

MOUNT HOLYOKE
Department of German Studies
Filmfest – Spring 2008

The politics of memory in post-war (West) Germany and Japan
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., Cleveland L3

Feb. 6, 7:00 p.m., Cleveland L3

Deutschland bleiche Mutter (1979)

(Germany, pale mother) Director Helma Sanders-Brahms

Love story set during and after the Nazi era. Explores the private lives of a young bride and her Wehrmacht soldier husband and other by-standers who tolerated Hitler. While not excusing the actions of its protagonists, it uses them to show how easily the unthinkable can happen.

Feb. 13, 7:00 p.m., Cleveland L3

***Hiroshima Mon Amour (1966)* Director Alain Resnais**

During the filming of an anti-war film in Japan, a French actress falls in love with a Japanese architect. While sharing an intimate relationship, they also begin sharing the memories of a war experienced at opposite sides of the world.

Feb. 20, 7:00 p.m., Cleveland L3

***Letters from Iwo Jima (2006)* Director Clint Eastwood**

Sixty-one years ago, the United States and Japanese armies met on Iwo Jima. Decades later, hundreds of letters are unearthed from that stark island's soil. The letters give faces and voices to the men who fought there, as well as the extraordinary general who led them.

Feb. 27, 7:00 p.m., Cleveland L3

***Jenseits des Krieges (1996) (East of War)* Director Ruth Beckermann**

(German, with English subtitles) Using the exhibition "Vernichtungskrieg" (War of Extermination) as a background, Beckermann and cameraman Peter Roehsler have filmed former soldiers talking about their experiences, beyond the bounds of "normal" warfare.

Mar. 5, 7:00 p.m., Cleveland L3

***Shoah (1985)* Director Claude Lanzmann (excerpts)**

Originally released as a motion picture in 1985.

The Nazi extermination of Jews is examined through interviews of survivors, witnesses and perpetrators and through footage of the sites of the death camps and environs as they appear today. Those interviewed include Jewish survivors of the death camps and the Warsaw ghetto uprising, Polish farmers and villagers who lived near the camps and Nazis who worked in the camps and the ghettos.

Mar. 12, 7:00 p.m., Cleveland L3

***Black rain (1988)* Director Shohei Imamura**

This film depicts survival after the 1945 atomic catastrophe that changed the world forever. Based on Masuji Ibuse's novel, *Black Rain*.

Mar. 26, 7:00 p.m., Cleveland L3

***Tokyo Story (1953)* Director Yasujiro Ozu (Japanese language; English subtitles)**

When an aging couple journeys to visit with their adult children and family they find they are an intrusion on the younger generation's life style.

April 2, 7:00 p.m., Cleveland L3

***Marriage of Maria Braun (1979)* Rainer Werner Fassbinder (German with English subtitles)**

The first of a trilogy about women in post-World War II Germany, The marriage of Maria Braun, turns the melodramatic story of the titular heroine's climb up the economic ladder into a historical allegory about both the post-war German "economic miracle" and 1970s West Germany.

April 23, 7:00 p.m., Cleveland L3

***Enlightenment guaranteed (2002)* Director Doris Dorrie (German with English subtitles)**

Two very different brothers get together for a temporary stay in a Japanese Zen monastery. The trip from Germany to Japan brings up some unexpected quests they have to manage. Soon both really have to leave their ordinary lives behind and are on a voyage to find themselves.

