

THE GERMAN SOCIETY'S

Friday Film Fest Series



Erbsen auf Halb Sechs

Credits:

Director:	Lars Büchel
Screenplay:	Ruth Toma, Lars Büchel
Photography:	Judith Kaufmann
Producer:	Hanno Huth, Ralf Zimmermann
Production Co:	Senator Film Produktion GmbH
Production year:	2004
Cast:	Fritzi Haberlandt, Hilmir Snaer Gudnason, Tina Engel, Harald Schrott
Language:	German with English subtitles

Summary prepared by Ed Cohen

This film does for blindness rehabilitation, what "Children of a Lesser God" and "Beyond Silence" did for deafness rehabilitation. It premiered at the Philadelphia Film Festival in 2005. It was a "festival favorite," receiving a third showing by popular demand at the end of the festival. This was the Festival's program description:

"Lars Buchel's visually stunning road film takes its blind hero on an emotional and physical journey, tracing his every step with dollops of sensual beauty and unexpected humor.

"Alternately romantic and comic (in a refreshingly offbeat way) but never sentimental, Lars Buchel's Peas at 5:30 takes the notion of "the blind leading the blind" and turns it inside out. Büchel literally drenches his film in enticing water imagery — starting with his very first frame — that immediately makes his story a tactile, sensual experience. While his tale morphs from one genre to another, its theme remains stable: the film is all about touching, and being touched. Hilmir Snaer Gudnason plays an avant-garde stage director named Jakob who is left blind following an automobile accident. He soon falls into a guarded yet heightened relationship with his guide/teacher, Lilly, who is also blind (played by Fritzi Haberlandt, employing a fascinating body language for the role). Summoned by his dying mother in Russia, Jakob embarks on a journey in every sense of the word, accompanied by Lilly.

"The movie itself takes on the contours of a road film, while never losing the moody tone that Büchel beautifully conjures in his first few scenes. One surprise follows another on their journey: Jakob's oddball suicide attempt is staged for deadpan comic effect yet feels right in character, and in lieu of a sex scene, the film delivers a subtly powerful prelude-to-eroticism sequence in which Jakob and Lilly slowly savor each other's body parts. Rarely has the idea of "touch" been so palpable — or arousing. The film's unusual title, incidentally, is explained by a waitress in a wry interlude set in a restaurant. (German with English subtitles) – Joe Baltake"

The German consumer DVD that we will view tonight has two Dolby sound tracks to choose from, and crisp English subtitles. There are ten minutes of deleted scenes.

Lars Büchel's Filmography: *Jetzt oder nie—Zeit ist Geld* (Now or Never) (2000); *4 Geschichten über 5 Tote* (Four Stories about Five Corpses) (1998)