

A Different Evening
International Film Club at Ahmedabad University
(In Memory of Prof. Niranjan Bhagat)

Date: **February 28, 2019, Thursday.**

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Venue: Ahmedabad University Auditorium,
GICT Building, Near M G Science College.



Name of the Film: **Downfall**

(Based on the book by Joachim Fest)

Year of Release: April 8, 2005.

Director: **Oliver Hirschbiegel** (18 International Awards + 18 Nominations)

Cinematography: Rainer Klausmann (8 International Awards + 9 Nominations)

Genre: Drama, History, War

Duration: 2 Hours 35 Minutes

Awards to the film: **Won Oscar + 21 other Awards and 29 Nominations.**

Actors:

Bruno Ganz (27 International Awards & 15 Nominations)

Alexandra Maria Lara (4 International Awards + 4 Nominations)

Ulrich Matthes (5 International Awards + 2 Nominations)

Corinna Harfouch (18 International Awards + 11 Nominations)

Audio Language: **German /Russian** Subtitles: **English**

Colour: Colour

Also known as: Der Untergang (Germany)

Aspect Ratio: 16:9 High Definition (1080p)

About the film:

In April of 1945, Germany stands at the brink of defeat with the Soviet Armies closing in from the west and south. In Berlin, capital of the Third Reich, Adolf Hitler proclaims that Germany will still achieve victory and orders his Generals and advisers to fight to the last man.

"Downfall" explores these final days of the Reich, the Battle of Berlin, where senior German leaders like Joseph Goebbels and his ambitious wife pledge to die with Hitler. Hitler, himself, degenerates into a paranoid shell of a man, full of optimism one moment and suicidal depression the next. It is based on true events, a very intimate and unpublished "retina display" of the last days and hours of Hitler in the bunker. The story is presented by one of the most confidential insiders, none other than Traudl Junge, the last personal secretary of Adolf Hitler, until his suicide.

Trivia around the film:

International Movie Database has ranked the film as one of the top 50 films made after the millennium. During the premiere in Germany, a large part of the audience broke down in tears at the end. Every person remained seated until the last of the credits were shown and the lights remained dimmed.

Due to serious health problems, Hitler's last secretary Junge (the script of the film is based on her recordings of the events) was unable to attend the film's premiere. The premiere had been a great success and the camera man went to the hospital to inform Junge, whereupon she is said to have answered, "My lifework is accomplished. Now I can go." Just hours later, she died at age 82 after a long fight against cancer.

In the film, during the letters montage, Mrs. Magda Goebbels, is seen writing a letter to her son, Harald Quandt, by her first husband, industrialist Günther Quandt. He was her only child to survive the war. Quandt family was the single largest shareholder of BMW even after the war.

In many of the film's scenes during 1945, Hitler's movements are shaky as if he is nervous. Actually, this was because Hitler is believed to have had Parkinson's disease and displayed many of the disease's trademark symptoms during his later years. This was never revealed to public. Bruno Ganz studied Parkinson's disease patients in a Swiss hospital to prepare for his role as Adolf Hitler.

Though the film starts in November 1942, most of its events are from April 20 to May 8, 1945 (only 18 days). To simulate Berlin of 1945, the entire film is shot in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Adolf Hitler was a teetotaler. He never drank alcohol and he never smoked. Many of Hitler's lines in the film, are historically accurate.

After watching the film, in May, 2013, Prof. Niranjana Bhagat's remark on Hitler was: "In his (Hitler's) early years, the helpless humane part of his mind was killed by his monstrous other part. The passionate love in his body (referring to his relationship with Eva Brown) barely survived only to meet a tragic end. Unfortunately, the world paid a very heavy price."

Tagline:

"In a war, as such there are no civilians." – Adolf Hitler