

News from the Swiss Embassy

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NEWS FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY

SWISS VIDEO FILMS

New offer from the Commission for Coordination of the presence of Swiss Abroad (COCO).

The availability of fiction films from COCO is widening little by little: following the poignant "Journey of Hope" by Xavier Koller and "The Little Runaways" by Yves Yersin, we have retained a classic by Alain Tanner and several others including a TV production, a comedy and two tragedies. Lightness is not the prime feature of cinema and of the Swiss people!

Ciné Video has acquired the non-commercial rights of these films and is able to lend them across a broad spectrum such as Swiss communities, schools and universities, cultural centres etc.

In the case of some of these classics, negotiations even included the TV rights for Third World countries and for Eastern Europe. In these situations it is an opportunity to be seized enabling a greater Swiss presence on the small screens of a large number of regions. This would also be an opportunity to say some words on our country and Swiss cinema in general.

These films can be obtained by contacting the Swiss Embassy in Wellington.

Available Now:

Spielfilme:

VIOLANTA: Regisseur: Daniel Schmid. Spukhaftes Traumspiel mit zentralen Szenen aus C.F. Meyers Novelle "Die Richterin".

HÖHENFEUER: Regisseur: Fredi M. Murer. Der taub geborene "Bub" und seine Schwester Belli verbünden sich gegen die zärtliche, aber strenge Autorität der Eltern. Eines Tages brechen sie ein Tabu, verlieben sich ineinander und führen die Familie in die Katastrophe.

DIE SCHWEIZERMACHER: Regisseur: Rolf Lyssy. Wer Schweizer werden will, wird besucht, befragt, beobachtet, belauscht, beurteilt, verglichen, notiert, bewertet. Die doppelbödigte Geschichte beweist es.

Dokumentarfilme:

AARELAUF: Regisseure: M. Ryser/ D. Moser/H. Weber/M. Iseli. Verlauf der Aare bis kurz nach Biel. Stauungen, Talformen, Flusskorrekturen, die Aare als Erholungsraum und Transportweg.

MARIO BOTTA - SENZA LUCE, NESSUN SPAZIO. Regisseur: Andres Pfäeffli. Porträt des Schweizer Architekten von internationalem Ruf, der trotz seiner Erfolge bescheiden geblieben ist.

TURNER E LA SVIZZERA - TACCUINI DI VAGGIO 1802-1844. Regisseure: Enzo Pelli/ Mirto Storni.

Turner fertigte auf kleinen Blättern Hunderte von Skizzen und Aquarellen an. Die entstandenen Werke wohl das Bedeutendste, was ein Künstler je unserem Land gewidmet hat.

ROUND THE WORLD BY SHORTWAVE - ROUND THE CLOCK BY SATELLITE

Swiss Radio International is now broadcasting by satellite in English 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each hour a satellite programming is in two parts. It begins with **NEWSNET**, 30 minutes of news, analysis and comment. This is prepared by SRI's News and Current Affairs team, which has access to a worldwide network of Swiss correspondents, as well as to experts in Switzerland itself.

After NewsNet, a change of pace on satellite: feature programmes taking an in-depth look at politics, economic developments, environmental issues, the arts, and whatever else keeps listeners informed about life in Switzerland and Switzerland's place in a global context.

Feature programmes are scheduled so that listeners who tune in to **SRI** at a fixed time will know when to expect them. Switzerland is centre stage for "**WORLDSCENE**" which takes a weekly look at the role played by this country in international affairs- both as participant and as host.

"**SWISS SCENE**" embraces aspects of Swiss social and political life, while "**TECHNORAMA**" caters for anyone interested in science and technology. "**BUSINESS AS USUAL**" is what the programme title suggests: reports on Swiss banks, business, industry and economic affairs in general.

Environmental protection has in recent years become a major issue in Switzerland. "**DOWN TO EARTH**" addresses this wide subject, which includes the threat to nature in the Swiss Alps and the activities of the Swiss-based Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The programmes are informative, but also seek to entertain. "**MOSAIC**" is devoted to arts and culture, while "**RENDEZ-VOUS**" is a chance to meet the people of Switzerland and visit some of the places which make it one of the world's major tourist destinations.

Transmissions on Shortwave to Australasia and South Pacific:

Language Universal Time Frequencies in MHz

Italian	08.30	9.885	13.685	17.515
English	09.00	"	"	"
French	09.30	"	"	"
German	10.00	"	"	"

"WAR" BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN

For generations, these two countries have lived next to one another in blissful harmony. But no longer. A financial war has broken out over the problem of VAT (or GST). The decision by the Swiss Government to introduce VAT was also meant to include the Principality of Liechtenstein. But Liechtenstein did not see eye to eye with the Swiss on this matter. Although Liechtenstein accepts the idea of VAT, it wants to collect this tax itself rather than to leave this to the Swiss authorities. Furthermore, Liechtenstein's plan to join the Common Market (while Switzerland won't) makes the problem even more complicated. Top level talks are being held between the two Governments to try to find a solution to this rather prickly disagreement, the first really serious rift between these two countries.

WALLIS WANTS THE WINTER OLYMPICS

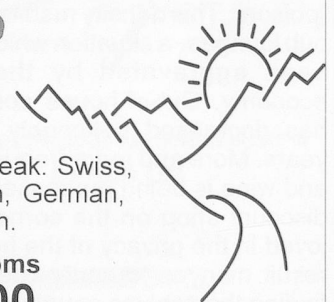
For the third time, Wallis is applying to stage the Winter Olympics. This time it is putting its name down for the games of the year 2002. Should the application be successful, Wallis would have to forfeit the staging of the National Show (Landesaustellung) in that year, as two such large venues would be too much to handle.

EXPENSIVE HEALTH

The cost of keeping the Swiss in good health has increased by 61% since 1985 and amounts now to some SFR 30 billion per year. Hospital costs make up over 50% of this total. Health insurances paid up almost SFR 15 billion of the total costs whilst 30% were paid by the patients themselves and 20% through public funds. According to these figures, keeping the Swiss in good health costs around SFR 5000 per year and per person.

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