The films will be preceded by a short introduction. There will be a film discussion over German sweets and pastry following each screening.

September 17th

The Edukators (2004)

director: Hans Weingartner

won: German Film Award

Peter and Jan have a secret: they are the notorious "Edukators," mysterious perpetrators who break into the expensive homes of wealthy families as an act of political rebellion. They don't steal anything. They simply re-arrange people's furniture and prized possessions and leave notes that read, "Your days of plenty are numbered." When Peter's girlfriend enters the fold, an impulsive break-in leaves them face-to-face with the generation they abhor. The trio makes a rash decision that puts their future, and their victim, in jeopardy. Ideals are tested as generations collide, passions rage and loyalties shatter.

October 15th

Goodbye, Lenin! (2001)

director: Wolfgang Becker

won: European Film Award, German Film Award, César Award in France

East Germany, the year 1989: A young man protests against the regime. His mother watches the police arresting him, has a heart attack and falls into a coma. Some months later, the GDR does not exist anymore and the mother awakes. Since she has to avoid every excitement, the son tries to set up the GDR again for her in their flat. But the world has changed a lot. The film is famous for having started a trend known as "Ostalgia", a nostalgia for the East.

November 5th


director: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck

won: Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, César Award in France

The film is set in the East Germany of 1984, five years before the Berlin Wall collapsed. It was a time when the terrifying Stasi, the secret police in the GDR, made it their business to use an extensive network of spies and surveillance to know everything about their citizens. Unlike other German films, most notably the landmark Goodbye, Lenin!, The Lives of Others is hardly an exercise in what is called "Ostalgia": nostalgia for the good old days of the East. Instead, it is an inside look at how a surveillance society, set up to discover and prey upon human weakness, has the ability to make everyone a potential suspect and destroy everything it touches.

December 3rd

Go For Zucker! (2005)

director: Dani Levy

won: German Film Award, Ernst Lubitsch Award

In this first German-Jewish comedy from post-Wall Germany, Jackie Zucker is a former East German sportscaster turned hustler and pool shark. As the film opens, his wife kicks him out, his daughter wants nothing to do with him, and his son is threatening to send him to debtor's prison. Then a telegram arrives from Frankfurt: Zucker's estranged mother has died. She wants to be buried in Berlin and Jackie's orthodox brother Samuel is coming for the funeral, along with his wife and children. As it turns out, the sizable inheritance will go to the brothers only if they can reconcile. But will they?