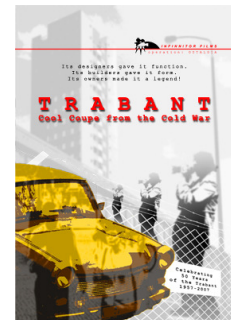


# Iconic East German Trabant Finally Gains Recognition in America with Recent Documentary

HALLE (SAALE), Germany, November 5, 2009 — Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, film producer Troy J.S. Goffin surprises American audiences with his film on the car that symbolizes the escape from East Germany. With upcoming celebrations of the collapse of communism in Europe, the interest in the legend behind the cult auto has never been higher.

In *TRABANT: Cool Coupe from the Cold War* (2007, Infinitor Films, 65 minutes, NTSC) Goffin introduces this oddball little vehicle and the system that created it to Americans in familiar terms. The film aims at car enthusiasts interested in a truly unique automobile and history buffs who want a rare peek at life behind the fabled Iron Curtain:

- Car repair techniques so simple that nearly anyone could do them with basic tools
- Trabant hallmarks like Duroplast body panels and Hycomat transmissions
- Comparisons and contrasts with modern automobile manufacturing
- Freedom found on road trips and vacations despite severe travel restrictions
- Surprising international rally race performances



With rare archive footage, Goffin explains how inconsistencies in raw material qualities affected daily production and how the skewed socio-economic system influenced delivery schedules. Groundbreaking interviews tell the story of what working life was like at the Trabant factory amidst constant political interference and surveillance from the top management. With the shrouds of secrecy lifted, Americans will now at last understand why Trabants meant so much to their owners during the Cold War.

Goffin's documentary caught the attention of Mr. Towle Tompkins, Programming Director for the Resort Sports Network (RSN) in the USA. Tompkins is airing a shortened version of Goffin's film several times through December 2009. According to Tompkins, the initial August 2009 broadcasts drew nearly 400,000 viewers. That's more people than most film festivals attract.

Goffin's pioneering film explains the Trabant's risky beginnings, its perilous production history, and the reasons why it continues to enjoy such longevity. The film is available in the USA on DVD or for download on <http://www.amazon.com> (search word: trabant).

## ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Filmmaker, photographer, and author Troy J.S. Goffin has been taking photos since 1986 and his work has appeared in publications like *Collectible Automobile®*. Upon relocating to Germany from California in 2003, he became fascinated with the Trabant whose worldwide cult status is all but unknown in the USA.

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