

FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE 2007.

For a town of 150,000, indeed for any major town, it was an impressively ambitious international festival. That I could not avail of a lot if it is down to my shameful total ignorance of German - in contrast to the open-minded of audiences generously willing to wrestle with un-subtitled English language films - such as my own.

I made an effort to return the compliment by going to a selection of German films without subtitles, the work of Sigrun Kohler & Wiltrud Baier. Lucky for me. How times Flies!, an often amusing comment on ageing; a new jolly theory about the path of electronic energy and a deft Vampir cartoon alone suggest that this pair have the visual flair and fertile imagination to go far.

It was the festival which allowed me to catch up with, No Go: The Free Derry Story, Vinny Cunningham's highly informative documentary about a Northern Irish town which briefly, during the turbulent "troubles" of the 60s, declared "independence". A novelty among dozens of films on the Northern Ireland problem, it was constantly alert to the humour of this potentially lethal situation - a kind of Irish Passport to Pimlico (Henry Cornelius, 1949).

I discovered Wuerzburg has the best sauerkraut in Europe, feathery and finely flavoured - far superior to the bulky French choucroute.

Best of luck with 2008.
Peter Lennon

