

## DOK Leipzig Retrospective to recognise female documentary filmmakers of the GDR

Press Release  
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Films by Helke Misselwitz, Tamara Trampe, Petra Tschörtner and Angelika Andrees, as well as newly discovered and rediscovered works of GDR film history



"Home" (directors: Angelika Andrees, Petra Tschörtner) © DEFA Foundation | Julia Kunert, Thomas Plenert

This year's DOK Leipzig **Retrospective** will focus on a neglected part of German film and television history: documentaries made by women in the German Democratic Republic (GDR).

**"The Female Documentarists of the GDR"** is curated by Carolin Weidner and Felix Mende with an awareness that only a few female directors from the former GDR have made it into documentary film lore. What did it mean to be a female documentary filmmaker in the GDR? What kind of films were made over the course of forty years?

The six programmes in the Retrospective include portraits of institutions, essays and observations of everyday life – including DEFA, university and TV productions dating from the founding of the GDR in 1949 to the year the Wall fell. "We spent a lot of time on taking stock at first," says curator Carolin Weidner. "The book 'She. DEFA Directors and Their Films', edited by Cornelia Klaufuß and Ralf Schenk, was undoubtedly an important signpost here."

Films by such noted documentarists as Helke Misselwitz ("Who's Afraid of the Bogeyman", 1989), Tamara Trampe ("Once I Was a Child", 1986) and Petra Tschörtner ("Behind Windows", 1984), all of whom remained active in their profession after German unification, are the better-known works in the Retrospective.

Many of these films exhibit a personal approach, examining the experiences of individuals in the socialist system. They are devoted to such themes as work and art, childhood and motherhood. They explore the perspectives of women as well as the male-dominated world of the National People's Army.

65th International Leipzig  
Festival for Documentary and  
Animated Film

17 October to 23 October

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Female directors also made films, however, on which the dictatorship of the Socialist Party (SED) left a distinct mark, as co-curator Felix Mende points out: “Just like the men, women were enlisted to produce ideological self-affirmations, full of brigades, festivities, clear enemy stereotypes. Of course, even under such conditions, a few works were created whose perspective, though following the party line, show a certain idiosyncrasy and portray more than what was already known anyway.”

The Retrospective will therefore also present films that were made in support of the state (“Diary of a German Woman”, 1969) as well as works by such filmmakers as Dagnija Osite-Krüger (“Ablinga”, 1977) which have long been hidden from view. Film historians as well as some of the filmmakers who are still alive are expected to attend the events in this section.

The **DEFA Matinee** complements this programme by including the limited GDR oeuvre of director Angelika Andrees, who is also featured in the Retrospective mentioned above. She belongs to a generation of female documentary filmmakers who experimented with aesthetic freedom at the Babelsberg Film Academy in the late 1970s.

Under the heading “**Angelika Andrees – The Empathetic Eye**”, six short documentaries will be presented, including the film “Home” (1978) about young people in a reform school, which was co-directed with Petra Tschörtner and banned until 1990. Andrees’ works are sensitive portraits of outsiders in East German society and poetic vignettes depicting communal spaces from the “Friedrichstadtpalast” (1980) to the Alexanderplatz underground station (“Peace Posters”, 1983). Andrees left the GDR in 1985 and almost completely turned her back on cinema.

The **Matinee Saxon State Archive** also ties in with the Retrospective. The programme “**Socialist Women’s Images – The Female GDR**” showcases films by women that address women’s issues (“Frauen unserer Zeit”, 1969), environmental protection (“Wir und unsere Umwelt”, 1971) and filmmaking (“Tagebuch eines Schmalfilmers”, 1975) in the GDR. The satirical short film “Hilfe, ich bin eine Frau” (1981) formulates a feminist critique that pointedly contrasts the level of equality the state claimed to have achieved with the everyday lives of women in society.

DOK Leipzig would like to thank the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Eastern Germany, the DEFA Foundation and the Saxon State Archive for their funding and support of the film programmes.

The entire selection of films in the programmes profiled here can be found in the following film lists.

Download of poster design and logos: [Press Download](#)  
Filmstills: on request to [presse@dok-leipzig.de](mailto:presse@dok-leipzig.de)

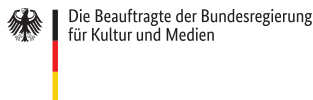
The 65th edition of DOK Leipzig will take place on site from 17 to 23 October, 2022. Accredited participants worldwide can also view the majority of the film programme online. After the festival, a selection of films will be available online throughout Germany in the DOK Stream from 24 to 31 October. This year, the DOK Industry programme will again be primarily held on site, but will offer various online access to the events.

Press accreditation for DOK Leipzig 2022: via [DOK Leipzig Press Area](#)

# Wir danken für die Unterstützung

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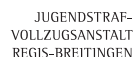
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# Retrospective: The Female Documentarists of the GDR

**DOX Leipzig**

65. Internationales Leipziger  
Festival für Dokumentar- und  
Animationsfilm

17.10.– 23.10.2022



## Ablinga

Documentary Film

Dagnija Osite-Krüger  
GDR 1977 | 13 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Die Brücke von Caputh

Documentary Film

Eva Fritzsche  
Germany (Soviet Occupation Zone) 1949 | 15 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles

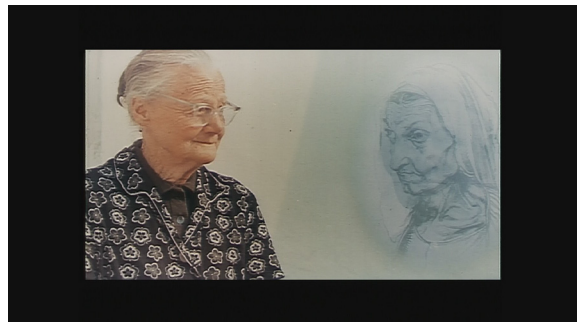


## Dialog

Documentary Film

Róża Berger-Fiedler  
GDR 1978 | 27 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Du bist min. Ein deutsches Tagebuch

Documentary Film

Michael Englberger, Hans-Joachim Funk, Manfred Krause, Andrew  
Thorndike, Annelie Thorndike  
GDR 1969 | 111 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles None

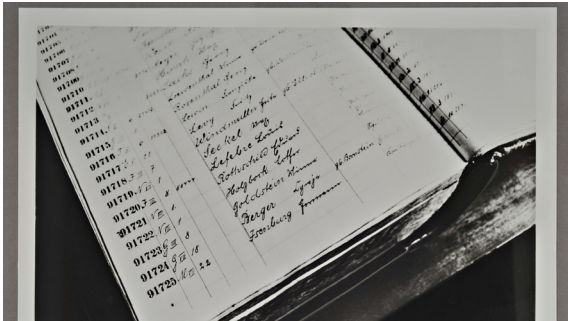


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## Erinnern heißt Leben

Documentary Film

Róża Berger-Fiedler  
GDR 1987 | 59 min, Colour & B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles None



## Der erste Geburtstag

Documentary Film

Gabriele Hochneder  
GDR 1978 | 17 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles

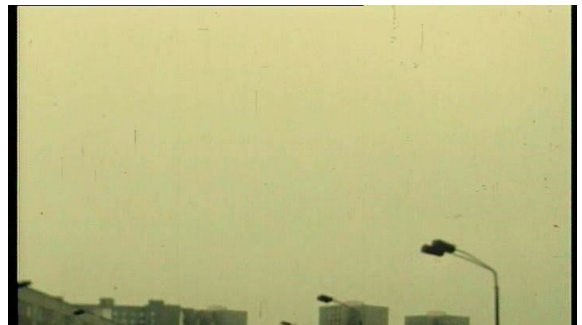


## Frauen in Neuruppin

Documentary Film

Karola Hattop  
GDR 1972 | 29 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Hinter den Fenstern

Documentary Film

Petra Tschörtner  
GDR 1984 | 43 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles

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## Hokuspokus Fidibus

Documentary Film

Bärbl Bergmann  
GDR 1957 | 15 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles None



## Ich war einmal ein Kind

Documentary Film

Tamara Trampe  
GDR 1986 | 17 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles

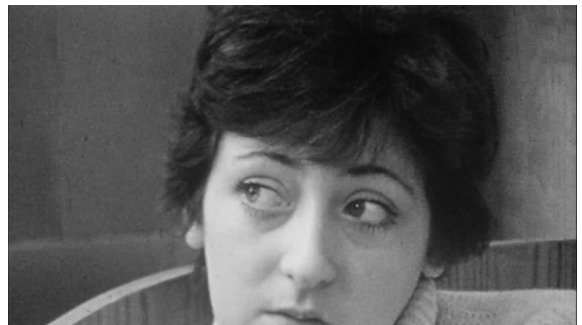


## Jung sein – und was noch?

Documentary Film

Gitta Nickel  
GDR 1977 | 49 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Kinder kriegen?

Documentary Film

Sibylle Schönemann  
GDR 1976 | 18 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles

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## Die Kollwitz und ihre Kinder

Documentary Film

Christa Mühl  
GDR 1971 | 10 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Petras Erlebnis

Documentary Film

Ingrid Reschke  
GDR 1956 | 6 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Vivos voco – Ich rufe die Lebenden

Documentary Film

Dagnija Osite-Krüger  
GDR 1981 | 22 min, -  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles None



## Wanderzirkus

Documentary Film

Angelika Andrees  
GDR 1975 | 24 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles None

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## Weil ich ein Dicker bin

Documentary Film

Christiane Hein  
GDR 1988 | 20 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Wer ein paar Holzlotschen abgelaufen hat ...

Documentary Film

Gabriele Denecke  
GDR 1976 | 33 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Wer fürchtet sich vorm schwarzen Mann

Documentary Film

Helke Misselwitz  
GDR 1989 | 52 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



# DEFA Matinee:

## Angelika Andrees – The Empathetic Eye

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### Feuerzeuge (DEFA-KINOBOX 1985/43)

Documentary Film

Angelika Andrees  
GDR 1985 | 3 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles None

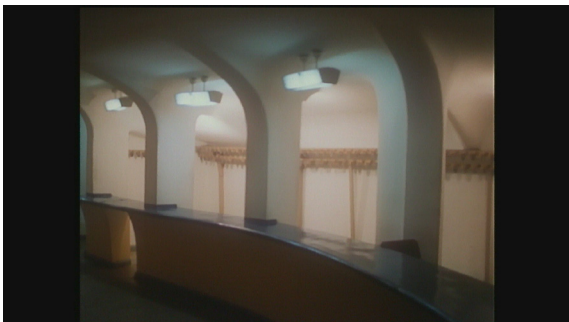


### Friedensplakate (DEFA-KINOBOX 1983/21)

Documentary Film

Angelika Andrees  
GDR 1983 | 5 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles None



### Friedrichstadtpalast

Documentary Film

Angelika Andrees  
GDR 1980 | 20 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



### Heim

Documentary Film

Angelika Andrees, Petra Tschörtner  
GDR 1978 | 26 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles

# DEFA Matinee:

## Angelika Andrees – The Empathetic Eye

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### Jacki

Documentary Film

Angelika Andrees  
GDR 1976 | 30 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



### Unima-Festival (DEFA-KINOBOX 1984/38)

Documentary Film

Angelika Andrees  
GDR 1984 | 4 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles None

# Matinee Saxon State Archive: Socialist Women's Images – The Female GDR

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## [Interview mit Ingeborg Tölke]

Documentary Film

GDR 1963 | 7 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Familie Butter

Documentary Film

GDR 1967 | 6 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Frauen unserer Zeit

Documentary Film

Hanna Emuth  
GDR 1969 | 15 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Hilfe, ich bin eine Frau

Fictional Film

Edith Schneider, Joachim Schneider  
GDR 1981 | 10 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles

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## Lebendes Moor

Documentary Film

Ingeborg Tölke  
GDR 1962 | 11 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Tagebuch eines Schmalfilmers

Documentary Film

GDR 1975 | 10 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Wir und unsere Umwelt

Documentary Film

Hanna Emuth  
GDR 1971 | 27 min, Colour  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles



## Wirbel um Arkadi

Documentary Film

Lieselotte Schließer  
GDR 1967 | 11 min, B&W  
No Premiere

Language German  
Subtitles