

Press folder



**2023 is the 60th anniversary of the Deutsche Kinemathek
Opening of the 'ArchiVistas' installation on 4.10.2023**

ArchiVistas Past Traces and Future Perspectives

The Deutsche Kinemathek is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. The story of our institute began in 1963 as an archive for films and film-related material such as screenplays, stills, set designs and film equipment. Over the decades, an outstanding collection has been created that documents the development of German film and television to the present day. From the outset, the archives have been used to research film history and share information.

Our founding director Gerhard Lamprecht already envisioned a museum that would make its collections permanently accessible to the public. Today's Museum of Film and Television was opened here on Potsdamer Platz in the year 2000.

In its anniversary year, the Deutsche Kinemathek faces new challenges. A move to a new location in central Berlin is scheduled for 2025. During the pandemic, we took the opportunity to think about new content and forms of presentation as well as the strategy behind our collection. To this end, various guests from the fields of culture, art, science, film and television were invited to take part in our anniversary year, all of whom have used their considerable expertise to consider the future of moving images and the archives of the Kinemathek. In the form of concentrated discussions, they have visited our archive and, inspired by our collections, given us constructive, unexpected and critical feedback. This has collected a wealth of ideas and knowledge, which we now present in the form of a media installation. A dialogue has been created from the most significant aspects of these encounters.

Since the beginning of our anniversary year, we have also been combing our archives to find personal and subjective aspects of selected collections and films. These can be found in our online magazine 'Insights' which is also available here in the exhibition. Finally, we have put on display a small selection of recent archive acquisitions, intended to illustrate the diversity of our collections.

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Archive

The Kinemathek has a range of different archives. First, there is the Film Heritage Department which contains the audiovisual collections, where film negatives and a collection of over 20,000 film prints are stored. Restorers in this department also work on damaged films and make restored films accessible to the public. More than 13,000 broadcasts in all television formats can be viewed in the Television Media Library. We also hold collections with specialist archives, where materials to accompany films are stored and maintained, including the Photo Archive, Document Archive, Graphics Archive, Textile Archive, Technical Archive and 3D Object Archive. The Personal Papers and Company Archives contain material relating to film and TV personalities, such as the estate of Marlene Dietrich and TV journalist Georg Stefan Troller. From all these archives, we have compiled a selection of items that have recently been acquired by our institute.

Lounge

Since the beginning of our anniversary year, many colleagues have been selecting films or items that resonate with them in particular, since an interest in our holdings and being able to work with these materials is a personal motivation for Deutsche Kinemathek employees. The selected films will be shown here at Kino Arsenal every month. You can read about the selection criteria for the chosen movies and collection items each month in our online magazine 'Insights' or watch video clips of the discussions. You can also read and view all the contributions published so far here in our lounge.

Media installation, 73 min

To mark this anniversary, we have invited filmmakers, artists, academics and students into our archives and collections to reflect on the future of audiovisual heritage. This has resulted in a wealth of ideas, knowledge and critical feedback, which we now present in an installation complementary to our permanent exhibition.

Interview partners

Fatih Akin, director, producer and screenwriter

Mo Asumang, director, producer, presenter and writer

Bernd Buder und Lea Wohl von Haselberg, members of the Berlin-Brandenburg Jewish Film Festival collective

Silke Buhr, set designer and professor of Production Design at the Film University Babelsberg

Barbara Fickert, managing director of Kinoblindgänger GmbH

Susanne Heinrich, director and writer

Kimberley Kley und Alina Rausch, students of the Carlo Schmid Secondary School Berlin

Andreas Krüger, consultant for Accessibility and Inclusion, Berlinische Galerie

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Alisa Rajewskaja und Philipp Hofen, students of art and visual history, Humboldt University Berlin

Julian Rosefeldt, visual artist and professor of media art, Academy of Fine Arts in Munich

Bénédicte Savoy, art historian and professor at the Technical University of Berlin

Wieland Speck, director, actor and director of the Berlinale Panorama section (1992–2017)

Chronicle

1963

Ceremonial opening of the Deutsche Kinemathek in the Academy of Arts in West Berlin. The founding executive is the director and film historian **Gerhard Lamprecht** (1897–1974), who addresses guests by saying: “We do not want this to be a dead archive, but for it to inspire and teach instead. We ask anyone from the audience who has anything – even the smallest programme or photos – to donate them to us. These would be welcome additions to fill in the gaps.”

Founding of the Friends of the Deutsche Kinemathek e. V.

In May, the first film event at the Academy of Arts takes place.

1965

The Deutsche Kinemathek becomes a member of the FIAF (Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film).

1966

Founding of the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (DFFB).

Opening of the first film history exhibition “From Skladanowsky to Caligari” at the Deutsche Kinemathek on Schlüterstraße 41.

1967

The first volumes of Gerhard Lamprecht’s ten-part work “Deutsche Stummfilme” (German Silent Films) are published.

1970

Exhibition on “Caligari and Caligariism” at the Deutsche Kinemathek for the 50th anniversary of the premiere of ‘The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari’.

1971

Conversion of the institution into a foundation. **Dr. Heinz Rathsack** (1924–1989), also the head of the DFFB, becomes the chairman of the board of the Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek.

1974

The film publication “Reihe Film” by Carl Hanser Verlag is initiated and published by Peter W. Jansen and Wolfram Schütte, in cooperation with the Deutsche Kinemathek.

1977

The first retrospective of the Berlin International Film Festival, organized by the Deutsche Kinemathek, is dedicated to Marlene Dietrich.

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1983

Six books are published to accompany the retrospective “Exile. Six German Actors”.
First inspection of the Hotel Esplanade complex at Potsdamer Platz, directly next to the Berlin Wall, as part of plans to build a film institute there.

1985

The Deutsche Kinemathek enjoys its first success in New York with an exhibition of posters by the graphic artist Josef Fenneker.

1987

The exhibition “Film...City...Cinema...Berlin” is held in the former Hotel Esplanade on the occasion of the 750th anniversary of Berlin’s founding. An eponymous publication is issued to accompany the exhibition.

1988

The company archives of Hollywood agent Paul Kohner are acquired.
Activities increase to create a future museum collection.
Cooperation with television broadcasters to carry out film restorations.

1990

Hans Helmut Prinzler (1938–2023) becomes director of the Deutsche Kinemathek following the death of Dr. Heinz Rathsack.

1991

After German reunification, the Japanese Sony Group buys the site on Potsdamer Platz with the former Hotel Esplanade. A film institute is planned in the new ensemble with a building lease of 25 years.

1992

In cooperation with the Deutsche Kinemathek, the German Historical Museum holds the special exhibition “The Ufa. The German Movie Empire from 1917 to 1945”. The exhibition attracts over 100,000 visitors.

The first issue of the magazine “Filmexil”, published by the Deutsche Kinemathek, is released. Twenty-two issues were produced by 2005.

1993

The Deutsche Kinemathek takes over the estate of Marlene Dietrich for the state of Berlin, funded by a purchase from the German Lottery Foundation Berlin.

1995

Exhibition with accompanying publication “Kino * Movie * Cinema” for the 100th anniversary of the advent of film at the Martin Gropius Bau.

1998

Exhibition and publication of “The Ufa Poster” at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.
The Association of Friends and Sponsors of the Film Museum Berlin e.V. is founded.
Topping-out ceremony of the film institute takes place at the Sony Center.

1999

The DFFB library is integrated into the Deutsche Kinemathek and named the Hans Helmut Prinzler Library in 2006.

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2000

The Film Museum Berlin opens in September at the Filmhaus on Potsdamer Platz. A catalogue and guide to the permanent exhibition are published.

2001

The special exhibition “Fritz Lang” takes place. For the first time, the Deutsche Kinemathek is responsible for a retrospective, an exhibition and a publication, all on one topic.

2002

The special exhibition “Television Makes You Happy” takes place, featuring fifty years of German television history in East and West Germany.

The retrospective “European 60s” takes place.

2003

The special exhibition “Götterdämmerung – Luchino Visconti’s German Trilogy” takes place with a video installation by Thomas Heise.

2004

Funding for the Deutsche Kinemathek is taken over by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media.

The retrospective “New Hollywood 1967–1976: Trouble in Wonderland” takes place.

2005

The “Film & Schrift” series starts publication, featuring Theodor Kotulla in volume 1.

Twenty-two volumes have been issued to date.

Biography of Konrad Wolf is published.

The special exhibition “Hildegard Knef – A German Artist” takes place.

2006

Dr. Rainer Rother (*1956) is appointed artistic director of the Deutsche Kinemathek. From then on, the institute is managed by an artistic and an administrative director (Dr. Paul Klimpel until 2011 and Maximilian Müllner until 2017).

The permanent exhibition is extended to include television.

Special exhibition “Movies on the Mind – Psychology and Film since Sigmund Freud” takes place which then tours to Krems, Los Angeles, Hong Kong and Buenos Aires.

2007

Retrospective “City Girls. Images of Women in Silent Film” takes place.

The conference “Representing Hitler. On the Development and Significance of a Cinematic Figure”, with an accompanying publication issued in 2008, takes place.

Subsequently, conferences are held and publications are issued on the topics “The First World War in Film”, “The Camera as a Weapon”, “The Desire for Genre”, “Werner Herzog. At the Frontiers”, “Popular and Loyal to the Party Line. The Ufa Empire from 1933 to 1945”, “Future Worlds. Science • Fiction • Film”.

2008

Special exhibition ‘Loriot. The Homage’ on the occasion of Vicco von Bülow’s 85th birthday takes place and then tours to Hamburg and Bonn.

2009

Special exhibition “Romy Schneider. Vienna – Berlin – Paris” takes place, which then tours to Paris and the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn.

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The newly designed area “From the Post-war Period to the Present” is opened in the permanent exhibition.

The special exhibition “Moments in Time 1989/1990” takes place. An online archive with private films and photos from the period May 1989 to December 1990 is created. It is shown at thirty-six Goethe Institutes and other locations worldwide.

2010

The special exhibition “The Complete Metropolis” takes place on the occasion of the restoration and completion of Fritz Lang’s film based on the discovery of a complete copy in Argentina.

The “Filmspotting” film series starts.

2011

The special exhibition “Ingmar Bergman – Truth and Lies” takes place in cooperation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Los Angeles. Retrospective and publication.

2012

The Deutsche Kinemathek’s first online presentation is dedicated to director Heinrich Breloer. The production archive is kept in the collections of the Kinemathek.

2013

Special exhibition “Martin Scorsese” takes place, subsequently going on tour to Turin, Paris, Ghent, New York, Amsterdam, Melbourne and Monterrey. The exhibition attracts more than 600,000 visitors worldwide.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Deutsche Kinemathek, the “Edition Gerhard Lamprecht” is published in three volumes.

The special exhibition “Bernd Eichinger –... Everything is Cinema” takes place.

For the first time, the Deutsche Kinemathek curates the Berlinale Classics section it initiated.

2014

Special exhibition “The Unseen Seen – Film in a New Light.” Austrian photographer Reiner Riedler photographs film copies from the Deutsche Kinemathek archives.

The special exhibition “Bigger Than Life – Ken Adam’s Film Design” takes place, based on the Berlin-born production designer’s archive acquired in 2012, with publication and online archive.

2015

The first edition of the Film Restored Festival takes place, which is dedicated to film heritage in the digital age.

2016

Special exhibition “Things to Come. Science • Fiction • Film” takes place, accompanied by a series of events and a publication.

2017

Plans to build a new film institute next to the Gropius Bau are made public.

The special TV Focus exhibition “1000 Tatorte” is launched at the Television Media Library.

Florian Bolenius becomes the administrative director alongside artistic director Dr. Rainer Rother.

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2018

The Film Heritage Funding Programme agreement is reached, whereby cinema films are digitised from January 2019 onward. The selection of films is equally based on conservational, curatorial and economic criteria to counteract the outdated idea of a film canon.

Retrospective “Weimar Cinema Revisited” takes place.

2019

The presentation “Life, Death and Weddings – Lindenstraße in the Television Media Library” takes place.

2021

The first edition of the “Fernseh salon” (Television Salon) takes place and is repeated four times a year. The first guest was Maren Kroymann.

The special exhibition “Frame by Frame – Restoring Films” takes place.

2022

The special exhibition “Werner Herzog” takes place, which subsequently goes on tour to Amsterdam.

The conference “Metamorphoses. Ulrike Ottinger’s Arts” takes place on the occasion of the acquisition of the artist’s collection.

2023

60th anniversary of the Deutsche Kinemathek.

Retrospective “Young at Heart – Coming of Age at the Movies” takes place.

The special exhibition “The German Cinema – 1895 to the present day” takes place in cooperation with the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, Völklinger Hütte.

Facts and figures about the Deutsche Kinemathek

More than 10,000 folders and envelopes are used in the archives as packaging archival material every year.

The Textile Archive comprises more than 5,500 individual objects, of which some 3,200 belong to the Marlene Dietrich Collection.

The most frequently used materials from the archives are those related to the films ‘The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari’ and ‘Metropolis’.

The Document Archive stores material relating to 72,500 film titles and more than 20,000 screenplays.

The Graphics Archive stores costume and production designs for around 1,400 film and theatre projects, including more than 28,000 film posters.

The Graphics Archive comprises almost 700 storage drawers.

The photo archive contains around one million analogue photographs, slides, negatives and digital images, including material relating to around 45,000 film titles and 15,000 people.

The Personal Papers and Company Archives holds the pre- and post-mortem bequests of more than 600 filmmakers from all professional groups in the film and television industry.

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The archive of production designer Sir Ken Adam alone comprises more than 6,000 drawings and sketches. This archival material is also available online at ken-adam-archiv.de.

The Personal Papers and Company Archives contains over 160,000 sheets of correspondence from Hollywood agent Paul Kohner, among others.

In the Television Media Library, more than 13,000 programmes shown on German licensed channels over the past seven decades are available.

The exhibition 'Loriot. A Homage' attracted over 100,000 visitors in Berlin.

Films from the archive are screened somewhere in the world every day.

The most sought-after film from our film distribution library is 'Three Hazelnuts for Cinderella'.

The Deutsche Kinemathek has audiovisual material for 75,000 film titles.

In 2022 alone, thirty-six film titles from the audiovisual collection of the Deutsche Kinemathek were restored.

In total, the timespan of all the special exhibitions since the opening of the Film Museum in 2000, including external presentations, adds up to over forty-five years.

Many Deutsche Kinemathek exhibitions have been shown worldwide – from Buenos Aires to Los Angeles, Paris to Stockholm and Hong Kong to Melbourne.

Over two million visitors have seen the permanent exhibition of the Deutsche Kinemathek so far.

In total, the Deutsche Kinemathek on Potsdamer Platz has hosted more than eighty exhibitions and presentations.

In 2023, the Retrospective, Berlinale Classics and Homage sections of the Berlin International Film Festival, directed and curated by the Deutsche Kinemathek, attracted over 23,000 visitors.

Since 1977, the Deutsche Kinemathek has paid tribute to over forty outstanding figures in the field of international film.

The library's holdings comprise over 90,000 bound books, including monographs and journals.

There are 316 rolls of microfilm containing historical film magazines.

Credits

Artistic Director, Board of Directors:

Rainer Rother

Administrative Director, Board of Directors:

Florian Bolenius

Project manager:

Nils Warnecke

Curators:

Vera Thomas, Nils Warnecke

Head of collections and exhibitions:

Peter Mänz

Concept for interview selection:

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Anke Hahn, Elisa Jochum, Peter Mänz, Rainer Rother, Vera Thomas, Nils Warnecke, Friederike Zobel

Director and editor of film installation:

Christina Voigt

Camera, sound and lighting for film installation:

Joanna Piechotta, Christina Voigt

Portrait photos and documentation shooting:

Anna Rozkowsky, Yanina Isla for the shoot with Mo Asumang

Interviews

Vera Thomas, Nils Warnecke, Kristina Jaspers, Jurek Sehr

Exhibition coordination:

Vera Thomas

Historical research:

Rolf Aurich

Research assistants:

Gunnar Gutschmidt, Amber Lynn Harper, Paul Strätz, Marie Straßberger

Scan Operator: Sebastian Herhaus

Exhibition architecture and construction:

Camillo Kuschel Ausstellungsdesign, Berlin

Exhibition graphics:

Felder KölnBerlin

Graphic production:

Bartneck Print Artists

Audio description:

Anke Nicolai

Videos in German Sign Language:

ZFK Berlin/Brandenburg e.V.

English subtitles

subs Hamburg

Technical services:

Frank Köppke, Roberti Siefert

Lighting and media installations:

Stephan Werner

Text editing:

Claudia Lüdtkke

English translations:

Lucy Jones

Conservational supervision (paper):

Katharina Siedler

Head of Communications:

Friederike Zobel

Advertising graphics:

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Press:

Heidi Berit Zapke

Marketing

Jonas Haaf

Social Media:

Jonas Malte Scheler

Website:

Michaela Neukirch

Educational services:

Jurek Sehr, Thomas Zandegiacomo

Team assistance:

Corina Berheide

Finance:

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Staff:

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TIP Berlin

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Deutsche Kinemathek

Museum für Film und Fernsehen, 2. OG

Potsdamer Straße 2, 10785 Berlin

www.deutsche-kinemathek.de