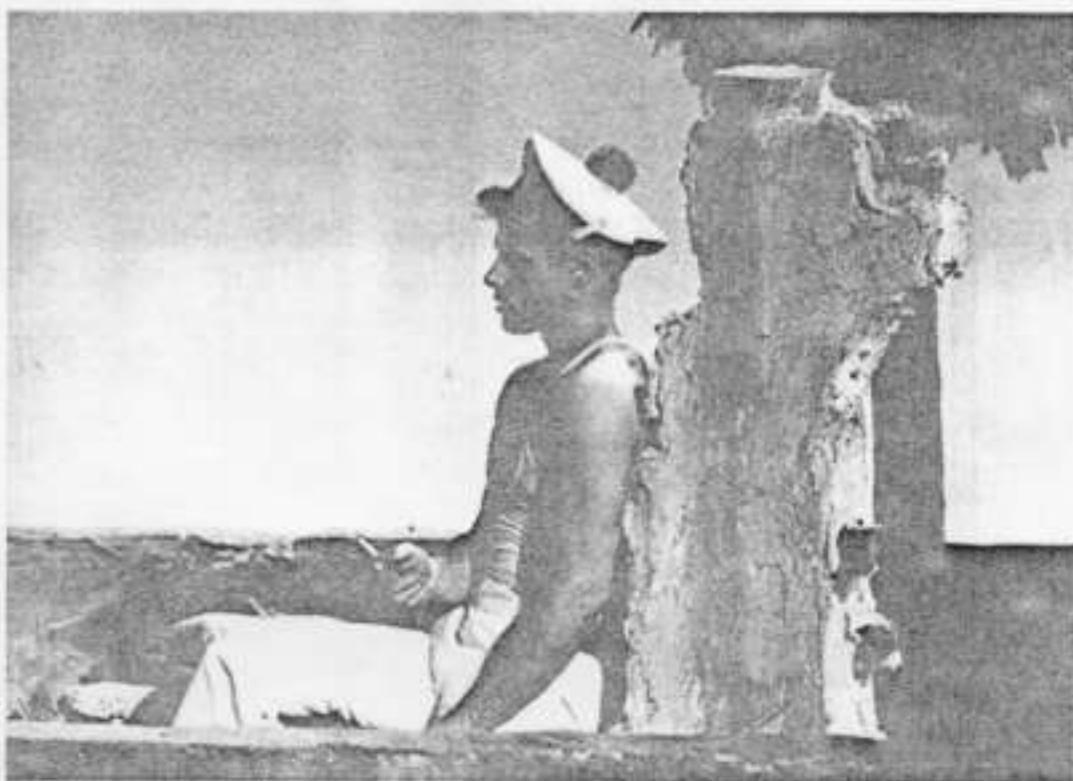




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WEST GERMANY/FRANCE 1982

Querelle

Sat 11 Nov 8.45 (Members Only)

Director: Rainer Werner Fassbinder

Production Company: Plané-Film with Gaumont
Producer: Dieter Schöle

Screenplay: Rainer Werner Fassbinder

Based on a story: *Querelle de Brest* by Jean Genêt

Photography (Scope/Colour): Xavier Schwarzenberger

Edit: Juliane Lorenz

Art Director: Rolf Zehetbauer

Costume: Barbara Baum

Music: Peter Rabisch

Lyrics: Oscar Wilde

Sound: Vladimir Verner

Export Agent: Plané-Film, Amalienstr. 45, 8000 Munich 40

Leading Players: Brad Davis, Franco Nero, Jeanne Moreau, Laurent

Malo, Hans-Peter Pischl, Günter Kaufmann, Burkhard Driest, Dieter

Schöle, Roger Fritz

Running Time: 90 min

Festival: Venice, San Sebastian

Fassbinder's last film is a scorched, astonishing litany of sacred and profane love, based on Jean Genêt's novel of homosexual romantic agony, *Querelle de Brest*. Planted down in a surreal, orange-lit studio set - there's a permanent sunset, phallic stone towers adorning the sea-wall

and nocturnal passions writhing round-the-clock - Brad Davis's sailor hero fences with love and death and with Franco Nero (his adoring captain), Jeanne Moreau (café chanteuse) and two smokily look-alike alter egos; a brother and a fugitive murderer. Like all Fassbinder's best films, it's a baroquely heated dance of mirrors, mirror-images and sudden stylistic shifts: truth stung out from the protagonist's awakening from narcissism into a world where pain and communion are one. Fassbinder paints carnal and Christian love not as opposites but as parallels (there's a pass-through Calvary pageant to underscore the point), and the movie's style is as daring as its contents. Dialogue, soliloquy, voice-off narration, choral music all fugitively intertwine on the sound-track while the visuals combine ballistically, ritualised movement with Fassbinder's love of richly blended colour filters. It's a tantalising last glimpse of one of the most prodigious imaginations in modern cinema.—Nigel Andrews.

Short: Pink Triangle (USA, 1982/Dw/Pink Triangle Collective). A documentary designed to explore prejudice against lesbians and gay men, so-called homophobia, with an historical perspective including the persecution of gays in Nazi Germany where the 'pink triangle' was their concentration camp badge. 35 mins.