

German Film Permission

• Riverview High School

- Parents are asked to read the following information, sign below and return the completed form to Dr. Bogard.

German Language Films in the Classroom

Every nine weeks during the school year, the advanced German classes will view one feature-length German film. These are theatrical release films on video/DVD. All are shown in the original language with English subtitles, while a few are with German subtitles.

I show these films to give students exposure to the language and culture they are studying, as well as to highlight the unit that students are completing. This is a very special opportunity for students to experience high quality foreign films and to gain the experience of following a movie using subtitles. All films shown are chosen for their educational value, and all are moving, award winning (ex. *Best Foreign Film Golden Globe Award*) cinematic works!

Film Guide for the IB/DE/Honors courses

Below is a brief description of some of the films to be shown this year in the IB, DE and Honors level class to help you decide about permission for your son or daughter. The American MPAA rating is in (). The German rating ("freigegeben ab # Jahren) or British rating (BBFC) is included as well. **NOTE:** Not all of these films will be viewed each school year.

- **Comedian Harmonists (*The Harmonists*)** (1997) Comedian Harmonists tells the story of a famous, German male sextet, five vocals and piano, the "Comedian Harmonists", from the day they meet first in 1927 to the day in 1934, when they become banned by the upcoming Nazis, because three of them are Jewish. 'Freigegeben ab 6 Jahren' (=available in Germany to ages 6 and up). Brief nudity (R).

- **Das Boot (*The Boat*)** (1981) This German anti-war masterpiece film by director Wolfgang Petersen (*In the Line of Fire*) recreates the tension and claustrophobia of 43 men on a German U-boat in 1941. 40,000 men served aboard Nazi subs, but only 10,000 came home. In German. Some strong language, violence. BBFC rating 15 (=no-one younger than 15'), (R)

- **Die weiße Rose (*The White Rose*)** (1983) Well-acted film based on the true story of Hans and Sophie Scholl and a group of college students in wartime Munich who fought against Hitler by printing and distributing anti-Nazi leaflets. They and one of their professors were finally executed shortly before the end of the war. Brief nudity. (PG)

- **Europa Europa** (1991) A Jewish boy separated from his family in the early days of WWII poses as a German orphan and is taken into the heart of the Nazi world as a 'war hero' and eventually becomes a Hitler Youth. Although improbabilities and happenstance are cornerstones of the film, it is based upon a true story. In German and Russian. BBFC rating 15 (=no-one younger than 15'), (R).

Goodbye Lenin (aka. *auf 79qm DDR*) (2003) In 1990, to protect his fragile mother from a fatal shock after a long coma; a young man must keep her from learning that her beloved nation of East Germany as she knew it has disappeared. Rated R for brief language and sexuality. 'Freigegeben ab 6 Jahren' (=available in Germany to ages 6 and up).

- **Himmel über Berlin (*Wings of Desire*)** (1988) Award-winning film by German director Wim Wenders, with Peter Falk ("Columbo") in a supporting role. Angels see in black & white, mortals see in color. An angel in Berlin decides he would like to be human again. Filmed in Berlin shortly before the Wall fell. (Wenders has also made a post-Wall sequel.) In German, French, and English. One short scene with strong language. (PG-13)

- **Jenseits der Stille (*Beyond Silence*)** (1997) Since the earliest days in her childhood Lara has had a difficult but important task. Both her parents are deaf-mute and Lara has to translate from sign language to the spoken word and vice versa when her parents want to communicate with other people. Getting older and more mature she becomes interested in music and starts to play clarinet very successfully. However her parents are deaf, they cannot share Lara's musical career. The day comes when Lara has to decide between her parents and her own ambitions. 'Freigegeben ab 6 Jahren' (=available in Germany to ages 6 and up) (R).

- **Lola Rennt (*Run Lola Run*)** (1999) Plot centers around a smuggler and his illegally-obtained money. Lola's boyfriend has lost a small fortune belonging to his mobster boss, and she has 20 minutes to help him find a solution to his problem. The movie centers on the idea that we make decisions in a split second that can drastically change our future, and involves a multiple plot line showing three alternate outcomes. Entertainment Weekly recommended this film highly (A-), and the Wall Street Journal's film reviewer rated it as one of the 20 best films of 1999. Freigegeben ab 16 Jahren (=available in Germany to ages 16 and up). This film is MPAA rated R, primarily for language (the English subtitles tend to use stronger language than the original German script!).

- **Mostly Martha (*Bella Martha*)** (2002) In a German restaurant, Chef Martha Klein is the undisputed supreme ruler of the kitchen staff and woe to any customer who would dare criticize her cooking. Martha takes her niece in and at work, a new chef named Mario is hired on and Martha feels threatened by this unorthodox intruder. The pressures of both her private and work life combine to create a situation that will fundamentally call her attitudes and life choices into question while these interlopers into her life begin to profound change it. (PG)

• ***Nirgendwo In Afrika (Nowhere In Africa)*** (2003) A Jewish family in Germany emigrate short before the Second World War. They move to Kenya to start running a farm, but not all members of the family come to an arrangement with their new life. 'Freigegeben ab 6 Jahren' (=available in Germany to ages 6 and up) (R).

Reise der Hoffnung (Journey of Hope) (1990) An impressive tale of human desperation and of one family's incredible sacrifices in search of hope. German and Turkish. BBFC rating 15 (=no-one younger than 8), (PG).

Das Wunder von Bern (The Miracle of Bern) (2003) The movie deals with the championship-winning German soccer team of 1954. The film is not just a sports drama but deals more with the atmosphere in post war Germany and with the problems and aspirations the people had during that period and what the winning of the world championship by the German national football team meant for the regular people. German and Swiss German. 'Freigegeben ab 6 Jahren' (=available in Germany to ages 6 and up) ().

My son/daughter, _____

may ___ view the above listed German films if shown during this school year.

may not ___ view the following movies listed below:

Title of film: _____

Title of film: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

- Students not allowed to view these films will be given related assignments.
- Parents may arrange to review a particular film at school with special arrangements.
- Please return this completed form as soon as possible.

NOTE: Students without a signed form on record will not be allowed to view these films.