

# ***Doris Arndt, Celebrated Animal Trainer, Is Dead at 88***

By **Melissa Eddy**

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Doris Arndt, whose ability to command big cats and bears made her one of Europe's best-known circus animal trainers in the 1950s and '60s, a time when men dominated such acts, died on June 21 in Berlin. She was 88.

Her death was confirmed by Laurens Thoen, a close friend and a former circus manager. He did not specify the cause.

Ms. Arndt was only 17 when she made her debut, topping the bill of Berlin's Circus Barlay as "Lola the Youngest Tiger Bride." But what drew crowds from all over Europe was her act with a troupe of polar bears, which she trained to leap over her head and balance on a tiered arch as she hung from a swing.

"I love animals," she told the German daily newspaper Berliner Zeitung in 2014. "They are the reason I joined the circus."

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