

## THE CANADIAN-AUSTRIAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO

41 Tallon Road, Weston, Ontario - M9P 1M6  
Telephone (416) 242-2972  
Fax (416) 242-2378

PATRON:  
The Ambassador of Austria

### VIDEO EVENING

### "DIE FÄLSCHER"

**DATE:** Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - 6:45 p.m.

**PLACE:** The Musket Dining Lounge  
40 Advance Road, Etobicoke - Tel. (416) 231-6488

**TICKETS:** \$5.00 per person administrative contribution, no booking necessary.  
Our host will provide us a special for dinner and Austrian wines are available. If you intend to dine prior to the movie please come early so that we can begin the feature film punctually at 8:00 p.m.

"Die Fälscher" is a 2007 film written and directed by Stefan Ruzowitzky. It fictionalizes Operation Bernhard, a secret plan by the Nazis during the Second world War to destabilize Great Britain by flooding its economy with forged Bank of England bank notes. The film centres on a Jewish counterfeiter, Salomon "Sally" Sorowitsch, who is coerced into assisting the Nazi operation at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. The film is based on a memoir written by Adolf Burger, a Jewish Slovak typographer who was imprisoned in 1942 for forging baptismal certificates to save Jews from deportation, and later interned at Sachsenhausen to work on Operation Bernhard. Ruzowitzky consulted closely with Burger through almost every stage of the writing and production. This film received an Oscar at the Academy Awards 2007 for Best Foreign Language Film of 2007, the Golden Bear Award at the Berlinale and the German Film Award for 2007.

"Die Fälscher" represents the eternal conflict between good and evil, conscience and ambition. The film begins shortly after the end of the Second World War, with a German man arriving in Monte Carlo, successfully gambling in a casino and attracting the attention of a beautiful French woman. Later, she discovers tattooed numerals on his arm, revealing him as a survivor of the Nazi concentration camps. The film then shifts to Berlin in 1936, where the man, Salomon Sorowitsch is revealed as a successful forger of currency and passports. Imprisoned in Mauthausen and trying to secure himself protection at the camp he turns to forging portraits, attracting the attention of the guards and is then transferred to Sachsenhausen's special section devoted to forgery.

Please turn over

At first self-preservation appears to guide Sorowitsch, but his motives for forging for the Nazis are complicated by his growing concern for his fellow prisoners, his awareness of their role in the wider war against the Nazis, and his professional ambition in successfully produce the US dollar bill, a forgery he was heretofore unable to perfect.

Sorowitsch juggles the demands for progress of the Nazi authorities, his co-counterfeiters' determination to sabotage the operation, and his loyalties to his fellow prisoners. The prisoners successfully counterfeit the British pound but intentionally delay the forgery of the US dollar. In the background slivers of evidence that the war has turned decidedly against the Nazis gradually arrive. One day the camp guards suddenly announce that the printing machines are to be dismantled and shipped away which leads the counterfeiters to fear that they will finally be killed. Eventually the guards flee the camp in advance of the Red Army and the camp is left to the internees and, and, .....and you will have to come to see the conclusion for yourselves! This is a film well worth seeing and I hope you will join us on the 20<sup>th</sup>.


As "Vorspann" we will show "**DIE SEMMERING-BAHN**", History, Myths, Reality - an survey of this unique mountain railway with an uncertain future. The Semmering Station in 1854 was the highest point on earth to be reached by rail. You will experience the ride with historic as well as current pictures, as time travelers, observers of cultures and landscapes, as well as from the viewpoint of the engineer. This presentation includes never before publicized black and white pictures which will bring you closer to the operation of a steam engine, while an engineer on such a steam engine reminisces on past times. You will be afforded an insight into the background of the construction of the railway, as well as the destinies of various of those employed in the construction.

### **BALL AUSTRIA 2011**

**Please remember and mark the date in your calendar - BALL AUSTRIA 2011 will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at the Delta Chelsea. Invitations with details will follow shortly.**

See you on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Sincerely yours



Christine Meyer  
President