

June 6, 1987

Dear Katherine:

Although Margarethe von Trotta's film on Rosa Luxemburg has not yet made it to Chicago, the fact that I have received such highly favorable correspondence about it from so many different countries would, I believe, be of interest to you for what you are planning for WINGS.

The first and most important communication I received was from a friend who saw it in London at the showing for which Margarethe von Trotta was present. He had a discussion with her, during which she said that, while there had been too little factual material she was able to find, she had been so overwhelmed by the personality of Rosa, that she was impelled to make the film to capture both the individual and the historical significance of that great woman at that important period in history. It seemed clear that she felt if one had an actress who was capable of bringing that dimension to life, film was the media which could articulate it better than any other. My friend spoke to Margarethe von Trotta of my work as the only one on Luxemburg which had included her unknown feminist dimension, and immediately sent her a copy of Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution.

A second discussion I had was in Chicago with an Austrian labor historian who asked me for an interview about Luxemburg both because I knew so much about her life and work and because I presented it in such a different context than either those who focus only on her love life, or those who write of her political work but leave out the women's liberation dimension.

A third and perhaps most interesting was the letter I received from Czechoslovakia that included reviews and articles about the film which this dissident had gathered from European papers. It demonstrated dramatically how East Europeans devour news from all over the world and how eagerly the underground there is looking for ways to someday see the film themselves.

Finally, there was the report I received from our friends in Los Angeles, who saw a pre-screening there and wrote me how much my work will further illuminate the impressions of those who see the film, just as the film will further illuminate those who have read my work.

I am, indeed, looking forward very anxiously to seeing it when it finally comes to Chicago.

Yours,

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