

SECRET POLICE FILM FESTIVAL

October 21 – December 2, 2015

In connection with the exhibition **Watching You, Watching Me**, the Open Society Archives, in collaboration and with the Goethe Institut in Budapest and **secret police archives** in Germany, Poland and Slovakia, is showcasing a retrospective **film program** inspired by the photos of the secret Stasi archives curated by Simon Menner.

This retrospective film program includes an international selection of training films, newsreels and operative films produced by Communist Secret Police 1962-1989. The program explores how the secret police imagined and managed their surveillance activities and what they were actually seeing while watching. Also in the program are creative documentary films composed of and built around secret police surveillance films.

Curated by András Mink, Ioana Macrea-Toma, Piotr Wcislik and Zsuzsanna Zádori @ OSA

www.osaarchivum.org
<https://www.facebook.com/OSAarchivum> +36.1.327.3250



SURVEILLANCE.

SECRET POLICE FILM FESTIVAL
@ OSA ARCHIVUM
October 21 – December 2 2015



Film program:

October 21, 2015. Wednesday 6.30 PM

Secret Arrest (training film)

Through two cases, the film reveals the techniques employed by the state security in order to demoralize and abuse the integrity of the targeted people, and turn them into secret agents.

Hungary, Hungarian with English subtitles, 1973, 9 min

Documentation Methods Used in an Interior Surveillance (training film)

Step by step tutorial for practitioner agents on a mission on how to use a photo camera hidden in a ladies handbag.

Hungary, Hungarian with English subtitles, 1975, 8 min

The Life of an Agent (documentary film)

How did the secret police operate in Communist Hungary? Find out in this compilation of training films from the Police Film Studio.

Gábor Zsigmond Papp, Hungary, Hungarian, English subtitles, 2004, 55 min

Introduction by and film talk with Gábor Zsigmond Papp (Film Director) and András Mink (Historian, Open Society Archives)

October 28, 2015. Wednesday 6.30 PM

Secret House Search (instructional film)

Communist state security agents enter a home of a couple while they are out at work and at a spa.

Hungary, Hungarian w/ English subtitles, 1960, 26 min

Under Surveillance by the Securitate 1970-1980 (documentary film)

The movie portrays the extreme scale and consequences of surveillance under Romanian Communism.

Nicolae Mărgineanu, Romania, Romanian with English voiceover, 2009, 56 min

Introduction and follow up analyses by Ioana Macrea-Toma (Historian) and András Mink (Historian)

November 4, 2015. Wednesday 6.30 PM

A Chronicle of Operations (operative film)

Excerpts from operative films from different events, supplemented by comments on the events and the techniques used during the surveillance operations.

Poland, in Polish, English subtitles, 1968-1976, 24 min

Communist Technologies of Surveillance: PESEL population registry (newsreel)

PESEL is the Polish identification number still in use as of 2015, however its genesis in the surveillance program undertaken by the Interior Ministry dates back to the 1970s. /Poland, in Polish with English subtitles, 1974, 8'

Official Visit (newsreel)

General Wojciech Jaruzelski pays a visit to the PESEL Center in Warsaw.

In Polish with English subtitles, cca. 1975, 6 min, silent
Source of the 3 films: The Institute of National Remembrance, Warsaw

Hear My Cry (documentary film)

In front of thousands of people, Ryszard Siwiec poured gasoline over himself and lit himself on fire during a festival at a Stadium in Warsaw on September 8, 1968. Film director, Maciej Drygas reveals the real story behind the sacrifice using secret police films and records, and via interviews with relatives and eyewitnesses.

Maciej Drygas, Poland, Polish with English subtitles, 1991, 46 min

November 18, 2015. Wednesday 6.30 PM

A Diplomat (propaganda film)

A cold war story about Colonel Roberto Cantilio, Italian Military Attaché who had been spying ever since he arrived to Hungary in 1959... Hungary, Hungarian with English subtitles, 1962, 8 min

Under the Mask of a Private Citizen (training film)

Combining real and fictional elements, the Communist propaganda film discredits the 1968 Czech emigration and charges them with spying and smuggling in to Czechoslovakia dangerous literature by "West-German students".

Czechoslovakia, 1978, 30 min, Czech and German language with English subtitles, dir. Tibor Podhorec

Their Duty Is To Spy (training film)

A short piece describing methods of counterintelligence propaganda.

Czechoslovakia, 1963, 12 min, in Hungarian with English subtitles, dir. Jaroslav Šikl

Source: Ustav Pamati Naroda (UPN), Slovakia

Introduction and follow up Q&A with Peter Jašek

(Historian, The Nation's Memory Institute – Bratislava)

and András Mink (Historian, Open Society Archives)

November 25, 2015. Wednesday 6.30 PM

Theme: What were they seeing while watching?

Operative films from the Stasi Mediathek

West-Berlin Spy Road Movie (operative film)

This film is exclusively composed of images of important sights and streets in West-Berlin, filmed by Stasi employees' Super8 mm camera. The film could have been used to introduce the sights and main streets to DDR agents before their deployment in West Berlin. DDR, German with English subtitles, 1970, 89 min, 12 min excerpt

Border Zone at Berlin-Kreuzberg (operative film)

This film shows East German and West-German civilians moving within the close vicinity of the border zone fence and checkpoint.

DDR, German with English subtitles, 1962, 11 min, silent (music added by OSA)

Surveillance of a West-German Citizen in Flemmingen in Naumburg (operative film)

As the microphones of the VHS cameras used for surveillance were not switched off, the comments and conversations between the two Stasi agents were accidentally recorded thus leaving a unique source of information about what the observers were thinking about their subjects.

DDR, German with English subtitles, 1989, 13 min

December 2, 2015. Wednesday 6.30 PM

GermanUnity@Balaton – Honeyland

(documentary film)

Home movies, interviews, photographs, and documents from East German and Hungarian secret police archives reconstruct the atmosphere of summers at Balaton in the late socialist period.

Péter Forgács, Hungary, 2011, Hungarian & German with English subtitles, 78 min

Introduction and follow up Q&A with Film Director Péter Forgács

The films are screened with **English subtitles**.

Introduction to films and Q&A are held **in English**.

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