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STRONGMAN FERDINAND

West Germany 1976
Color 98 Minutes

Director.....Alexander Kluge
Producer.....Alexander Kluge
Screenplay.....Alexander Kluge
Photography.....Thomas Mauch
Editing.....Heidi Genee
Music.....Emil Waldteutel
Sound.....Heiko Hinderks

Cast

Ferdinand Rieche.....Heinz Schubert
Gertie Kahlmann.....Verena Rudolph
Kniebling.....Joachim Hackethal
Ganter.....Heinz Schimmelpfennig
Wilutzki.....Gert Gunther Hoffmann
Rosotschke.....Enrich Kleiber
Dr. Haferkamp.....Daphne Wagner
Kobras.....Siegfried Wischnewski
Minister.....Hans Fabe



WINNER ! INTERNATIONAL CRITICS PRIZE (DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT): CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 1976.

Locarno Film Festival	1976	San Francisco Film Festival	1976
Perth Film Festival	1976	Festival of Festivals, Toronto	1976
Edinburgh Film Festival	1976	Chicago Film Festival	1976
New York Film Festival	1976	London Film Festival	1976

Alexander Kluge has described his prizewinning new film as "a comic contribution to the law-and-order campaign in West Germany." Its title character is the chief security officer in a major industrial plant. Apart from his weakness for a light-fingered waitress, security is his only passion; and the single-minded logic with which he pursues it proves his undoing.

To convince his superiors of the need for stricter precautions, he stages raids on his own territory, arrests his boss when he finds him planning a merger, and eventually gets involved in a rifle attack on a government minister.

Ferdinand's logic is his undoing. Kluge's logic is his strength. With frequent nods in the direction of the Keystone cops and Brecht, he examines some of the moral contradictions glibly assumed by Western democracies. With a lightness of touch he also finds, in his hero's calling, a warning sign that Germany's "unmentionable history could still repeat itself. And not only in Germany.

STRONGMAN FERDINAND is Alexander Kluge's sixth feature film. Dr. Kluge is the founder and main spokesman for the New German Cinema. He is also a lawyer, author, and a college professor. His other films include *YESTERDAY GIRL*, *OCCASIONAL WORK OF A FEMALE SLAVE*, and *ARTISTS AT THE BIG TOP: DISORIENTED*.

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