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## Animal Love

DOCU: A, 1995  
 Directed by: Ulrich Seidl  
 Starring: -

### STORY:

People of the city. People in Vienna. Lonely people. Two unemployed young men who live in Vienna somewhere in a cellar hole and beg for money with their animals. One out of prison released prisoners who wants to start a new life at the expense of his bride. A single actress, who is fed up of men and fallen in love with a husky.

A sick from asthma early retirees who experiences his life only through his TV. Two guessed in need of money, older men who live on eighteen square meters together and wait for years on the payment of an inheritance. In times of high-tech society in which communication is as important as never before, human proximity has become rare. Dogs, rats, rabbits and other small animals serve as a contact, as life companions, and Streichelobjekte bedfellows.

(Cover text)

### CRITICISM:

"More cold, loneliness, terror is not conceivable in a single film." (FAZ)

"... I have never looked so straight into hell in the cinema." (Werner Herzog)

These quotations is nothing to add. With the 1995 resulting documentation *Animal Love*, Ulrich Seidl once again strengthens its reputation as one of the most uncompromising filmmakers of our time.

Without fear of taboos, and sometimes has on the border of sodomy along scarring, shows Ulrich Seidl's film, such as dogs, ferrets, rabbits, cats and other pets to people for a lifetime (replacement), Streichelobjekte and - as indicated - serve as sexual partners.

Seidl shows little fear of contact with the edges of society - almost the entire film personnel languishing in dilapidated council then whose dreary gray obviously rubs off on the state of mind of the people: frustration, bitterness, blunting, madness, violence and social neglect in all gradations determined people's everyday lives.

Nevertheless, one does not feel that someone presents the so-called underclass or exploits even for the audience. The equally restrained as geometrically precise through-composed camera work of Michael Glawogger has clearly made the film as a work of art.

At Alamode Film has apparently taken a liking to Ulrich Seidl's relentless view of the world: After *Models* (1998), *Dog Day Afternoon* (2001) and *Import Export* (2007) *Animal love* is already the fourth Seidl publication of dedicated German labels. Thanks for that!



**CONCLUSION:**

In perhaps his most radical work Ulrich Seidl takes a look at the sometimes libidinous ratio of the Wieners to his four-legged friends - and shows more misery, loneliness, pain and bitterness, as the viewer can be dear. Tough stuff - but agreeably different some "sub-layers-TV" documentaries of the social pornographic sensationalism.

**RATING:** 8 out of 10 Hundebegräbnissen

**LINKS:**

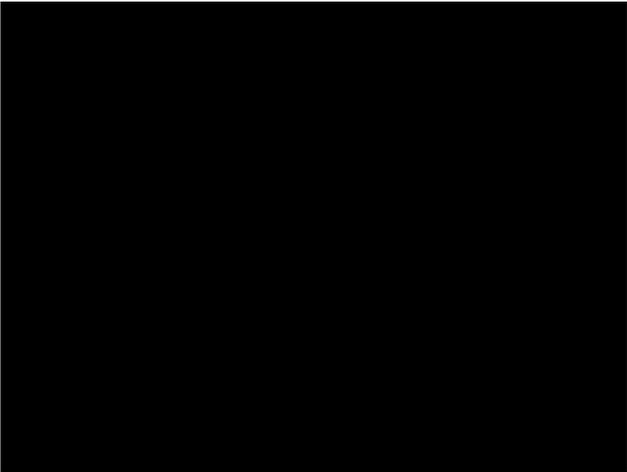
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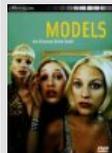
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**TEXT** © Harald Ladstätter



**OK? MORE OF IT:**

*More from Ulrich Seidl on FILMTIPPS.at*



**Models**

DOCUMENTARY DRAMA: A, 1999  
8/10  
★★★★☆



**Import Export**

DRAMA: A, 2006  
9/10  
★★★★☆