

PRESS RELEASE



filmportal.de cooperates with T-Online:

Pilot Project "The Most Important German Films" Launched

Extensive film information complements selection of Videos on Demand / Launch with over 20 films at the 56th International Berlin Film Festival / Film selection based on a poll of more than 450 experts

BERLIN, February 14, 2006. From DER BLAUE ENGEL (THE BLUE ANGEL) to GOOD BYE, LENIN! – "The Most Important German Films" will be available around the clock. **filmportal.de** places them in context, while **T-Online** delivers them to your living room. On February 14, at a reception hosted by the Hessian Government in Berlin for the 56th Berlin International Film Festival, **T-Online** and **filmportal.de** presented the breakthrough pilot project "The Most Important German Films". Taking a selection of Germany's most important and popular films, the cooperation partners showed how film knowledge from the internet can productively complement a selection of Videos on Demand. "The pilot project shows that new technologies can provide a comprehensive and attractive way of communicating German film to an interested audience," said Claudia Dillmann, director of the Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF, at the presentation.

Fans and lovers of film can find more information on the selected films at **filmportal.de**. Features of the central internet platform for German film include texts and photo materials: summaries, filmographies, biographies and many original documents such as sketches for Fritz Lang's METROPOLIS (1925/26) and historic film posters, such as for BERLIN. DIE SINFONIE DER GROßSTADT (BERLIN. SYMPHONY OF A BIG CITY, 1927), as well as a wealth of film reviews, articles providing overviews of epochs and topics and links to materials such as teaching units. Parallel to this, **T-Online** will be offering the films online as streamed Videos on Demand.

T-Online customers can download titles of their choice via DSL and watch them on the computer or on television using a media receiver. Users ordering a film directly online can use links to navigate back and forth between the Video on Demand features and the background information offered by **filmportal.de**.

"The Most Important German Films" is a joint project of **filmportal.de** and **T-Online**, sponsored by the **multimedia initiative hessen (mmi)**. It is aimed at all fans of German cinema. The project will be launched with an initial selection of more than 20 films, including classics such as METROPOLIS (1925/26) by Fritz Lang and the world-famous DER BLAUE ENGEL (THE BLUE ANGEL, 1929/1930) with Marlene Dietrich. Recent film hits include GOOD BYE, LENIN! (2001-2003) by Wolfgang Becker and NIRGENDWO IN AFRIKA (NOWHERE IN AFRICA) by Caroline Link, which won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 2003. Children's films play a role as well, with DIE BLINDGÄNGER (THE BLIND FLYERS) by Bernd Sahling, and animated films represented by the beloved KÄPT'N BLAUBÄR (CAPT'N BLUEBEAR).

The list of films providing the basis for the project's selection emerged from the poll "The 100 Most Important German Films" which the Deutsche Kinematheksverbund conducted among experts and film critics. In 1995, to mark 100 years of cinema, 456 experts were asked for their opinions. They were asked to name "the 100 most important German films from the beginnings to the present", films "of outstanding artistic, political or social significance for the spectrum of German film history," according to the questionnaire. Participants included Alexander Kluge, Kurt Maetzig, Wim Wenders, Edgar Reitz, Volker Schlöndorff, Margarethe von Trotta, Christoph Schlingensiefel and Bernhard Wicki, journalists Peter Buchka, Wolf Donner, Peter W. Jansen, Hellmuth Karasek, internationally-known film historians Freddy Buache, Bernhard Eisenschitz, Ulrich Gregor, Naum Klejman, Ib Monty, Enno Patalas, Giovanni Spagnoletti, Jerzy Toeplitz and Karsten Witte, and the producers Günter Rohrbach, Joachim Vietinghoff and Jürgen

PRESS RELEASE



Wohlrabe. "Ten years after its first appearance, the list is still representative", the director of the Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek – Filmmuseum Berlin, Hans Helmut Prinzler explains the questionnaire's significance. "It doesn't determine the highlights of film history for all eternity, but anyone who is familiar with all one hundred films will have a solid foundation of knowledge on German film." For the project "The Most Important German Films", the list based on the 1995 questionnaire was expanded to include winners of the German Film Prize from the past ten years. The list now includes a total of 123 films. The **T-Online** Video on Demand features are continually being expanded. The Video on Demand offerings of course do not include Nazi-propaganda films which were on the original list of the 1995 poll.

filmportal.de provides reliable information on a current total of 40,000 German films and around 110,000 film professionals. All materials on **filmportal.de** are provided free of charge. Since its launch in February 2005, the most exhaustive source of information on German film has seen a constant rise in user statistics in Germany and abroad, with a current total of over 10 million page hits. The English version of **filmportal.de** is being expanded at this time.

filmportal.de is a project of the Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF in cooperation with CineGraph, Hamburg. The supporters of **filmportal.de** are: the Federal Government Commissioner for Cultural and Media Affairs, the German Federal Film Board, the hessen-media program of the Hessian State Government, the multimedia-initiative hessen (mmi), the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation, Wiesbaden, and the Cultural Authority of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. The portal is supported by the members of the Deutscher Kinematheksverband and the associations of the German film industry. The media partner of **filmportal.de** is ARTE.

For more information please contact:

Sigrid Scherer
filmportal.de
Press and Publicity
Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF e.V.
Schaumainkai 41
60596 Frankfurt / Main
Telephone: (069) 96 12 20 – 36
Fax: (069) 62 00 60
E-mail: presse@filmportal.de
www.filmportal.de
www.deutsches-filminstitut.de
www.t-online.de/deutscher-film
www.mmi-hessen.de

(printable photo material is available for download at <http://www.filmportal-service.de/s01a02.htmh>)