

Und der Zukunft zugewandt (2018)

April 21, 2022

German with English Subtitles



The year is 1952 in East Germany. Three women are returning to their home country from over ten years in Soviet incarceration. All three, young communists, had moved to the Soviet Union in the 1930s to participate in building a new political future, but got caught up in Stalin's infamous arbitrary *Säuberungen* and were sentenced to long years in harsh gulag prison camps without knowing why. Upon their return to the GDR they are greeted warmly and receive the necessary material support, but are confronted with the demand by a high party official that they remain silent about their experience in the Soviet Union. They reluctantly agree to sign a *Schweigegeübde* which dampens or destroys their beliefs and hopes for the future of socialism in East Germany, since the reality of their past and the political reality in the GDR are utterly irreconcilable. This fictional movie is based on reports and interviews with several eyewitnesses and real events.

Schachnovelle (2022)

May 19, 2023

German with German subtitles



This Austrian movie is the latest adaptation of the novel by Austrian novelist, playwright, and journalist Stefan Zweig, who wrote this story in 1941, one year before he and his wife died by suicide in exile in Brazil (*Vor der Morgenröte*). When Austria becomes occupied (or "*angeschlossen*") by the Nazi regime in 1938, lawyer Dr. Josef Bartok is brought to the Gestapo headquarters in Vienna before he and his wife Anna can escape to the United States. Bartok refuses to cooperate with the Nazi officials and provide the access codes to foreign holdings of Austrian monasteries that his law firm manages. When he is put into solitary confinement, he obtains a chess book by chance that helps him to survive his captivity and overcome the mental suffering inflicted upon him.

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA



2022-2023 Friday Film Fest Program

6:30 PM

Film, Food, & Discussion

German Society of PA

611 Spring Garden Street,

215-627-2332

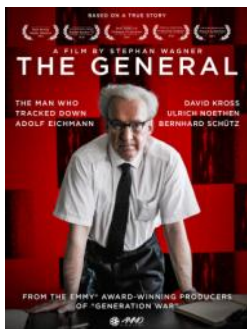
Support provided in part by the
Philadelphia Cultural Fund.



The General (2015)

October 21, 2022

German with English subtitles

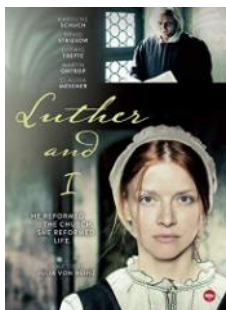


Germany, 1957. The Attorney General of the state of Hessen, Fritz Bauer, receives crucial evidence on the whereabouts of *SS-Obersturmbannführer* Adolf Eichmann. Eichmann, who is responsible for the mass deportation of Jews during World War II, is allegedly hiding in Buenos Aires. Bauer, himself Jewish, has been trying to take Nazi criminals to court ever since his return from Danish exile. Since the German government under Konrad Adenauer is not interested in a trial against Eichmann in Germany, Fritz Bauer contacts the Mossad (the Israeli Secret Service). In doing so, he opens himself up to a charge of treason. A dangerous game ensues in this riveting political thriller.

Luther and I (2017)

November 18, 2022

German with English subtitles



This movie chronicles the story of Katharina von Bora, the woman behind Martin Luther. Ahead of her time, she battled personal fears, laws, and conventions to lead a self-determined life. Her remarkable story began in the cloister which had been her home since the age of six. But as a young woman, emboldened by Luther's writings, she dares to break her religious vow and flees with some sisters in search of a better life. She meets Martin Luther in Wittenberg. Their wedding marks the beginning of an entirely new journey as a wife, a successful businesswoman, and the mother of six children. The release of this movie in 2017 commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

Contra (2020)

January 20, 2023

German with German subtitles



Frankfurt University law professor Richard Pohl is threatened with expulsion from the university after he racially insulted female migrant law student Naima Hamid. When the video goes viral, university president Alexander Lambrecht gives his old friend Pohl a last chance to redeem himself. Being rhetorically highly tal-

ented, he is supposed to tutor Naima for a national debate competition. Pohl and Naima are equally shocked at this proposal but slowly adjust to each other and achieve some success until Naima becomes aware of the true reason for their "Multi-Kulti" experiment. Sönke Wortmann's latest work is a fascinating complement to his two previous successful comedies: *Der Vorname* and *Frau Müller muss weg*.

Narziss und Goldmund (2020)

February 17, 2023

German with German subtitles



This movie is an adaptation of the famous novel by Hermann Hesse that was published in 1930. When young Goldmund is sent to the medieval Mariabronn monastery by his father to be educated, he meets the devout *Klosterschüler* Narziss, who has dedicated himself to the ascetic life of a monk. While they develop a close friendship, Goldmund soon recognizes that this lifestyle conflicts with his desire to pursue a free and unrestrained life. With the encouragement of Narziss he leaves the monastery and embarks on a journey that is filled with adventure and love and an equal compliment of pain and suffering. He discovers his true calling as an artist, and after many years of wandering, returns to Mariabronn having been rescued from death by his old friend Narziss.

Bekenntnisse des Hochstaplers Felix Krull (2021)

March 17, 2023

German with English subtitles



This is the latest adaptation of Thomas Mann's unfinished novel. It tells the story of the charming *Hochstapler* Felix Krull. After he dodges the military draft thanks to his acting abilities, he starts his con man career in the prestigious hotel *Saint James and Albany* in Paris. There he gets promoted quickly and draws the attention of several female guests, especially the rich Madame Houpflé, who is happy to let him take her jewelry as part of her *Liebeswunsch*. Soon he travels the world pretending to be the noble Marquis de Venosta. His trip takes him to Lisbon, where he makes the acquaintance of Professor Kuckuck and his wife and daughter. While the novel ends abruptly with the passionate encounter between Krull and Kuckuck's wife, the movie opts for a denouement akin to a fairy tale, aka a happy ending.