

Moritz de Hadeln biography

Moritz de Hadeln (born 21 December 1940 in Exeter, Devon, England) is a Swiss documentary Film director and photographer, who became a Film Festival director. He co-founded and directed the *International Documentary Film Festival* in Nyon from 1969 to 1980 (today *Visions du Réel*). He headed the *Locarno International Film Festival* from 1972 to 1977, the *Berlin International Film Festival* from 1980 to 2001 and the *Venice International Film Festival* in 2002 and 2003.



Life

Born in 1940 in Exeter, England, de Hadeln's European family background provided him with a unique education in the Arts. His grandfather Detlev Freiherr von Hadeln (1) was an art historian, his father Harry (2) founded an art edition company in Florence (Italy) and his mother Alexandra Balaceano (3) was a painter and sculptor. Moritz de Hadeln after obtaining the French Certificate A level (*Baccalaureat*), started studying Physics and Chemistry in Paris. He soon joined the film research laboratory Avenue Hoch as an apprentice. After freelancing as a photographer for some years, de Hadeln was given the opportunity to direct his first documentary *Le Pèlé* (4) in 1963. Followed several years of work with cinematographer Ernest Artaria (5) in Zurich. In 1966, de Hadeln directed his second film *Ombres et Mirages* (6) and during this same period, worked as a film editor in Zurich together with Yves Allegret and as assistant director at CCC Film Studios in Berlin.

Moritz married Erika von dem Hagen in 1968. In 1969, Moritz de Hadeln and his wife founded the Nyon *International Documentary Film Festival* (today *Visions du Reel*) in Switzerland, which he directed until 1979. He assisted Erika when she took over as head of the festival from 1980 to 1994. In those 25 years, they made Nyon a unique meeting place for documentary filmmaking while discovering many new talents. From 1972 to 1977, de Hadeln headed the Locarno International Film Festival, heralding a new era of international recognition for the event. He gave an original profile to the newly introduced outdoor screening on the Piazza Grande and introduced several sidebar events (7) to broaden the festival's international impact (8).

In 1979, de Hadeln was invited to head the *Berlin International Film Festival*. His aim was to establish the German event as one of the "best organized festivals in the world" (9) by introducing among other as first festival in the world the use of computer technology for the data processing of the event. In the early 80's, in spite of the ongoing Cold War situation in the divided city, he managed to bring East and West together at the festival. Together with Beki Probst (10), he founded the *European Film Market*. Tireless world traveler, de Hadeln was one of the first to discover the newly emerging Chinese cinema (11). As the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and German unity was restored, de Hadeln was quick in seizing the opportunity to make the festival one of the most prestigious meeting places of the newly born German capital. After years of detailed planning, in 2000, he successfully managed to relocate the event in the newly rebuilt Potsdam Square, the historical heart of the town, while giving to the festival a new corporate identity.

In May 2001, Moritz de Hadeln founded in Berlin together with his wife Erika "*de Hadeln & Partners*" (12), a company specializing in film consulting and event management. In March 2002, as first ever non-Italian, Moritz de Hadeln was invited to head the *Venice International Film Festival* (the *Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica*) - part of the Venice Biennale. He directed only the two events in 2002 and in 2003. During this short period, while fighting for the independence of the event from external influences (13), he started together with the president of the Biennale, Franco Bernabé, to modernize its organizational infrastructure while giving it a renewed international prestige.

Finally, early in 2005 he was named Program Director of the *New Montreal International Film Festival*, an event wanted by both Federal and Quebec governments. The first and only edition of the event, meant as work in progress, took place from September 18 to 25, 2005. In spite of the limited time available, Moritz de Hadeln and his team were able to deliver a program with over 22 world premieres. But local mismanagement by those in charge of its organization led regretfully to discontinue the event (14).

Both for the festivals in Nyon, Locarno and later in Berlin, Moritz de Hadeln together with his wife Erika, were the authors of several landmark retrospectives, among many others *The Uzbek cinema* (1971), *The New Indian Cinema*

(1972), *Canadian 'cinema-direct' 1958-1972* (1976), *The 'March of Time' newsreels* (1978), *Drew Associates 1960-1969* (1981), *Selling Switzerland - Marketing Guillaume Tell* (1984), *Swiss Army Film Unit* (1985), *Panorama of the South East Asian Cinema* (1980) and together with Hans-Joachim Schlegel: *Documentary films of the Baltic Soviet Republics* (1987/88), *Documentary Films of the Armenian Soviet Republic* (1989/90), *Romania: the documentary films 1898-1990* (1990/91).

Moritz de Hadeln has served on many International Juries among others in the festivals of Karlovy Vary, Venice, Moscow, Montreal, Torino, Tehran, Damascus, Kiev and Yerevan. He is member of the *European Film Academy (EFA)*. Swiss citizen since 1986, Moritz de Hadeln currently resides Gland (15), Vaud (Switzerland) where he is since 2007, as part of the Socialist group, a member of the Town Council.

References

1. Detlev Freiherr von Hadeln (1878-1935) was a prominent art historian of Venetian Renaissance painting, most known for his work on *Titian*, *Tintoretto* and *Veronese*, cf. 2007 catalog of the "*Musée Antoine-Lecuyer, Saint-Quentin*": *Saint-Quentin-Maubeuge, 1917 Les pastels dans la guerre*, p. 13 and following.
2. Born in West Hartlepool, Cleveland, UK, in 1907, Harry Hudson was the youngest brother of seven. He joined *H.M. Household Cavalry* in 1923 where together with Ray Milland (future Oscar winner for Billy Wilder's *The Lost weekend*, 1945) he acted in a war movie. Harry was adopted in 1928 by Detlev Freiherr von Hadeln, and became known as Harry Hudson-von Hadeln, later Baron Harry de Hadeln. In the 30s he served as model to the Berlin sculptor Renee Sintenis. He married Alexandra Balaceano in 1935. During the *2nd World War* from 1939 to 1945 he served as Captain, then Major of the Intelligence Corp of the *8th British Army* during the campaign of North Africa and Italy, cf. *Wide-Eyed in Babylon*, an Autobiography by Ray Milland, the Bodley Head Ltd edition, 1974 - ISBN 0-370-10360-2
3. Alexandra Balaceano (1911-1977) is born in Bucharest, Romania. Second daughter of a noble family that emigrated to France in 1917, she studied at the *Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts* in Lyon, was a pupil of Andre Jaques, then in Paris of Andre Lhote, later of Italo Griselli and Charles Wheeler. She made numerous exhibitions, among others in New York, Paris, London, Florence and in Switzerland. Was elected member of the *Royal Society of British Sculptors* in 1942. She died in a car accident near Florence in 1977.
4. *Le Pèlé* was produced by the Swiss company Teleproduction in Zurich, cf. Walter Marti / Reni Merthens: "*Le Pèlé*" (http://www.langjahr-film.ch/di_en.htm)
5. Ernest Artaria born in Basel, became internationally known as the cinematographer of Lionel Rogosin's *Come back Africa* (1959). He gave an important contribution to the early Swiss cinema as cinematographer and editor among others of Walter Marti's *Jour de Peche* (1955), "*Rhythmik*" (1956), *Ursula oder das unwerte Leben* (1966) or Alain Tanner's *Les Apprentis* (1964) and *La Ville a Chandigarh* (1966).
6. cf. Catalogue of the *Festival del Popoli*, Florence 13 to 19 February 1967 and Martin Schlappner in *NZZ*, late 1966
7. The *FIPRESCI Week*, the *Tribune Libre* and the *Information Suisse* sidebars
8. cf. Roland Cosandey *40 years: Chronicle and filmography* together with *Six essais critiques* (Martin Schlappner, Virgilio Gilardoni, Freddy Buache, Sandra Bianconi, Martin Schaub, Guglielmo Volonterio), edited by the Festival of Locarno, 1987 & Dalmazio Ambrosioni *Locarno città de cinema, I cinquant'anni del Festival internazionale del film*, Armando Dad6 editore, 1998 - ISBN 88-8281-003-8 (in Italian) p. 103 to 114
9. cf. "*Closing the Book*" by Volker Baer and Moritz de Hadeln, Berlin Film Festival edition, 2001
10. [1] (<http://pro.imdb.com/name/nm3193999/>)
11. Moritz de Hadeln traveled for the first time to the P.R. of China in November 1980. He presented, among other, the first films of Xu Lei (*Strange Friends*, 1983) Zhang Yimou (*Red Sorgun*, 1988) and Ang Lee (*The Wedding Banquet*, 1993).
12. The company "de Hadeln & Partners" was later transferred to Switzerland in 2007
13. The Minister of Culture Giuliano Urbani, of Berlusconi's government, tried to impose the screening of a film in competition and to name members of the selection board thus denying the artistic autonomy of the "Mostra". He then vetoed the renewal of de Hadeln's contract after 2003 and provoked the resignation of the president of the Biennale, Franco Bernabe.
14. The organization of the event was under the responsibility of the L'Equipe Spectra company in Montreal, organizer among other of the Montreal Jazz Festival (http://www.equipespectra.ca/equipe_spectra_fr.aspx)

15. [3] (<http://www.gland.ch/>) Official site of the town of Gland and <http://www.ps-gland.ch/cms/index.php>, the local Socialist Party website.

Honours

- Moritz de Hadeln is Commander in the *Order des Arts et des Letters of the French Ministry of Culture* (1986),
- Commander in the *Order of Merit of the Italian Republic* (1988)
- Officer in the *Order of Merits of the Federal Republic of Germany* (Bundesverdienstkreuz 1.Klasse) (2000).
- He has been awarded the *De Curtis Award* (1975) for organizing the first retrospective of Italian actor "Toto",
- the honorary medal *Pro Cultura Hungarica*(1986)
- the Silver Medal of the *Slovak Cinematography* (1986).
- Elected honorary member of the *Romanian Film maker's Union* (1991)
- the European Prize of the European Film Forum in Strasbourg as "tribute to a great festival director" (2000),
- the *Gold medal of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation* (2001),
- the *Gay Teddy Bear* (Teddy Award)(2001),
- the honorary *FIPRESCI prize*, jointly with Erika de Hadeln (2001)
- the honorary *Oecumenical Jury prize* (2001) jointly with Erika de Hadeln (2001)
- Tribute medal from the *Hollywood Foreign Press Association* in Venice (2002)
- Honorary Diploma of Appreciation at the *20 Fajr International Film Festival*, Tehran (2002)
- Honorary Diploma of Appreciation at the *Damascus International Film Festival*, Syria (2003)
- the *Armenian Filmmakers Union ANAHIT Award* (2006) for the "great effort promoting Armenian Cinema and helping it find its place in the international cinema scene".

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External links

Official website (<http://www.dehadeln.com/>)

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History of the Berlin International Film Festival (1980 and following pages) (http://www.berlinale.de/en/archiv/jahresarchive/1980/01Jahresblatt_1980/01_Jahresblatt_1980.html)

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This is an update of the biography originally published on the Wikipedia website

Updated January 1st, 2010