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**THIRTEEN'S *CINEMA'S EXILES: FROM HITLER TO HOLLYWOOD*
ILLUMINATES IMPACT OF BANISHED ARTISTS ON MOVIE HISTORY**

Features Rare Interviews and Footage,
Including Home Movies From Families Of Exiled Talent

Actress Sigourney Weaver Narrates

When Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, one of his earliest actions was to ban Jews from working in that country's storied film industry, widely regarded at that time as the most creative cinema in the world. Men and women who had created landmarks of movie history fled their homeland in the ensuing months and years. Many of them went to Hollywood.

Cinema's Exiles: From Hitler to Hollywood traces the experiences of the exiles who took refuge in Hollywood, and examines their impact on both the German and the American cinemas. In Germany, they had created such groundbreaking pictures as *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, *The Blue Angel*, and *M--The Murderers Among Us*. In Hollywood, their influence ranged from the horror genre and film noir, to comedy and drama. With their lush musical scores, they changed the role of music in the motion picture. They even made westerns.

Cinema's Exiles: From Hitler to Hollywood premieres nationally Thursday, January 1 at 9:30pm (ET) on PBS (check local listings). Actress Sigourney Weaver narrates.

More than 800 film professionals escaped to Hollywood in the years between 1933 and 1939. They include actors Felix Bressart, Hedy Lamarr and Peter Lorre; directors Fritz Lang, Henry Koster, Billy Wilder and Fred Zinnemann; composers Frederick Hollander, Erich Wolfgang Korngold and Franz Waxman; and cinematographer Rudy Mate. Not every exile found success in Hollywood; most never regained the fame they had known in Europe. Many had to seek work outside the industry, depending on the financial generosity of compatriots like actress Marlene Dietrich and director Ernst Lubitsch to survive. A few returned to Germany after the war, but not many. The majority had set upon the road taken by many refugees, that of integrating into the American culture – and giving an element of themselves back to that culture.

By the 1950's, the output of these émigrés reflected a degree of professional integration in Hollywood perhaps unimagined when they had dreamt of California as a destination. Their films number among the classics of the American cinema. Excerpts from several of them are included in *Cinema's Exiles: From Hitler to Hollywood*, including *The Bride of Frankenstein*, *Fury*, *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Ninotchka*, *To Be or Not To Be*, *Casablanca*, *The Wolf Man*, *Double Indemnity*, *Phantom Lady*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *High Noon*, *The Big Heat*, and *Some Like It Hot*. The program also highlights key film classics of the early German cinema, including *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, *Metropolis*, *The Blue Angel*, and *M – The Murderers Among Us*.

In addition to film clips, *Cinema's Exiles: From Hitler to Hollywood* includes a variety of visual elements: behind-the-scenes archival footage of director Fritz Lang in Germany, Marlene Dietrich's *Blue Angel* screen test, rarely seen historical footage. Many previously unseen home movies and personal photographs have been provided to the production by the several of the exiles' families, and the production has received the cooperation of the Museum of Film and Television, Berlin, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, the Academy of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles and the

National Archives. In-depth eyewitness accounts of this era are provided by screen actress Lupita Kohner, author Peter Viertel and with archive statements from Billy Wilder, Fritz Lang and Fred Zinnemann, among others.

Cinema's Exiles: From Hitler to Hollywood is a co-production of Film Odyssey, Inc., THIRTEEN for WNET.ORG and Turner Entertainment Co. in association with The Museum of Film and Television, Berlin, L'Institut national de l'audiovisuel and France 3 Paris. It is written and produced by Karen Thomas. Karen Thomas is Executive Producer for Film Odyssey, Inc. Margaret Smilow is Executive Producer for THIRTEEN.

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