

Document Citation

Title	Ein April hat 30 tage
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Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1980 Jul 30
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Ein April hat 30 tage (April has 30 days), Scholz, Gunther, 1980

Ein April Hat 30 Tage

(April Has 30 Days)

(EAST GERMAN-COLOR)

Variety

7-30-80

Karlovy Vary, June 27.

A DEFA Film Production, Babelsberg, GDR: world rights, DEFA Aussenhandel, Berlin, GDR. Features entire cast. Directed by Gunther Scholz. Screenplay, Carlos Cerda, Scholz; camera (color), Guenter Haubold; music, Udo Zimmermann. Reviewed at Karlovy Vary Film Festival (Opera Prima), June 27, '80. Running time: 90 MINS.

Cast: Angelika Waller (Marie) Jurie Darie (Alvaro), Ronald Kubenz (Micha), Bert Brunn, Peter Slakakov.

Debut director Gunther Scholz came up through television and legit productions to make "April Has 30 Days," at DEFA. It's a solidarity-style pic for and about Latin American refugees living in East Germany, framed within a love story that only lasts through the month of April. The relationship is between Uruguayan exile leader and a divorced German woman with a young son.

The pair meet in the elevator of an apartment building both are moving into; since they live on the same floor, a borrowed light bulb leads to a candlelight supper and the first casual acquaintance. Maria is a factory worker, still young and lovely, but also lonely; Alvaro, a Party official, knows that he can be changed to another post and even back to South America if he's needed. Within 30 days the couple become intimate lovers, then the relationship has to be broken off for the predictable fateful reason. Alvaro says goodbye at the airport, presumably headed for the Latin American underground.

Pic has some nice touches as two cultures blend awkwardly with each other in the beginning, but over the long stretch the principles remain stereotypes instead of flesh-and-blood individuals with a heart-breaking problem on their hands. Lensing and thesps (the Bulgarian ace bit player, Peter Slabakov, passes neatly as a Latin in this one) hint that director Scholz has learned his trade in the tv-studios. —Holl.