

# German Films

at Ames Public Library



**In German with English captions, unless otherwise noted.**

***Adventures of Prince Achmed* (DVD FOREIGN ADV)** 67 min. 1926. Premiered in Germany in 1926, and based on *The Arabian Nights*, this movie has been hailed as the first full-length animated film. A wicked sorcerer tricks Prince Achmed into mounting a magical flying horse to send him on a flight to his death.

***Aguirre, the Wrath of God* (DVD FOREIGN AGU)** 94 min. 2000. Spanish conquistadors, led by Pizarro, go up the Amazon in search of gold. The soldiers battle starvation, Indians, the forces of nature, and each other. Don Lope de Aguirre is consumed by visions of conquering all of South America and leads a revolt. Aguirre's megalomania turns the expedition into a death trip.

***Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* (DVD FOREIGN ALI)** 93 min. 2002. Tells the outrageous, touching story of a bumpy love affair between a German floor washer and an inarticulate Arab mechanic.

***As Far As My Feet Will Carry Me* (DVD FOREIGN AS)** 122 min. 2001. German soldier Clemens Forell makes his dramatic escape from a Siberian labor camp after World War II. Through bitter cold and life-threatening adventures, Forell is determined to reunite with his family.

***Beresina* (DVD FOREIGN BER)** 108 min. 1999. Irina, a Russian call girl, finds herself in a fairy-tale Alpine country, where an intricate plot unfolds after she inadvertently sets in motion a long-since forgotten series of events involving greed, the government, and the fate of a nation.

***Berlin Jerusalem* (DVD FOREIGN BER)** 85 min. 1989. This moving drama of the birth of Israel focuses on two women - Else Lasker-Schuler, a German poet, and Tania Shohat, a Russian revolutionary. They meet first in Berlin, where utopian ideals and fear of the Nazis force their escape to Palestine. Re-united in Jerusalem, they confront a harsh reality in the city idealized in their dreams.

***Beyond Silence* (VIDEO FOREIGN BEY)** 107 min. 1999. Since her early childhood, Lara has had a difficult but important task. Both of her parents are deaf-mute, and Lara has to translate when her parents want to communicate with other people. Lara is interested in music and plays the clarinet successfully, but her parents cannot share her musical career. Lara has to decide between her parents and her own ambitions.

***The Blue Angel* (VIDEO FOREIGN BLU)** 107 min. 1994. An obsessive fascination with a cafe singer slowly destroys a quiet professor.

***Das Boot* (DVD FOREIGN BOO)** 209 min. 1981. Follows the daring patrol of the U-96, one of the famed German U-boats known as the *gray wolves*. The crew is graphically portrayed in a life-and-death struggle, challenging the British Navy at every turn.

***Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (VIDEO FOREIGN CAB)** Silent film with English captions. 91 min. 1919. A somnambulist commits murders under a hypnotist's influence. Also included is a lengthy excerpt of *Genuine*, a vampire tale. Both films are examples of the German Expressionist movement.



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***Cobra Verde (DVD FOREIGN COB)*** 110 min. 1987. A 19th-century Brazilian rancher, born Francisco Manoel da Silva, turns to banditry after being driven from his land by drought and famine. Taking the name Cobra Verde, he is a solitary figure, roaming the backlands, shooting, drinking and womanizing. When he is hired as an overseer by a decadent sugar planter, he runs into trouble when his employer's three daughters wind up pregnant. The locals ship him to Africa to administer the faltering slave trade, assuming he will not come back alive. He arrives to find the garrison deserted, and the King, apparently, gone mad. Cobra Verde however, is a special kind of diplomat, and before long he is training an army of amazons to launch a rebellion against the King.

***December Kisses (DVD FOREIGN DEC)*** 88 min. 2002. Freddy is a desperate man on the lam, taken in by Thomas, a kindhearted clergyman. Freddy is secretly nursed back to health in the bell tower of Thomas's church by the priest's daughter, who is drawn to him. While Thomas fends off investigators, a burgeoning relationship grows in the tower. When his daughter plans to leave with Freddy once he is recovered, Thomas confronts his own beliefs. Does his compassion for his friend extend to his own daughter's love?

***Downfall (DVD FOREIGN DOW)*** 155 min. 2004. The setting is Hitler's bunker, in 1945, during the brutal and harrowing last days of the Third Reich. Seen through the eyes of Hitler's infamous secretary, Traudl Junge, optimism crumbles into grim realization and terror as it becomes clear that Germany's defeat is inevitable. As the Russian army circles the city, the dimly lit halls of the underground refuge become an execution chamber for the Fuhrer and his closest advisors.

***Enigma of Kaspar Hauser (DVD FOREIGN ENI)*** 109 min. 1975. Based on a historical event, this is the story of Kaspar Hauser, a young man who appeared in a small German town in 1820 after living in total isolation from humans since birth. He learns to speak, read, and write, but is then mysteriously murdered.

***Europa Europa (DVD FOREIGN EUR)*** In German and Russian with English captions. 114 min. 1991. This movie is based on the true story of a Jewish teenager who survived World War II by living as a Nazi for seven years.

***Faraway, So Close (DVD FOREIGN FAR)*** In German with English, Spanish, French, or Portuguese captions. 146 min. 1993. In this sequel to *Wings of Desire*, an angel dares to cross the line into the harsh reality of post-Cold War Berlin. He finds himself engaged in deadly combat to protect the mortals he loves.

***Fidelio (VIDEO FOREIGN FID)*** Sung in German with English captions. 130 min. 1979. This is the Glyndebourne Festival performance of Beethoven's opera. It is Beethoven's only opera. The opera tells how Leonore, disguised as a prison guard named "Fidelio," rescues her husband Florestan from death in a political prison.

***Fitzcarraldo (DVD FOREIGN FIT)*** 157 min. 1982. A man is obsessed with the ambition to make his fortune and build his own personal opera house in the jungle.

***Flirt (VIDEO FOREIGN FLI)*** In English, German, and Japanese with English captions. 85 min. 1995. This is an intriguing look at conflicting messages of desire and deceit in three separate stories, among three different couples, in New York, Berlin, and Tokyo.

***Gloomy Sunday (DVD FOREIGN GLO)*** In German with English, Spanish, or French captions. 114 min. 1999. Set in Budapest in the thirties, two men desire the same woman. The restaurant owner Laszlo hires the pianist András to play in his restaurant. Both men fall in love with the beautiful waitress Ilona, who inspires András to write his only composition.



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***Good-bye Lenin!* (DVD FOREIGN GOO)** 121 min. 2003. Alex's proud, socialist mother falls into a coma for eight months. When she wakes, her heart is weak, so Alex has to keep the secret that the Berlin Wall has fallen and capitalism has triumphed. What begins as a little white lie turns into a major scam.

***Grande Illusion* (VIDEO FOREIGN GRA)** In German, French, and English with English captions. 114 min. 1937. Two French air corps officers are shot down and captured during World War I. Despite their different social classes, they are drawn together in attempts to escape. The aristocrat sacrifices his own chances in order to aid his companion's escape.

***Hanussen* (VIDEO FOREIGN HAN)** 117 min. 1989. In 1920s Berlin, Erik Jan Hanussen is a magician and clairvoyant whose compelling stage show turns him into a star. His uncannily accurate predictions make him a celebrity. Soon, when he looks into the future, he can see a rising storm of hate, destruction, and war. When the Nazis seize power, he is forced to choose between joining them and standing alone.

***The Harmonists* (DVD FOREIGN HAR)** In German or French with English captions. 115 min. 1997. Based on a true story, this tells of a German vocal group that disbanded in 1934 as part of the mounting persecution of Jews. They did comic and romantic songs in intricate harmony and were extremely popular, but as the Nazis became more powerful, they were forbidden to sing songs by Jewish composers - and finally, because three of their members were Jewish, they were banned from performing in public.

***Heart of Glass* (DVD FOREIGN HEA)** 94 min. 1974. A German village loses the secret of making its unique ruby glass. The townspeople turn to madness, murder, and magic in an effort to recover the lost ingredient. During filming, the cast was hypnotized to convey hallucination, prophecy, and visions.

***Jacob the Liar* (VIDEO FOREIGN JAC)** 96 min. 1974. Trapped in a Polish ghetto, facing starvation or deportation to the death camps, Jacob is detained at Gestapo headquarters. Eavesdropping, he overhears a radio report about a Russian victory. At first he is silent, but circumstances compel him to pass on the news of hope. To be believed, he feigns access to a hidden, forbidden radio, becoming a bulwark against despair – a reluctant hero, but a tragic figure still, a man ultimately powerless to see or change the fate of his people.

***The Legend of Rita* (DVD FOREIGN LEG)** 101 min. 1999. This political thriller, set during the Cold War, recounts the struggles of a young woman who is a member of a terrorist group (loosely based on the real Baader-Meinhof gang). When the group disbands, she goes into hiding with an invented identity in East Germany. She struggles with the realities of a Communist state while keeping the distant ideal of socialism.

***The Lives of Others* (DVD FOREIGN LIV)** 137 min. 2007. Set in 1984 East Berlin, a secret service agent assigned to monitor a playwright and his girlfriend questions his assignment and his loyalty to the government. This film won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

***M* (DVD FOREIGN M)** 111 min. 1931. This drama is based on an actual Düsseldorf murder, recounting the hunt by both law enforcement agents and the underworld for a psychopathic killer of young girls.

***Marianne & Juliane* (VIDEO FOREIGN MAR)** 103 min. 1981. Based on a true story, this film relates the relationship between two sisters. The story parallels the personal history of the Ensslin sisters: Gudrun (Marianne in the film) was imprisoned as a terrorist in the Stammheim prison, where she died, supposedly of suicide, in the fall of 1977. Christiane (Julianne in the film) worked as an editor of the women's magazine "Emma," and was determined to prove that her sister did not kill herself.



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***The Marriage of Maria Braun* (VIDEO FOREIGN MAR)** 120 min. 1978. Fassbinder's allegorical story of post-war Germany tells of a young woman as she strives for material wealth while ignoring human values.

***Metropolis* (DVD FOREIGN MET)** Silent with English captions. 115 min. 1926. This classic silent film is a drama about authoritarianism and revolt in a mythical industrialized metropolis of the 21st century.

***Moloch* (DVD FOREIGN MEL)** 108 min. 1999. It is the spring of 1942 in Germany. In their mountain retreat, Eva Braun is the only voice that dares contradict Germany's Fuhrer. Eva is caught up in the complexities of being the lover of a man incapable of human intimacy, making her as volcanic as he is.

***Mostly Martha* (DVD FOREIGN MOS)** 107 min. 2001. Martha is a chef who obsesses over each dish. When her sister dies, Martha adopts Lina, her eight-year-old niece. Martha gets help from Mario, her handsome new assistant, who is not only a whiz on the chopping block, but knows sundry magic tricks and jokes to keep Lina's spirits afloat. As Martha starts to grow fond of Lina, her erratic father arrives to take her back to Italy.

***My Name Was Sabina Spielrein* (DVD FOREIGN MY)** 90 min. 2002. This film is based on the letters and diaries that revealed a love affair between psychiatrist/writer Carl Jung and his first patient, Sabina Spielrein.

***The Nasty Girl* (VIDEO FOREIGN NAS)** 94 min. 1989. Sonja undertakes a school project to investigate her town's past. In this provocative comedy, she discovers many secrets - secrets the town wants to hide.

***Nosferatu* (DVD SCI-FI NOS)** Silent with musical score and English captions. 81 min. 1922. In the first film version of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, Transylvanian vampire, Count Orlock (Nosferatu), leaves his Carpathian castle and travels by ship to Bremen, bringing coffins filled with dirt and plague-infected rats.

***Nowhere in Africa* (DVD FOREIGN NOW)** In German, Swahili, and English with English captions. 142 min. 2001. Critically acclaimed, this is the award-winning true tale of a Jewish family who flees the Nazi regime in 1938 and learns to cope with their new life, and each other, on a remote farm in Kenya.

***The Princess and the Warrior* (VIDEO FOREIGN PRI)** 133 min. 2000. When shy, beautiful Sissi is the victim of a car accident, a handsome small-time criminal saves her life. Once she recovers, she sets out to find him and discovers that he is a violent man with a conflicted past and a dangerous future. It doesn't take long for the two to meet again - during a deadly bank robbery. Now it is her turn to save his life.

***Run Lola Run* (DVD FOREIGN RUN)** 81 min. 1998. Two star-crossed lovers have only minutes to change the course of their lives. Lola has just received a frantic call from her boyfriend Manni, who has accidentally lost a small fortune he was to deliver to his mobster boss. If they cannot replace the money within twenty minutes, Manni will suffer severe consequences.

***Schultze gets the Blues* (DVD FOREIGN SCH)** 109 min. 2003. Schultze is a recently retired miner who, like his father, entertains polka audiences with his accordion. When he discovers the energy of zydeco music on his radio, the monotony of his routine takes a spicy turn. Schultze learns to play his accordion with a new snap and style. His fascination ultimately leads him on a life-changing journey to the Louisiana delta.

***Sophie Scholl: the Final Days* (DVD FOREIGN SOP)**. 117 min. 2005. The true story of Germany's famous anti-Nazi heroine, Sophie Scholl, of the underground student resistance group, The White Rose. The last six days of Sophie Scholl's life is dramatized, from arrest to interrogation, trial, and sentence in 1943 Munich. Unwavering in her convictions and loyalty, her cross-examination by the Gestapo quickly escalates into a searing test of wills as Scholl delivers a passionate call to freedom and personal responsibility.



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**Stalingrad (DVD FOREIGN STA)** In German and English with English captions. 150 min. 1993. This film features the bloodiest battle in the history of warfare - the legendary battle of Stalingrad.

**Tin Drum ( VIDEO FOREIGN TIN)** 142 min. 1979. At age three, Oskar Matzerath decides to stop growing. For two decades, during the Nazi reign, he remains frozen in size, suspended in the outraged innocence of childhood. Oskar has two weapons to see him through: his tin drum, which he bangs to drown out horror and hypocrisy, and his childish voice, which he raises in a shriek that can break glass.

**Verdict on Auschwitz: the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial 1963-1965 (940.5318 DVD VER)** 180 min. 1993. On August 20, 1965, after 20 months of proceedings, the verdict was announced in one of the most significant trials in German legal history. The court heard from 360 Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp survivors and other eyewitnesses from 19 countries in a trial against 22 members of Hitler's SS squad. The SS members were accused of taking part in the mass murder of millions.

**Wings of Desire (DVD FOREIGN WIN)** In German or English with English, French, or Spanish captions. 128 min. 1987. This is a romantic fantasy about an angel who wishes he were mortal and is willing to fall from the sky for a chance to fall in love. It is based on poems by Rainer Maria Rilke.

**Winter Sleepers (VIDEO FOREIGN WIN)** 124 min. 1997. Passions, emotions, love, and death are set in motion by a mysterious car accident.

## Other Movies on German Topics

**Amen (DVD DRAMA AME)** 126 min. 2002. An SS Lieutenant must act after he witnesses the chemical disinfectant that he helped create being used to murder interred Jews. The only sympathetic ear he finds is a young priest with ties to the Vatican. As the two allies fight to reveal the truth, they discover that a man of conscience can commit treason and a man of God can commit heresy in order to thwart genocide.

**Berga (940.5318 DVD BER)** 90 min. 2002. This film reveals the little known story of Berga. In December 1944, American prisoners were sent to Stalag 9B. The Nazi guards asked all the Jews to identify themselves. When no one responded, they chose soldiers that "looked Jewish" or had "Jewish-sounding" names, and shipped them to the concentration camp at Berga, where they suffered the same as the other Jews.

**Berlin's Hidden History (943.155 DVD BER)** 53 min. 2002. Berlin has a glittering present and a dark past. A historian features new Berlin, revealing a city that was Frederick the Great's, Bismarck's, and Hitler's capital before the Cold War and the Berlin Wall was built and destroyed. Features the Brandenburg Gate, Potsdammer Platz, Nazi buildings, Jewish cemeteries, Check Point Charlie, and other historical places.

**Bonhoeffer, Agent of Grace (DVD DRAMA BON)** 90 min. 2000. What can a moral person do in a time of savage immorality? That question tormented Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German clergyman who opposed the Nazis. His convictions cost him his life. His last years are dramatized in this film.

**Death in the Bunker (943.086 DVD DEA)** In German and English with English captions. 79 min. 2006. Adolf Hitler spent his last twelve days in a bunker underneath the Chancellery of the Reich. Unwilling to face the consequences of defeat, the dictator ended his own life on April 30, 1945, in this underground complex. The film includes exclusive interviews.



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***Hotel Terminus: The Life and Times of Klaus Barbie (940.54 VIDEO HOT)*** 267 min. 1988. Klaus Barbie was a Nazi war criminal who escaped and remained hidden for 40 years. This Academy Award winning documentary traces the 40-year hunt for Barbie, which ended when he was brought to trial in 1987.

***Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport (941 DVD INT)*** 118 min. 2000. This life-affirming tale of 10,000 children saved from Hitler's grasp and placed with foster parents and hostels in Great Britain at the outbreak of World War II includes archival footage and remembrances.

***The Joy of Bach (785 VIDEO JOY)*** 60 min. 1978. This film dramatizes scenes from Bach's life, interspersed with performances of his music.

***Judgment at Nuremberg (DVD DRAMA JUD)*** 186 min. 1961. 2004. Stanley Kramer's award-winner tells the story of American judge Daniel Haywood (Spencer Tracy) who presides over the trial of four German jurists accused of "legalizing" Nazi atrocities. As accounts of sterilization and murder unfold in the courtroom, mounting political pressure for leniency forces Haywood into making the most difficult decision of his career.

***The Nuremberg Trials (341.69 DVD NUR)*** 60 min. 2006. This PBS production draws upon rare archival material and eyewitnesses to re-create the tribunal that defines trial procedure for state criminals to this day.

***Paper Clips (940.5318 DVD PAP)*** 87 min. 2004. Struggling to grasp the concept of 6 million Holocaust victims, the students at Whitwell Middle School in rural Tennessee decide to collect 6 million paper clips to better understand the extent of this crime against humanity. Because Norwegians invented the paper clip and used it as a symbol of solidarity against the Nazis, students started collecting them to help visualize such vast numbers of victims. As word spread, paper clips poured in from around the world, 11 million of which are enshrined in an authentic German railcar standing in the schoolyard.

***The Six Wives of Henry VIII : Anne of Cleves (VIDEO DRAMA SIX)*** 91 min. 1970. This film from the PBS series dramatizes Henry VIII's marriage to Anne of Cleves, a German princess whom he found useful for consolidating an alliance with Germany but later divorced when his political maneuvers failed.

***Traveling Lite: Berlin (914.3 VIDEO TRA)*** 1999. Explore unified Berlin with visits to the former eastern section, the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, the Berlin Airlift Monument, and a section of the wall turned international artists' canvas.

***Triumph of the Will: A Propaganda Record of the Nazi Party's Nuremberg Rally in 1934 (943 VIDEO TRI)*** 111min. 1934. This pictorial record of the sixth Nazi congress at Nuremberg, a controversial propaganda film on Nazi Germany, is directed by Leni Riefenstahl.

***Who Killed the Red Baron (940.4 DVD WHO)*** 60 min. 2003. This new investigation of the death of Manfred von Richthofen presents newly discovered documents that overturn the conventional theory of von Richthofen's demise and features re-enactments of duels between the fragile fighting planes of WWI.



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