

THE FASSBINDER FOUNDATION



**Rainer Werner Fassbinder
Foundation**

The RWFF Review of the Year 2013

Although we are really a rather small team, the current year was filled with plenty of projects, realized with numerous different partners. Apart from the innumerable activities that take place “behind the scenes” – including preliminary negotiations or preparatory work for future endeavors – this entails such ongoing ventures as the preservation and the restoration of Fassbinder’s oeuvre. This year has also brought us memorable and unforgettable events. We would like to give you a brief summary and would like to encourage those who prefer more in-depth coverage to go to our website. There, you will find detailed and chronological listings under the RWFF News. We know that we have a global following on the RWFF website; yet we are striving to make it even more appealing and technically advanced.

Once again, RWF’s plays were performed on domestic and foreign stages. The supreme leader is *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*, which is based on the film of the same title. Since the play’s world premiere at the Theater Documenta 2 (1971) in Darmstadt, it has been performed more than 20,000 times. Patrick Wengenroth realized its most recent production for Berlin’s Schaubühne. He was also the director of last year’s performance entitled *Angst essen Deutschland auf - Ein Blick zurück nach vorn aus der Sicht und mit den Worten von Rainer Werner Fassbinder* (i.e. *Fear Eats up Germany – Looking Back and Forward from the Vantage Point and in the Words of Rainer Werner Fassbinder*). The latter received much critical acclaim. The Schaubühne will continue to perform both productions in 2014. Another phenomenon is that Fassbinder films and themes continue to be adapted for the stage, making clear his enduring relevance, presence, and timeliness in national and international theaters. Time and time again, young directors are entranced by Fassbinder, who obviously inspires them.

Among the 2013 Fassbinder DVDs are the Blu Ray edition of *WORLD ON A WIRE* (Studio Canal, Germany and Criterion, USA) as well as a special edition of his early works included in the world famous Criterion Collection.

The opening – on October 30 – of “Fassbinder – NOW. Film and Video Art,” a special exhibition that will continue until June 1, 2014, received much public attention. Organized in cooperation with the Deutsches Filminstitut (DIF) at Frankfurt’s Deutsches Filmmuseum, this ambitious project entails a comprehensive catalogue in German and English. A close curatorial collaboration of RWFF und DIF, this show was a logistical challenge for all of us. While this interplay between Fassbinder’s films and the video works of young artists addresses specific subject matter, it is also the

point where different eras intersect: The digital and the linear worlds shake hands, making visible the developments in the realms of film and media within the past thirty years. The curators bring their point across by using a selection of manuscripts and other documents from the RWFF archives and juxtapose thematic film clips from Fassbinder movies with video works by artists who were all born in the 1970s. The use of new and newest media enables the visitors to peruse – for example – Fassbinder’s personal work-script of THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN in its entirety. On top of this event’s evident synergies, we also benefit immensely from the progress within the fields of conservation and preservation, indispensable today if you want to preserve this type of written cultural heritage.

We wish you all Happy Holidays and a wonderful year in 2014. All our best wishes to you

The Team of the Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation

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More information:

<http://www.fassbinderfoundation.de/category/news-en/?lang=en>

http://www.studiocanal.de/blu-ray/welt_am_draht-blu-ray

<http://www.criterion.com/boxsets/978-eclipse-series-39-early-fassbinder>

<http://deutsches-filminstitut.de/en/filmmuseum/temporary-exhibitions/fassbinder-now/>