

"...sweet, wry, sexy, funny..."



"...unrepentantly REAL..."

THE PERCY ADLON FILM LIBRARY

STARRING OSCAR, EMMY, & GOLDEN GLOBE WINNERS and NOMINEES,
and MARIANNE SÄGEBRECHT



Linda Hunt



Jack Palance



Donald Sutherland



Brendan Fraser



Brad Davis



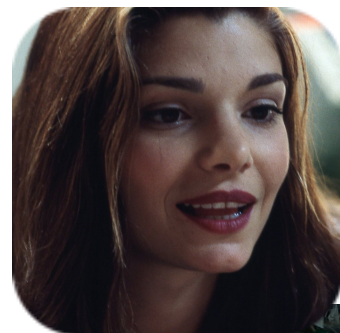
Christine Kaufmann



Richard Roundtree



Sally Kellerman



Laura San Giacomo



Julie Delpy



Tzi Ma



Marianne Sägebrecht
by Annie Leibowitz



CCH Pounder



Judge Reinhold



k. d. lang



Felix, Percy, and Eleonore

"My mother and my spouse hold the compass to my work and life."

"Percy Adlon is perhaps best known for his trilogy of films starring Marianne Sägebrecht: Sugarbaby, 1985; Bagdad Café, 1988; and Rosalie Goes Shopping, 1989, for which Adlon received acclaim from audiences around the world. Adlon's international stature continued to grow with his later films, all of which exhibit his signature passion for innovative cinematography and quirky character studies. Light and color change with the emotions of the characters, and the unique settings are integral to all of the artist's work. A true original, Adlon is a distinctive and compassionate filmmaker who treats social issues with the sincere power of human emotions."

—The New York Times

THE ADLONS ON SET: A FAMILY AFFAIR



*CCH Pounder and
Eleonore Adlon*



*Percy Adlon directs Jack
Palance on the set of
Bagdad Cafe*



*Percy Adlon and
Marianne Sägebrecht*



*Percy Adlon with Donald
Sutherland during a
shooting break*



*Felix Adlon with
DP Judy Irola*

FILMOGRAPHY

Mahler on the Couch	2010	Historical Romantic Dramedy
Koenig's Sphere	2001	Documentary
Hawaiian Gardens	2001	Drama
Forever Flirt	2000	Musical Shorts
Eat Your Heart Out	1997	Romantic Dramedy
The Glamorous World of the Adlon Hotel	1996	Docu-drama
Younger & Younger	1993	Black Comedy
Salmonberries	1991	Drama
Rosalie Goes Shopping	1989	Comedy
Bagdad Cafe	1987	Comedy
Herschel and the Music of the Stars	1985	Feature-Length Music Video
Sugarbaby	1985	Romantic Comedy
The Swing	1983	Historical Drama
Five Last Days	1982	Historical Drama
Céleste	1981	Historical Drama
Herr Kischott	1980	Dramedy
The Guardian and His Poet	1978	Historical Drama

AWARDS

for BAGDAD CAFE

Golden Tukan for Best Film	Rio de Janeiro IFF	1987
César, Best Foreign Film	French Académie des Arts et	1988
César, Best Film from the EU	Techniques du Cinéma, Paris	
Best Director Percy Adlon	Ernst-Lubitsch-Awards	1988
Best Film	German Film Guild Award, Gold	1988
Best Film	German Federal Film Award	1988
Robert Award	Danish Film Academy	1988
Amanda Award	Norway Film Academy	1988
Best Original Screenplay, Percy and Eleonore Adlon	Bavarian Film Awards	1988
Best Foreign Language Film	23rd Guldbagge Awards, Sweden	1988
Prix Humanum	de l' UPGB, Belgium	1988
Nominee, Best Song, <i>Calling You</i> by Bob Telson	Academy Awards	1988

More Awards

Mahler on the Couch	Best Film	Central European Film Festival	2010
The Glamorous World of the Adlon Hotel	Best Film	Bavarian Television Awards	1997
Younger & Younger	Special Jury Prize	Brussels Film Festival	1994
	Best Actress Lolita Davidovitch	Tokyo Film Festival	1993

AWARDS

More Awards

Salmonberries	Grand Prix des Amériques Best Director Percy Adlon Best Actress Rosl Zech	Montreal Film Festival Bavarian Film Awards Bavarian Film Awards	1991
Rosalie Goes Shopping	Official German Entry	Cannes Film Festival	1990
Sugarbaby	Best Actress Marianne Sägebrect Invitation to Participate	Ernst-Lubitsch Awards New York IFF	1985
The Swing	Best Actors Anja Jänicke, Lena Stolze, Susanne Herlet, Joachim Bernhard Best Director Percy Adlon	Bavarian Film Awards	1983
Five Last Days	Producer Eleonore Adlon Best Actresses Lena Stolze, Irm Hermann OCIC Prize	German Federal Film Awards Venice Film Festival	1982
Céleste	Best Film Best Actress Eva Mattes	Chicago Film Festival Bavarian Film Awards	1981
The Guardian and His Poet	Best Film Best Actor Rolf Illig	Adolf-Grimme Prize, Gold	1978

Invitations to festivals in Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK, and US.

"Bagdad Cafe sets us free from the production line of Hollywood's brain-damaged 'high concepts' and walks its own strange and lovely path... one of the biggest box office successes in recent European history."

—Roger Ebert

On a desert road somewhere between Las Vegas and Disneyland, a middle-aged German tourist couple has a spat...and the wife, Jasmin, strikes out on her own. Fate awaits her in the most unlikely place: a desolate truck-stop that proves to be an oasis of friendship.

Winner of 19 national and international awards!

"91 minutes of happiness" – Le Monde

BAGDAD CAFE

(Out of Rosenheim) 1987

Screenplay by Percy and Eleonore Adlon

Produced by Eleonore Adlon

Calling You written by Bob Telson

Performed by Jevetta Steele

English, 104 min.



Marianne Sägebrecht



CCH Pounder



Jack Palance

"Bagdad Cafe is a film I have carried in my heart for the whole of my adult life. Through the lens of female friendship, music and magic it gives gentle voice to those who are lost and addresses the important issues of poverty, exclusion and loneliness. With its deep-rooted spirit of diversity, tolerance and hope, this story is as vital now as it was three decades ago. In fact, as the pandemics of Covid and Racism rage, I believe this story is needed more today than ever before."

—Emma Rice, creator of Wise Children

"Percy Adlon is up to his old tricks in this delightful, witty, artistically vigorous and occasionally loony fantasia about Vienna's cultural elite 100 years ago."

– Kirk Honeycutt, The Hollywood Reporter

"An eccentric and expressionistic reverie on love, loss, and the birth of modern marriage."

– The Village Voice

Chafing under her agreement to give up her own musical ambitions, composer Gustav Mahler's wife, Alma, seeks passion in the arms of the dashing architect Walter Gropius. Distraught, the cuckolded husband journeys to Holland in search of a vacationing Sigmund Freud, hopeful that the renowned psychoanalyst can ease his heartache and help him save his marriage.



Alma's first affair, Mahler's last symphony, and Sigmund Freud's interrupted vacation...

MAHLER ON THE COUCH

2010

Screenplay by Percy and Felix Adlon
Directed by Percy and Felix Adlon
Produced by Eleonore Adlon
Gustav Mahler's music, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen

97 min.

German, with English subtitles



Barbara Romaner



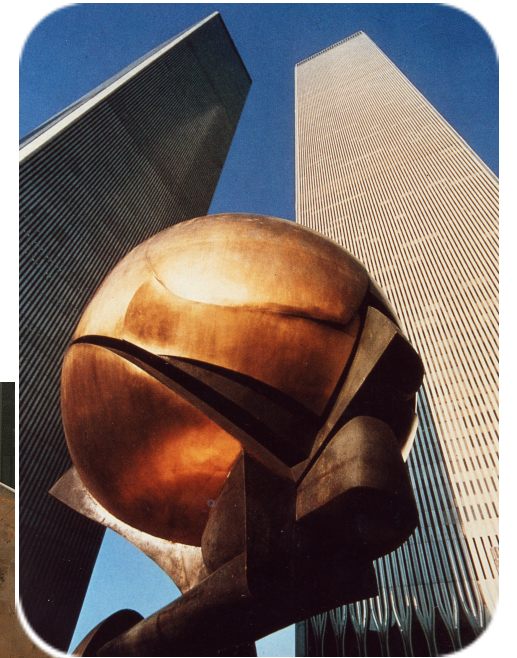
Karl Markovics



*Johannes
Silberschneider*

I can still hear his voice in my ear: "Sie schaut raus! [It's peeking out!]" It was a few days after 9/11. My friend, the then-77-year-old sculptor Fritz Koenig, was calling from Germany. "It's peeking out of the rubble! It's not destroyed...I saw it on TV...it's a miracle!" "You must come to New York," I said. "No...well...yes, maybe...even if it's only a last goodbye," he said. We met in New York. I had my camera with me. —Percy Adlon

By September 11, 2001, Fritz Koenig's monumental sculpture *The Sphere* had been standing in the plaza fountain at the foot of the Twin Towers for three decades. Millions of people had passed it every day like an old friend, used it as a meeting point, rested in its shadow. When it was discovered—deeply dented but largely intact—beneath the rubble, it became a symbol of endurance and hope amid the tragedy. Percy Adlon was on hand to film the emotional resurrection. Today, *The Sphere* has been reinstalled in the grounds of the new World Trade Center, its wounds still visible, but standing as tall as ever.



How an act of terror transformed a sculpture into a memorial

KOENIG'S SPHERE

2001

A film by Percy Adlon
Produced by Eleonore Adlon

German and English, 58 min.

Fritz Koenig (1924-2017) has an international reputation as one of the most important artists of the post-World War II era.

"Best film out of Germany you'll never see."
—The Hollywood Reporter

"A wonderful film that fascinated me from the first to the last shot. Light-handed, effortless and elegantly told."

—Klaus Eder

A romantic thriller about big-time copyright fraud and a bigger-time crush. The complicated love triangle plays out to a dramatic climax, taking us from a strip mall somewhere in the glaring dust of Los Angeles County to a dark forest in Germany.

The tailor did it...

HAWAIIAN GARDENS

2001

Screenplay by Percy and Eleonore Adlon
Produced by Eleonore Adlon

English, 107 min.



Tzi Ma



Richard Roundtree



André Eisermann



Valeria Hernandez



Richard Bradford

A young woman remembers a masked ball in Venezia, Italy...An apprentice magician visits a frustrated lady after a fight with her husband....An upholsterer finds treasure...A circus says farewell to the season...Senior citizens show their photographs, and remember, "When we were young..."

These 22 short films without words are set to little-known masterpieces by Johann Strauss, Jr. The tales take place in locations across the world, from Venice, Italy to Venice, California. In them, we meet characters old and young, rich and poor, from the past and the present. Yet all are connected by the universals of human experience: sensual pleasures like love, food, and dancing. The importance of an ordinary moment, the possibility of the extraordinary around every corner. Full of light, movement, and color, yet tinged with the bittersweet knowledge that life's greatest joys are fleeting.

An homage to the genius who invented pop music—in the 19th century

FOREVER FLIRT

1999

Screenplay by Percy Adlon
Produced by Eleonore Adlon

120 min.

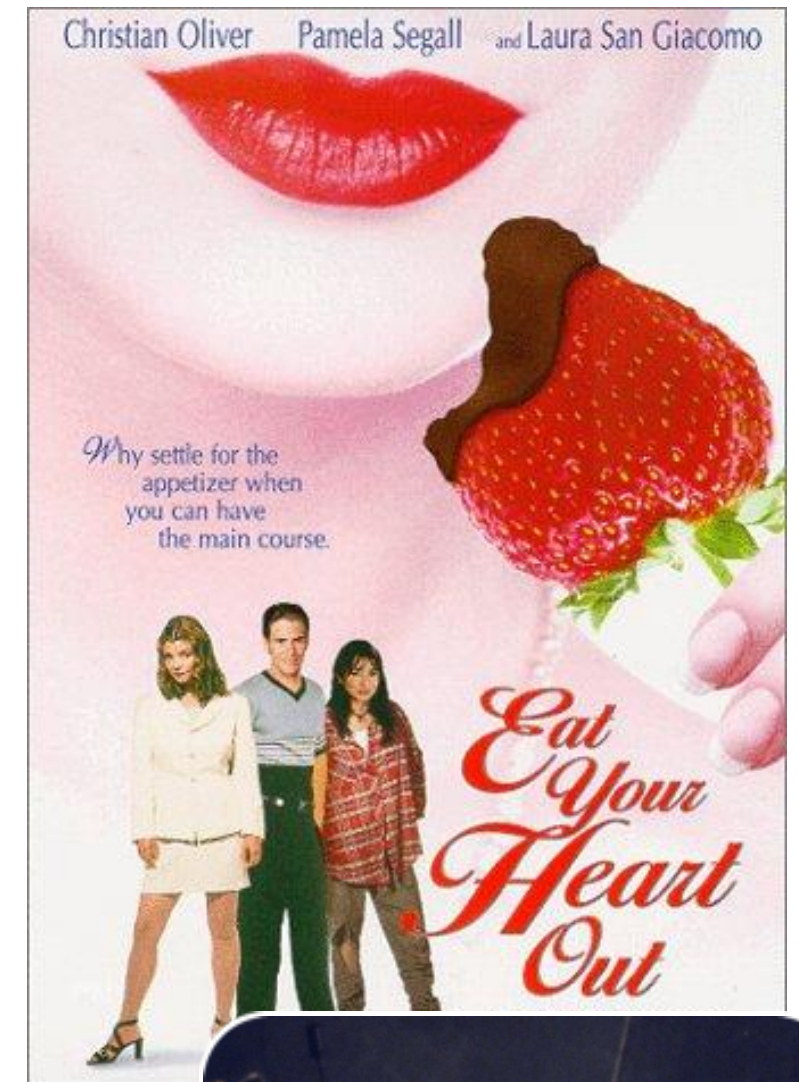


"Definitely worth viewing for a warm summer evening's pleasant entertainment."

"The nice thing about this movie is that it never takes itself seriously: There are no ominous overtones to the everyday problems many of us face, just realistic resolutions. The entire cast is quite good with especial attention to Pamela Segall and Christian Oliver. The direction by Felix Adlon is sensitive and well-paced, and a nod goes to the fine editing of Dan Lebental."

—Grady Harp, IMDB

A brilliant and dishy young chef's promising career is sidetracked, and his relationship tested, when a gorgeous agent sets out to sink her teeth into him.



All's fair in love and food

EAT YOUR HEART OUT

1997

Directed by Felix Adlon
Screenplay by Felix Adlon
and Laura Slakey
Produced by Eleonore Adlon

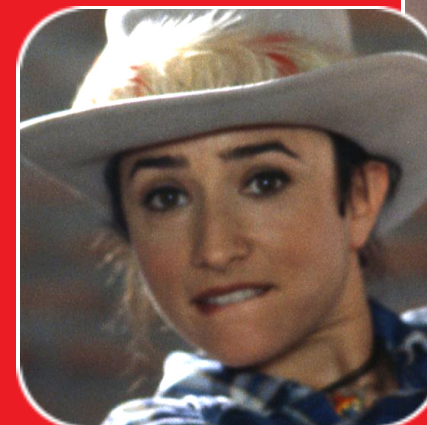
English, 94 min.



Christian Oliver



Laura San Giacomo



Pamela Segall-Adlon



Linda Hunt

"A vanished world of incredible splendor... This is one of Percy Adlon's finest."

—Kevin Thomas, L.A. Times

Percy Adlon delves into the rich history of the world-famous Adlon Hotel, as remembered by his uncle, Louis Adlon, in the aftermath of World War II. This bittersweet tale of glamour and loss uses eye-witness accounts and documentary footage to bring the Adlon of old back to vibrant life: the famous dance teas, society scandals, and political balancing acts, all enriched with the sounds of the wonderful Berliner hits of the twenties.

Meet me at the Brandenburg Gate...

THE GLAMOROUS WORLD OF THE ADLON HOTEL

1996

Narrated by Pamela Adlon

Screenplay by Percy Adlon

Produced by Eleonore Adlon

English, 75 min.



Eva Mattes as Pola Negri



with
Salon Orchester Berlin
Tailed Comedians
Madeleine Lienhard



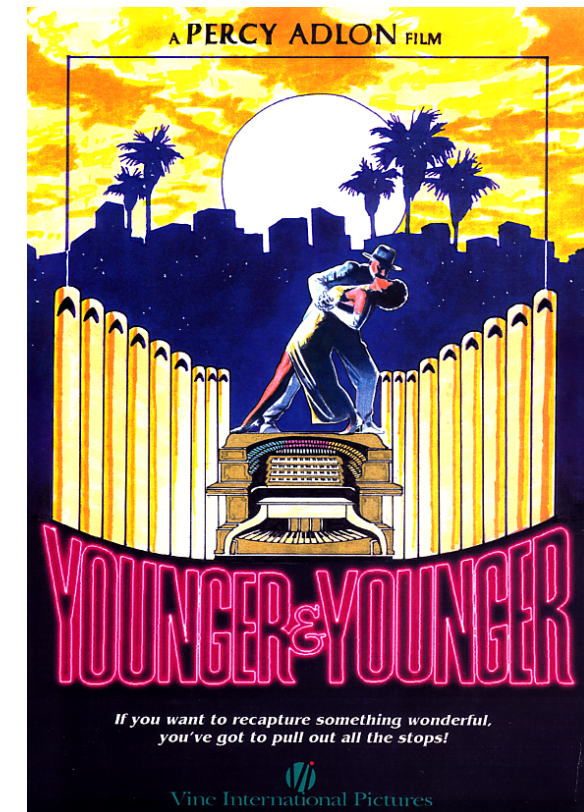
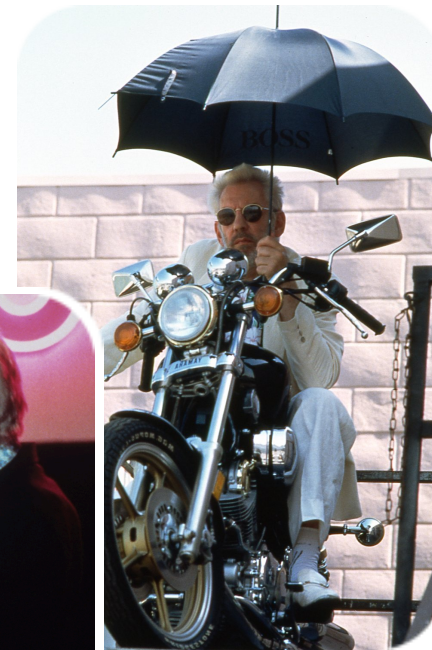
Felix Adlon
as his great-uncle
Louis Adlon, Jr.



"A mad, wild soufflé served up by actors at the top of their form."

—Leonard Klady, Variety

A philandering father gets his comeuppance, in the form of visions of his neglected-to-death wife aging in reverse. This darkly comic musical fantasy blurs the lines between genres just as, for the characters, it blurs the lines between reality and dreams. The film covers the big themes of life: women, men, marriage, love, sex...and, of course, self-storage. Percy Adlon calls it, "my most feminist film".



Sweet revenge!

YOUNGER & YOUNGER

1993

Screenplay by Percy and Felix Adlon
Produced by Eleonore Adlon

English, 97 min.



Donald Sutherland



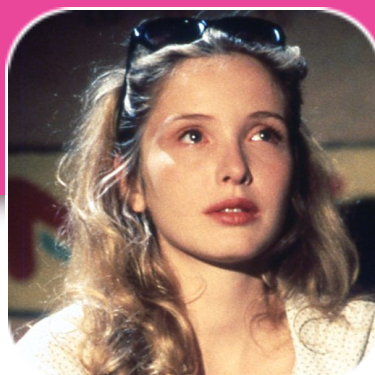
Lolita Davidovich...



Lolita Davidovich...



and Lolita Davidovich



Julie
Delpy



Brendan
Fraser

Linda
Hunt



Sally
Kellerman

"The most moving, unexpected love story of the year."

—Hal Hinson, *The Washington Post*

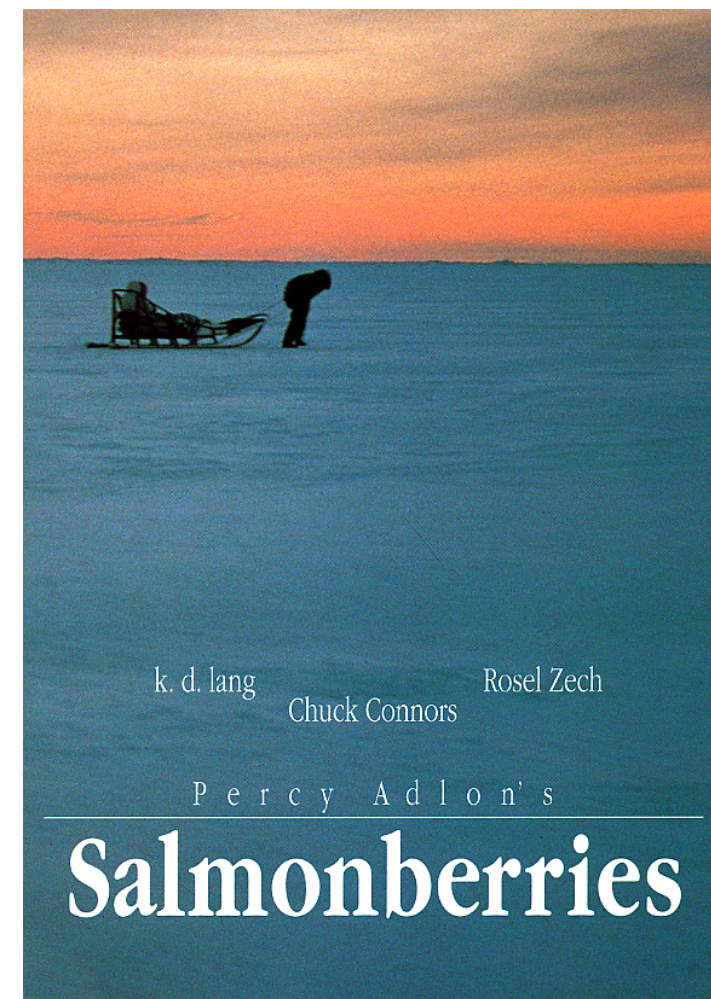
"Endearing, remarkably assured and stunning-looking... With the utmost sensitivity, Adlon raises crucial questions of cultural and sexual identity."

—Kevin Thomas, *L.A. Times*

Abandoned as a baby, Kotzebue is named for the tiny northwest Alaskan town where she was found. In search of an identity, the young oil pipeline worker instead finds Roswitha, a middle-aged exile from East Berlin who runs the town library with quiet efficiency, in an attempt to smother an old grief. A fraught but ultimately healing relationship unfolds between the snowy sky and the polar sea.

On finding yourself in the middle of nowhere

SALMONBERRIES



1991

Screenplay by Percy and Felix Adlon

Produced by Eleonore Adlon

Barefoot written and performed by k.d. lang

English, 94 min.



Rosel Zech



k. d. lang



Chuck Connors



"The characters do not stand for anything other than themselves, nor do they fit into any prescribed boxes or identity. What links and binds them, and us, is their survival through their hurts, and the healing love they give each other. It reminded me of how so many people are broken in different ways by this mad, bad world, with old pains locked inside our very bones, and how many of us go without experiencing the grace of love."

—Sarah Payton



"Ms. Sägebrecht is so disarming, so serenely tough and so utterly unclassifiable that her presence works real magic."

—Janet Maslin, The New York Times

"Rosalie Goes Shopping is a hoot. It's also a comedy with sharp fingernails, taking stabs at...materialism, credit cards, computers, banks, TV commercials, even priests and the Catholic confessional. Directed with a wide but lethal smile." —The Hollywood Reporter

War bride masters all-American consumerism

ROSALIE GOES SHOPPING

1989

Screenplay by Percy and Eleonore Adlon

Produced by Eleonore Adlon

English, 94 min.



Brad Davis



Marianne Sägebrecht



Judge Reinhold

GI wife and mother of six Rosalie is doing her best to live the American Dream in Stuttgart, Arkansas, and despite her maxed-out credit cards and bounced checks, she beats the system at its own game as a charmingly unrepentant hacker and con-woman extraordinaire.

"Conjectural history of the most delightful sort. Dazzles with its beauty and potential."

—The San Francisco Examiner



Photo collage by Eduardo Paolozzi

A feature-length music video for the 18th century

Joseph Haydn, the most famous composer of his time, takes the opportunity while in Oxford in 1792 to visit Sir William Herschel, (famed astronomer and discoverer of Uranus) and his "Wonder of Slough": a homemade reflecting telescope almost as tall as a church steeple. When the two giants of the Age of Reason meet, Haydn's traditional world collides head-on with the cosmic experiences of Sir William. Adlon's film posits that this meeting inspired Haydn's greatest work, *The Creation*.



Haydn discovers the sky, and winds up in a lady's bedroom

HERSCHEL AND THE MUSIC OF THE STARS

1985

Screenplay by Percy Adlon

Produced by Eleonore Adlon

Music by Joseph Haydn

Performed by: The Philharmonia Hungarica,
conducted by Antal Dorati, with soprano Lucia Popp

Set design by Pop Art sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi

96 min. German, with English subtitles



Rolf Illig



Karin Anselm



Josef Meinrad

"Shows that a fat woman can be desirable... vital, quirky and often comically disorienting."

—The New York Times

"SUGARBABY may not shrink your waistline but it is guaranteed to liquidize your heart."

"Starring the unforgettable—and unrepentantly real—Marianne Sägebrect, SUGARBABY concerns a far-from-sylph-like, catatonically unhappy mortuary attendant who, riding to work one day, is blinded by the light. It comes in the slim shape of Huber 133 (Eisi Gulp), the young, blond tram driver she tracks down with some shameless detective work, and subsequently seduces with a candy bar."

—Elle Magazine

"An unabashed hymn to pleasure." – David Denby, New York Magazine

SUGARBABY

1984

Screenplay by Percy Adlon
Produced by Eleonore Adlon

86 min.
German, with English subtitles



Marianne Sägebrect



Eisi Gulp



"Like a gracefully floating dream...about totally impossible people."
– Ponkie, Münchner Abendzeitung

**"Lovable, joyous 'SWING' glistens among gems of
Denver Film Festival"**

"Beautifully photographed and justifiably compared to Ingmar Bergman's Fanny and Alexander, the movie is seen through the eyes of 15-year-old Mathias (a girl!), an enthusiastic truth-teller and tough cookie. It chronicles the mundane and funny crises the Lautenschlag family muddles through with a great generosity of spirit."

—The Denver Post

The ups and downs of four teenage
siblings in Munich on the eve of WW I

THE SWING



1983

Screenplay by Percy Adlon

Based on the autobiographical novel

Die Schaukel by Annette Kolb

Produced by Eleonore Adlon

133 min.

German, with English subtitles



Christine Kaufmann



Anja Jänicke
as Mathias



Lena Stolze

"It hardly seems possible to tell a story, a true one in this instance, of Nazi Germany that seems fresh but Adlon succeeds... a rigorously understated account."

—Kevin Thomas, L.A. Times



On February 22, 1943, 21-year-old student Sophie Scholl was executed by guillotine for her involvement in the anti-Nazi resistance movement. The last five days of her life are seen here from the perspective of her cellmate, Else Gebel: an ordinary woman thrust into a deadly situation. Departing from typical portrayals of Nazi atrocities, the horror here comes from how quickly evil becomes banal under the deadening hand of bureaucracy. Equally disturbing is the ability of these minor officials in the Nazi machine to treat their prisoners with courtesy, even kindness—while remaining unreservedly committed to executing them. **The story of an encounter and tragic farewell.**

How a deranged system kills its youth

FIVE LAST DAYS

1982

Screenplay by Percy Adlon

Produced by Eleonore Adlon

Death and the Maiden by Franz Schubert,
performed by the Bartholdy-Quartett

108 min.

German, with English subtitles



Lena Stolze

Irm Herrmann

From 1912 to 1922, while Marcel Proust lay in his bedroom, obsessively adding page after page to his masterpiece about lost time, his young housekeeper Céleste waited patiently in the kitchen for "Monsieur" to ring. The film is simultaneously a convincing depiction of the artist at work and a study of master and servant, feudally free with each other within the limits both accept.

"It must be the finest literary movie, in the best sense of the term, ever made."

—Alexander Walker, *The Standard*

"I am Monsieur Proust's dear prisoner"

CELESTE

1980

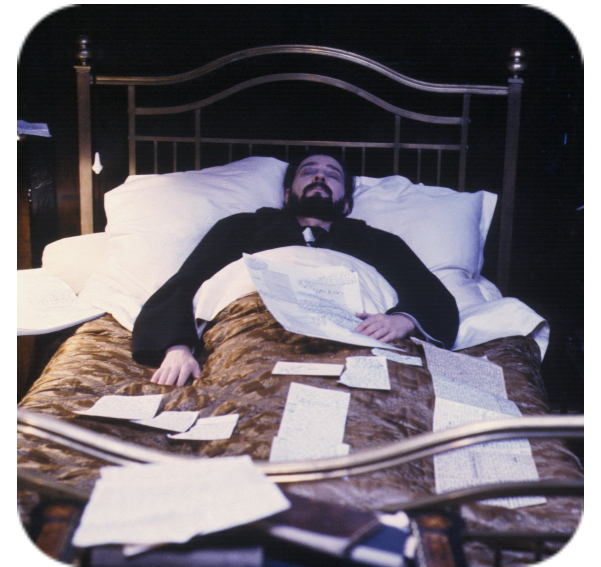
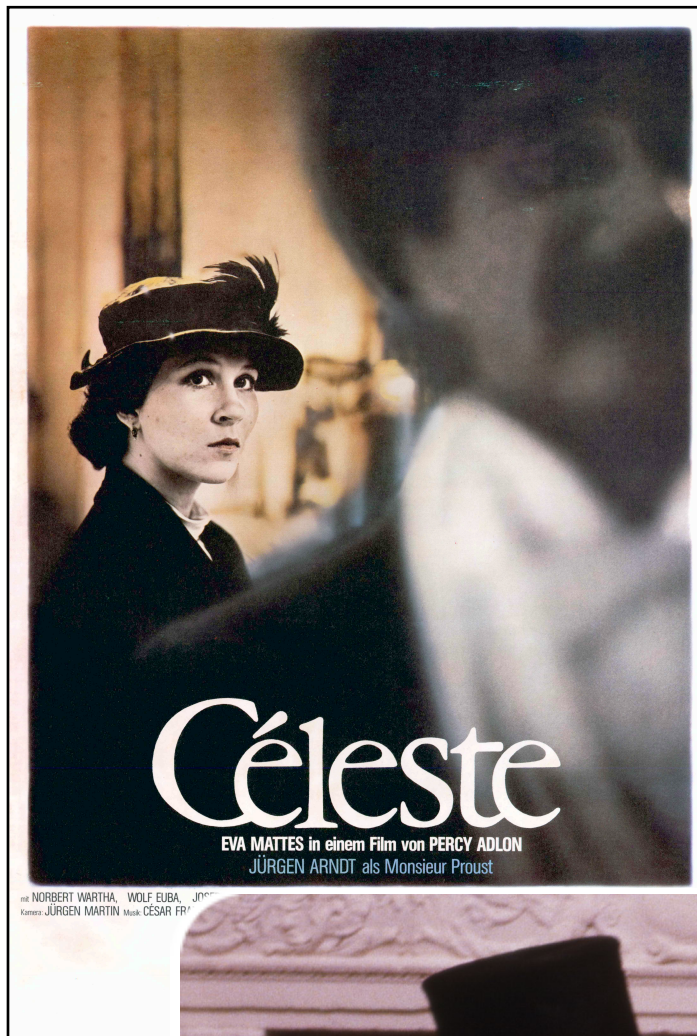
Screenplay by Percy Adlon
based on the memoir *Monsieur Proust* by Céleste Albaret
Produced by Eleonore Adlon
Music by Cesar Franck,
performed by the Bartholdy String Quartet

107 min.

German, with English subtitles

"One of the most profound tributes one art form has ever paid to another."

—The Village Voice



Jürgen Arndt

Eva Mattes

Herr Kischott is the German for Don Quixote, but in this quirky modern-day rendition of the knight errant, he is a retired railway employee, living alone in a small rented room, and carrying on an affair with the news anchorwoman he watches on TV every night—with the sound muted. Eventually, his “conversations” with her about the sad state of the world rouse him to action.

This forgotten movie found a new audience at a retrospective where, “the young crowd embraced it as something they could relate to: as a critique of our spoiled, loud, brainless, consumerist culture.”

“One day before we started shooting, we pulled a girl off a scooter at a fair. She just nodded, and played herself as Kischott’s soulmate without ever asking a question.”

—Percy Adlon

Marianne Sägebrect in her first movie

HERR KISCHOTT

1980

Screenplay by Percy Adlon
Produced by Eleonore Adlon

98 min.
German with English subtitles



Rolf Illig



Marianne
Sägebrect



Maria Roth

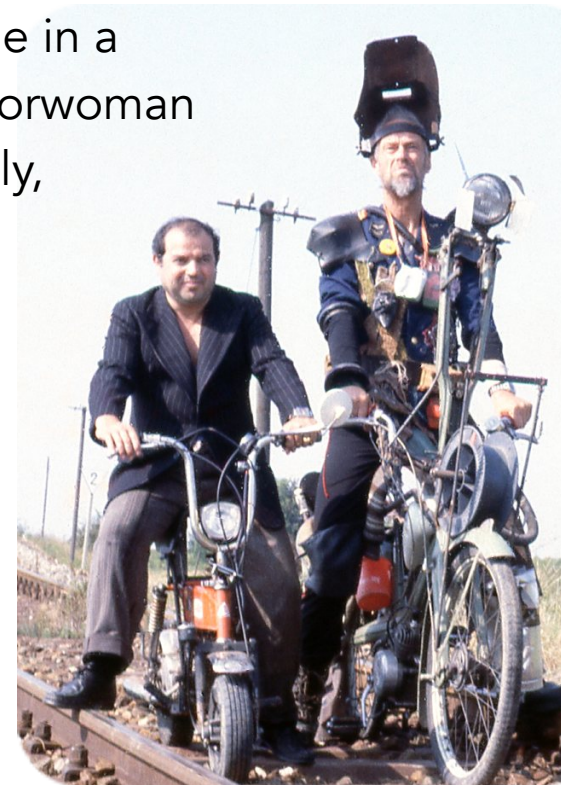


Illustration by Tomi Ungerer

"A fascinating addition to the literary film genre. Raises questions: Why did Seelig religiously submit himself to long, wearisome tramps at an exhausting pace? Why did he angle to become Walser's legal guardian in the process? Was Robert Walser really mentally ill? Did Seelig, mediocre writer in his own right, sense he could find vicarious fame, and a continuing fortune, via a biography on this odd personality?"

—Ron Holloway, Variety

Today, critics rank Robert Walser in the same class with Franz Kafka.

Diagnosed with schizophrenia, poet Robert Walser was confined to a mental hospital from 1933 until his death in 1956.

From 1936 onward, the Zurich critic, editor, and art patron Carl Seelig visited two or three times a year, to go on an energetic day's walk, the price he paid for the chance to pick the brilliant patient's brain.

Desperate snow runs, competitive lunches

THE GUARDIAN AND HIS POET

1978

Screenplay by Percy Adlon
based on *Wanderings with Robert Walser* by Carl Seelig
Produced by Eleonore Adlon

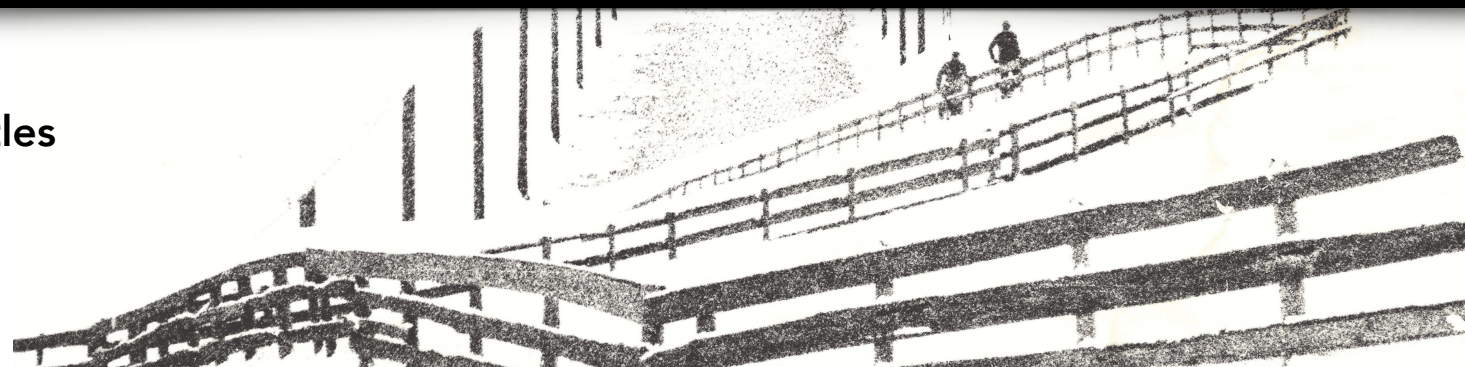
Horst
Raspe



Rolf
Illig

87 min.

German, with English subtitles





THANK YOU!

*Presentation design by
Tamara Leviton
Designer at Large*