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DER AMERIKANISCHE SOLDAT by Rainer Werner Fassbinder (1970)

S y n o p s i s

Three Munich policemen hire Ricky (Karl Scheydt), an American, originally from Munich, who had been in Vietnam and is now a professional killer. He is asked to kill several people. Before carrying out his first job, Ricky meets his old buddy Franz Walsh (R.W. Fassbinder) and together they visit the slum area where they lived as children. Ricky's first victim is a gypsy (Uli Lommel), then the policemen order him to kill a girl (Katrin Schaake) who is dealing with porno literature and secret information. Since her friend happens to be with her, Ricky finishes him off, too. When Ricky asked for a girl, the hotel clerk provides him with Rosa von Praunheim (Elga Sorbas), the girl friend of one of the policemen. She falls in love with Ricky. Ricky visits his mother (Eva Ingeborg Scholz) and his brother (Kurt Raab). The last order given to Ricky is to kill Rosa and he does so without hesitation. The final showdown takes place in front of the railroad station: Ricky and Franz are shot and killed by the policemen because they were temporarily diverted by the arrival of Ricky's mother and brother. The last slow motion shot shows the mother frozen in a state of shock in the background while the brother throws himself over Ricky's body.