

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Culture and society

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Harry tries every trick in the book to avoid a meeting with spooky Dr. Anderson. One excuse he gives is that he wants to go to the cinema. If you want to learn something new about German history, a great movie to see would be "Das Leben der Anderen" ("The Lives of Others"), a political thriller set in the former East Germany. The film is about the Stasi (abbreviation for Staatssicherheit: East Germany's secret police) and the tragic consequences of their surveillance and spying practices.

The story takes place in East Berlin in the 1980s, when the German Democratic Republic (GDR) was a single-party dictatorship. Stasi officer Gerd Wiesler is assigned to spy on theater director Georg Dreyman and his partner. He bugs their apartment and sets up a surveillance post in the attic of their building. Every move they make is monitored and documented. Wiesler is confronted not only with their private affairs but also their creative, artistic lives. This becomes a problem for Wiesler as he gradually grows fond of the couple. The film was written and directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck and won an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2007.