

# BERLIN, BAHNHOF FRIEDRICHSTRASSE 1990

by Konstanze Binder, Lilly Grote, Ulrike Herdin, Julia Kunert



## SYNOPSIS

The Berlin Wall has fallen. Doors are now opening and barriers are disappearing. Even before the Deutschmark starts to flow eastward, waves of people gush through the train station at Friedrichstrasse. Beginning in July 1990, when the treaty unifying the two German states takes effect, the controls at this border crossing become ever more lax. Four filmmakers from West and East keep tabs on the dismantling of the border operation posts and checkpoints. In the labyrinthian depths of the Tränenpalast (Palace of Tears), a border guard talks about comparing real ears with the ones on I.D. pictures "like a conveyor belt". There are first-hand tales of chicanery and currency transactions, while the sales assistants from the hard currency Intershop reflect on the uncertain future they face.

Madeleine Bernstorff, production manager on the film, said in 2021: "The train station is an out-of-focus, hyper-mobile image of society's restructuring. Looking back now, I think it is even clearer..."

## CAST AND CREW

**DIRECTOR** Konstanze Binder, Lilly Grote, Ulrike Herdin, Julia Kunert

1991

86 min

**FORMAL CATEGORIES**

History, Conflicts, Politics, War/Peace

**ORIGINAL LANGUAGES**

German

**PREMIERE**

Germany (1991)

**PRODUCTION COMPANY**

SO 36 Film