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## Good Bye Lenin!

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Film Reviews

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Good Bye Lenin!

Reviewed by Timothy J. Smalarz

Wolfgang Becker's international hit film, *Good Bye Lenin*, pits one family on opposite ends of the political structure in East Germany in 1989. Bernd Lichtenberg's awarding winning screenplay brings an emotional, yet whimsical touch to the events in the movie. The talents of both men help bring to life a dramatic period with an unusual flare.

Winner of numerous national film awards, *Lenin*, focuses on the relationship of a Pro-Socialist mother and her western minded children. The mother suffers a heart attack and falls into a coma just days before the fall of the Berlin Wall. As she lies in this state for months, her children and everyone else around her, including her former loyal Socialists have moved on with their lives adopting western culture. Eight months later she awakes and the real fun begins as her children attempt to hide the change of life in Germany out of fear that they will shock their mother, and ultimately kill her. The events played out, not only show the love the children have for their mother, but the appreciation for her devotion to the only way of life she knew before her accident.

*Lenin* is told on many different levels. Under Becker's direction he brings forth the true reality in which East Germany was like before the fall of the Wall. He beautifully shows the vast difference the country undergoes as a result of the walls fall. Along with Becker's eye, Cinematographer Martin Kukula masterfully incorporates shots that evoke emotion and determination, as one woman's son tries to see that his mother is well taken care of. Yann Tiersen's original score mixed with sorrowful piano renditions and violin just add to an amazingly rich film.

Good Bye Lenin's plethora of awards, shows its strength as one of the most vibrant movies to come out of Germany in the last few years. The superb acting, directing, and crew have put together a memorable film that will have you recommending this to those that enjoy history, but also enjoy watching it.

Director: Wolfgang Becker  
Rated R for brief language and sexuality.  
Runtime: 121 min  
Germany  
DVD: \$26.99