.) is Fassbinder's comic exposé of moviemaking run amok. *Time Out London* praised *Gods of the Plague* (91 mins.), calling it "a witty, stylish meditation on American film noir, filtered through the dark and morbid sensibility of its director."

EVENT SUPPORT

Series presented in association with The Fassbinder Foundation and Wellspring Media, Inc. The 2003-04 film/video season presented with support from the Rohauer Collection Foundation and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation. Contemporary films, international films, and visiting filmmakers presentations presented with support from the Ohio Arts Council.

WEXNER CENTER

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.