

The Lars von Trier collection

Director and scriptwriter. Born 30 April 1956 as Lars Trier. After studies at University of Copenhagen (1976-79) he was educated at The National Film School of Denmark (1979-82). In 1992 he founded the production company Zentropa Entertainments together with Peter Aalbæk Jensen. Zentropa Entertainments plays a pivotal role in Scandinavian film production.

Lars von Trier is a prominent figure in international art film and has been the prime mover in the rise of Danish film from the 1990s especially because of his pivotal role in the Dogme 95 movement.

Provenance

The Danish Film Institute's Library received a large collection (13 packing cases) containing material from Lars von Trier's private collection in 2013. The collection had been stored by former Associate Professor Peter Schepelern (Department of Media, Cognition and Communication, Film and Media Studies, University of Copenhagen) for several years and he donated it to The Danish Film Institute's Library. For that reason the collection also includes documents relating to Peter Schepelern and his books on Lars von Trier. Vibeke Windeløv (Trier's former producer) has also contributed with a large collection of clippings and other documents. In March 2018 the collection was increased by 45 packing cases in connection with the Lars von Trier exhibition in Odense.

Storage and registration

The collection consists of manuscripts, film production papers, clippings, moving image materials in different formats, Dogme 95 documents, photos and documents concerning Trier's family and childhood.

The collection is situated at the library archive and is divided into 7 main headings:

The organization of the collection

I: Film titles and film projects

A: Feature films

B: Short and documentary films

C: Television programmes

D: Projects/unrealized films

II: Dogme 95

III: Zentropa

IV: Clippings and periodicals

V: Private archive

VI: About Lars von Trier and his films

VII: Miscellaneous

To ensure optimum storage conditions, all the audiovisual and digital materials in the collection (VHS tapes, DVDs, miscellaneous floppy discs and CDs, tapes etc.) are located in the DFI's Film Archive, while all photographs and posters are located in the DFI's Stills and Poster Archive.

The registration of the collection

Subsequent to the donation in 2013 a rough inventory was made and the collection is being registered in a database step-by-step. All records, search terms, subject headings, categories etc. have been translated into English.

Special conditions for use of the collection

All permissions relating to copying and/or inspection of the material – except in the case of clippings, reviews, publicity material and previously published material – require prior agreement from Lars von Trier. This agreement must be applied for at DFI's Library.