

RENDEZVOUS
WITH

Marlene

Written and performed by

UTE LEMPER



Marlene Dietrich was a woman of the future.

After the success of her movie “**The Blue Angel**” in Weimar Berlin 1930 she left for America to become a glamorous Hollywood Diva. But then the Germans wanted her to come back to become their movie star for the Nazis.

She refused, saying “It did not take much brains to be an anti-Nazi”. All her life she hated autocrats and fascists, and she always liked to break the rules. Her plan to assassinate Hitler was never realized, but instead she publicly renounced her German citizenship and officially celebrated her newly acquired American citizenship, to demonstrate her loyalty to the USA. When the war started she signed up for the American Army and spent more time at the front lines than General Eisenhower.



15 years after the war she returned to Germany to give concerts with her beloved musical director Burt Bacharach. The crowds were standing in front of the concert halls in Berlin screaming with hatred: **MARLENE GO HOME!** She was denounced as a "Traitor of the Fatherland" and spit upon in Germany for decades. She decided to never go back to her homeland. She lived an exuberant life and career for decades in the US until the late 1970s when she hid out as an aged recluse in Paris until her death. During her 3-hour phone call with Ute Lemper in 1987 she expressed the wish to come back one more time to her homeland... dead, in a coffin!

Even at her funeral in Berlin in 1992 the Neo Nazis demonstrated against her...

In “**Rendezvous With Marlene**” Ute Lemper channels her story in a time warp. Now is the time to remember... The story of a woman of the future, her courage, bravery, her empowerment as a woman, her legend as an actress, singer, fashion icon, her free spirited mind as a bisexual androgynous hedonist and her life long hatred and fight against autocrats and nationalists.

“Rendezvous with Marlene” is based on a 3-hour phone call and exchange between Marlene Dietrich and Ute Lemper in 1988 in Paris, more than 30 years ago.

After receiving the French Molière Award for her performance in “Cabaret” in Paris, Ute had sent a postcard to Marlene, who had lived at 12 Avenue de Montaigne since 1979, essentially apologizing for all the media attention comparing her to Marlene Dietrich. Ute was just at the beginning of her career in theatre and music, whereas Marlene looked back on a long, fulfilled life of movies, music, incredible collaborations, love stories and stardom.

★★★★★ “It’s a huge thrill to see and hear Ute up close in so intimate a space, and to witness her evocation of Marlene with such skill and humanity”

- Broadway World, UK



Ute considers it a secret gift to have heard Marlene talk about her life, her work and style, her love for the poet Rilke, her complicated relationship with Germany, her sorrow and her fascinations. Marlene was a groundbreaking woman. She was a free spirit, sexual, seductive, yet masculine, androgynous, and totally polygamous in her open marriage. She was politically and morally outspoken and courageous; ladylike and bossy at the same time... she had class but loved whiskey, dirty jokes and a good smoke. She was "a heck of a guy to hang out with" said Billy Wilder. But, she was also a mystery... a glamorous Hollywood actress... a statue, frozen in stylism. A myth.

Six days before Ute’s opening night playing the part of Lola in the 1992 “Blue Angel” production in Berlin – the role that had made Marlene a star in 1928 – Marlene Dietrich passed away in Paris. After her glamorous funeral in La Madeleine, Marlene finally came back to Berlin to be put to rest.

“Rendezvous with Marlene” received critical acclaim following a presentation in London in June 2019, and this show will tour the stages of the world in 2021.

For 35 years Ute has been compared to Marlene, but never formatted an entire show to celebrate this legend.

In 2019, Ute decided to honor Marlene with a brand-new show based on the true story of their phone call, including some of Marlene's most beautiful songs and telling some captivating secrets of her life.



Style and Designs by Max Mara, photo by Giampaolo Sgura

“This is far more than a chronology of her life and career. Lemper takes us deeper into the mind of Dietrich, her personal memories, her loves, her thoughts, her feelings, her many sexual encounters, and her relationships, that with Germany, and that with her daughter, Maria Riva, both sad and tragic.

Lemper's performance as Dietrich is exceptional, aided by, like Dietrich, being fluent in English and French, as well as their native German. On top of that are her sensational interpretations of the many songs that link the sections of the monologue.”

- Broadway World, Adelaide

This one-woman, very personal homage to Dietrich, is written and performed by Ute Lemper. The evening is a dialog between Ute and Marlene, exploring Marlene's career and personal life from the beginning, in a timeline that eventually meets Ute's timeline with a continuation of their parallel stories. In it she shares Marlene's story by singing her iconic songs as the older Dietrich from all the chapters of her life – the Berlin cabaret years to her fabulous Burt Bacharach collaborations, with Lemper singing songs as herself that were her inspiration as a young aspiring singer/actress.

Songs included in "Rendezvous With Marlene":

- Where Have All The Flowers Gone / Sag mir wo die Blumen sind (*Pete Seeger*)
- Just A Gigolo (*Leonello Casucci*)
- One For My Baby (*Harold Arlen / Johnny Mercer*)
- Life's A Swindle (*Mischa Spoliansky / Marcellus Schiffer*)
- They Call Me Naughty Lola / Ich bin die fescche Lola (*Friedrich Hollaender*)
- Boys In The Backroom (*Frank Loesser / Friedrich Hollaender*)
- Lili Marleen (*Norbert Schulze / Hans Leip*)
- Ruins Of Berlin (*Friedrich Hollaender*)
- Black Market (*Friedrich Hollaender*)
- When The World Was Young (*Johnny Mercer / M. Philippe-Gérard*)
- Ne me quitte pas (*Jacques Brel*)
- Laziest Gal In Town (*Cole Porter*)
- Die Antwort mein Freund weiss ganz allein der Wind / The Answer My Friend Is Blowing In The Wind (*Bob Dylan*)
- Que reste-t-il de nos amours / I Wish You Love (*Charles Trenet*)
- Falling In Love Again (*Friedrich Hollaender*)

Optional additional songs, especially for German and European Market:

- Marie, Marie (*Gilbert Becaud / Max Colpet*)
- Wenn der Sommer wieder einzieht / A Little On The Lonely Side (*Dick Robertson / Frank Weldon / James Cavanaugh / Lothar Metzl*)
- Koffer in Berlin (*Friedrich Hollaender*)
- Wenn ich mir was wuenschen dürfte (*Friedrich Hollaender*)
- Allein in einer grossen Stadt (*Franz Wachsmann / Max Colpet*)





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★★★★★ 5 stars for UTE LEMPER:
RENDEZVOUS WITH MARLENE

“We see both Dietrich and Lemper at the top of their game, for it becomes impossible to discern where one ends and the other begins.

La nouvelle Marlene, indeed.” - *Musical Theater Review*

“This is far more than a chronology of her life and career. Lemper takes us deeper into the mind of Dietrich, her personal memories, her loves, her thoughts, her feelings, her many sexual encounters, and her relationships, that with Germany, and that with her daughter, Maria Riva, both sad and tragic.

Lemper's performance as Dietrich is exceptional, aided by, like Dietrich, being fluent in English and French, as well as their native German. On top of that are her sensational interpretations of the many songs that link the sections of the monologue.” - *Broadway World, Adelaide*

“A feast for fans, like a fine wine Lemper improves with age and has grown into this material. It should not be missed.”

- *The American*

★★★★★ **“An unforgettable evening: stylish, graceful, heart-warming and powerful, this is an event not to be missed”** - *Shane Morgan*

“A superb tribute to one astonishing woman from another, fascinating, enlightening, intense, often moving, and always entertaining”

- *Northern Soul*

★★★★★ “By a huge margin the finest act of sustained, emotional intensity and fearless self-revelation I’ve ever seen. Ute – like Bowie, Callas and Garland before her – is in an unprecedented class of her own.” - *The Gay UK*

“I want to incarnate Marlene Dietrich and tell her story.” - *Ute Lemper, London Theatre*

“She was a mix of the sensual and the powerful and Lemper gives that fusion an exquisite airing in this memorable production.” - *Limelight Magazine*

“Keep an eye open for the return of Rendezvous with Marlene, planned for later this year, and you’ll be certain to find yourself Falling in Love again. Astonishing!” - *PrideLife*

“The show is an incredible journey through Marlene’s life.” - *Broadway World, UK*

“...it’s almost heart-breaking, people go out with tears in their eyes, it’s a very moving show.” - *The Gay UK*

“An extraordinary, unforgettable evening with a sublime artist at the height of her powers - it should on no account be missed!”

- *Musical Theatre Review*

“A theatrical event that will be talked about for years to come, a staggering night of pure-diamond entertainment”

- *Brian Butler, GScene Magazine*



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Click on any link below to read the full article online...

- [Ute Lemper to Rendezvous With Marlene in NYC](#) (Playbill, 8 January, 2018)
- [Rendezvous With Marlene](#) (Traveler's USA Notebook, February, 2018)
- [Ute Lemper Wrestles with American Politics & Her Own German Heritage](#) (Soul Sisters / Billboard, 21 Feb, 2018)
- [Ute Lemper channels Marlene Dietrich at the Cafe Carlyle](#) (Rob Taub, 25 Feb, 2018)
- [Ute Lemper on the responsibility that comes with being an artist](#) (The Creative Independent, 26 Feb, 2018)
- [Ute Lemper Stars in "Rendezvous with Marlene"](#) (Cheddar.com, 26 Feb, 2018)
- [Ute Lemper, Rendezvous With Marlene](#) (Cabaret Scenes, 27 Feb, 2018)
- [Ute Lemper Returns to Cafe Carlyle](#) (Photo Flash, 28 February, 2018)
- [Legendary Songstress Ute Lemper Glams Up the Cafe Carlyle with Marlene Dietrich Tribute](#) (Black Book, 28 Feb, 2018)
- [Musical Marvel Ute Lemper Summons the Spirit of Marlene Dietrich](#) (Out Magazine, 28 Feb, 2018)
- [Ute Lemper: Rendezvous with Marlene at the Café Carlyle](#) (Gossip Central, 1 March, 2018)
- [Review: Ute Lemper at the Café Carlyle](#) (Carged.FM, 1 March, 2018)
- [Ute Lemper: Rendezvous With Marlene](#) (Woman Around Town, 1 March, 2018)
- [Ute Lemper's Tribute to Marlene Dietrich](#) (Gay City News, 1 March, 2018)
- [Rendez-Vous avec Ute-Marlene](#) (L'Officiel-Hommes Levant, June-July Issue 84)
- [Interview for 'The Broadway Blog'](#) (November 2018)
- [Interview for 'Theater Pizzazz' blog](#) (November 2018)
- [Interview for 'Call Me Adam' blog](#) (November 2018)
- [Interview for Dessau Kurt Weill Festival](#) (November 2018)
- [Freidenkerin, Siegestsäule](#) (November 2018)
- [e Marlene mi svelò chi era la Dietrich](#) (La Repubblica : January 5, 2019)
- [Ute Lemper begeisterte mit Marlene Dietrich-Show in Kassel](#) (HNA : February 16, 2019)
- [Ute Lemper, mi ricordo 'Lili Marlene'](#) (Trova Roma : February 12, 2019)
- [Ute Lemper a Cesena è Marlene Dietrich voce e corpo](#) (Corriere Romagna : February 3, 2019)
- [Ute Lemper a Cesena omaggia splendidamente Marlene Dietrich](#) (Musicultura online : February 6, 2019)
- [Von Kopf bis Fuß auf die Dietrich eingestellt](#) (swp.de : March 6, 2019)
- [Ute Lemper trifft „die Dietrich“ und feiert die Diva](#) (Saarbrücker Zeitung : April 14, 2019)
- [Ute Lemper lädt zum „Rendezvous mit Marlene“](#) (Hannoversche Allgemeine : April 14, 2019)
- [Das Leben der Diva](#) (Taunus Zeitung : April 12, 2019)
- [Falling In Love Again](#) (Pride Life : May 1, 2019)
- [Television Interview for 'Rendezvous With Marlene'](#) (London Live : May 13, 2019)
- [Interview](#) (The Gay UK : May 14, 2019)
- [Rendezvous With Marlene \(Arcola Theatre\)](#) (Onstage : May 15, 2019)
- [Shhh – Marlene is talking.](#) (Broadway World : May 16, 2019)
- [Rendezvous With Marlene](#) (The American : May 16, 2019)
- [Photo Flash: First Look at Ute Lemper's Rendezvous With Marlene](#) (BWW News Desk : May. 17, 2019)
- [Ute Lemper's Rendezvous With Marlene](#) (The Gay UK : May 18, 2019)
- [Astonishing – Ute Lemper's Rendezvous with Marlene](#) (PrideLife : May 20, 2019)
- [Ute Lemper salda una deuda pendiente](#) (El Correo de Andalucía : May 29, 2019)
- [Rendezvous With Marlene \(Adelaide Cabaret Festival\)](#) (Limelight Magazine : June 8, 2019)
- [Adelaide Cabaret Festival 2019: Ute Lemper – 'Rendezvous With Marlene' at Thebarton Theatre](#) (Broadway World, Adelaide : June 8, 2019)
- [Max Mara Fashion Show](#) (June 2019)

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- [Standing Ovation für Ute Lemper im Weimarer Spiegelzelt für ein „Rendezvous mit Marlene“](#) (Thüringer Allgemeine, 22 June, 2019)
- [Ute Lemper im Weimarer Spiegelzelt: Zeugin der Anklage](#) (Thüringer Allgemeine, 24 June, 2019)
- [Backstory: Ute Lemper – Rendezvous with Marlene \(at The York Theater\)](#) (Women Around Town, 2 September, 2019)
- [Ute Lemper joins Irish celebration of Bertolt Brecht](#) (Irish Times, 7 September, 2019)
- [around the town – RENDEZVOUS WITH MARLENE](#) (theaterlife.com, 22 August, 2019)
- [Von Kopf bis Fuss auf Dietrich eingestellt](#) (Kölnische Rundschau, 4 October 2019)
- [Von Kopf bis Fuß auf Liebe eingestellt](#) (Schwäbische Lindau, 6 October 2019)
- [ich bin von Kopf bis Fuß auf Marlene eingestellt](#) (erlesenesmuenster.de, 4 October 2019)
- [Ute Lempers Marlene-Dietrich-Abend in Münster](#) (Westfälische Nachrichten, 4 October 2019)
- [Ute Lemper kommt Marlene Dietrich ganz nah](#) (Freie Presse, 8 October 2019)
- [I tell her story through my eyes, I sing her songs with my voice](#) (Bristol 24/7, 10 January, 2020)
- [Interview. Steven Smith has only gone and met Ute Lemper!](#) (Out News Global, 23 January, 2020)
- [Broadway star Ute Lemper brings Hollywood icon Marlene Dietrich back to Edinburgh 56 years after she wowed the Capital](#) (Edinburgh News, 16 January, 2020)
- [“Curtain Up” Radio Segment featuring Ute talking about Rendezvous With Marlene](#) (The Curtain Up Show, ResonanceFM, 27 January, 2020)
- [Men Find My Strength A Problem](#) (The Lady, 24 January, 2020)
- [POHARALA JE LONDONSKI WEST END I NEWYORŠKI BROADWAY, A USKORO GOSTUJE U ZAGREBU](#) (Gloria, 29 January, 2020)
- [Brighton date as Ute Lemper celebrates Marlene Dietrich](#) (Shoreham Herald, 29 January, 2020)
- [Rendezvous With Marlene](#) (GScene, 30 January, 2020)
- [Like my hero Marlene Dietrich, I’m a free spirit](#) (The Daily Telegraph, 31 January, 2020)
- [BWW Review: Rendezvous With Marlene, St. George’s, Bristol](#) (Broadway World UK, 31 January, 2020)
- [Rendezvous with Marlene - Manchester Review](#) (British Theatre Review, 5 February, 2020)
- [Ute Lemper – Electric Theatre, Guildford and Touring](#) (Musical Theatre Review, 5 February, 2020)
- [Ute Lemper – Rendezvous with Marlene @ Old Market](#) (GScene, 6 February, 2020)
- [Rendezvous With Marlene \(St. George’s, Bristol\)](#) (Notes From The Field, 5 February, 2020)
- [Ute Lemper, Rendezvous with Marlene, RNCM, Manchester](#) (Northern Soul, 6 February, 2020)
- [★★★★★ 5 Star Review](#) (Southside Advertiser, 8 February, 2020)
- [Ute Lemper @ Edinburgh Queen’s Hall](#) (ReviewSphere, 9 February, 2020)
- [Svjetska diva Ute Lemper oduševila u Off ciklusu](#) (Glazbeni.info, 14 February, 2020)