

## 21.F056 Visual Histories: German Cinema 1945 - Present

**Meeting:** September 18, 2003

**Film:** Volker Schlöndorff, *The Tin Drum*, 1979

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# Visual histories – here: History from Below

## History

- City of Danzig/Gdansk
- Polish/German/Kashubian relationship
- Aftermath of WW I
- Rise of National Socialism
- The “Kristallnacht” and the persecution of Jews (Sigismund Markus)
- Beginning of WW II: Sept. 1, 1939, Germany attacks Polen
- “Blitzkrieg and first successes of German troops (Oskar and his troupe in Paris
- Defeat on the Western Front, Allied forces in France
- Russian occupation, (rape scene)
- German expelled from Gdansk

## From Below:

Find as many examples of the different registers through which the film thematizes the “from below”:

- perspectives
- narratives
- characters
- symbolism and leitmotifs

**Group 1:** What role does food play in the film?

**Group 2: Discuss some of the many minor characters in the film**

**Group 3: The dynamics of Oscar's family**

**Group 4: What relationship does the film establish between the viewer and the characters as actors within the historical events?**