

SEASON LISTINGS: FASSBINDER

TALKS AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

The Marriage of Maria Braun Die Ehe der Maria Braun + **Q&A with actor Hanna Schygulla and editor Juliane Lorenz (President of the Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation)***

West Germany 1978. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Hanna Schygulla, Klaus Löwitsch, Ivan Desny, Elisabeth Trissenaar. 120min. Digital. EST

With a blazing star performance from Hanna Schygulla in the title role, this was the greatest critical and commercial success of Fassbinder's career, and was the 'German Hollywood film' he'd longed to make. It's the 'everywoman' tale of Maria Braun, whose marriage lasts less than one day before her husband is sent to the front. When he fails to return in 1945, she struggles to rebuild her life through a formidable mixture of talent, energy and seductive power. On Wednesday 29 March we welcome the film's star to the BFI stage to discuss working with post-war Germany's most prominent, prolific, and controversial filmmaker.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

WED 29 MAR 19:00 NFT1* / SAT 13 MAY 16:10 NFT3 / SUN 14 MAY 20:30 NFT2 / THU 18 MAY 18:15 NFT1

Rainer Werner Fassbinder: Wunderkind, Iconoclast, Star

TRT 105min

Martin Brady (King's College London, GSSN) introduces our extensive Fassbinder retrospective, illuminating the great auteur's huge body of work (40 features in 14 years!) via the director's performances in his own films. Supported by numerous clips, Brady will survey Fassbinder's gangster movies, melodramas, social satires and queer dramas, and discuss the social, historical, political and artistic contexts from which they emerged.

Tickets £6.50

TUE 28 MAR 18:10 NFT3

Study Day: Fassbinderian Politics

Rainer Werner Fassbinder's films – whether about rebellious housewives, gay hustlers, or communist terrorists – are all deeply political. But he was a contradictory and provocative artist who defied categorisation. At this study day we'll attempt to reveal what Fassbinder *really* stood for. Through thoughtful presentations and engaging discussion, we'll examine his preoccupation with marginal figures (and intersectional solidarity among them), re-evaluate his provocative representations of LGBT characters, and consider how his forensic analysis of class exploitation contrasts with his critique of left-wing institutions. Join us to discover a radical filmmaker whose complex politics have profound relevance today.

Tickets £6.50

SAT 22 APR 12:00-15:30 NFT3

Fassbinder: Television Pioneer

From ambitious series like *Berlin Alexanderplatz* to TV-movie melodramas, Fassbinder embraced television as a medium and a platform. In this talk, film scholar Mattias Frey (University of Kent) explores how Fassbinder exploited TV's artistic potential, how the funding it offered made his career possible (he would surely be making Netflix series today), and how he seized upon TV as a way of communicating provocative ideas to a mass audience, in their own homes.

Tickets £6

TUE 2 MAY 20:30 LIBRARY

The Bitter Tears of Fassbinder's Women: A Symposium

TRT 210min

Stories of female desire, pain, and resilience are at the heart of Fassbinder's films. The glamorous divas, heartbroken cleaners, rebellious housewives, and transsexual sex workers that populate his cinematic world were forged in the heat of vital (and sometimes turbulent) creative collaborations with female actors who would return again and again to work with him. Join us at this essential symposium to explore Fassbinder's complex creative and personal entanglements with key female actor-collaborators (such as Hanna Schygulla, Margit Carstensen, Brigitte Mira and Irm Hermann), and the mixture of cruelty, fascination and empathy he showed for his vital and compelling female characters.

SAT 13 MAY 12:00-15:30 NFT3

Philosophical Screens: Repression and Release in Fassbinder's Chinese Roulette

TRT 70min

In the latest in our popular series exploring cinema through a philosophical lens, we consider Fassbinder's spiky, provocative critique of German bourgeois values. *Chinese Roulette* depicts a savage world riven with infidelity and loathing, where people cruelly goad each other into revealing their deepest secret thoughts and desires – but what truths does Fassbinder unearth? Join film philosophers William Brown, John Ó Maoilearca and Catherine Wheatley as we explore how Fassbinder gives expression to the darkest chambers of the German soul via his repressed characters and their relation to space, objects and each other.

Free to ticket-holders of Chinese Roulette on Wed 10 May (but must be booked via the box office due to limited capacity), otherwise £6

WED 10 MAY 20:00 BLUE ROOM

BFI Course: The Many Faces of Rainer Werner Fassbinder

Martin Brady and Erica Carter (King's College London, GSSN) will co-ordinate guest speakers and present sessions themselves in this eight-week course to accompany our Fassbinder retrospective. Illustrated discussions and lectures will take a closer look at Fassbinder's obsession with Hollywood genres, the stars he cast and the West German context from which his films emerged – from student revolts, through queer culture to terrorism! Beginners and experts welcome.

EVERY THU* FROM 13 APR – 8 JUN 18:30-20:30 STUDIO

*Course fee £96, concs £80 *No session on Thu 18 May*

FILM AND TELEVISION SCREENINGS

Fear Eats the Soul Angst essen Seele auf

W Germany 1973. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Brigitte Mira, El Hedi ben Salem, Irm Hermann, Rainer Werner Fassbinder. 94min. Digital. EST. 15. An Arrow Films release

Fassbinder's international breakthrough, this unconventional love story combines lucid social analysis with devastating emotional power. Not a shot is wasted in this bold reworking of Douglas Sirk's *All That Heaven Allows*, which unfolds with gripping simplicity: one evening in Munich, an elderly cleaning lady (Brigitte Mira) escapes from the rain into a bar frequented by immigrants. To her surprise, the jukebox plays an old German tango and a handsome young Moroccan (El Hedi ben Salem) asks her to dance... So far, so like a fairy tale, but this tenderest of romances is soon exposed to the brutal reality of racism and ageism. Arguably Fassbinder's best loved film, it is still, 40 years on, burningly relevant.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

ON EXTENDED RUN FROM FRI 31 MAR

Love is Colder than Death Liebe ist kälter als der Tod

W Germany 1969. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Ulli Lommel, Hanna Schygulla, Rainer Werner Fassbinder. 88min. Digital. EST. 15

A charismatic presence in many of his own films, Fassbinder stars in his debut feature as a petty criminal whose desire for freedom is undermined by his emotional needs. Influenced by Straub and Godard, it combines cool artifice with deadpan wit and countless cinematic references. Fassbinder described his would-be gangsters as 'people who have seen a lot of gangster films'.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

+ The City Tramp Der Stadstreicher

1966. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. 10min. EST

A vagrant finds a gun and obsesses about suicide in Fassbinder's earliest surviving film, inspired by Eric Rohmer's *Le Signe du lion*.

+ The Little Chaos Das kleine Chaos

1967. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. 10min. EST

'For once I'd like to see a gangster film that ends well,' declares the 22-year-old Fassbinder in this exuberant love letter to cinema.

MON 27 MAR 18:20 NFT2 / FRI 31 MAR 20:40 NFT2

Katzelmacher

W Germany 1969. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Hanna Schygulla, Harry Baer, Irm Hermann, Rainer Werner Fassbinder. 88min. Digital. EST. 15

Brutal and poignant, Fassbinder's adaptation of his own play is still shockingly resonant. A Greek immigrant (Fassbinder) unleashes jealousy and xenophobia among a group of neighbours in the Munich suburbs. The largely static camera reflects the narrow horizons of these bickering couples; Hanna Schygulla, Fassbinder's star-to-be, stands out as Marie, the only one for whom love isn't just about money.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

MON 27 MAR 20:45 NFT2 / THU 30 MAR 18:20 NFT2

Gods of the Plague Götter der Pest

W Germany 1969. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Harry Baer, Hanna Schygulla, Margarethe von Trotta, Günther Kaufmann. 91min. 35mm. EST. 18

In this melancholy thriller, capitalism is the 'plague' and criminals are its 'gods'. Released from jail, Franz (Baer) seeks comfort from two different women but is happiest with his friend 'Gorilla' (Kaufmann), with whom he plans a supermarket robbery. Fassbinder captures the late 60s Zeitgeist – its uneasy blend of bohemian dreams, bourgeois aspirations and Third Reich nostalgia.

TUE 28 MAR 20:40 NFT2 / FRI 3 APR 18:15 NFT2

Why Does Herr R. Run Amok? Warum läuft Herr R. Amok?

W Germany 1969. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Michael Fengler. With Kurt Raab, Lilith Ungerer, Hanna Schygulla. 88min. 35mm. EST. 12A

Fassbinder's first film in colour is dark indeed – a black comedy of manners, shot in a wintry Munich. Herr R, a hardworking husband and father, puts up patiently with sniping parents, competitive neighbours, sniggering shop assistants and a patronising boss. Will anything make him snap? Vividly naturalistic, this brilliantly observed account of everyday frustrations will make you squirm with recognition.

THU 30 MAR 20:40 NFT2 / SAT 1 APR 16:00 NFT2

Rio das Mortes

W Germany 1970. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Hanna Schygulla, Michael König, Günther Kaufmann. 84min. Format tbc. EST. 12A

Hanna (Schygulla) wants to get married but her boyfriend (König) prefers to seek his fortune in South America with best mate Günther (Kaufmann). Surprisingly light-hearted and funny, Fassbinder's fifth feature in only 10 months depicts the obstacles encountered by those who dream of 'leaving all this shit behind'. Highlights include Fassbinder and Schygulla boogieing together to 'Jailhouse Rock'.

TUE 4 APR 20:30 NFT2 / THU 6 APR 18:15 NFT3

Whity

W Germany 1970. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Günther Kaufmann, Hanna Schygulla, Ulli Lommel. 95min. 35mm. EST

Set in the American South of the 1870s, this idiosyncratic western was shot in Spain. Whity (Kaufmann), the Nicholson family's black butler, revels in servility yet exercises a strange erotic power over those around him. Fassbinder exposes the all-too-human tendency to collude in one's own oppression while yearning for freedom. He also appears briefly but memorably as a whip-brandishing cowboy.

THU 6 APR 20:40 NFT3 / SAT 15 APR 18:20 NFT3

The Niklashausen Journey Die Niklashauser Fahrt

W Germany 1970. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Michael Fengler. With Michael König, Margit Carstensen, Rainer Werner Fassbinder. 86min. 35mm. EST. 12A

Following the defeat of the German student movement in 1968, Fassbinder considers whether revolutions are inevitably doomed to failure. This provocative mix of the historical and the contemporary centres on Hans Böhm, the 15th-century Bavarian folk hero who saw visions of the Virgin Mary and preached power to the peasants. An intriguing exploration of the arts of political mass manipulation.

TUE 4 APR 18:20 NFT2 / MON 10 APR 20:40 NFT2

Beware of a Holy Whore Warnung vor einer heiligen Nutte + intro by Margaret Deriaz, season programmer*

W Germany 1970. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Lou Castel, Eddie Constantine, Margarethe von Trotta, Rainer Werner Fassbinder. 103min. Digital. EST. 15

In an elegant Spanish hotel lobby, a film cast and crew outdo one another in displays of professional and sexual rivalry while waiting endlessly for shooting to begin. Choreographed like a ballet to music by Peer

Raben, Donizetti, Elvis Presley and Leonard Cohen – and shot by the masterly Michael Ballhaus – this is a gorgeous ode to filmmaking, warts and all.

Also available on **BFIPlayer**

WED 12 APR 18:10 NFT3* / SAT 15 APR 20:45 NFT3

The American Soldier Der amerikanische Soldat

W Germany 1970. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Karl Scheydt, Ulli Lommel, Margarethe von Trotta, Rainer Werner Fassbinder. 80min. 35mm. EST. 15

This glorious re-working of Hollywood noir opens with the return of Ricky (Karl Scheydt), a German-American Vietnam veteran and soon-to-be contract killer, to the Munich of his youth. Here cops and gangsters are indistinguishable and betrayal lurks around every corner. The film's theme song, 'So Much Loneliness, So Much Tenderness' (co-written by Fassbinder), provides the background to an unforgettable climax.

SUN 2 APR 16:15 NFT2 / WED 5 APR 20:40 NFT2

Pioneers in Ingolstadt Pioniere in Ingolstadt

W Germany 1970. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Hanna Schygulla, Harry Baer, Irm Hermann. 84min. 35mm. EST

Fassbinder was much inspired by Marieluise Fleisser, a protégé of Brecht in the 1920s. Here he updates her brilliant, scandalous play about the impact of a newly arrived army regiment on the sexually frustrated young women of a small Bavarian town. As in *Katzelmacher* (which Fassbinder dedicated to Fleisser), Hanna Schygulla plays the idealist while Irm Hermann is cynicism personified.

MON 3 APR 20:45 NFT2 / MON 10 APR 18:20 NFT2

The Merchant of Four Seasons Der Händler der vier Jahreszeiten

W Germany 1971. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Hans Hirschmüller, Irm Hermann, Gusti Kreissl, Ingrid Caven. 89min. Digital. EST. 15

Wonderfully written, acted and directed, this heart-rending tale was Fassbinder's first venture into popular melodrama. Sacked from the police force for a sexual indiscretion, Hans (Hirschmüller) is now a struggling fruit-seller whose wife (Hermann) craves bourgeois respectability, while his wider family despises his lowly status. Portrayed with sympathy and rigour, Fassbinder's characters all have their reasons...

Also available on **BFIPlayer**

TUE 11 APR 20:50 NFT3 / SUN 16 APR 20:30 NFT1 / FRI 28 APR 20:40 NFT2

The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant Die bitteren Tränen der Petra von Kant

W Germany 1972. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Margit Carstensen, Hanna Schygulla, Irm Hermann, Eva Mattes. 124min. Digital. EST. 12A

Despite its brilliant all-female cast, this is an intensely autobiographical film in which Fassbinder portrays himself through Petra (Carstensen), a successful but lonely fashion designer who falls in love with a beautiful younger woman (Schygulla) very different from herself. A visual and verbal extravaganza and a profound disquisition on loneliness, love, the compulsion to work, and the impossibility of truly honest relationships.

Also available on **BFIPlayer**

THU 13 APR 20:30 NFT1 / MON 17 APR 17:45 NFT1 / MON 24 APR 17:55 NFT2

Eight Hours Don't Make a Day Acht Stunden sind kein Tag

W Germany 1972. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Gottfried John, Hanna Schygulla, Luise Ullrich. 101min (part 1), 100min (part 2), 92min (part 3), 89min (part 4), 89min (part 5) + interval. Digital. EST

Thanks to a new restoration premiered at this year's Berlin Film Festival, Fassbinder's controversial five-part TV series can be seen again at last. Aimed at a mass audience, this entertaining soap opera of working-class life revolves around an extended family of three generations who struggle to balance the demands of the workplace with the pressures of family life. Based on extensive research among factory workers and trade unionists, it was deliberately more optimistic than Fassbinder's cinema features, encouraging social solidarity. The abrupt cancellation of the highly successful series (three more episodes had been planned) was, in Fassbinder's view, politically motivated.

Tickets £24, concs £18 (Members pay £3 less)

SUN 30 APR 12:30 NFT1

World on a Wire Welt am Draht

W Germany 1973. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Klaus Löwitsch, Mascha Elm Rabben, Günter Lamprecht. Part 1: 102min + Part 2: 108min + interval. Digital. EST. 15

Now splendidly restored, this two-part sci-fi series for WDR Television is a real revelation – stylistically dazzling, disquieting and hugely enjoyable. Based on the novel *Simulacron 3* by Daniel F Galouye, it follows a research scientist's investigation into the mysterious death of his predecessor at the Institute for Cybernetics and Futurology. Combining action-packed adventure with philosophical speculation, Fassbinder's one foray into science fiction anticipates *Blade Runner* and *The Matrix*, foreshadowing current anxieties around artificial intelligence and virtual reality; it's also the ultimate Fassbinderian nightmare about a world full of people living false lives.

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)

SAT 15 APR 14:00 NFT3

Martha

W Germany 1973. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Margit Carstensen, Karlheinz Böhm, Gisela Fackeldey. 116min. Digital. EST. 15

One of Fassbinder's lesser-known masterpieces, this ruthless dissection of a marriage is like Sirk on steroids. When Martha, a 30-something virgin, falls for the masterful Helmut (*Peeping Tom's* Karlheinz Böhm) he soon seeks to control all aspects of her life. The prowling camera and extravagant décor create an eerie, claustrophobic atmosphere, scarcely relieved by moments of high comic absurdity.

SUN 16 APR 18:00 NFT1 / THU 20 APR 20:45 NFT2

Effi Briest Fontane Effi Briest

W Germany 1974. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Hanna Schygulla, Wolfgang Schenck, Ulli Lommel, Lilo Pempeit. 140min. Digital. EST. U

An exquisitely subtle rendition of Fontane's great novel of 1896. The plight of 17-year-old Effi (Hanna Schygulla) – forced into a socially advantageous marriage with a much older man – is touchingly depicted, but what really interests Fassbinder is the novelist's complex attitude to the society of his day. This is no melodrama, but a meticulous dissection of a literary masterpiece.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

FRI 14 APR 20:25 NFT2 / WED 19 APR 20:25 NFT1

Fox and His Friends Faustrecht der Freiheit

W Germany 1974. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Karlheinz Böhm, Peter Chatel. 123min. Digital. EST. 15

Way ahead of its time, this film presents characters who are unproblematically gay. Fox, an ex-fairground worker, wins the lottery and falls in love with 'posh and prissy' Eugen (Chatel) but is mocked and exploited by his boyfriend's family and friends. Outstanding in the title role, Fassbinder exudes vitality and vulnerability. It's both savagely funny and desperately sad.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

THU 20 APR 18:10 NFT2 / SAT 29 APR 20:40 NFT2

I Don't Just Want You to Love Me – The Filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder Ich will nicht nur, daß ihr mich liebt – Der Filmemacher Rainer Werner Fassbinder

Germany 1992. Dir Hans Günther Pflaum. 96min. Digital. EST

'What was Fassbinder's secret? How could he produce so much, so fast and so well?' muses fellow director Volker Schlöndorff in this engrossing overview of Fassbinder's astonishing career. Made 10 years after the director's death, it investigates his approach to filmmaking through well-chosen film extracts, revealing comments from key collaborators, and a wealth of historic interviews with the man himself.

FRI 14 APR 16:00 NFT2 / MON 17 APR 20:30 NFT2

Fassbinder

Germany 2015. Dir Annetkatrin Hendel. 95min. Digital. EST

Commissioned by the Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation to mark what would have been the director's 70th birthday, this new documentary – featuring some previously unseen material – aims to introduce Fassbinder to a new generation. 'What I find fascinating is the way Fassbinder worked with German history as well as his own personal history and how he fused them together,' says Annetkatrin Hendel.

FRI 14 APR 18:15 NFT2 / SUN 16 APR 15:15 NFT2

Mother Küsters Goes to Heaven Mutter Küsters' Fahrt zum Himmel

W Germany 1975. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Brigitte Mira, Karlheinz Böhm, Margit Carstensen. 113min. Digital. EST. 12A

Emma Küsters (Mira) is hounded by the press when her factory-worker husband goes murderously berserk after learning of impending mass redundancies. Lonely, traumatised and desperate to clear her husband's name, she is easy prey for a suave communist couple who offer their support. Fassbinder lashes out in every direction in this fearless critique of a pervasively exploitative society.

MON 1 MAY 17:45 NFT2 / SAT 6 MAY 20:45 NFT2

Fear of Fear Angst vor der Angst + intro from Dr Mattias Frey (University of Kent)*

W Germany 1975. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Margit Carstensen, Ulrich Faulhaber, Brigitte Mira. 88min. 35mm. EST. 15

Overwhelmed by anxiety, a middleclass wife and mother (Carstensen) tries alcohol, Valium and listening to Leonard Cohen, but nothing seems to help – least of all the interfering in-laws who accuse her of not being 'normal'. With echoes of *Rosemary's Baby* and *The Stepford Wives*, this disturbing account of one woman's struggle to conform deserves to be much better known.

TUE 2 MAY* 18:00 NFT2 / SUN 7 MAY 20:40 NFT2

I Only Want You to Love Me Ich will doch nur, daß ihr mich liebt

W Germany 1975. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Vitus Zeplichal, Elke Aberle, Johanna Hofer. 104min. Digital. EST. 15

Subtitled 'a fairy tale about constraints', this superb piece of storytelling is based on a real-life interview with a convicted murderer. After an emotionally deprived childhood, Peter (Zeplichal) is desperately eager to please – a slave to desires that aren't truly his own. Peer Raben delivers one of his finest scores and Ernie Mangold is memorably chilling as Peter's monstrous mother.

MON 1 MAY 20:20 NFT2 / MON 8 MAY 20:40 NFT2

Satan's Brew Satansbraten

W Germany 1976. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Kurt Raab, Margit Carstensen, Helen Vita. 106min. 35mm. EST. 18

In this hysterical black comedy, Kurt Raab gives it all he's got as a fashionable left-wing poet stricken with writer's block. Everyone has to suffer, especially when he decides he's the reincarnation of a long-dead author with a slavish circle of young male disciples. The dangerous cult of the charismatic artist is satirised to the hilt in Fassbinder's outrageous, self-lacerating farce.

THU 4 MAY 20:40 NFT2 / TUE 9 MAY 18:10 NFT2

Chinese Roulette Chinesisches Roulette

W Germany 1976. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Margit Carstensen, Anna Karina, Alexander Allerson, Ulli Lommel. 82min. Digital. EST. 15

Psychodrama with a vengeance: Fassbinder's first international co-production, drenched in gothic atmosphere, is another deadly assault on the institution of marriage. An embittered adolescent ('they hate me because I'm crippled!') brings her emotionally estranged parents together at their country house for a weekend full of shocking revelations. Michael Ballhaus' camera, ruthless and restless, leads us through a labyrinth of lies.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

WED 3 MAY 18:30 NFT1 / FRI 5 MAY 20:50 NFT2 / WED 10 MAY 18:15 NFT1

Bolwieser (aka The Stationmaster's Wife)

W Germany 1977. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Elisabeth Trissenaar, Kurt Raab, Bernhard Helfrich. 112min. 35mm. EST

This adaptation of a novel by Oskar Maria Graf evokes the hypocritical atmosphere of a small Bavarian town where Nazism is on the rise. Bolwieser (Raab), the local stationmaster, is besotted with his sexy, enigmatic wife (Trissenaar) until nasty gossip threatens to shatter his illusions. A tour de force of visual eloquence, with striking performances from the two leads.

SAT 6 MAY 18:15 NFT2 / THU 11 MAY 20:40 NFT2

Despair Despair – Eine Reise ins Licht

W Germany 1978. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Dirk Bogarde, Andréa Ferréol, Volker Spengler. 119min. Digital. 15

Fassbinder's first film in English was brilliantly adapted by Tom Stoppard from Vladimir Nabokov's novel set in 1930s Berlin. With his business about to fail, Hermann Hermann (Bogarde), an exiled Russian chocolate manufacturer, encounters his double and plans the perfect crime. Hypnotically watchable, Bogarde does exquisite justice to the sparkling dialogue, endowing Hermann with complex interior life.

FRI 12 MAY 20:45 NFT3 / MON 15 MAY 20:30 NFT3 / SUN 28 MAY 20:20 NFT1

Germany in Autumn Deutschland im Herbst

W Germany 1978. Dirs Alexander Kluge, Edgar Reitz, Volker Schlöndorff, Rainer Werner Fassbinder and others. With Fassbinder, Hannelore Hoger, Angela Winkler. 134min. Digital 4K. 15. EST

This portmanteau film was the collective response of leading German filmmakers to the dramatic terrorist crisis of autumn 1977. In a provocative slice of fictional autobiography, Fassbinder expresses scepticism concerning the Baader-Meinhof 'suicides' in Stammheim prison. Distraught and aggressive, he argues that free speech is under threat, while berating both his lover and his mother for their reactionary views.

FRI 12 MAY 18:10 NFT3 / TUE 16 MAY 20:30 NFT3

In a Year with 13 Moons In einem Jahr mit 13 Monden

W Germany 1978. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Volker Spengler, Ingrid Caven, Gottfried John. 124min. Digital 4K. EST. 18

This devastating elegy for doomed love is dedicated to Fassbinder's lover Armin Meier, who had recently committed suicide. Elvira (Spengler), a lonely transsexual, embarks on a melancholy odyssey through modern Frankfurt, reviewing the various failed relationships of her life. A dark cinematic tapestry interwoven with sinister fairy tales, anecdotes of despair, quotations from Schopenhauer and music of all kinds.

SUN 14 MAY 17:20 NFT3 / WED 17 MAY 20:40 NFT3

The Third Generation Die dritte Generation

W Germany 1979. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Volker Spengler, Bulle Ogier, Hanna Schygulla, Udo Kier. 110min. Digital 4K. EST. 15

Against the dystopian backdrop of West Berlin, a group of bourgeois activists style themselves as terrorists, although they lack any real political motivation. Unwittingly, they play into the hands of capitalists who, in Fassbinder's view, use terrorism to justify repression and safeguard their own interests. While very much of its time, this colourful, cacophonous farce speaks urgently to ours.

MON 15 MAY 18:20 NFT2 / FRI 19 MAY 18:15 NFT3

Berlin Alexanderplatz

W Germany 1979/1980. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Günter Lamprecht, Hanna Schygulla, Barbara Sukowa, Gottfried John. Digital. EST. 15

Described by Andrew Sarris as 'the Mount Everest of modern cinema', this epic TV series was the result of Fassbinder's lifelong obsession with Alfred Döblin's great city novel, bringing to life the twilight years of the Weimar Republic. Günter Lamprecht gives a stupendous performance as Franz Biberkopf, released from jail into a Berlin blighted by mass unemployment. Determined to live an honest life, he is helped and hindered by fellow Berliners, including Reinhold (John), his sinister best friend, and Mieze (Sukowa), the love of his life. Fassbinder's masterpiece offers a complex, credible account of the circumstances which led ordinary Germans to embrace National Socialism. Absorbing and addictive, this is long-form drama at its most ambitious.

Tickets available for each programme £11, concs £8.80 (Members pay £2 less) Day tickets available £24, concs £19.20 (Members pay £2 less) or whole programme available £40, concs £34 (Members pay £2 less) by phone or in person

EPISODES 1-7 SAT 20 MAY 13:00 NFT1

EPISODES 8-14 SUN 21 MAY 12:30 NFT1

Lili Marleen

W Germany 1980. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Hanna Schygulla, Giancarlo Giannini, Mel Ferrer. 120min. 35mm. EST. 15

Loosely based on Lale Andersen's memoirs, Fassbinder's only film set in the Third Reich chronicles the career of recording star Willie Bunterberg (Schygulla) who wows the troops with her famous hit song while secretly

pinning for her Jewish lover. With a lavish budget at his disposal, Fassbinder explores the nature of fascist spectacle in all its brutish, tawdry glamour.

FRI 19 MAY 20:45 NFT3 / WED 24 MAY 18:20 NFT1

Lola

W Germany 1981. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Barbara Sukowa, Armin Mueller-Stahl, Mario Adorf. 113min. Digital 4K (in NFT1 only). EST. 15

This brilliant updating of *The Blue Angel* captures the sleazy vulgarity and sheer vitality of late 1950s West Germany. Lola (Sukowa), a nightclub singer and mistress of a corrupt property tycoon, sets out to seduce her lover's chief opponent, the idealistic new town planner (Mueller-Stahl). Brace yourself for schmaltzy ballads, garish lighting and a candy-coloured world of illusions.

MON 22 MAY 20:45 NFT1 / WED 24 MAY 20:40 NFT2 / SAT 27 MAY 20:45 NFT1

Theatre in Trance Theater in Trance

W Germany 1981. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. 91min. Digital. EST

All the world's a stage in Fassbinder's documentary about the 1981 World Theatre Festival in Cologne, an immersive montage of avant-garde performances (including some electrifying scenes from Pina Bausch's 'Kontakthof') combined with Fassbinder's voice-over readings from the cultural theories of Antonin Artaud. Theatre is seen as a vital form of protest – a way of extending the frontiers of reality.

TUE 23 MAY 18:00 NFT3 / SAT 27 MAY 15:30 NFT2

Veronika Voss Die Sehnsucht der Veronika Voss

W Germany 1982. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Rosel Zech, Hilmar Thate, Cornelia Froboess. 104min. 35mm. EST. 12A

Set in the 1950s, Fassbinder's late, great masterpiece centres on the relationship between a young sports journalist and an ageing movie star, once a favourite of Goebbels, who cannot accept that her career is now over. Shot in gleaming black and white, this is an eerie vision of post-war Germany, a haunted world of shadows, secrets and suppressed memories.

FRI 26 MAY 20:40 NFT3 / MON 29 MAY 18:00 NFT1

Querelle

W Germany 1982. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Brad Davis, Franco Nero, Jeanne Moreau. 108min. 35mm. 18

'The ultimate goal of human endeavour: to live one's own life.' Fassbinder's words on the subject of his last film are movingly apt. It's an adaptation of one of his all-time favourites, Jean Genet's homoerotic novel about a beautiful, opium-dealing sailor on shore leave in the port of Brest. A dream-like tale of sex, murder and the quest for self-realisation.

SUN 28 MAY 18:15 NFT3 / TUE 30 MAY 20:30 NFT2 / WED 31 MAY 21:00 NFT1

Fassbinder: To Love without Demands Fassbinder: at elske uden at kraeve

Denmark 2015. Dir Christian Braad Thomsen. With Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Irm Hermann, Lilo Pempeit. 109min. Digital. EST

Danish filmmaker Christian Braad Thomsen, one of the most perceptive commentators on Fassbinder's work, enjoyed an enduring friendship with the German enfant terrible. This intimate portrait, suffused with tenderness towards its subject, includes Braad Thomsen's previously unreleased interview from 1978 in which Fassbinder, somewhat the worse for wear, offers fascinating and frequently startling reflections on his life and times.

SUN 7 MAY 18:10 NFT2 / WED 10 MAY 20:40 NFT3

TITLES SCREENING IN BIG SCREEN CLASSICS: FASSBINDER'S FAVOURITES:

All That Heaven Allows (Douglas Sirk, 1955)

Imitation of Life (Douglas Sirk, 1959)

Vivre sa vie (Jean-Luc Godard, 1962)

Le Mépris (Jean-Luc Godard, 1963)

Le Signe du lion (Eric Rohmer, 1962)

The Chronicle of Anna Magdalena Bach (Dirs Jean-Marie Straub, Danièle Huillet, 1968)

White Heat (Raoul Walsh, 1949)

Pick-up on South Street (Samuel Fuller, 1953)
Viridiana (Luis Buñuel, 1961)
All About Eve (Joseph L Mankiewicz, 1950)
Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (Howard Hawks, 1953)
Johnny Guitar (Nicholas Ray, 1954)
Suspicion (Alfred Hitchcock, 1941)
The Tarnished Angels (Douglas Sirk, 1957)
Written on the Wind (Douglas Sirk, 1956)
Bande à part (Jean-Luc Godard, 1964)
Au hasard Balthazar (Robert Bresson, 1966)
The Women (George Cukor, 1939)
Mildred Pierce (Michael Curtiz, 1945)
The Blue Angel (Josef Von Sternberg, 1930)
Lola Montès (Max Ophuls, 1955)
Sunset Boulevard (Billy Wilder, 1950)
The Night of the Hunter (Charles Laughton, 1955)
Dishonored (Josef von Sternberg, 1931)
Salò, or the 120 Days of Sodom (Pier Paolo Pasolini, 1975)

Press Contacts:

Liz Parkinson – Press Officer, BFI Southbank
liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8918

Elizabeth Dunk – Press Office Assistant
Elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk / 020 7985 8986

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / 2017 / April / Fassbinder

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £12.10, concs £9.70 including Gift Aid donation. Members pay £2.00 less on any ticket - www.bfi.org.uk/southbank.

Young people aged 25 and under can buy last minute tickets for just £3, 45 minutes before the start of screenings and events, subject to availability - <http://www.bfi.org.uk/25-and-under>.

Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

BFI Shop

The BFI Shop is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

About the Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation

The Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation (RWFF), a nonprofit foundation, was established by Liselotte Eder, Fassbinder's mother, in Munich in 1986. In 1992 its headquarters were moved to Berlin, where ever since, it has been run as a private foundation by its president, Juliane Maria Lorenz. The RWFF holds all rights to Fassbinder's artistic estate, including the rights acquired since his death. These rights cover 14 original theater plays, six adaptations, four radio plays, 44 cinema and television films, the lyrics for 12 songs, numerous early writings, and the 50 film scripts written by RWFF, including 13 with co-authors. Many of Fassbinder's works are now considered classics of international film and cultural history. They include films such as *Katzelmacher*, *The Merchant of Four Seasons*, *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*, *Eight Hours Are Not a Day*, *World on a Wire*, *Effi Briest*, *Martha*, *Fears Eats the Soul*, *Fox and His Friends*, *The Marriage of Maria Braun*, *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, *Lili Marleen*, *Lola*, *Veronika Voss* and *Querelle*.

www.fassbinderfoundation.de