

HISTORY
ARTS
CULTURE

DOCUMENTARY
30 MIN.

VERSIONS

Diverse

RIGHTS

Worldwide, VOD, Mobile

ORDER NUMBER

Diverse
37 x 30 min.



Profiles

Ludwig II

00 0581

English, German, Spanish

With fantastic castles and palaces, Ludwig II of Bavaria (1845–86), known as the “fairy-tale” king, built his own world far removed from the political realities of his day. But Ludwig’s obsession was expensive, and this, coupled with signs of advancing mental illness, led to his being certified mentally unstable on June 9, 1886. Four days later Ludwig II mysteriously drowned in the Starnberger See. Even today, we remain fascinated by the “fairy-tale” king.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

36 2643 *The Young Goethe (1749–1775)*

36 3241 *From Weimar to Rome (1775–1789)*

36 3347 *Into a New Century (1789–1832)*

Arabic, English, French, German,
Portuguese, Spanish

It is easier to understand the works of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe if something is known of his life. Moreover, and almost more importantly, Goethe regarded the shaping of his life as a creative task. Thus arose what was in a way one of the first conscious autobiographies of modern times, and even his contemporaries spoke of an “exemplary existence”.

Johann Georg Faust

00 0932

English, German, Spanish

The legend and the man – he sold his soul to the devil, and in return, the devil prepared a violent end for him. Even during his lifetime, legends abounded connecting Johann Georg Faust, the astrologer, magician, and master of black arts, with the satanic. The mysterious life of the historical Faust soon became the stuff of narrative in untold permutations throughout the German-speaking world, finally achieving the status of a national epic through Goethe.

Hermann Hesse

36 2641

Arabic, English, French, German,
Portuguese, Spanish

Hermann Hesse (1877–1962) is perhaps the best-known and most read of all German authors. He was already very popular during his lifetime. Hesse was an advocate of the rights of the individual in the age of the masses. The film takes a look at his life and works. It is a biography of a life lived in accordance with the maxim: “Loyalty to oneself and goodness to others.”

Theodor Storm and North Friesland

00 0348

English, German, Spanish

Back in the 19th century, as the idea of the German nation was being formed, an interest in the idea of a “native land” was taking root. Literature’s response to this tendency was the genre of “Heimatkichtung”, or vernacular poetry. Theodor Storm’s tale of “The Little Häwelmann”, and especially his famous novella “The Rider on the White Horse” movingly evoke the character of North Friesland’s people, their ongoing battle against the sea, and their ties to the land.

Once Upon a Time – There Were Two Brothers...

00 1163

English, German, Spanish

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm – Apart from the Bible, no book has been translated into as many languages and read as often as the Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm. Philologists regard Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm as the founders of German studies. Our report goes beyond the usual romance of the fairy tales and weaves together biography, literary history and fairy tale motifs.

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“My Songs Will Live When I Am Long Departed”

00 1239

English, German, Spanish

Annette von Droste-Hülshoff’s first success came late with her short novella “The Jew’s Beech” in 1842. The fascination of Droste-Hülshoff’s verse epics, ballads and poems emanates from the isolation, melancholy, reverie, and longing they speak of. We revisit the stations of her lifetime.

Heinrich Heine

00 1384, 00 1385, 00 1386

English, German, Spanish

Without knowing much about the man, you can still join Heinrich Heine in laughter and scorn, and you can still be enthralled by his peculiarly poetic writings. But if you want to understand him, you must know something of the background and the contradictions of his life; and so Deutsche Welle is portraying this life in a three-part film biography. His life is basically a story of suffering. But it was this suffering which made him one of the greatest lyric poets in the German language.

Thomas Mann

36 3776 | 01, 02

Arabic, English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish

Thomas Mann (1875–1955) has long been ranked among the classics of 20th century world literature. His works, comprising novels, stories, and essays on literary, political and philosophical subjects, have been translated into all the world’s main languages. Mann’s first novel “Buddenbrooks”, published in 1901, portrayed the decline of a patrician family dynasty. It was for this work that he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1929.

Heinrich Böll

36 4111 | 01, 02

Arabic, English, French, Spanish

Heinrich Böll (1917–1985) is probably the most famous and the most controversial German writer of the post-war era. When he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1972, Böll’s literary work had already been translated into more than 30 languages. As president of the international PEN Club from 1971 to 1974, he used his influence on behalf of persecuted and oppressed writers in all parts of the world.

The Last Days in the Life of Vincent Van Gogh

00 0138

English, German, Spanish

One hundred years ago, the Dutch artist living in Arles in the south of France was unable to sell a single picture. Today, Vincent van Gogh’s pictures sell for millions. He painted obsessively, producing works such as the “Sunflowers”, the “Irises” and the “Flower Garden”. We look back at the last days in the life of this great artist.

A View from the North – Edvard Munch in Germany

00 0905

English, German, Spanish

Edvard Munch was interested in the human being, human psychology and human fate. Death, anxiety, and unbridled desire were all fundamental experiences of human existence to which the Norwegian artist gave expression in his paintings and prints. This feature records the essential milestones and the triumphs and defeats of Munch in Germany.

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Joseph Beuys

36 3788

Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish

Joseph Beuys (1921–1986) – a master of modern art and at the same time one of the most controversial sculptors and action artists of our time. His works are seen as “absurd”, barely comprehensible. Yet he managed within the space of 12 years to become one of the world’s most highly-paid artists.

Carl Fabergé – The Man with the Golden Hands

00 0350

English, German, Spanish

Carl Fabergé (1846–1920), court jeweller to the Russian czars, has ensured his place in art history with his “fantasy objects”, fashioned in enamel and gold. Today the products of his expert goldsmithing are some of the most expensive and sought-after items anywhere. With historic film footage and interviews with the master’s granddaughter and art curators, we fashion a portrait of this unique man and his influence on the goldsmith’s craft.

Lale Andersen – The Voice of Lili Marlene

00 2116, 00 2117

English, German, Spanish

Lili Marlene is one of the most famous songs of the last century. Its triumphal march began in the Second World War when it was broadcast every night at ten by the forces’ station Radio Belgrade. Soldiers on every front were moved to tears by the voice of hitherto unknown German singer Lale Andersen, who rocketed to international stardom. A legend was born and a personal drama began to unfold. The boundaries between song and singer blurred. This two-part documentary, based on Lale Andersen’s diaries, reveals what lay behind the Lili Marlene phenomenon: a self-confident, emancipated woman, with many contradictions and a boundless passion for singing.

Mstislav Rostropovich – A Musician For Freedom

00 0973

English, German, Spanish

In 1978, the Soviet cellist Mstislav Rostropovich had his Soviet citizenship revoked for “unpatriotic behaviour”. Thirteen years later, during the attempted putsch of August 1991, Rostropovich stood shoulder to shoulder with Russian patriots in front of the White House in Moscow to defend the fledgling democracy. The world-famous cellist and conductor recounts an eventful life in the former Soviet Union.

Jazz Made in Germany – Klaus Doldinger

00 0875

English, German, Spanish

Without a doubt, Klaus Doldinger belongs to the elite of the German jazz scene. With his group “Passport” and his legendary jubilee concerts, he has helped write jazz history for over twenty years. Our film team accompanies Klaus Doldinger to New York, where the film “Street of Dreams” is being shot. We hang out with him at a string of jazz festivals and drop in at his studio where most of his film scores are recorded.

A Divine Virtuoso – Ballet Star

Vladimir Malakhov

36 4513-50

English, Spanish

When he leaps, Vladimir Malakhov hovers in the air like no other. Critics voted him “Male Ballet Dancer of the Century”. And audiences love him. The film portrays an exceptional dancer who is also a choreographer as well as director of ballet at the German State Opera in Berlin, the country’s biggest ballet company.

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Pina Bausch

36 3508

Arabic, English, French,
Portuguese, Spanish

The dancer and choreographer Pina Bausch was one of the leading figures in the international world of dance. The pieces she has devised with her company, the Wuppertal Tanztheater, are in great demand abroad as supreme examples of German dance theatre. The film report shows excerpts from Pina Bausch's most important works and provides evidence of the emergence of a new, realistic dance theatre.

In Motion Folkwang Dance – A History

00 1389

English, German, Spanish

Together with Rudolf von Laban and Sigurd Leeder, Kurt Jooss created a new form of expressive dance when he founded the Folkwang School in 1927. It became the origin of modern dance in Germany. A former Jooss pupil, Leoni Renoldi tells the story of the ensemble. And Henrietta Horn gives viewers a glimpse of the rehearsals of "Mandalaman", a dance piece developed from impressions she gathered on a visit to India.

A Dancer's Life

00 1856

English, German, Spanish

The life of a professional dancer is a life of extremes. Take Gregor Seyffert from Berlin, for example. In recent years, he's won all the awards the dance world has to offer, including the coveted Prix Benois which he received in 1997 as dancer of the year. Seyffert's appeal rests not only on his almost acrobatic technique, but also, and above all, on the emotional expressivity of his interpretations. But all this success has its price, and leaves little time for private moments.

The Tenth Dancer

00 2350

English, German

90 percent of the royal artists in Cambodia were killed by Pol Pot's murderous regime. The one in ten who escaped are known as "tenth dancers". One is Em Theay. She is a virtuosa and teacher of the classical royal temple dance. In his performance "Beyond the Killing Fields" director Ong Keng Sen of Singapore brilliantly renders the story of Em Theay and other dancers in impressive stage images. The programme interweaves images of dance rehearsals and performance with documentary shots of Em Theay and her daughter Preab in Cambodia and archive footage of the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror.

Masterpiece – Montblanc Fountain Pens

00 1126

English, German, Spanish

Montblanc is a luxury fountain pen still hand-made according to the original methods by master craftsmen, many of them the second generation to work at the Hamburg company. Today, Montblanc is selling twenty times as many pens as it did in the seventies. This feature report witnesses the birth of the Masterpiece, Montblanc's most renowned fountain pen, and asks just what makes this expensive writing implement so interesting to customers from Brazil to Singapore.

Märklin

00 0893

English, German, Spanish

In 1891, Theodor Friedrich Märklin presented his new model train set at the Leipzig spring trade fair. Today, whether it's the Märklin mini-club, the world's smallest electric railway, or 1994's "Maxi-Bahn" in Märklin's classic tin style, untold numbers of children young and old have fallen head over heels for the carefully detailed miniature reconstructions of actual locomotives and trains.

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Werner von Siemens – Founder of a Global Enterprise

00 0332

English, German, Spanish

As a 25-year-old artillery officer in the 1840s, Werner von Siemens decided to use his spare time to become an all-round inventor and his hobby soon became his life's work. Our film documents the life of the man whose company grew to become one of the leading enterprises in the electronics industry, and together with AEG, established Berlin's turn-of-the-century reputation as the world centre of electronic engineering.

Craftsmanship – In the Service of Music

00 0998

English, German, Spanish

The organ builders Andreas and Gottfried Silbermann were born in a tiny village in the mountains of Saxony toward the end of the 17th century. They are said to have played no small part in the golden era of organ building in the 17th and 18th centuries. Of the two brothers, virtually no documentation and not a single portrait survives – only the exquisitely resonant tones of their instruments, lovingly cultivated and maintained by the organ experts who followed them.

Otto Lilienthal – On the Trail of a Pioneer of Flight

00 0047

English, German, Spanish

Otto Lilienthal, engineer and aviation pioneer, had been interested in flight technology ever since he was a little boy. This report reconstructs his life and recalls the early days of aviation history.

Willy Messerschmitt

00 0498

English, German, Spanish

In the 1930s, Willy Messerschmitt, a pioneer in aviation and light-weight construction, landed the contract to build the German Air Force's standard fighter plane, the most

built and possibly most feared aircraft of World War Two. After the war, Messerschmitt designed houses, cars and, from 1952 until his death, again developed aeroplanes. The broad product spectrum of Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm Inc. – founded in 1969 – gave Messerschmitt the opportunity to turn his new ideas into reality.

Portrait of a Cinematographer – Michael Ballhaus

00 1473

English, German, Spanish

Michael Ballhaus is one of Germany's top cinematographers. He has worked in the United States since 1982 and has long since made his name in Hollywood. His most recent assignment was "Primary Colors", starring John Travolta and Emma Thompson. This report offers a rare opportunity to observe the master director of photography at work.

The Static Beauty – The Architect Christoph Ingenhoven

00 1914

English, German

Christoph Ingenhoven is the rising star of German architecture. He won his first major competition while still a student. Now, he has a staff of 120 working for him at his firm in Düsseldorf. Ingenhoven, Overdick and Partners have large-scale projects underway in all parts of the globe. Hardly any other German architect is in such demand outside his own country. That may well have something to do with the fact that his is one of the few European companies specialized in designing skyscrapers. His best-known project to date is the RWE Tower in Essen, the first environmentally friendly skyscraper in the world. His prize-winning design for Stuttgart's new central train station has also raised a few eyebrows. Ingenhoven envisaged a kind of underground rail city. Our camera accompanied Christoph Ingenhoven from Düsseldorf to Bristol and from Frankfurt to Tokyo.