

21; '056 Visual Histories: German Cinema 1945 - Present

Meeting: September 18, 2003

Film: Volker Schlöndorff, The Tin Drum, 1979

Visual histories – here:

History from Below

History

- City of Danzig/Gdansk
- Polish/German/Kashubian relationship
- Aftermath of WW I
- Raise of National Socialism
- The “Kristallnacht” and the persecution of Jews (Sigismund Markus)
- Beginning of WW II: Sept. 1, 1939, Germany attacks Polen
- “Blitzkrieg and first successes of German troops (Oskar and his troupe in Paris
- Defeat on the Western Front, Allied forces in France
- Russian occupation, (rape scene)
- German expelled from Gdansk

From Below:

Find as many examples of the different registers through which the film thematizes the “from below”:

- perspectives
- narratives
- characters
- symbolism and leitmotifs

Group 1: What role does food play in the film?

Group 2: Discuss some of the many minor characters in the film

Group 3: The dynamics of Oscar's family

Group 4: What relationship does the film establish between the viewer and the characters as actors within the historical events?

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