



***Der Lauf der Dinge (The Way Things Go)* is a December, 2024 LVCA dvd donation to the Ligonier Valley Library of Ligonier, Pennsylvania, United States. Below is a capsule account of that release**

13 of a possible 20 points *1/2 of a possible ***** = above average film**

Switzerland 1987 color 30 minutes live action wordless experimental film

T & C Film AG Producers: Hans Ulrich Jordi and Marcel Hoehn

Key: *indicates outstanding technical achievement

Points:

- 1 Direction: Peter Fischli and David Weiss**
- 2 Editing: Rainer Maria Trinkler and Mirjam Krakenberger**
- 1 Cinematography: Pio Corradi**
- 1 Lighting**
- Special Visual Effects**
- 2 Sound Effects: Dieter Lengacher***
- 0 Conclusion**
- 2 Creativity**
- 1 Dramatic Tension**
- 2 Humor**
- 1 Ambience**
- 13 total points**

Winner: Gold Apple at the 1990 National Educational Film & Video Festival

Earlier films of Peter Fischli and David Weiss:

Wurstserie (Sausage Series) 1979 consists of ten photographs

Equilibres (A Quiet Afternoon) 1984-1986

No music. No art direction, set designs, costumes, makeup, music, or cast of performers. Lacking all the above, is *Der Lauf der Dinge* even a movie?

Yes, indeed. Though it takes a while to get moving, once action begins it rolls comically along at a decent enough speed to a rather limp ending. Between start and finish is a series of chemical actions and reactions prompted by Newtonian physics. Remember how objects in motion tend to stay in motion? Until, of course, they're stopped by other objects. Which then begin to move and stay in motion until ... Get the idea?

Filmmakers Peter Fischli and David Weiss constructed a Rube Goldberg obstacle course in an abandoned Zurich, Switzerland warehouse. Unpromising as assorted odds and ends appear, each plays a vital role in creating a cinematic equivalent to massive domino toppling. Except creators here employ far more variety and coordinate photography with physics, timing each explosion, drop, tumble, drip, and collision to the precise second. Pio Corrado bore responsibility for motion capture and executed his task with awesome precision. Still, at certain points waiting periods occurred. These would try audience patience as nothing observable or even audible filled certain gaps between successive events. It then became the task of editors Rainer Maria Trinkler and Mirjam Krakenberger to remove such film dead spots to preserve the facsimile of a continuous chain reaction. This was also accomplished in a masterful manner with the handful of essential edits hard for audiences to spot. Enhanced sound effects by Dieter Lengacher supplied a garnish ovetop this scientific salad of a project.

For the most part items utilized were common and relatively inexpensive. A modest budget would cover expenses of purchasing key props. Others could even be hand-designed to specification.

The greatest difficulty arose later: insuring camera positions were accurately preset prior to initiating the seemingly arbitrary sequence of coordinated actions filmed. First attempts didn't succeed. Additional practices, repositionings and nerve-racking test runs ultimately led to what is now

witnessed on this film. **Warning: Don't try to duplicate processes involved at home!**

Quite enjoyable despite complete absence of dialogue, *The Way Things Go* is a unique cinematic experience for viewing audiences of all ages and nationalities. Don't take this reviewer's word for that. Check it out yourself.