SEX, GENDER & VIDEOTAPE:
LOVE, EROTICISM & ROMANCE IN EAST GERMANY
8th Biennial Summer Film Institute at Smith College
Organized by the DEFA Film Library at UMass Amherst

A Public Film and Lecture Series in Amherst and Northampton
19 - 24 July 2015

Films in German, with English subtitles or voice over | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & FREE (except where noted)

* North American Premiers

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 (Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall, Smith College)
   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 (Frauenschicksale)
   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 by Barton Byg, UMass Amherst.

7:00-9:30 pm – SCREENINGS (Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall, Smith College)
   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**  
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)  
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 (Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall, Smith College)  
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)*  
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)*
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 (Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall, Smith College)
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 (Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall, Smith College)
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.

For more information, please contact:
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