

Document Citation

Title	Alice in the cities
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Source	<i>Pacific Film Archive Calendar</i>
Date	Aug 15, 1991
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Alice in den städten (Alice in the cities), Wenders, Wim, 1974

Thursday August 15

Special Engagement

Admission: \$7 general, \$6 members, \$5.50 students, seniors, disabled. Second feature: \$1.

Alice in the Cities 7:00

Wim Wenders (W. Germany, 1974)

(*Alice in den Stadten*). A young German journalist (Rüdiger Vogler) traverses America collecting impressions for an article. He takes Polaroid photographs but they don't translate; he never writes the article. Circumstances find him on a plane home in the company of eight-year-old Alice (Yella Rottlander). In Germany, they search for Alice's grandmother, with only a snapshot of her house—and Alice's memory of it "with a dark hall and trees in front"—to go on. Apart from being a marvelous picture of childhood rendered with humor but totally without sentimentality, *Alice* is a grown man's coming-of-age. A reverse *Alice in Wonderland*, it's his coming, blinking, out of myth (out of cinema) into reality. It's the loss, for a young European, of the America "that was handed to you," as a friend chastises. *Young Mr. Lincoln* is something you see on television in a dreary motel, interrupted by advertisements; and photographs—even traveling shots—"never really show what you've actually seen."

• Written by Wenders, Veith von Furstenberg. Photographed by Robby Müller, Martin Schäfer. With Rüdiger Vogler, Yella Rottlander, Lisa Kreuzer. (110 mins, In German with English subtitles, B&W, 35mm, Print from BFI)