

## Document Citation

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Ali: Fear Eats the Soul

(*Angst essen Seele auf*)

Directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder

West Germany 1973, 35mm, color, 94 min.

With Brigitte Mira, El Hedi ben Salem,

Barbara Valentin

German with English subtitles

TO SAY THIS film is a family melodrama would be an understatement. This is melodrama with a capital M, and a beautiful homage to the great German-American director Douglas Sirk, particularly to his film *All that Heaven Allows*. Fassbinder brilliantly articulates class and sexual politics by showing how once the prejudices surrounding a controversial couple begin to lessen, their relationship starts to unravel. His famous interior long shots are perfectly integrated and the colors masterfully contrasted with the reality they adorn.