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# Goetter der Pest

(Gods of Pestilence)

(GERMAN)

Vienna, April 10.

An Antiteater (Rainer Werner Fassbinder) production in collab with Michael Fengler, no releasing company set. Directed and written by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Camera, Dietrich Lohmann; music, Peer Raben. Features Hann Schygulla, Margareta von Trotta, Harry Baer, Guenther Kauffmann, Carla Aulaulu, Ingrid Caven, Jan George, Lilo Pempeit. No other credits. Reviewed at Vienna, April 9, '70. Running Time, 98 MINS.

This is the third feature by 24-year-old Rainer Werner Fassbinder, the multi-sided (director, producer, writer, actor, cabaretist) of Munich's so-called Antiteater company. His first "Colder Than Death," proved overly sterile, but his second "Katzelmacher," emerged as one of the most interesting and important German pix of 1969. This one must be considered, after "Katzelmacher," and respective comparisons are drawn, a solid disappointment. Treatment of subject matter is mainly to blame. Pic's commercial prospects look slim even at home and foreign possibilities nearly zero.

It can be said that "Gods" is not as sterile as "Colder than Death" but much sterility is associated with this new film. It is set among juvenile delinquents in Munich. A young criminal, just released from jail, soon slides again into the world of criminals. He is shot while stealing in a department store. Before this happens he sleeps with this and that girl. Incidentally, many people get shot in this so-called gangster film. One of the few survivors is a prostitute.

Fassbinder sticks to his peculiar monotonous dialog style, staccato word sequences, and spartan optical language. Yet this film lacks originality and imagination, and has too much the flavor of a cliché. One gets bored; and if not bored, restless. Despite these deficiencies, however, one is inclined to say that Fassbinder is a certain talent among Germany's young directors. "Katzelmacher" gave evidence of this. "Gods" was made too fast, and left too much to routine. Pic, world-premiered at the Viennese festival, drew mixed reviews.

Hans.