

# KISS KISS BANG BANG

**No, it wasn't Jean-Luc Godard who first suggested that all you need to make a movie is a girl and a gun. Silent film maestro DW Griffith came up with the same formulation many years before *A Bout De Souffle*. In his new film, *FILM IST. a girl & a gun*, Austrian director Gustav Deutsch explores the thesis. Geoffrey Macnab reports**

*a girl & a gun* is the latest addition to Deutsch's epic, ongoing *FILM IST* project, which has involved him delving into archives, recovering and recontextualising images from old films. The difference from his earlier work is that the new film is scripted. Deutsch's new preoccupation is "the confrontation of the sexes as one of the main subjects (of cinema) from the beginning. It includes erotic film, pornographic film and also violence." Deutsch has structured the film as "a Greek drama in five acts." He researched assiduously before beginning the film, visiting a few main archives – the Netherlands Film Museum, The Imperial War Museum in London and the Kinsey Institute in the US among them – just to see what might be available. The Austrian is one of the first filmmakers to have been allowed to use material from the Kinsey archives. "They have the biggest stag film collection, especially from early times. This is all material that has never been screened in public. It was made for private clubs, brothels or whatever. This was the private collection of Alfred Kinsey and he got it from different sources – it was given to him, he bought it in flea markets, whatever he could get it. It is an amazing collection."

Much of the material – all taken from the period between the early silent era and the 1930s – is in very poor condition. Regarded as pornography, it has been left to fester on the shelves. "Nearly every archive I know has some porn films, but they don't really take care of them," Deutsch laments. As treated by Deutsch, the material is often startlingly beautiful. Images have been scanned digitally in high resolution and coloured in accordance with codes he devised. The Austrian director doubts that he will finish *FILM IST*. "It's a project that will never be complete," he sighs. The first *FILM IST* (2002) looked at how film was developed by scientists as a tool. The second *FILM IST* (also 2002) concentrated on film as used in the fairground. Now, Deutsch is tackling the confrontation of the sexes. Deutsch finds Rotterdam an ideal showcase for his work. "It's a big festival that still keeps a focus on work that is not mainstream. My films don't pay at the cinema cash till. They are not commercial. These are films on film and about film: they are self-reflexive. Rotterdam gives me the chance to show this ongoing project."

## **FILM IST. A GIRL & A GUN** **Gustav Deutsch**

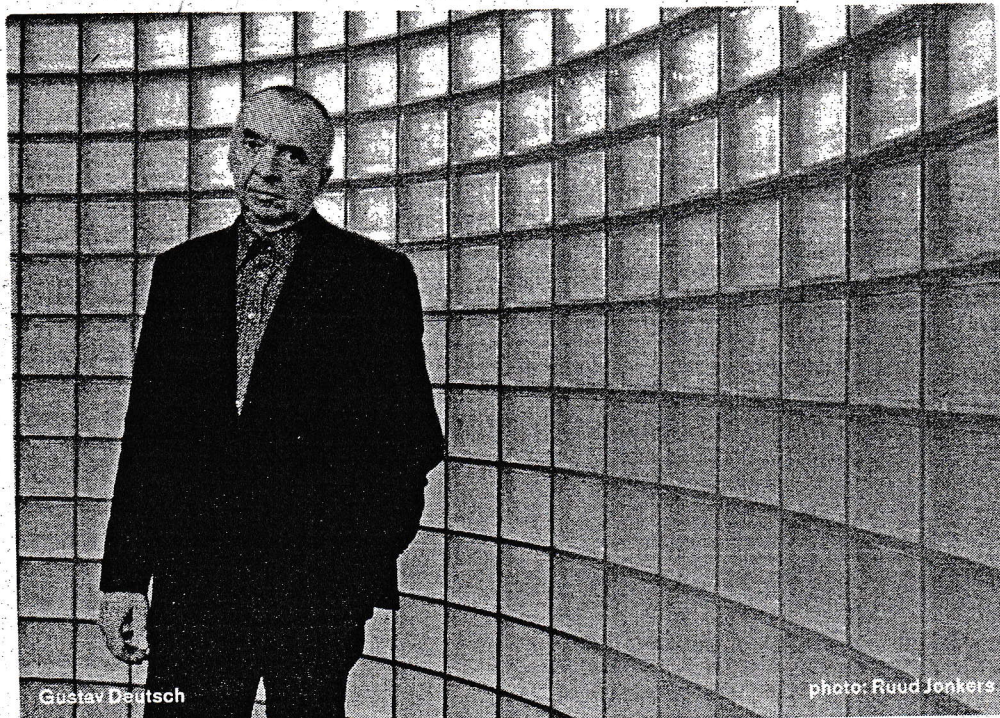
Pathé 3 Sat 24 Jan 13:30

Venster 3 Sun 25 Jan 09:30 \*

Cinerama 1 Mon 26 Jan 17:00

Cinerama 5 Sat 31 Jan 09:30

\* Press and Industry screening



Gustav Deutsch

photo: Ruud Jonkers