

enables them to send signals and help each other with nourishments and warnings of “Schädlinge”. He travels to Sweden to see the world’s oldest tree, “Old Tjikko” which has been tagged as almost 10 000 years old. His sharp criticism of the forest industry is illustrated with scenes of clear cutting, using heavy machinery and modern tree harvesters. He participates in the protest of the planned destruction of the Hambacher Forest and ends his journey at the old growth forest in Vancouver Island, at the home of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation



Das Duell der Brüder (2016)

April 15, 2022

German with English Subtitles

This movie is the biography of the life, success and separation of the brothers Adolf and Rudolf Dassler who pioneer a sport shoe company in the small town of Herzogenaurach near Nürnberg in the 1920's. In 1948 they separate and form competing companies that develop into 2 of the most successful brands in the world, namely Adidas and Puma. What were the reasons behind the bitter infighting and eventual split of the two brothers who worked together so well in the beginning? Did the draft issue at the beginning of the Second World War when Rudolf had to serve in the army while Adolf stayed at home as the head of their company cause the rift? Or was it an alleged infidelity of Rudolf and Adolf's wife that ultimately broke their ties? The film is trying to find some answers of this most famous family feud and break-up.



Trautmann (2018)

May 20, 2022

German with German subtitles

This movie is a British-German bio-pic about Bert Trautmann who was captured by the British troops in 1944 and imprisoned under harsh conditions in a POW-camp in Lancashire, England. He became a soccer goalkeeper for a local team and eventually a celebrated goalkeeper for Manchester City in 1949. His heroics during the FA Cup-Final in 1956, when he finished the last 20 minutes of the match after breaking a vertebra in his neck, earned him the admiration of the English public. His love affair and subsequent marriage to an English woman parallel the soccer story, a relationship that was also replete with trials and tragedy.



THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA



2021-2022 Program

6:30 PM

Film, Food, & Discussion

German Society of PA

611 Spring Garden Street,

215-627-2332

Support provided in part by the
Philadelphia Cultural Fund.



Die göttliche Ordnung (2017)

September 24, 2021

German with English subtitles



This movie is a Swiss comedy-drama about the right of women to vote which was decided by male voters in a “Volksabstimmung” on February 7, 1971. The story takes place in a small alpine village in the northeastern part of Switzerland and portrays the life of Nora Ruckstuhl who lives with her husband and two sons and seems content with her role as a “Hausfrau” until she gets in touch with the campaign for women’s right to vote. Her involvement inspires other women to join her and together they try to overcome the local resistance by most men and some women to change the “divine order” of male dominance. When the women go on a domestic strike the conflict comes to a head but finds a peaceful resolution that leads to progress in the referendum as well as in their personal lives.

Zwingli. Der Reformator (2020)

November 19, 2021

German with English subtitles

The movie starts in 1519 when the young priest Ulrich Zwingli takes up his new position at the Grossmünster in Zurich. As he uses his sermons to criticize the infallibility, corruption and abusive practices of the Catholic Church and to question the customs of fasting during lent or the celibacy of priests, he becomes the leader of the reformation in Switzerland. His biblical exegesis and his German translation of the New Testament serve as a revolutionary force in the beliefs and empowerment of the regular citizens and finds the backing of the political leaders of the city. The film also chronicles his love and marriage to Anna Reinhart with whom he has several children. But his conflict with the Anabaptists and their persecution dampens the moral integrity of his movement and the failure of the food blockade of his alliance against the Catholic cantons of Switzerland ultimately lead to his early battlefield death in 1531.



Akte Grüniger—Die Geschichte eines Grenzgängers (2014)

January 14, 2022

German with German subtitles

The third of our Swiss movies is the story of Polizeihauptmann Paul Grüniger of St. Gallen near Lake Constance who from March 1938 until March

1939 helps Jewish immigrants cross the border from Austria into Switzerland illegally without a valid visa. He does this by falsifying documents and establishing a support system within the local community who share his humanitarian efforts. But he is unable to escape the scrutiny of the central government who sends the head of the “eidgenössischen Fremdenpolizei, Robert Frei, to investigate the border activities. What he discovers puts not only Grüniger’s position and the fate of the immigrants at risk but also leads Frei to question his own mission. Amidst the worsening situation for Jews in Austria and Germany the “Akte Grüniger” displays Switzerland’s own moral conflict in dealing with the ever increasing number of refugees from Hitler’s fascism.



Der Fall Collini (2018)

February 19, 2022

German with English Subtitles

This movie, based on the 2011 book of the same name by Ferdinand v. Schirach, is about the vigilante killing of a wealthy German industrialist named Jean Baptiste Meyer by Fabrizio Collini. Collini, an immigrant from Italy, had as a child witnessed the brutal murder of his father in 1943 in Northern Italy by German SS troops who were commandeered by Meyer. The case put a spotlight on the so-called Dreher-law scandal of 1968/69 that reduced the statute of limitation for accessory to murder to 15 years, thus preventing many Nazi era criminal cases from coming to trial, including the one that Collini had filed against Meyer. When Caspar Leinen, the court appointed defense lawyer for Collini played by Elyas M'Barek takes on this seemingly hopeless case, he soon discovers the complicated and disturbing history of the “*Verjährungsdebatte and –skandal*”, a history which forms the leitmotif of the Collini case.



Das geheime Leben der Bäume (2019)

March 18, 2022

German with German subtitles

This documentary movie is based on the bestseller by Peter Wohlleben, who published this book in 2015 and who became Germany’s most popular “Sachbuchautor” and the country’s best known forester. In excerpts from his book, through interviews and lectures, and from his forest tours, Wohlleben explains his discovery of the “wood wide web”, the interlinking of trees through their root systems and a vast fungal network which