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Germany in Autumn



Directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder,
Alexander Kluge, Volker Schlöndorff,
Heinrich Boll and others

Germany, 1977, 116 minutes.

Germany in Autumn is the collaboration of an impressive group of Germany's leading artists. It is an astonishing film that presents a cross-section of the political and social turmoil in the Federal Republic today.

This work combines many traditional forms into a new type of film, unforgettable in its intensity and in the power of its images. *Germany in Autumn* includes fiction, such as a delightful comedy sketch in which an accident victim looks for a helpful neighbor, but finds everyone much too paranoid to offer any assistance. There is some relatively "traditional" documentary material, such as filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder's touching conversation with his mother about conditions in modern Germany. And there is some fascinating newsreel footage of the leftist revolutionary movement of Germany in the 1920's (against which the Nazis were reacting).

Germany in Autumn shows the historical roots of the social crises in Germany today. For this reason, viewers interested in sociology or modern history might gain special insights from the film; but for every viewer, it is a compelling and beautiful film experience. The New German Cinema has never experienced such solidarity as in this cooperative work.

THE CRITICS:

"Heralded as a major political event... *Germany in Autumn*, authored by eleven of the leading names in the New German Cinema, was born of its makers' shared need to react, publicly and as filmmakers, to the events of the autumn of 1977; to take stock of the nation capable of witnessing these outrages, and of their own place in that nation's society... terrorism and state repression provide the poles of its political axis, as well as its articulated theme..." Take One