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**Apropos Of Fate**  
**Von Wegen "Schicksal"**

A Tribute to ZDF  
Nov '79 - Jan '80

Irene Rakowitz is a Berliner with four children who decides to separate from her husband after 22 years of marriage. She moves into a flat a few floors lower from her husband, taking with her two of their four daughters (the other two move out on their own). She wishes to begin to lead an independent life, and to help her daughters do the same. In the film she speaks of her reasons for al-

lowing her personal drama of emancipation to be documented: "the need to show how my apparent value system, and set of social conventions, were distorted and denied is expressed in the film. To the degree that my self-confidence grew, also grew the knowledge of what happens to women in this society and what places we are given, how we have to be and to function: and in this context, my problem is no singular fate, no personal failure." In the course of this painful, truthful, and disturbingly violent document of one woman's struggle inside a domestic prison of family and marriage, it becomes clear that the children themselves have suffered under Irene's self-realization plan, and that Irene herself doesn't seem all that happy. Although the filmmakers hold out hope for Irene's dream of freedom, *Von Wegen "Schicksal"* is most remarkable for its pessimistic overtones and honest ambiguity concerning a problem that is usually treated schematically in feminist films.

Directed by Helga Reidemeister. Assisted by Katharina Gellnitz. ZDF Production Executives, Eckart Stein and Ursula Stein. Photographed by Axel Brandt. (1979, 116 mins, English titles, Print Courtesy of The Goethe Institute)



*Apropos Of Fate* Helga Reidemeister