

A film as a catalyst of German gay movement



July 3rd, 1971

The film “It is not homosexuals who are perverse, but the situation in which they live” by Rosa von Praunheim is considered a catalyst for the gay movement in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The film It is not homosexuals who are perverse, but the situation in which they live by Rosa von Praunheim premiered on 3 July 1971 at the Berlinale, the Berlin International Film Festival. Its main purpose was to provoke homosexuals themselves. The film not only denounced social and legal discrimination, but also revealed the reasons for the conformist behaviour of gay men. The aim was their personal and collective emancipation: they should organise themselves and fight in solidarity for a free society. The film served as a means of agitation, toured the Federal Republic of Germany and was always shown followed by a discussion. The film triggered a wave of gay groups being founded and is thus considered a catalyst for the gay movement in the Federal Republic of Germany. It also sparked discussions among lesbians and led to the formation of groups that initially called themselves gay women.

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