

Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division of Filmmuseum Berlin - Deutsche Kinemathek

If you want your fellow fans to receive this newsletter or if you just want to add informations write to [mddb@kinemathek.de](mailto:mddb@kinemathek.de). If you want to support the work of the Filmmuseum Berlin-Deutsche Kinemathek of which Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division you can do so by joining the "Friends and Sponsors of Filmmuseum Berlin".

Our last newsletter provoked mixed reactions: some had fun reading it, some had the impression that it is not serious enough for a Newsletter by MDCB and some are still waiting for the follow-up. To tell the truth the article was taken originally from the papers of Fritz Lang. We do not know who wrote it; we only know it was published somewhere someplace. And yes, we took the liberty of changing it a bit.

The Newsletter of MDCB is not an official statement by the Filmmuseum Berlin - Deutsche Kinemathek. More often it reflects the personal opinion of the people at MDCB and sometimes only the opinion of Werner Sudendorf and Silke Ronneburg.

#### In Memoriam

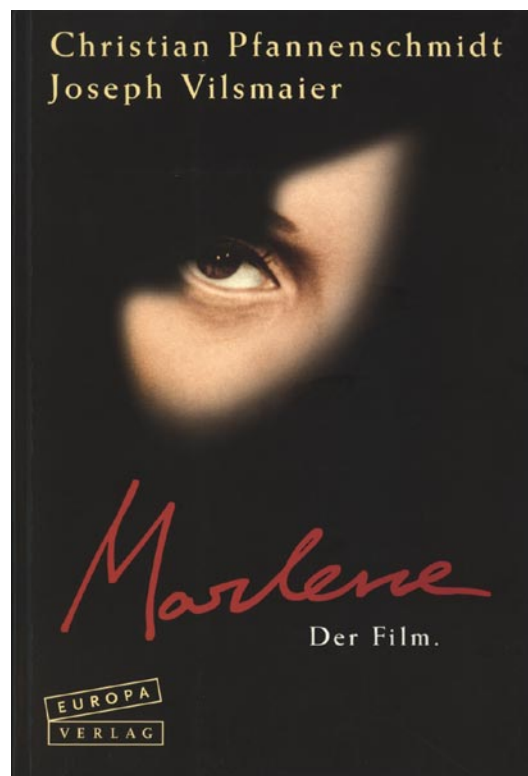
Douglas Fairbanks Jr. died on Sunday, May 7th at the age of 90. He was a close friend of Marlene since the mid-thirties. This photograph shows Marlene and Douglas Fairbanks Jr. vacationing at the Wolfgangsee in Austria 1937, disguised as peasants.



#### New Books:

Christian Pfannenschmidt/Joseph Vilsmaier:  
Marlene. Der Film. Europa Verlag  
Hamburg/Wien, 158 p., DM 28,50.

This is the script of the "Marlene" film by Christian Pfannenschmidt (the scriptwriter) and Joseph Vilsmaier (director). If you haven't seen the film and you want to know why so many critics thought that the script was the main reason for "Marlene's" failure you may read this book and make up your mind yourself. If you are not interested in a failure, you may just as well pass it by. The book is illustrated with a lot of colour stills from the film.





**Adolf Heinzlmeier: marlene. die biografie**

Europa Verlag Hamburg/Wien, 158 p., DM 28,50.

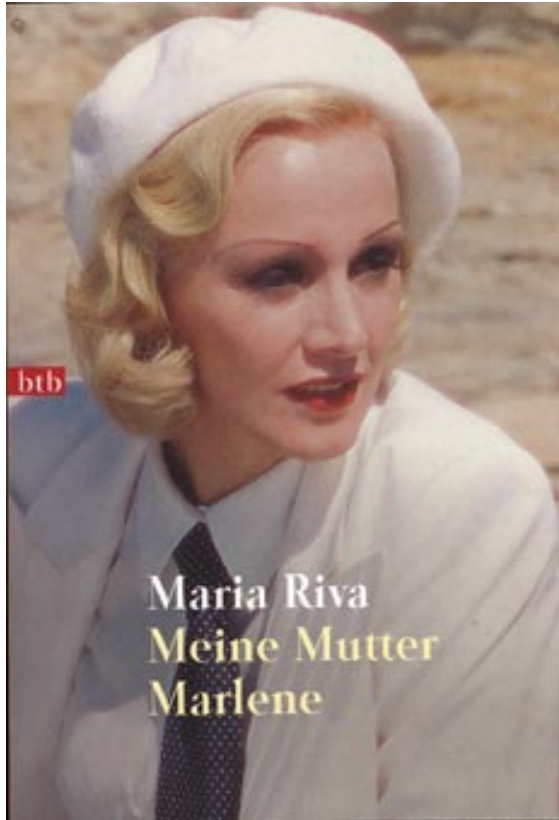
This is for collectors who don't read books just collect them. You are wasting your time by reading it. Heinzlmeier himself admitted that he did not have enough time to look at the films of Marlene. So he selected informations he derived from Steven Bachs and Maria Rivas books, put them all together and here it is: a new book.



**Steven Bach: Marlene Dietrich. Die Wahrheit über mich gehört mir**

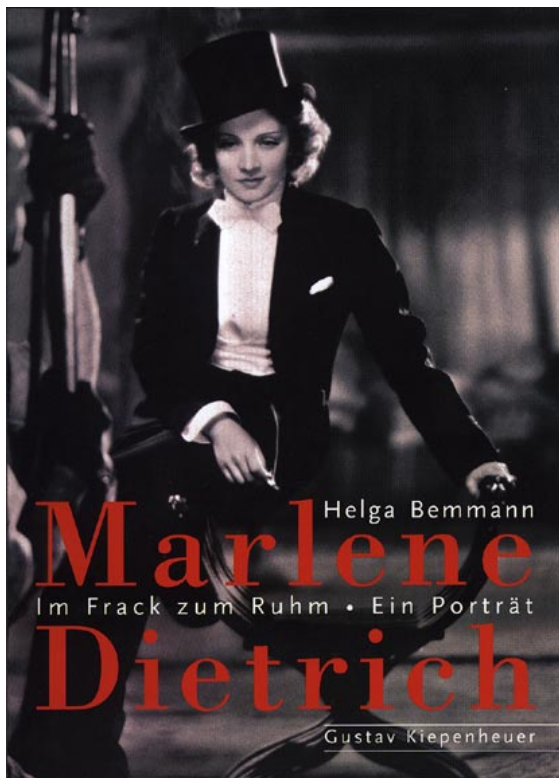
List Taschenbuch Verlag München, 572 p., DM 16,90.

At least, Steven Bachs biography is available as paperback on the german market. It is more and at the same time much less than the hard cover edition. There are a lot of new photographs to illustrate the biography. But: no index, no sources given, no discography, no filmography. In other words: The publisher cut the appendix which makes it less useful to the more serious audience.



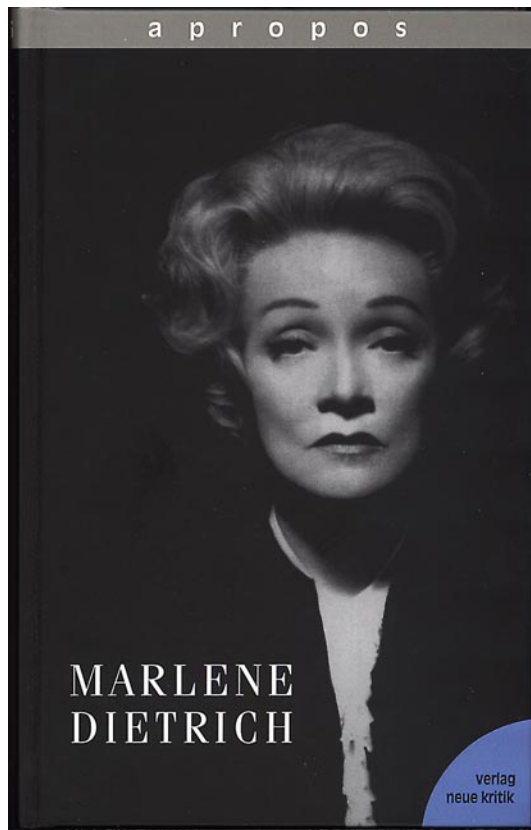
**Maria Riva: Meine Mutter Marlene**  
btb, Goldmann Verlag München, 895 p.,  
DM 25,00.

Maria Rivas biography is unabridged, even the index is there. It may well be discussed if Katja Flint on the cover impersonating Marlene is the right idea to promote Maria Rivas book. But it does not do any harm to the biography itself. Much has been said about this book: Some love it, some hate it, some love to hate it. But all agree - you have to read it.



**Helga Bemann: Marlene Dietrich. Im Frack zum Ruhm. Ein Porträt**  
Gustav Kiepenheuer Verlag Leipzig, 255 p.,  
DM 39, 90.

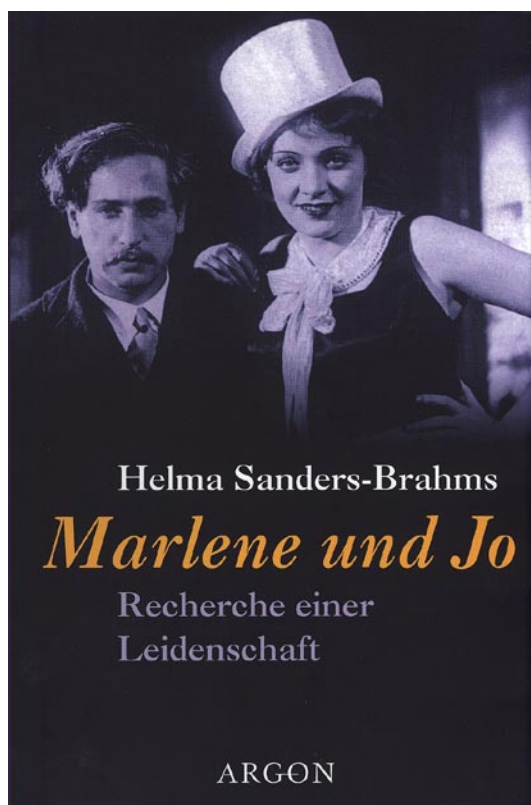
Until recently you could get Helga Bemanns "Marlene Dietrich. Ihr Weg zum Chanson" for 5,- DM on the tables of selected bookshops. If you missed it you may now pay 39,90 DM for the same book in a new and better design. You also get an extra chapter for your pay and a new title. But basically, it is the same old book again.



**Marlene Dietrich. Series "apropos"**

With an essay by Lars Jacob. Verlag Neue Kritik Frankfurt am Main, 143 p., DM 25,00.

Lars Jacob is a young writer from Munich. This is his first publication. It is a fine little book; not only does it contain a very interesting essay on Marlene by Mr. Jacob with a fresh new look at her prussian heritage. It also assembles a variety of articles written on Marlene by various writers during the last 40 years. Makes a nice present.



**Helma Sanders-Brahms: Marlene und Jo. Recherche einer Leidenschaft**

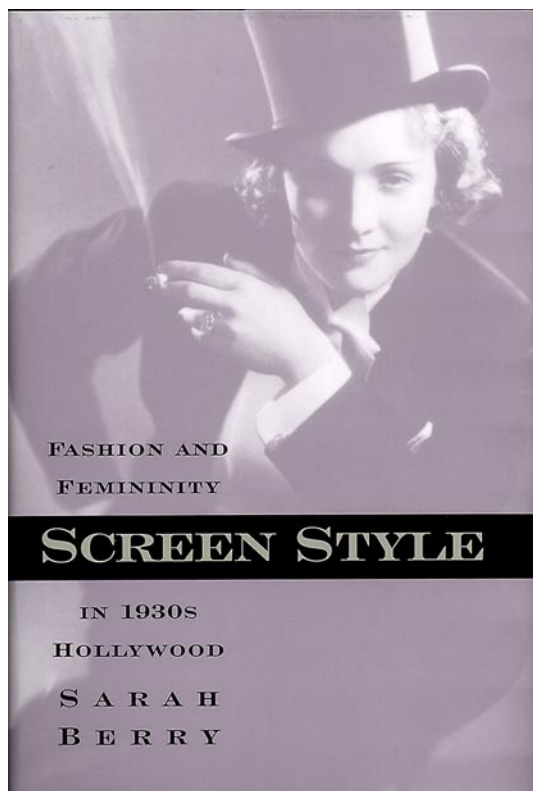
Argon Verlag Berlin, 290 p., DM 39,80.

Helma Sanders-Brahms, a woman director from Berlin, is writing on the edges of fantasy and research. The problem is that it is not enough fantasy and even less research. Although it is called a "Research into a Passion" do not expect to much passion, surely not "Passion for Research".



**Luise Dirscherl / Gunter Nickel (Hrsg):  
Der blaue Engel. Die  
Drehbuchentwürfe**  
Zuckmayer-Schriften Band 4. Röhrig  
Universitätsverlag, St. Ingbert. 518 p., DM  
78,00.

The book contains different original scripts of the film from various archives plus a continuity of the lost german trailer, an introduction and a production chronology.



**Sarah Berry: Screen Style. Fashion  
and Femininity in 1930s Hollywood**  
University of Minnesota Press  
Minneapolis/London, DM 69,80 or 25,95 \$.

The title should not frighten anyone by its academic approach. Author Sarah Berry is an academic, but she writes in a way which makes the book easy to read and to understand. It has some interesting theses on the relation of the fashion industry and Hollywood films and it has Marlene on the cover.

**More reprints:**

In the past years Donald Spoto, Alexander Walker and David Bret have published biographies on Marlene, which are now reprinted with new covers and the old story. To put it mildly, they are somehow outdated in the light of Maria Rivas efforts. Do we have to read it all again and even pay for it? A new (or is it the old one just reprinted) english edition of Donald Spotos book "The Blue Angel" will be on sale in the U.S. beginning June 2000. Donald Spoto: Marlene Dietrich. Die grosse Biografie. Wilhelm Heyne Verlag München, 400 p. DM 16,90.

**Personal note:**

Support you local bookshop! Enjoy an inspiring talk to your bookdealer.

**News:**

Eight years ago, on May 16th, Marlene was buried in Berlin.

**Exhibitions**

A Legend in Photographs.

Goethe-Institut Glasgow  
8 May - 23 June, Mon - Thurs: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.,  
Fri - Sat: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Goethe-Institute London  
July - mid-August 2000 at the National Film  
Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 8XT, tel:  
020-7928 3232 .

Press release:

"I have been photographed to death," complained the ageing Marlene Dietrich to Maximilian Schell. He was desperately trying to film her for his documentary Marlene (1983), but while the legendary diva allowed her voice to be heard, she completely refused to be seen. Throughout her career Dietrich cultivated her photographic image with extraordinary care, herself supervising her photographers and demanding the highest standards of quality. This selection of 39 photographs, showing the star at work and at play, is taken from Dietrich's own private collection of 15,000 pictures of herself, including images by Horst P Horst, Cecil Beaton and George Hurrell.

To accompany the exhibition, the NFT will be showing a season of dozen Dietrich films including the rare German silents The Woman That Men Long For (1929) and I Kiss Your Hand, Madam (1929).

Goethe-Institute Buenos Aires  
July 2000, Teatro General San Martín,  
Cinemateca Argentina

Press Release:

Die Ausstellung gibt Einblick in Leben und Werk von Marlene Dietrich: Schauspielerin, Filmdiva und vor allem couragierter "Captain Dietrich" als Freiwillige der amerikanischen Armee, wo sie sich gegen Hitler an die Kriegsfrente begab. Außerdem kommt die Ausstrahlung der Diva in der gleichzeitig laufenden Filmretrospektive zur Geltung.

**Film Shows**

London

Taking the occasion of the 56th Annual Congress of FIAF - the Millennial Congress from 3 to 10 June 2000 under the aegis of the National Film and Television Archive (NFTVA) of the British Film Institute (BFI), in collaboration with the Film and Video Archive of the Imperial War Museum (IWM) there is a two day symposium on Nitrate film called "The Last Nitrate Picture Show". It will be a celebration of nitrate cellulose in all its aspects: its history, technology, chemistry and archaeology; its rescue, conservation and restoration; its impact on the art of cinema; and the role it has played in the evolution of film archives. It will be copiously illustrated with screened examples (the National Film Theatre is licensed to show nitrate), presented by expert speakers, and complemented at the evening screenings in the NFT and Museum Cinema by films linked to the theme of nitrate and film archiving (Cinema Paradiso, LaValigia dei sogni, The Love Test, Raging Bull, etc.).

The National Film Theatre will show on Tuesday June 6, 20.45 h a nitrate print of Rouben Mamoulian's "The Song of Songs" from the vaults of the UCLA; on June 9, 20.45 h there will be a screening of Josef von Sternberg's personal print of "The Devil is a woman" (UCLA).

This is a rare occasion to see these prints as they were screened at the time of their initial release.

For informations please call the National Film Theatre, London or go to:

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/showing/nft/index.php3#calendar>. Showing may be for a pre-selected audience, so you should try really hard to get a ticket.

End of Newsletter