

Document Citation

Title **Deutschland im herbst**

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Source Los Angeles International Film Exposition

Date 1979

Type program note

Language English

Pagination

No. of Pages 1

Subjects

Film Subjects Deutschland im herbst (Germany in autumn), Brustellin, Alf, 1978

Federal Republic of Germany 28F 9:45 pm Wednesday, March 28

Deutschland im Herbst

Germany in Autumn

1978. Color/Black & White. 1.66 format. 134 min.

In German with English subtitles

Producers: Theo Hinz, Eberhard Junkersdorf Directors: Alf Brustellin. Bernhard Sinkel, Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Alexander Kluge, Beate Mainka-Jellinghaus, Maximiliane Mainka, Peter Schubert. Edgar Reitz, Katja Rupe, Hans Peter Cloos, Volker Schlondorff Screenwriters: Heinrich Boll, Peter Sternbach Cinematographers: Michael Ballhaus, Jurgen Jurges, Bodo Kessler, Dietrich Lohmann, Colin Mounier, Jorg Schmidt-Reitwein Editors: Heidi Genee, Mulle Goetz-Dickopp, Tanja Schmidbauer, Christina Warnck Principal Cast: Caroline Chaniolleau, Hildegard Friese, Petra Kiener, Eva Meier, Angela Winkler, R. W. Fassbinder, Helmut Griem Production Companies: Pro-Ject Film Filmverlag der Autoren: Hallelujah Film/Kairos Film/Print Source: New Line Cinema

Germany in Autumn is a collaborative dissertation of individual essays edited and arranged by Alexander Kluge, the "chronicler" of the New German Cinema. It is a documentary and narrative inquiry into the ruptured German body politic that followed

Berlin, Chicago, London Film Festivals 1978

the events of 1977.

Between the pomp of the Hans-Martin Schleyer state funeral and the closelywatched, masked young Germans at the burial of the stammheim inmates, the filmmakers explore the insidious spread of political hysteria. Kluge discusses events with his former history teacher; TV executives are forced to cancel a telecast of Antigone because of the play's pro-terrorist sentiments; and Field Marshal Rommel's son, now Lord Mayor of Stuttgart, grant the Baader-Meinhof members proper burial, explaining, as Kluge says, "(Rommel) decided that they belong to our history. The contradictions belong to one country. Only if all the country's contradictions are together can you accept this history and understand it."

Germany in Autumn is a film of distorted feeling and raw pain. It expresses something subtler than complicity in political horror—the memory of fear and soundless injustice.—Carlos Mendez



SHOIL Eggs

Ruth Hayes (USA, 1977, 4½ min.) Animated ovoid shapes and forms.