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~~Press Release:~~
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The Ritual of Desire: The Films of Daniel Schmid

A Retrospective of films by one of Europe's leading directors
November 2, 4, 9, 11, 18, 25 at Pacific Film Archive

Daniel Schmid in person on November 4
at the U.S. Premiere of his latest film *The Written Face*,
and on Thursday, November 9

Pacific Film Archive is very happy to welcome the eminent European director Daniel Schmid for a series of twelve films, many of which will be shown for the first time in the Bay Area. A friend of Rainer Werner Fassbinder and of Fassbinder's former wife Ingrid Caven, Schmid, a Swiss citizen, is often associated with the New German Cinema movement. Themes of art and artifice, desire as a projection onto the beloved, and the mysteries of memory are offered on screen in Schmid's beautiful, witty, and baroque films.

The series begins Thursday, November 2 and continues through Saturday, November 5. Screenings will be held in the University Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, located at 2625 Durant Avenue (one-half block west of College Avenue) in Berkeley. General admission to screenings is \$5.50 for one film and \$7 for double bills. For additional ticket or program information, please telephone (510) 642-1412.

Tosca's Kiss (a delightful film starring the denizens of *Casa Verdi*, a retirement home for former opera stars) and *Off-Season* (a magical evocation of anecdotes and memories from Schmid's childhood in a Swiss resort hotel) have been viewed with delight at film festivals in the past. *The Written Face*, premiering on November 4, is a vision of Japanese performing traditions. It features Tamasaburo Bando, a distinguished Kabuki theater actor who plays women's roles; actress Haruko Sugimura, who worked with the great film directors Yasujiro Ozu and Mikio Naruse; and celebrated geisha dancer Han Takehara. *La Paloma* stars Ingrid Caven as a tubercular songstress in a romantic, creepy send-up of *Tosca* and *Camille*. (Schmid also directs opera productions; his next project is a filmed opera, with libretto by Berkeley novelist and screenwriter Barry Gifford, and score by celebrated Japanese film composer Toru Takemitsu.) The Schmid-Fassbinder connection is demonstrated on November 25, at a screening of Fassbinder's wonderful film *The Merchant of Four Seasons*, in which Schmid plays a small role; and *Shadow of Angels*, Schmid's film interpretation of a controversial Fassbinder play, *The Garbage, the City, and Death*. In *Violanta*, a woman judge confronts the ghosts of her past passions; *Hecate* centers on a beautiful, very mysterious woman (played by Lauren Hutton) who entrances the European colony in 1930s Morocco. (Schmid has said, "I don't like movies without women", and has quoted Betty Davis as saying "Beauty, Mystery and Suspense, that what it's all about." *Jenatsch* is concerned with mental time travel; it tells of a present-day journalist who falls into the past through his interest in the mysterious murder of a 17th-century political hero. PFA's retrospective also includes several notable shorter films, including *Notre Dame de la Croisette*, set at the Cannes Film Festival and starring Bulle Ogier; and *Do Everything in the Dark in Order to Save Your Master's Light*, a fictional documentary about the last European school for servants.

"The Ritual of Desire: Daniel Schmid" is presented in cooperation with Pro Helvetia, Switzerland.

A complete series schedule is enclosed. For further information, please phone (510) 642-1412.