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●First the bad news: Fassbinder's brilliant *Veronika Voss*, which was being shown at the Gateway, had to be taken down two weeks before its scheduled run was to end, due to poor attendance.

Most of Fassbinder's faithful fans must have seen it already. The shortened engagement simply means that the chance of re-viewing it is temporarily deprived.

Now the good news: his monumental *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, all fifteen and a half hours of it, will be screened for the first time in the Bay Area this weekend, at Wheeler Auditorium in Berkeley.

Berlin Alexanderplatz, made for German television in 1980 as a 14-part series, was the most ambitious work that Fassbinder undertook in his short but illustrious career. Based on the novel of the same name by Alfred Doblin, it took the director twenty years to realize, and 154 days to film. It was the most amount of time he had ever spent on any one project.

BETRAYED

The film stars Gunter Lamprecht as Franz Biberkopf, who, not unlike the character of the same name in *Fox and His Friends*, is betrayed by his best friend. As usual, it is populated by actors who have come to be recognized as members of Fassbinder's stock company: Hanna Schygulla, Barbara Sukawa, Hark Bohm, Gottfried John, Brigitte Mira, and Claus Holm.