

SUN/2.28

[FILM]

Fassbinder's Children

Presumably you noticed the gaping void in last month's movie listings, between New Year's Day and late January's Noir City, where Berlin & Beyond had reigned for years. For reasons too painful and murky to mention, the Goethe-Institut shifted its annual festival to the chockablock fall. Stepping into the breach, B&B founder and longtime programmer Ingrid Eggers has assembled a one-day five-pack of new films from Germany and Austria. "German Gems" opens today with *Tender Parasites* (noon), a delicate but fraught tale of a constructed family in the New Depression. A one-of-a-kind period piece, *Miss Stinnes* (2 p.m.) dramatizes the wealthy young Cläre Stinnes and her two-year, round-the-world auto journey in the late 1920s. Director Erica von Moeller (in attendance) makes extensive use of the images shot by Stinnes' hired cameraman. Shifting tones, Norbert Baumgarten's *Being Mr. Kotschie* (4:15 p.m.) inflates a midlife crisis into a comically surreal nightmare. The prime-time attraction, however, is Margarethe von Trotta's *Vision* (7 p.m.), starring the multitalented Barbara

Sukowa as 12th-century pre-Renaissance woman Hildegard von Bingen. Late night brings the mordant Austrian noir of *The Bone Man* (9:15 p.m.), director Wolfgang Murnberger and actor Josef Harder's third droll thriller centering on an ex-cop turned private investigator who stumbles onto a singularly meaty scam. Bring your appetite.

"German Gems" starts at noon at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro (at Market), S.F. Admission is \$8-\$10; call 621-6120 or visit www.germangems.com. MICHAEL FOX