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A Virus Knows No Morals

Ein Virus Kennt Keine Moral

Director: Rosa von Praunheim

Producer: Rosa von Praunheim

Screenplay: Rosa von Praunheim

Cinematographer: Elfi Mikesch

Cast: Rosa von Praunheim, Dieter Dicken, Maria Hasenaecker,
Eva Kurz

Print Source: First Run Features

1986/color/82 min.

Nurses on the night shift roll dice to see which AIDS patient will die next. The government opens a quarantine camp called Hell Gay Land, where, to create the impression of a long life, Christmas is celebrated every month. Gay terrorists kidnap the minister of health. Presenting a series of outrageous characters in absurd situations, this provocative film takes viewers into the very heart of the AIDS disaster, exploring the political as well as the tragic social and personal aspects of the epidemic with dark humor. Long a vocal and visible presence in Berlin's underground gay community, filmmaker Rosa von Praunheim also attacks the refusal of some gay Berliners to face the seriousness of the AIDS epidemic and respond accordingly. Von Praunheim himself portrays one of the more unsavory characters in the film: the insensitive owner of a gay sauna who continues to operate his business for profit even though it is a prime source for the spread of the virus. While lampooning such handy targets as the medical profession, the press, religion and government, the film raises the sober issues of the profitability of disease in a capitalist society and the hysteria resulting from bureaucratic unwillingness to educate the public. A rough-edged, improvisational style and careening camera, meant to mimic the way eyes actually function, create a kaleidoscopic pace for this stinging satire that spares no one.

Midnight Friday, October 9 (F5) Tivoli

11:45 pm Saturday, October 10 (C12) Tivoli

11:00 pm Tuesday, October 13 (X26) DCC

Short: Tugging the Worm, directed by James Duesing (10 min.).

Midnight 10th Street Antenna Club D.C. Dec 1, 1987