

Mozart: Aufzeichnungen Einer Jugend

("Mozart: A Childhood Chronicle")

W Germany : 1976 : dir. Klaus Kirschner

: 224 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Pavlos Bekaris; Diego Crovetti; Santiago Ziesmer; Karl Maria Schley; Ingeborg Schroeder

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Source: Kino – German Film no.3

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

“A Mozart biography following the old recipe. You wouldn’t have thought it possible, after all that’s become known of Mozart’s jolly sexual escapades, and following Schroeter’s and

Straub’s demolition of Hollywood-style composer-films. * ”

Kino no.3 - Summer '80 - background notes:

“Klaus Kirschner’s **"MOZART: A CHILDHOOD CHRONICLE"** opened at the Public Theatre as part of the German Film Tour. It received a rave New York Times review and was bought by Unifilm. **"MOZART"** is now touring the United States as a special-event feature. The first exclusive engagement was at the San Francisco Palace of Fine Arts, June 26-29, during the Midsummer Mozart Festival '80. **"MOZART"** then returned to New York on July 27 for the first of its engagements in the Avery Fisher Auditorium at Lincoln Center. The film has been booked for future presentations in Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington D.C.”

“...The following films were sold through the German Film Tour: **"DAVID"**, **"SISTERS"**, **"MORITZ DEAR MORITZ"**, **"BLACK AND WHITE LIKE DAYS AND NIGHTS"** and **"MOZART"**. These sales would not have been possible without our insistence to programme the films across the country to test their commercial value - often in the teeth of opposition on both sides of the Atlantic. The journal KINO: GERMAN FILM played an important role in promoting and selling these films.

The story of Klaus Kirschner’s **"MOZART: CHRONICLE OF A CHILDHOOD"** is particularly instructive. A theatre in New York was found to present the film as an American premiere. The week at the Public Theatre in the Village resulted in a rave review by the New York Times, which in turn promoted the sale of **"MOZART"** to Unifilm. The film was then programmed as a "special event" in the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco - the box office receipts amounted to \$24,000 in four days!

This proves, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that a German Film Theatre in New York can be both a cultural and an economic asset. At present, the Public Theatre is willing to programme German films on one-week runs, particularly those in the German Film Tour. In addition, two other theatres in New York have offered their facilities for the four-walling of new, unsold German films. If such a demand exists, then why not open the future German Film Office in a theatre? It can be both a financial and a cultural bonanza.”

Telegram from Unifilm on **"MOZART"** in America:

“Klaus Kirschner’s **"MOZART: A CHILDHOOD CHRONICLE"** smash San Francisco success. Pulled 4,000 people for \$24,000 gross. Special 4-day engagement S.F. Palace of Fine Arts June 25 through 29. S.F. Chronicle says: "...a gratifying, engrossing and rewarding experience"; S.F. Examiner says: "...quite moving"; Peninsula Times Tribune says: "...smoothly flowing and lovely... acting is of the highest quality". Special gala opener June 26 co-sponsored by Midsummer Mozart Music Festival 1980 and Unifilm drew 500 people at \$20 per head with free wine and live string quartet performing Mozart Pieces. Special handling by Unifilm including 500 oversize posters, 50,000 fliers, luncheon for 25 music and film reviewers at Cafe Mozart - top-notch S.F. eater - prior to press screening, 3-week saturation radio campaign in both local classical music stations with specialised spots plus 300 line ads on Sunday and daily papers. Radio campaign also included 50 ticket giveaway plus special top prize including pick-up by KKKH radio’s vintage Rolls Royce limo plus dinner for two at Cafe Mozart and free tickets to film screening. This is biggest and most successful West Coast opener any German film to date. Further info plus complete promo packet including radio spots cassette, etc airmailed to you today. **"MOZART"** also booked for July 27 and August 3 at New York Lincoln Center. Also booked Chicago, Philly, and DC. Lots of other inquiries coming in. Most important you give special attention this news for future German films in USA. - Carlos N Broullon, UNIFILM”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. The pictured boy is unidentified. Running at three and a half hours, one would suspect this was a German TV serialisation re-edited for the US market. The *Speelfilm Encyclopedie* review is bluntly dismissive, placing it on a par with "**SONG OF NORWAY**" (70 – a dismal musical biopic of Grieg), and this – as they point out – despite the fact we know enough of Mozart's early life to make for quite a fruity tale. The otherwise entertaining "**AMADEUS**" (84) dealt so cursorily with Mozart's childhood that if you blinked you'd have missed it. "**NOI TRE**" ("Us Three"), was a nondescript and unilluminating tale of one summer interlude in Mozart's adolescence, but there was nothing in the characterisation that gave any hint of a creative genius or an exceptional youth in any way. So there is still ample scope for an "Amadeus – The Early Years".

See subject index under **CHILDHOODS OF THE FAMOUS, HISTORY, MUSIC / YOUNG MUSICIANS** and **PRODIGES / GIFTED CHILDREN**.