

Press release



DEUTSCHE
KINEMATHEK
MUSEUM
FÜR FILM UND
FERNSEHEN

Special Event

Glimpses into the Archives

The Jerry Lewis Archive at the Deutsche Kinemathek

Saturday, February 22, 2020, 11:00 am

Deutsche Kinemathek – Museum für Film und Fernsehen

On February 22 at 11:00 am, Chris Lewis, son of “total filmmaker” Jerry Lewis, will present the Deutsche Kinemathek with selected documentation from the estate of his father, who died in 2017; the materials have never before been made public. The collection comprises material relating to Lewis’ work as director and lead actor on *The Day the Clown Cried* (1972), a narrative feature that was never released.

The French–Swedish co–production takes a personal approach to the subject of the Holocaust. It is the story of a clown who, although not Jewish, is arrested and interned by the Nazis, and who ultimately accompanies children to their death at Auschwitz.

Lewis had artistic differences with the producers and after viewing the footage, he decided not to complete the project and to block the film’s release. Among the materials being donated to the Deutsche Kinemathek are Lewis’ annotated script, his shot list, hundreds of unpublished production stills, directorial notes, as well as correspondence and previously unseen behind–the–scenes footage.

In 2016, filmmaker Eric Friedler made a documentary about the work on *The Day the Clown Cried*, which included a re–staging of some scenes with the original 1972 actors. Friedler’s film was produced by NDR/ARD and was nominated for the Grimme Prize in 2017; it can be viewed in the Deutsche Kinemathek’s mediathek.

Event schedule

Presentation of selected materials from *The Day the Clown Cried*

Saturday, February 22, 11:00 am, in English

Venue: Deutsche Kinemathek, Event room, 4th floor

Potsdamer Strasse 2 , 10785 Berlin

Discussion with Chris Lewis, Rob Stone (Library of Congress), and Rainer Rother. Including screening of behind the scenes footage of *The Day the Clown Cried* , 15 Min, with commentary. Followed by Q & A
Ends at 12 noon

A presentation in the event room with a selection of the archive material will provide a first look at the new Jerry Lewis archive at the Deutsche Kinemathek.

Photo call: Chris Lewis will be available for photographs between 11:00 and 11:10 am.

As part of the *Berlinale Specials* section, there will be a screening of *The Nutty Professor* (USA, 1963, dir: Jerry Lewis), with Chris Lewis in attendance, on February 22 at 1:15 pm at the Haus der Berliner Festspiele, preceded by a screening of ca. 5 minutes of never before seen outtakes from the film.

Berlin, February 2020

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