

Document Citation

Title	Zentropa
Author(s)	Harlan Kennedy
Source	<i>San Francisco International Film Festival</i>
Date	1992 Apr 24
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Europa (Zentropa), Trier, Lars von, 1991

SPONSORED BY THE
BAY GUARDIAN



4/24
4:15 & 9:30
KAB

Zentropa

Europa

DENMARK, 1991, 113 min.

In English

DIRECTOR/SCREENPLAY: Lars Von Trier

PRODUCERS: Peter Aalbaek Jensen, Bo Christensen

EDITOR: Herve Schneid

CAMERA: Henning Bendtsen, Jean-Paul Meurisse, Edward Klosinsky

CAST: Jean-Marc Barr, Barbara Sukowa, Eddie Constantine

PRINT SOURCE: Miramax Films

Stylistically the most dazzling film seen at Cannes in years, **Zentropa** is a trip along the twin scenic routes of myth and history. Set in Germany immediately after WWII, it stars Jean-Marc Barr as Leopold Kessler, a young American returning to his native Germany as a gesture of goodwill and taking a job as a sleeping car conductor. He finds himself entangled with an ambiguous woman, American Occupation authorities, pro-Nazi terrorists, and Zentropa, a gigantic corporation which becomes the center of a power struggle crucial to the New European Order. "What makes **Zentropa** dazzle are its spectacular back-projection and superimposition techniques. It sets the theme of postwar anguish to the pace of an early

James Bond thriller. It mixes the preoccupations of the *film d'auteur* with Hollywood's technical dazzle. It has the breadth of the most ambitious American epics and an attention to detail worthy of the Continental masters." —*Mary Corliss, Film Comment*. "By virtue of his multi-layer narrative and visuals, Von Trier can push the film's tone in almost any direction at almost any moment. It's a film so extravagantly playful that it seems like a fire-sale of post-modernist tropes. Strewn with narrative non sequiturs and casual apocalypses, it is to postwar Europe what *Twin Peaks* is to small-town America."

—*Harlan Kennedy, Film Comment*

• *Prix du Jury, Cannes*