

**Die Spionin (2019)**  
April 20, 2024 | 6:30pm  
German with English Subtitles



During World War II, Sonja Wigert of Sweden is the biggest film star in Scandinavia and is courted by the Germans for propaganda purposes. When she does not comply with an invitation from Joseph Goebbels, her father is kidnapped to put pressure on her. After Sonja agrees to become a spy with the Swedish Secret Service, she becomes acquainted with Joseph Terboven, the German High Commissioner of occupied Norway, and starts to collect vital information about the German war plans in Scandinavia. But when Terboven sends Sonja as his own spy to Stockholm, she finds herself thrust inadvertently into the dangerous role of a double agent.

**Einfach mal was Schönes (2022)**  
May 18, 2024 | 6:30pm  
German with English Subtitles



Karoline Herfurth directs, produces, and plays the part of the leading female protagonist in this movie. Karla, a radio moderator, is in her late 30s and desperately wants to start a family, yet she cannot find a suitable man. So she decides to go it alone and use a sperm donor to have a baby. Then she meets Ole, a hospital nurse to whom she is strongly attracted. But Ole is only 28 years old and does not want to have kids yet. With Karla's biological clock ticking ever louder, this romantic comedy oscillates between *Torschlusspanik*, horror dates, and a beautiful love story. It includes slapstick comedic moments during a dream wedding and a hospital stay that lead to a thoughtful ending with a creative solution to the interpersonal conflicts.

# 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

### Im Westen nichts Neues (2022)

September 15, 2023 | 6:30pm  
German with English Subtitles



This third adaptation of Erich Maria Remarque's 1929 classic antiwar novel won four Oscars at this year's award show. These included Best International Feature Film, Best Original Score, Best Cinematography, and Best Production Design. No German film has ever won more Oscars than this one, and it is only the fourth German movie to win in the Best International category after *Das Leben der Anderen* (2007), *Nirgendwo in Afrika* (2003), and *Die Blechtrommel* (1980). Set during World War I, it follows the life of the idealistic young German soldier Paul Bäumer as he faces the horrors of trench warfare on the Western Front. By portraying the armistice negotiations to end the war, this movie adds a parallel story-line not found in the book or in previous adaptations.

### Die Unbeugsamen (2021)

October 20, 2023 | 6:30pm  
German with English Subtitles



This documentary tells the story of women who participated in the Bonn Republic from the early days in the 1950s until the election of Angela Merkel in 2005 as they struggle for acceptance and equal inclusion in the democratic process. The journalist and filmmaker Torsten Körner interviewed many of the female politicians from various parties who were active during this period. He includes jolting archival material that shows how these women had to deal with prejudice, entrenched protective behavior by their male counterparts, and outright sexual discrimination to achieve equality in political participation. It ends with data that shows a recent decline of women in the parliament to 31% and a warning by Annemirl Bauer from 1988: "*Frauen, wenn wir heute nichts tun, dann leben wir morgen wie vorgestern.*"

### Wunderschön (2022)

January 19, 2024 | 6:30pm  
German with English Subtitles

In this film, director Karoline Herfurth explores the intertwined lives of five women of varying ages who struggle with issues of body image, complex relationships, failing marriages, and societal expectations. Frauke, in her



bodily *Äußerlichkeiten*.

50s, feels undesirable and ignored by her husband. Her daughter Julie wants to pursue a modeling career and tries desperately to comply with the *Schönheitsideal* of the business. Leyla, the daughter of Julie's manager, struggles with weight problems, while Sonja, Julie's sister-in-law, slips into a crisis after two pregnancies. And then there is Vicky, Sonja's best friend - a teacher who tries to enlighten her students about the value of character, inner beauty, and self-confidence apart from their

### Die Glasbläserin (2016)

February 16, 2024 | 6:30pm  
German with No Subtitles



This made-for-television movie is the literary adaptation of the first part of the bestselling trilogy by Petra Durst-Bennings. Set in Lauscha in the forest of Thuringia in 1891, it tells the story of two sisters, Johanna and Marie Steinmann, who try to continue their family-owned glass blowing business after the death of their widowed father. They encounter great resistance since women are not allowed to own these type of businesses in this male-dominated world. Sexual insults and attacks on both sisters test their resilience as they strive to carve out a living with more artistic designs, including the invention of the Christmas ornament, the "*Weihnachtskugel*". The two sisters were and are role models for female entrepreneurs everywhere.

### Das Lehrerzimmer (2023)

March 15, 2024 | 6:30pm  
German with German Subtitles



The young Carla Nowak is a new teacher for Math and Physical Education in a Grade 7 class at a Gymnasium in Hamburg. After a series of unresolved burglaries, the atmosphere at the school becomes increasingly tense. Carla witnesses how several of her own students become suspects and are investigated by the school leadership who pursue a zero tolerance policy. After their suspicions cannot be verified, Carla starts her own investigation, which leads to the long-serving secretary Friederike Kuhn. But Mrs. Kuhn is the mother of her most gifted math students. A complex pursuit to find the truth ensues amid enraged parents, obstinate teachers, and aggressive students.