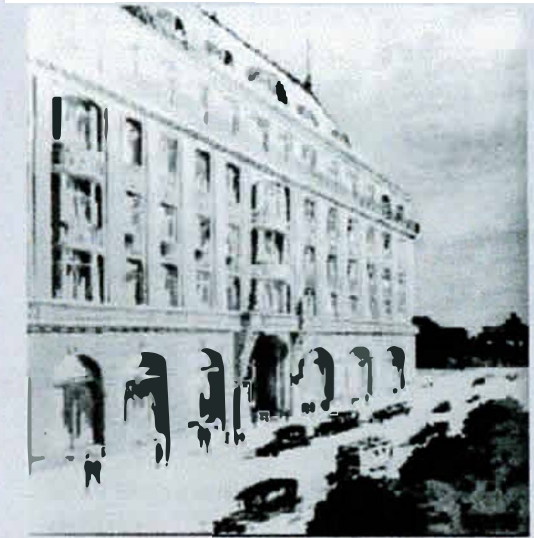
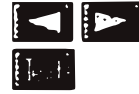




In der glanzvollen Welt des Hotel Adlon (The Glamorous World of the Adlon Hotel)

USA / German 1996

Dir: Percy Adlon



74 min., Video, Color

Produktion: Pelemele FILM/LEORA FILMS Production (über Futura/Filmverlag) mit BR Fernsehen, Benigna von Keyserlingk, SFB, ORF und ARTE. Buch: Percy Adlon. Kamera: Judy Irola, ASC. Ausstattung: Anina Diener, Nanci Roberts. Kostüme: Maria Schicker. Musik: Salon Orchester Berlin, Tailed Comedians, Madeleine Lienhard. Schnitt: Ila von Hasperg. Herstellungsleitung: Jamie Beardsley. Produzent: Eleonore Adlon. Ausführende Produzentin, Redaktion: Benigna von Keyserlingk.

Darsteller: Felix Adlon (Louis Adlon jr.), Eva Mattes (Pola Negri).

Uraufführung: 1. Januar 1997, Arte.

Fri 21.02. 17:30 Arsenal

Weltvertrieb: Futura Film Weltvertrieb im Filmverlag GmbH, Rambergstr. 5, D-80799 München, Tel. (49-89) 381 70030, Fax: (49-89) 381 70020.

Los Angeles, May 1945. World War II is over. A young German-American by the name of Louis Adlon junior is conscripted into the army. Newspaper magnate William R. Hearst sends him to devastated Berlin to serve as overseas correspondent. His task is to deliver sensational stories about the whereabouts of Nazi greats and other news from a dying Germany. There is no better place to find information than in the world famous hotel Adlon. Miraculously, it has not been ravaged by war. Louis who spends a pampered life as a companion to stars and starlets in Hollywood grew up in this hotel.

When he arrives in Berlin the hotel has burned down. Russian soldiers have put fire to it in the first few days after the war ended. Louis is deeply shocked. When he recovers his composure, his childhood memories assail him. He settles in the staff's quarters in a part of the building which has withstood the fire and begins to write...

Afternoon tea and dancing, a love affair, an oyster dinner, family stories, divorce, debts, scandal. Very vivid memories, some of them less so, captured only on photographs, in silent film footage, in stories by an old waiter, a telephone operator: guests- Richard Tauber, Josefina Baker, Thomas Mann, Charlie Chaplin, Marlene Dietrich. He sees his grandfather up close, who has been granted an audience with Wilhelm II, trying to convince the emperor that Berlin needs a world class hotel. The helplessly stumbling patent leather shoes of his father to whom

he couldn't say good-bye.

He recalls the delicate colours of hotel rooms with marble columns, polished brass, mahogany, silk, wide-ranging views, frescoed, vaulted ceilings: suspended elegance, vanished.

Shortly after his return to Los Angeles Louis Adlon jr. died of a broken heart. He was thirty-nine years old. He is buried in the Hollywood Cemetery amongst his friends from the film world.

Percy Adlon about his film

In Spring 1997 the newly built hotel Adlon will be opened in Berlin at the Pariser Platz near the Brandenburg Gate. It is situated on the same spot where my great-grandfather's and grandfather's world famous hotel stood. Doubtlessly, the opening will be an international media event.

My longstanding television producer Benigna von Keyserlingk (Bavarian Television) who commissioned my first feature film *Célèste* and some of my other films, suggested a project dealing with the Hotel Adlon, in other words, a film about my own family. During her program planning staff meeting Benigna was asked whether I wouldn't be too close to the topic. I also asked her the same question over and over again. But she insisted, she wanted this project.

I chose a combination feature/documentary film, with my son Felix playing the -silent- main role, i.e. his great-uncle Louis Adlon jr. This helped to create an element of authenticity which is so important for all my films. Now that I have everything on film I think it was the right decision.

I mostly chose former hotel employees as eye witnesses because as a child Louis had contacts with them rather than with guests. Anyhow, I wanted to present famous guests in their former glory, just how we remember them.

There is a lot of music in the film. Music was always important for the Adlon Hotel. Popular orchestras and soloists were continually performing here.

A very special aspect of the film are statements by Louis' twin brother Carl Adlon, now 88 years old and living in the USA.

Great Elegance

A hotel story? That, too. A human tragedy? Yes. History? Yes. If there is a television documentary with cinematic qualities, then Percy Adlon has created it. (...)

The Adlon film is as elegant as the former hotel Adlon. Glimpses of this world, of the world of appearances whizz by nimbly and unobtrusively, photos, silent film material, the stories told by guests and employees fit in well with scenes from hotel history and Adlon's biography. Brilliant, perhaps too brilliant is the 'glamorous world of hotel Adlon'. (...)

(Joachim Huber, in: Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, January 2nd, 1997)