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Several weeks ago, a tv film called "Wildwechsel," freely translated is "The Crossing Paths of Wild Animals," had even more torrid sex scenes than "Tango" and was shown in primetime. With only 10 seconds warning that the film was not suitable for children, the picture opened with the camera on two nude teenagers in a barn.

Throughout the picture they repeated their couplings, until the film ends with the lover brutally shooting his girl friend's father because he objected to his 14-year-old daughter having an affair with the boy.

"Wildwechsel" was written by Franz Xaver Kroetz, rising young dramatist and social critic in the German theatre. It was directed by an equally talented director, 25-year-old Rainer Werner Fassbinder, who made his reputation in the German film and theatre and is now turning his talents to television.

The boy is played by Harry Baer who has appeared wearing more clothes in Fassbinder's Munich productions. Baer has apparently taken a good deal of static about this role in "Wildwechsel" especially the controversial and historic scene when his genitals fill the tv screen. "I'll never make a picture like that again," he said. "I want to go away and hide somewhere." Baer has refused to give any interviews since then.

The girl is 18-year-old Eva Matthes who is used to being cast without clothes, having appeared naked each night on the Hamburg stage in a production called "Stallerhof." Since millions of viewers have seen her nude in "Wildwechsel" she has become a celebrity.

"All kinds of weird people stop and talk to me now and tell me their problems," she complained. "I'm afraid to go out in public anymore."

Letters received from viewers are equally divided between those who denounced the film as being unadulterated pornography, which has no place on tv, to those who felt it was a good sexual educational film for their teenagers. The girl, who apparently was not on the pill, becomes pregnant, which may seem to make the picture somewhat dated.

Unlike Theodore Dreiser's "An American Tragedy" (the remake was called "A Place in the Sun") the boy does not kill the girl, but her father.

It was the murder scene and the showing of the genitals, not the sexual intercourse segments, that caused the loudest howls of protest. Film censors said that had "Wildwechsel" been shown in theatres they would have cut out the genitals, otherwise would have restricted youngster from seeing it.

Since tv censorship is apparently a do-it-yourself operation, Fassbinder left the scene in saying he was not bound by film censors. The only criticism that the director has taken seriously is from a critic who said the sex scene in the barn should have taken place in the hay and not on straw. Obviously," the critic wrote, "the director must have grown up in the city."

The barrier breaking the nude and coupling scenes are apparently paving the way for the acceptance of American "R" and even "X" films on German television without censorship, when they become available, including perhaps the full length version of "Tango" which whetted the appetites with its video trailer.

It is now become a standing gag among German television viewers, who are beginning to like films like "Wildwechsel" to ask, "what's on Channel Sex tonight?"