

Berlinale Retrospective 2025: â??Wild, Weird, Bloody. German Genre Films of the 70sâ?•

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

75th Berlin International Film Festival *Retrospective* 2025: â??Wild, Weird, Bloody. German Genre Films of the 70sâ?•



Kurt Raab in *Die Zärtlichkeit der Wölfe* by Ulli Lommel

Source: Deutsche Kinemathek, Â© Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation

The *Retrospective* of the 75th Berlin International Film Festival will be â??Wild, Weird, Bloodyâ?•: the offbeat and the wacky, mix it up with action, thrills, and graphic visuals in 15 selected genre films from East and West Germany made in the 1970s.

Dr. Rainer Rother, head of the *Retrospective* and Artistic Director of the Deutsche Kinemathek, says: â??A longstanding preconception says that Germans canâ??t do genre. But in fact, early German cinema laid a groundwork that was influential in the international development of fantasy and science fiction moviemaking. And even beyond that, both auteur filmmakers and commercial productions were drawn to genre films over the decades. Our *Retrospective* showcases pictures, made amid other film currents such as New German Cinema that embraced the appeal and played with the possibilities of a good genre flick.â?•

Influenced by the wave of exploitation films of the era, the 1970s are a treasure trove of offbeat movies that followed new narrative and aesthetic paths. It was a decade when a generation of young directors took their shot and tested the boundaries between the genres. With ***Deadlock*** (FRG, 1970), Roland Klick served up a mixture of post-apocalyptic gangster film and psychedelic western. That same year, Hans W. GeiÃ?endÃ¶rfer turned his sights on the horror genre with his commanding vampire film ***Jonathan*** (FRG, 1970). West German filmmakers had counterparts in East Germany, such as Horst Bonnet, with his unusual adaptation of the operetta ***Orpheus in der Unterwelt*** (*Orpheus in the Underworld*, GDR, 1974), and GÃ¼nter Reischâ??s satire ***Nelken in Aspik*** (*Cloves in Aspic*, GDR, 1976). The section will also be showing films by directors such as Rainer Erler, Klaus Lemke, Ulli Lommel, and Wolfgang Petersen, expanding the *Retrospective* 2025 to include genres such as the biker film, thriller, and musical.



â??Modern audiences eagerly embrace genre cinema and enjoy tracing crime, science fiction, horror and other genre roots all the way back to the earliest days of the form. This selection of deep thrills and blood spills offers so many discoveries, and shines a light into new corners of German cinema. We cannot wait to share it with audiences, local and internationalâ?•, comments Berlinale Director Tricia Tuttle.

The complete line-up for â??Wild, Weird, Bloody. German Genre Films of the 70sâ?• will be announced in December 2024. During the Berlinale, the *Retrospective* screenings will be complemented by a series of event at E-Werk, the new home of the Deutsche Kinemathek.

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1. Retrospective of the 75th Berlin International Film Festival

Date Created
November 20, 2024
Author
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