

The Cultural and Ethical Reconstruction of Post-War Germany: The Case of Fritz Kortner's *The Mission* (1947) and Josef v. Baky's *Der Ruf* (1949)

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This paper will outline some of the more general aspects of my research on Germany after 1945, while focusing on one of the most interesting and paradigmatic cinematic project of the immediate post-war period: *Der Ruf* (*The Last Illusion*, 1949), starring Fritz Kortner under the direction of Josef v. Baky. Based on Kortner's *The Mission*, this two-language film addresses the difficulties and opportunities of exile, return migration and intercultural communication in the context of Germany's Nazi past and the social and political struggles of the post-war present; a film project hoping to aid in the cultural reconstruction and civic efficacy of post-WW II Germany.