

FAREWELL TO ANIMATION ARTIST LUTZ STÜTZNER



Just now, I received word of the unexpected death of Lutz Stützner.

I met Lutz over 15 years ago, when he came to New York to present his films *THE MONUMENT* and *CONSEQUENCES* at the Museum of Modern Art retrospective *REBELS WITH A CAUSE; THE CINEMA OF EAST GERMANY*. It was as if I had known him forever. He was an easygoing, grateful and charming guest. I remember how excited he was to be with us. He could not believe that his little animation films were part of such a groundbreaking series. Lutz embraced the exciting city to its fullest, almost missing his own screenings because he just had to watch a fire truck at work in Manhattan or take a double-decker bus tour. He was always in search of new motifs, interesting characters, or funny situations he might use in his next film. Every minute of his life was devoted to animation.

We stayed in touch. Small, witty characters flew over the Atlantic and landed in my inbox, making me smile. Our emails always ended with: "Let's do a project with DEFA animation films!" Over the summer, we had even shared ideas for a project. I never had the chance to tell Lutz that we decided to dedicate our 2022 artist-in-residence program to East German animation films. I know this would have made him very happy.

Lutz left us too early. His films will always be there to remind us of the humorous, passionate, and talented artist he was. I will miss our friendship and the little characters and cartoons that cheered up my DEFA workdays. May you rest in peace, Lutz.

—Hiltrud Schulz, DEFA Film Library, October 17, 2021