

HISTORY
ARTS
CULTURE

DOCUMENTARY
30 MIN.

VERSIONS

Diverse (14 x 30 min.)

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Stars of the Screen and Stage

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 World War Two 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.

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.

From Top to Toe – Friedrich Hollaender

00 1037

English, German, Spanish

He was a composer, songwriter, author, and his own best interpreter. Friedrich Hollaender was a virtuoso in all the métiers of cabaret in the 1920s. Like so many of his compatriots, Hollaender had to leave the country when the Nazis came to power. His journey led via Paris to Hollywood, where he was to compose the scores for more than 170 films. 1955 saw Hollaender's return to Germany, but the politics of the day had moved beyond his era.

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 forty years. 1995 our film team accompanied Klaus Doldinger to New York, where the film "Street of Dreams" was being shot.

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 shows excerpts from Pina Bausch's most important works and provides evidence of the emergence of a new, realistic dance theatre.

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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 has 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 program 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.

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.

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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.