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# **Der Amerikanische Soldat**

**(The American Soldier)  
(GERMAN)**

**Mannheim, Oct. 11.**

Antileater (Munich) production. No releasing company set. Directed and written by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Camera, Dietrich Lohmann; music, Peer Raben; editor, Thea Eymesz. Reviewed at Mannheim Film Festival, Oct. 10, '70. Running Time: 80 MINS.

Ricky .....	Karl Scheid
Rosa .....	Elga Sorbas
Jan .....	Jan George
Doc .....	Hark Bohm
Songstress .....	Ingrid Caven
Maid ..	Margareta von Trotta

Rainer Werner Fassbinder is a unique outsider among Germany's young directors. Furthermore, a young allround talent (producer writer, actor, etc. in tv and films as well as in legit) who hardly finds his equal around here.

"The American Soldier" is in less than no time, his eighth feature pic, made in about 10 days. It's technically way above the average if compared with many new German pix shown at the just-terminated Mannheim festival: "Soldier" had its world preem here outside the contest program. Its commercial prospects are limited but taking into account that it cost so little, there shouldn't be any financial worries involved.

Fassbinder calls his latest pic "the study of a perfect killer." The main figure is an American ex-soldier of German descent. A returnee from Vietnam, he has his fingers in Munich's underworld pie. He's a professional killer, has his way with women, and naturally, doesn't survive the end of this gangster pic.

The contents doesn't matter. Fassbinder utilizes the gangsterism subject to poke fun at situations and characters. A mini-type edition of "Bonnie & Clyde," and kindred similar pix, more surface and stereotype though, but one must not forget that Fassbinder, a witty fellow indeed, manufactures such items like rabbits. And they are slickly made. Gags are delivered the nonchalant way, the types in this are funny, same goes for situations, and the result is an enjoyable pic which some buffs may like and others not at all.

They might be aware of the fact Fassbinder ridicules them, too. Somehow "Soldier" has got something of a "sick film" but he doesn't care. His cynical attitude is less important than his predilection for the movies, even if it means run-of-the-mill productions in the Fassbinder style. Hans.