

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Chandigarh . New Delhi . Jalandhar: Friday, January 6, 2006

CHANDIGARH TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2006

For him expression is independent of medium

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 5

For Andreas Weber, Austrian author, expression is independent of the medium. Be it an essay, film, portrait, novel, play or a short story, Weber manages to get his point across.

Weber's works, all in German, have been translated by Dr A.L. Mehta, who earlier worked with the Department of German at Panjab University and who now heads the first centre for translation studies at the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad.

Weber and Mehta held a joint press conference in the city today. The conference was held in collaboration with the Embassy of Austria in India, Saar Sansaar, the Indo-German Friendship Society and the Alliance Francaise here.

"We are here for the reading of Weber's latest novel 'Lanz' which I have translated as 'Ghar Ghar Mein Nazi'" said Mehta adding



Andreas Weber

that the book was about the Nazi past of Austria.

Before penning 'Lanz', which is Weber's first novel, Weber had written a novella 'Blind Book'. "It is a negative love story and deals with extramarital relationships. Before that I wrote a diary called 'Paliano' in 2002. This I wrote in the town of Paliano in Italy," said Weber.

But what Weber found most satisfying is a three-act play titled 'Rebels'. It was written five years ago. "Rebels is a play based on conversations of two old men who are sworn enemies

and are now waiting for their death. I wrote the play in barely a week and since it was published as a book and later also enacted, it became a popular work," said Weber.

Weber's first work 'Night Play', a compilation of eight stories in a countryside in the UK, was written in 1996. Deeply interested in the lives of famous men, he went on to produce films on the personalities he chose to write about.

"More than focusing on the way these men achieved fame, I have chosen to write about men who lost the glory they had once seen in the later years of their lives. Mario Kemps, famous football player, is one such person," said Weber.

His book 'Dear Fritz', based on interviews with writer Fritz Habeck and the letters Fritz and Ernest Hemingway shared over the years, also became the base for a film on his life.

"I made a film on Hermann Gail based on my essay on him which I titles 'Bacon Hunter'. Making

films is satisfying, but writing novels is most satisfying," said Weber adding that films needed a lot of money to make.

"For which one needs to look for people who share your passion for the personality you want to focus on," he said.

Working on his second novel titled 'Veites Dream', Weber has explored relationship between a father and a son. It is a gripping story of a son who thinks his father is worthless cop who prefers to write poetry than catch thieves.

"His father is shot dead and the truth starts to tumble out. The man was actually a corrupt man dealing with smugglers. Faced with the truth, the son then writes the story of his father," relates Weber.

And for a film, Weber would like to work on the life of Bill Wyman, the bass player of the Rolling Stones. "I want to write a portrait of his and hopefully turn it into a film," Weber said.