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DOCUMENTARY IN DIALOGUE: WERNER HERZOG

April 18 – April 28

Werner Herzog represents a rare case of a filmmaker whose oeuvre is divided neatly into both feature and documentary films. Herzog's prominence within the realm of nonfiction cinema has grown in recent years, both due to the films themselves and to his promotion of the idea of an "ecstatic truth" that hinges on the director's manipulation of reality. At the same time Herzog has gained attention by critiquing other, more passive approaches, such as Direct Cinema.

Nevertheless, it is not easy to say what defines a Herzog documentary, aside from the presence of his almost legendary voice and his interest in outsiders who are often confronted with extraordinary circumstances. Guest curated by Alejandro Bachmann and Michelle Koch – the editors of a recent German-language book on Herzog's documentaries – this film program attempts to illuminate this unique body of work by pairing particular Herzog films with works by other filmmakers that focus on similar topics, deal with comparable material, or employ related approaches.

The pairings work in different ways: in some cases the films show close affinities, while in others they stand in opposition to each other. Either way, they represent an opportunity to contemplate what makes Herzog's documentaries so unique. The series also provides a chance simply to experience a wide variety of films that engage with the world – taken together they demonstrate the multiplicity of meaning inherent in the term "documentary."

Guest curated by Alejandro Bachmann and Michelle Koch, co-editors of "Echos: Zum dokumentarischen Werk Werner Herzogs" ("Echoes: On the Documentary Work of Werner Herzog"), who are also responsible for the series introduction and all the program descriptions below.

This series is co-presented by the Goethe-Institut New York.

The following programs will be introduced by series guest-curators Alejandro Bachmann and/or Michelle Koch:

Thurs, April 18 at 7:30: "Capturing Performance"
Fri, April 19 at 6:45: Echoes from a Somber Empire
Fri, April 19 at 9:15: General Idi Amin Dada
Sun, April 21 at 3:30: "Autoportraits"
Sun, April 21 at 6:15: Grizzly Man
Sun, April 21 at 8:45: Souvenir

Special thanks to special thanks to Sara Stevenson (Goethe-Institut New York); Brian Belovarac (Janus Films); Kelvin Gardner & Carter Rummage (Lionsgate); Anke Hahn (Deutsche Kinemathek – Museum für Film und Fernsehen); Bob Hunter & Livia Bloom Ingram (Icarus Films); Mark Johnson (Harvard Film Archive); Marleen Labijt & Fanny Baars (Eye Filmmuseum); Bernd Schoch; André Siegers; Lucki Stipetic (Werner Herzog Film GmbH); Thomas Tielsch (Filmtank); Noshka van der Lely; and Marie Zeniter (IFC Films).

Upcoming Screenings

Werner Herzog & Bernd Schoch
DOCUMENTARY IN DIALOGUE: CAPTURING PERFORMANCE
 April 18 at 7:30 PM
 April 24 at 7:30 PM

Werner Herzog
ECHOES FROM A SOMBER EMPIRE
 April 19 at 6:45 PM
 April 25 at 7:00 PM

Barbet Schroeder
GENERAL IDI AMIN DADA: A SELF PORTRAIT
 April 19 at 9:15 PM
 April 25 at 9:15 PM

DOCUMENTARY IN DIALOGUE: CHILDREN, ATHLETES, OUTSIDERS
 April 20 at 3:30 PM
 April 28 at 6:00 PM

Werner Herzog
INTO THE ABYSS
 April 20 at 6:15 PM
 April 27 at 4:30 PM

Gregory Shuker, Robert Drew & Richard Leacock

THE CHAIR

April 20 at 9:00 PM

April 27 at 7:00 PM

Chantal Akerman & Werner Herzog

DOCUMENTARY IN DIALOGUE: AUTOPORTRAITS

April 21 at 3:30 PM

April 27 at 9:00 PM

Werner Herzog

GRIZZLY MAN

April 21 at 6:15 PM

April 26 at 6:45 PM

André Siegers

SOUVENIR

April 21 at 8:45 PM

April 26 at 9:15 PM

Werner Herzog, Richard Leacock & Marisa Silver

DOCUMENTARY IN DIALOGUE: RELIGIOUS AMERICA

April 22 at 7:30 PM

April 28 at 4:00 PM

Johan van der Keuken & Werner Herzog

DOCUMENTARY IN DIALOGUE: SEEING WITHOUT EYES

April 23 at 7:30 PM

April 28 at 8:30 PM

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