

Press Release

Exhibition

CLOSE-UP. The Film Costumes of Barbara Baum

October 1, 2020 – May 3, 2021

Deutsche Kinemathek – Museum für Film und Fernsehen

Costume design plays an important role in shaping every feature film. It has a strong impact and serves many functions, including making it easier for audiences to situate characters in space and time. It indicates their social status and provides hints about their personalities. The costume helps an actor to step into the shoes of the characters they are portraying. The fabrics used set accents in the visual composition and provide authenticity at the same time.

Barbara Baum is one of Germany's most renowned costume designers. Creative imagination and dramaturgic thinking go hand in hand with her work. The designer has been honored with numerous awards for her unique signature style, including an honorary award of the Deutscher Filmpreis (German Film Prize) for her life's work in 2015.

The exhibition *CLOSE-UP. The Film Costumes of Barbara Baum*, taken over from the DFF – Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum (Frankfurt am Main) – reflects on Barbara Baum's creative oeuvre through the lens of some of the major films she has contributed to, including *Die Ehe der Maria Braun* (FRG, 1978, directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder), *Homo Faber* (D/F/GR, 1991, directed by Volker Schlöndorff) and *Buddenbrooks* (D, 2008, directed by Heinrich Breloer), while also presenting an artistically significant branch of film production. More than 40 original film costumes spanning five decades are on view; photos and film sequences show the contexts of their production and their impact within the individual works. Fabrics are a main source of inspiration for Barbara Baum: "I always think in terms of fabrics. Extraordinary ones give me goose bumps. Making a decision for this or that particular fabric is usually half the work that goes into the costume for me."

These and other comments on the development of her costumes can be heard in interview clips in the exhibition. Preliminary designs, fabric research, calculations, invoices and correspondence elucidate the work process, which is just as creative as it is technically precise. Work photos trace the individual steps and evolution of the designs. Along its course the exhibition describes the costumes' journey from the studio to the film set. To make the experience of the exceptional textiles more tangible, some 50 fabric samples are made available to viewers to touch and feel.

The exhibition also aims to be accessible to visually impaired and blind visitors. Costume designs are translated into relief printing as touch graphics: shape, cut,

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drapery and decorative details can be felt using the fingertips. Barbara Baum's notes for the tailors are also in Braille. The audio guide tour of the exhibition is barrier-free. Tactile floor elements serve as orientation for blind and visually impaired visitors.

CLOSE-UP. The Film Costumes of Barbara Baum is accompanied by tour offers, including guest tours, for instance with costume designer Monika Jacobs. Dates are announced on the Deutsche Kinemathek website and continuously updated.

The publications *Filmstoffe. Kostüme: Barbara Baum* and *Close-Up. The Film Costumes of Barbara Baum* – available in two language versions, German and English – are published by the DFF. These editions contain numerous illustrations and a collection of essays contributed by directors and actors, among others. The publications can be purchased in the museum shop for 19.80 euros each.

Press Preview Tour on September 30, 2020, 11 am

An opening event is not taking place for precautionary reasons in connection with the coronavirus pandemic.

Instead, we are offering all visitors free admission to *CLOSE-UP. The Film Costumes of Barbara Baum* on the first day of the exhibition, on October 1st.

Touring the exhibition is possible when complying with the conditions set out by current health and safety regulations. Please wear a mask/nose and mouth covering and maintain a distance of 1.5 meters to others. Thin disposable gloves are dispersed at the ticket counters for use of the museum's touch displays.

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