



OKO-Film Karel Dirka presents

# MARLENE

A Film by Maximilian Schell

Script: Meir Dohnal, Maximilian Schell · Camera: Ivan Slapeta · Sound: Norbert Lill  
Editor: Heidi Genée and Dagmar Hirtz · Set Designer: Heinz Eickmeier  
Line Producer: Peter Genée

 Worldsales  
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SPECIAL EDITION 3000

HELNWEIN

# MARLENE

MARLENE is no standard movie-star documentary. It is a mystery story, a discourse on truth and fiction, a battle with a sacred monster, a caustic comedy of errors, and the story of the making of a film, all rolled into one.

After years of public silence, the legendary Dietrich personally selected Maximilian Schell to make an interview film about her. Schell saw a golden opportunity to penetrate an enigma; he soon found himself locked in a battle royale. Marlene refused to let him photograph her or even her apartment. She was openly contemptuous of his questions and refused to answer many of them. Schell is candid enough to make himself the butt of his own film, an increasingly comic, exasperated figure with whom Marlene toys much like one of the femmes fatales she portrayed so masterfully on the screen.

Schell fills out the image track with wonderful excerpts of her performances and often bizarre representations of his own dilemma. But dominating the film is Marlene herself, her disembodied voice only heightening her mystique – querulous, witty, provocative, shrewd, unsentimental, always compelling, at times startlingly revealing and moving.

It quickly becomes apparent that the friction between director and star is not the film's liability but its saving grace, rescuing it from conventionality and turning it into a unique and richly entertaining record of an encounter with a real-life legend.

***"(Schell) made a unique film, perhaps the most fascinating and affecting documentary ever made about a great movie star."***

**Jack Knoll, Newsweek**

Academy Award  
Nominee Best Documentary Feature, 1984  
Bavarian Film Award  
Best Production, 1984  
German Film Award in Silver  
Outstanding Non-Feature Film, 1984  
New York Film Critics Circle Awards  
Best Documentary, 1986  
National Society of Film Critics Awards  
Best Documentary  
Boston Society of Film Critics Awards  
Best Documentary, 1988

- Length: 91 min.
- Language: German, English subtitles
- Director: Maximilian Schell



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