

# THE GERMAN FILM INDUSTRY UNDER BRITISH CONTROL 1945-1949

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## **Abstract**

My proposed book analyses the re-establishment of the German film industry between 1945 and 1949 in the British Zone of occupation. Filmmaking came initially to a halt in Germany after the defeat of National Socialism in May 1945, but was subsequently resumed under the supervision of the four occupying powers. The goal was to ensure that post-war German films would be free from Nazi ideology. Licensing of filmmakers and pre-censorship of film scripts were deemed crucial to ensure the film industry would be “denazified”. Feature films were furthermore deemed cultural and economic assets and considered to provide distraction, entertainment as well as on-screen role models. For all these reasons, the occupation authorities encouraged the production of German post-war films and Film Sections were called into being to oversee the revival of the film industry. While existing monographs deal with Allied control of film production and exhibition in the US, Soviet and French zones, none has so far been published on British feature film policy in occupied Germany. My book enquires how British guidelines shaped German films and would therefore clearly fill a gap. My book draws on research undertaken in archives and collections in the UK and in Germany. I made use of previously neglected sources such as film scripts and personal accounts of filmmakers as well as Allied Film Section members. My research was sponsored for three years by the ERC-funded project “[Beyond Enemy Lines](#)” which explored the role of culture and media in both the British and US zones of occupied Germany. Three international conferences were held on this topic in Berlin, London and Venice. My book would be of interest to readers who want to know more about post-war culture, (German) film history, or the role and impact of occupying powers in shaping specific narratives.