

Press Folder

This is a witch trial!

The Press is the accuser

The Police is the executioner

You are the bloodthirsty public

Katharina Blum is the victim



Volker Schlöndorff's

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

BASED ON THE
NOBEL
PRIZEWINNING NOVEL
BY
HEINRICH
BÖLL

with Angelo Winkler Mario Adorf and Dieter Laser
Music: Hans Werner Henze Camera: Jost Vacano
A Paramount Orion Production/Bioskop Film
Distributed by Cinema International Corporation

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

CREDIT LIST CAST

Running time 104 min.

Written and directed by Volker Schlöndorff
Margarethe von Trotta

Based on the novel by Heinrich Böll

Original music composed by Hans-Werner Henze

Director of photography, Jost Vacano

Sound engineer Klaus Eckelt
Willi Schwadorf

Executive producers Willi Benninger
Eberhard Junkersdorf

A Co-Production PARAMOUNT-ORION/WDR/BIOSKOP-FILM
8 Munich 40, Türkenstrasse 95

Katharina Blum
Beizmenne (police officer)
Werner Tötges (journalist)
Dr. Blorna (attorney)
Trude Blorna (his wife)
Moeding (police lieutenant)
Alois Sträubleder (businessman)
Ludwig Götten
Hach (district attorney)
Else Woltersheim
(Katharina's aunt)
Konrad Beiters

Angela Winkler
Mario Adorf
Dieter Laser
Heinz Bennent
Hannelore Hoger
Harald Kuhlmann
Karl Heinz Vosgerau
Jürgen Prochnow
Rolf Becker

Regine Lutz
Werner Eichhorn



THE STORY

Katharina Blum—young, attractive, bright, sensitive—falls in love at a carnival party with a young radical lawbreaker in flight from the police. Her brief association with a hunted man brings her under police surveillance and makes her the cruelly exploited subject of cheap newspaper sensationalism. Paraded across the front pages of a big-city daily newspaper, portrayed as a whore, an atheist, a Communist sympathizer, she becomes the target of anonymous phonecalls and letters, sexual advances and threats. Out of an anger so remorseless and a violation of integrity so profound that it overcomes even her will to survive, she shoots the offending journalist.

HOW THE BOOK CAME TO BE

Kaiserslautern, Dec. 22; 1971, a bank is robbed and a police officer is killed. While the police are investigating, gathering evidence, the "Bild Zeitung", West Germany's largest daily newspaper (ca. 4 million) had already "solved the crime". Consistently ignoring the pre-trial presumption of innocence, on Dec. 23, only one day after the robbery, the paper screamed in banner-headlines "Baader-Meinhof continues killing." At a time when even staid newspapers looked for Baader-Meinhof behind every major crime, "Bild" and the other Springer-papers had a field day, they helped build and nurture the suspicions to hysterical proportions. Doubtters were defamed, sympathisers were condemned. The witch hunt was on.

Many West German liberals resented this excess and it was at this point that Nobel laureate Heinrich Böll in an article for the news magazine "Der Spiegel" intreated the people to prudent caution, to frank, honest, impartial and unbiased reflection. This article so enraged the Springer Concern that they immediately turned their hate campaign loose on Böll. A "latter day Göbbels" and a "communist sympathiser" were among many titles accorded him.

Böll was able to appreciate personally what it implied to be subjected to this flood of false accusation, insults, abuse, defamation, slander and threats which as a private citizen he could not hope to encounter. Day and night telephone calls spewed obscenity at him, anonymous letters threatened his life. Even the police armed with machine guns surrounded his home. They were looking for harboured Baader-Meinhof gang members (of which of course there were none.)

Shortly thereafter, in an interview with the Zurich newspaper "Weltwoche" Heinrich Böll answered the question of whether he intended to utilize the experiences of those weeks in a novel: "No. But it is possible that one or the other of these experiences might be transformed and used as a means for revenge. Even an author likes to take revenge once in a while."

To be sure. Böll does not attack "Bild" by name. But in a coy foreword he says that any "similarities to the practices of the "Bild"-Zeitung are neither intended nor accidental, but inevitable." And parts of his tragic-satiric tale perfectly mimic "Bild's" soare headlines, cheap gossip and pretended moral outrage. The real moral outrage is that of Böll, directed against the excesses of journalistic witchhunting.

This and the fact that the book was a runaway bestseller apparently so infuriated "Bild's" publisher Springer that in his other major newspaper "Die Welt" he dropped the regularly run bestseller list until "The Lost honour of Katharina Blum" was no longer among the major sellers.

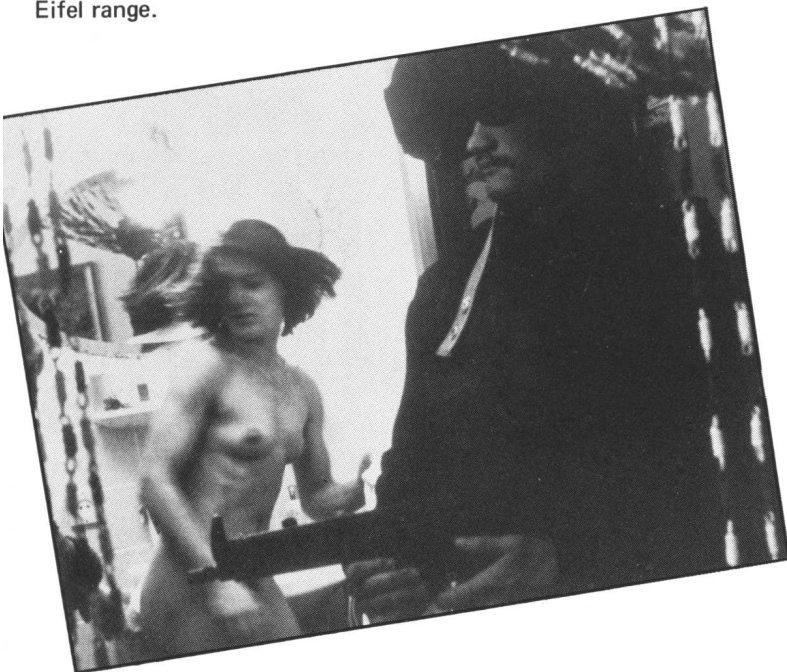


HEINRICH BÖLL

Heinrich Böll, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1972, is one of the most prolific, and most popular, of postwar German writers. Since 1947 he has been widely acclaimed for his novels and short stories, which have focused principally on the Second World War, its aftermath, and the havoc it wreaked on the people of Germany; his fiction constitutes a "working-through", not merely a remembering, of his horrendous Nazi experience. A master storyteller, Mr. Böll is in the first rank of contemporary European writers. Included among his books previously published in this country are:

Billiards at Half-past Nine (1962); The Clown (1965); Absent Without Leave (1965); 18 Stories (1966); Irish Journal (1967); End of a Mission (1968); Children Are Civilians Too (1970); Adam and The Train (1970), and Group Portrait with Lady (1973).

Heinrich Böll is a past President of the International P.E.N. and in that capacity has been active on behalf of writers throughout the world. He and his wife live in Cologne but spend much of their time at their farmhouse in a tiny hamlet in the foothills of the Eifel range.



MARGARETHE VON TROTТА

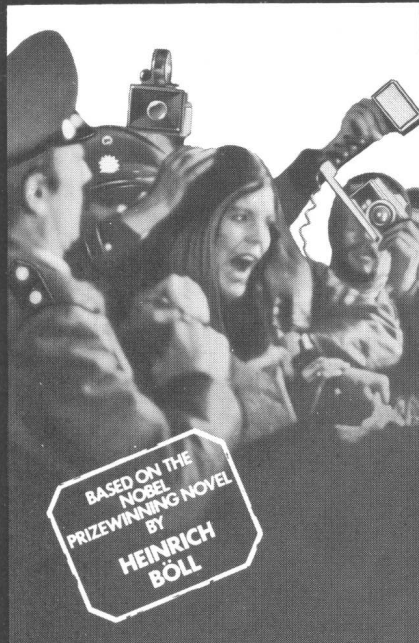
Born in Berlin, 21st-2-42. Studied in Germany and France and worked in theatre at Stuttgart and Frankfurt. Has played numerous parts in the films of the new German cinema. Author of the scripts of "The Sudden Richness of the Poor People of Kombach", "Free Woman", and "The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum", which she co-directed. Has won various prizes at festivals for her performance in "Free Woman".

- 1969 "Baal", by B. Brecht, Volker Schlöndorff
"Gods of Plague", R.W. Fassbinder
- 1970 "The American Soldier", R.W. Fassbinder
"Beware of a Holy Whore", R.W. Fassbinder
"The Sudden Richness of the Poor People of Kombach", Volker Schlöndorff
- 1971 "The Moral of Ruth Halbfass", Volker Schlöndorff
"Disaster", Reinhard Hauff
- 1972 "Free Woman", Volker Schlöndorff
- 1973 "Overnight in Tyrolia", Volker Schlöndorff
- 1974 "Invitation to the Castle", Claude Chabrol, based on the novel by Henry James
"Georgiana's Reasons", Volker Schlöndorff, based on the novel by Henry James
"The Andechs Feeling", Herbert Achternbusch

VOLKER SCHLÖNDORFF

Born in Wiesbaden, Germany, 31st-3-39, studied in Paris, France. 1959-65 Assistant-director to Jean-Pierre Melville, Louis Malle, Alain Resnais. He has lived in Munich since 1965, and also worked as an opera-director.

- 1965 "Young Toerless" based on the novel by Robert Musil
- 1966 "A Degree of Murder" (Mord und Totschlag) with Anita Pallenberg
- 1967/68 "Michael Kohlhaas" based on the novel by Heinrich Kleist, script by Edward Bond, with David Warner, Anna Karina
- 1969 "Baal" (TV), the play of B. Brecht, with R.W. Fassbinder
- 1970 "The Sudden Richness of the Poor People of Kombach" with Reinhard Hauff, Margarethe von Trotta
- 1971 "The Moral of Ruth Halbfass" with Senta Berger, Helmut Griem
- 1972 "Free Women" (Strohfeuer) with Margarethe von Trotta
- 1973 "Overnight in Tyrolia" (TV)
- 1974 "Georgiana's Reasons" (TV), based on a novel by Henry James.



BASED ON THE NOBEL PRIZEWINNING NOVEL BY HEINRICH BÖLL

This is a witch trial!

**The Press is the accuser
The Police is the executioner
You are the bloodthirsty public**

Katharina Blum is the victim

Volker Schlöndorff's

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

with Angelo Winkler Mario Adorf and Dieter Laser
Music: Hans Werner Henze Camera: Jost Vacano
A Paramount Orion Production/Bioskop Film
Distributed by Cinema International Corporation

This is a witch trial!

Volker Schlöndorff's

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

Distributed by Cinema International Corporation

This is a witch trial!

Volker Schlöndorff's

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

with Angelo Winkler Mario Adorf and Dieter Laser
Music: Hans Werner Henze Camera: Jost Vacano
A Paramount Orion Production/Bioskop Film
Distributed by Cinema International Corporation

BASED ON THE NOBEL PRIZEWINNING NOVEL BY HEINRICH BÖLL

This is a witch trial!

Volker Schlöndorff's

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

Distributed by Cinema International Corporation

Volker Schlöndorff's

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

Distributed by Cinema International Corporation

Volker Schlöndorff's

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

Distributed by Cinema International Corporation

This is a witch trial!

Volker Schlöndorff's

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

with Angelo Winkler Mario Adorf and Dieter Laser
Music: Hans Werner Henze Camera: Jost Vacano
A Paramount Orion Production/Bioskop Film
Distributed by Cinema International Corporation

This is a witch trial!

The Press is the accuser

The Police is the executioner

You are the bloodthirsty public....

Katharina Blum is the victim



Volker Schlöndorff's

BASED ON THE
NOBEL
PRIZEWINNING NOVEL
BY
HEINRICH
BÖLL

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

with Angelo Winkler Mario Adorf and Dieter Laser
Music: Hans Werner Henze Camera: Jost Vacano
A Paramount Orion Production/Bioskop Film
Distributed by Cinema International Corporation

This is a witch trial!

The Press is the accuser

The Police is the executioner

You are the bloodthirsty public....

Katharina Blum is the victim



Volker Schlöndorff's

BASED ON THE
NOBEL
PRIZEWINNING NOVEL
BY
HEINRICH
BÖLL

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

with Angelo Winkler Mario Adorf and Dieter Laser
Music: Hans Werner Henze Camera: Jost Vacano
A Paramount Orion Production/Bioskop Film
Distributed by Cinema International Corporation

Volker Schlöndorff's

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

Distributed by Cinema International Corporation

Volker Schlöndorff's

The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum

Distributed by Cinema International Corporation