

## Document Citation

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Midnight Thursday, April 21 (Cast.)

## Federal Republic of Germany



### Querelle

1982. Color. 2.35 (scope) format. Dolby Stereo. 106 min.

In German with English subtitles

*Producer:* Dieter Schidor/*Director-Screenwriter:* Rainer Werner Fassbinder/*Cinematographer:* Xaver Schwarzenberger/*Editor:* Juliane Lorenz/*Music:* Peer Raben/*Lyrics:* Oscar Wilde/*Art Director:* Rolf Zehetbauer/*Principal Cast:* Brad Davis, Franco Nero, Jeanne Moreau, Gunther Kaufman/*Production Company:* Planet-Films, Albatros Produktion (RFK), Gaumont France/*Print Source:* Triumph Films

Presented at the Berlin (1983), Venice (1982), and London (1982) film festivals

The last and best film of the almost unbelievably productive R.W. Fassbinder, *Querelle* is based on an erotic, homosexual novel by Jean Genet. The film was made with an international cast, including Jeanne Moreau, and was shot by the virtuoso cinematographer, Xaver Schwarzenberger. Here is Fassbinder's description: "A sailor named Querelle comes ashore in Brest. The people he meets become his slaves. In cold blood, he murders his fellow sailor, Vic, so that he can sell to Nono, the brothel-keeper, the opium that the pair have smuggled into the port. The murder is not discovered, so Querelle decides to select his own executioner. He has Nono rape him, then hands a young mason named Gil over to the police for the murder of Vic." This summary gives away less than you might think, because Querelle's story is about sex, violence, and self-love, but it is also about other characters as they watch, want, and try to have Querelle.

*Querelle* is yet another kind of film. The story is dreamlike, and the very beautiful sets, cinematography and lighting (gold and black) are never realistic. The actors move and speak with a rhythm that becomes hypnotic. It is the most directly autobiographical of Fassbinder's films, and the most abstract.

—Janet Bergstrom