

STREIFEN - Incomplete memento of Nora Gregor

Nora Gregor's biography is documented only in fragments. Many moments of her life remain speculative, unclear or lack certain information. This is unusual for an actress who, being a movie and theater star, frequented upper cultural and political circles and whose biography seems closely connected to the historical turmoils of her time. Since the missing links in Nora Gregor's biographical puzzle are irretrievable the image of the person remains incomplete. This refers to the fact that historiography, even when it seems thorough, can actually never be complete or objective. Therefore, this video portrait does not try to close gaps but makes the missing information tell parts of Nora Gregor's life story.

Under Marx Reinhardt Nora Gregor establishes herself already as a young actress succeeding in theater and film. 1933 she gets signed by the famous Burgtheater Vienna. At the same time Austrofascists takeover the power in Austria after the government of the First Republic of Austria has been overthrown. In 1937 Gregor marries the Austrofascist military leader Ernst Rüdiger Starhemberg and accompanies him into exile as Hitler invades Austria. In France Jean Renoir signs her for the leading role in "La regle du jeu" (1939), one of the most famous movies in European film history. After that Gregor emigrates to Argentina where she won't succeed to connect to her career. In 1945 she goes to Chile for the shooting of her last film "Le fruit Mordu" but this movie won't bring her back to stardom either. 1949 Nora Gregor passes away in Chile living separated from Starhemberg.

The video "Streifen - Incomplete memento of Nora Gregor" shows a 20-minutes dolly shot brushing over photo documents related to Nora: certificates, ID cards, photos, excerpts from films in which she was involved. This photo material largely was provided from the archive Starhemberg. The camera roams over the images which hang on a white wall while one can hear biographical facts through a speaker from the off. Since reducing the narrative on facts and skipping the speculative material gaps become obvious manifesting themselves acoustically in form of silence and visually as white, image blank wall routes. It is now up to the viewers of the video to fill the gaps in Nora Gregor's story through their own interpretation.

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