

THE GOETHE SOCIETY WELLINGTON PRESENTS...
Der geteilte Himmel/The Divided Heaven



East Germany in 1961, just before the construction of the Berlin Wall. After suffering a nervous breakdown, Rita Seidel returns to her village from the city of Halle to find peace and quiet. She recalls the past years, her love for chemist Manfred Herrfurth, her work in a railway car factory and her studies to become a teacher. There were problems with political opportunists and ideological hardliners in the factory and at university. Rita's love affair came to an end after Manfred, bitter that uncompromising supervisors had rejected his new chemical process, fled the city for West Berlin without Rita, who chose not to join him. *The Divided Heaven*, created just a few years after the Wall was constructed, is one of the bravest movies ever to be made in the GDR – not only because of its unusual dramaturgy, but also because it seeks responsibility for conflicts in one's own country and not with the "class enemy".

Director: Konrad Wolf, 1963/64, 113 minutes running time, with English subtitles.

Date: Wednesday, 20 June 2018

Time: 5.30pm

Venue: Von Zedlitz Building, VZ 606, Kelburn Parade.

Refreshments provided.

Organised by the *Goethe Society* in cooperation with the *Goethe-Institut New Zealand*

