



PRESS NOTES

MARCEL MARO'S

FURIOSO

FURIOSO FILMS UND ANDRES FAMILY PRÄSENTIEREN

MARCEL MARO'S "FURIOSO"

CHRISTIAN WEWERKA ARASH MARANDI JULIA DIETZE MURIEL BIENENBERG NICO BIRNBAUM MORITZ BERG RUMMELSNUFF TORGE DELRICH BJÖRN MEYER FRÉDÉRIC STROMENGER BENNO LEHMANN

DAVID BREDIN ELIAS ELASTISCH UND JAN JOSEF LIEFERS UND KATHARINA THALBACH KOSTÜM BARBARA WIMSER "CRAFTED BY SENSE" DILARA ÖZKAN MUSIK MARCEL MARO SCHNITT ERIK RÜLICKE

SZENENBILD JONATHAN AHLBERG JENNY DÖRING STEPHANIE TRAUB KAMERA GERNOT BAYER HANS PRZYBILLA JENS STAEDER MARCEL MARO PRODUKTIONSLEITER PASCAL ANDRES

EINE GESCHICHTE VON MARCEL MARO & PASCAL ANDRES DREHBUCH MARCEL MARO & PASCAL ANDRES PRODUZENT MARCEL MARO CO-PRODUZENT PASCAL ANDRES REGIE MARCEL MARO



FURIOSO

Comedy-drama | 192 minutes

(149 minutes shortened version)

HD black-and-white | 2.39:1

Language: German | 5.1 Surround

Germany 2025

- PRESS NOTES -

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SYNOPSIS

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In this breathtaking and imaginative epic about the highs and lows of an artist's life, the classical elements of a tragicomedy are uniquely blended with the magic of variety performance to tell the moving story of a circus family's dreams and fears in the years following World War II.

Bartosz the clown is dead — a bad omen for Circus Furioso, which has seen better days. Despite all obstacles, director Karlo Moretti and his performers work toward their next big show. Yet cracks are beginning to appear behind the façade.

While the director uses all his strength to fight the gradual decline of his circus, his assistant Rudi is haunted by ghosts from the past. The siblings Camil and Adriana, who fled their homeland, have found a new home in Circus Furioso. As Camil enchants audiences with his magic, Adriana's poetic pantomime sets spectators dreaming. But their carefree routine is abruptly shattered when an unknown thief steals all their savings. It seems likely that the culprit is someone within their own ranks.

Performers Marie and Anton are firmly rooted in both their marriage and their careers, yet their aspirations could not be more different. While Anton explores the limits of his art with ambition and a drive for international success, Marie longs more and more for a family of her own. Amid these tensions between career and personal life, the question arises: are their shared goals truly compatible, and how long can their love withstand the pressure?

Hans, the strongest man in the republic, finds himself increasingly battling the signs of aging. As his usual performances become more difficult for him, he secretly nurses feelings for the beautiful performer Marie, who gives him the confidence to be more than just the circus's resident strongman. Events escalate when the ensemble learns of the imminent closure of the circus. The time has come for all masks to fall and all cards to be laid on the table. The troupe has only one final performance left, and it must be unforgettable.

The feature film debut of award-winning author and director Marcel Maro — whose works have already been showcased at the Guggenheim Museum in New York — explores the exhausting devotion artists bring to their creations. The film takes a humorous and sentimental look at what it means to live by and for art. Over the course of its elaborate, seven-year production, the film itself became a metaphor for its director. The work poses a question not only to its protagonists but also to its viewers: What are you willing to give for your dream?

Among the exquisite cast are Jan Josef Liefers, Katharina Thalbach, Arash Marandi, Julia Dietze, Björn Meyer, Muriel Bielenberg, Christian Wewerka, and many other major stars of German and international cinema. Captured in mesmerizing black-and-white images and wrapped in unforgettable music, FURIOSO is a masterful feast for the senses of any film lover. A nostalgic, philosophical journey into the past, returning to the golden age of circus arts. Let the show begin!



ABOUT THE FILM

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THE BEGINNING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY

Director Marcel Maro had already established himself as a successful commercial director. Yet despite his achievements, he felt an artistic void, a longing for something bigger, more intense. In 2018, this quest led him to a pivotal moment: one evening, while sitting by a river in Berlin and lost in thoughts of a feature film, an old circus wagon suddenly rattled over the cobblestones. The idea for *Furioso* was born. The circus—filled with life, passion, and craftsmanship—became, for him, the perfect metaphor for an artist's life: the balance between striving for perfection and the unpredictability of fate. A symbol for the perpetual clash between failure and triumph, vanity and honesty. A glimpse into the bright and dark sides of creativity. *Furioso* was meant to be more than just a film—it was to be a journey into the heart of the artist's existence.

THE STORY OF FURIOSO

The story of *Furioso* arose from the director's personal engagement with the highs and lows of an artist's life. As a young filmmaker, Maro experienced all the hurdles, hopes, and doubts that make this journey both challenging and fascinating. He drew inspiration from his own youth, his family, and the complex interpersonal relationships that shaped him. Building on this foundation, he was able to depict the characters' tensions and conflicts in an authentic, multifaceted way. With his attention to detail, his keen sense of dialogue, and his talent for infusing humor and lightness alongside emotional depth, Maro creates a truly unique circus world.

THE CAST OF FURIOSO

The challenge in casting *Furioso* lay in finding actors who not only possessed the necessary charisma for their roles but could also grasp the emotional depths of their characters. It was crucial that the performers not only had a strong visual presence but were also able to immerse themselves fully in their roles and convey their characters' inner conflicts and emotions authentically. This approach made it possible to portray the characters in a vivid and moving way, giving the film a special intensity.

THE LOOK OF FURIOSO

The elegant visual style of *Furioso* is defined by handcrafted costumes, lovingly crafted set design, and the magical power of black-and-white imagery. Maro, himself an experienced cinematographer, personally developed the special visual concept for camera work and lighting, ensuring that this unique style was preserved throughout the long shooting periods—during which multiple cinematographers were involved. Audiences have never seen a circus quite like the one in *Furioso*.

THE FILMING OF FURIOSO

Filming *Furioso* turned out to be far more elaborate and time-consuming than initially planned. In the end, production lasted almost three years. The COVID-19 pandemic in particular posed enormous challenges for the team: Actors from the United States were sometimes unable to travel, and coordinating the large ensemble resembled a high-wire act.

Adding to these challenges were the film's historical locations, which had to be painstakingly created and were very time-intensive. The screenplay was continuously developed throughout the entire production, allowing the film to adapt flexibly to changing circumstances. The result is a film that speaks as much of its vision as it does of the story behind its creation.

THE MUSIC OF FURIOSO

Marcel Maro, himself an avid musician, wrote and composed the music for *Furioso* entirely by hand. In doing so, he embarked on a historical journey through the world of film music. Using a blend of vintage tape-sampler machines and live instruments, he created the distinctive sound of a retro orchestra that complements the film perfectly. The soundtrack captivates with its unique fusion of romance, melancholy, and hope, fitting harmoniously into the historical setting of the film.

THE SOUND OF FURIOSO

The sound of *Furioso* was meant to be as unique as its visual language already was. For this reason, the audio post-production was meticulously planned from the very beginning and was taken into account during filming. All dialogue on set was recorded solely as a primary track. In the complex post-production process, the entire dialogue was re-recorded and mixed, in keeping with the high-quality vintage film sound of bygone days. It was also a conscious decision not to use any of the sounds recorded during shooting. All sounds — footsteps, clothing rustle, and sound effects — were entirely re-created in post-production at the *Furioso* Studios in Berlin. Only in this way was it possible to achieve the historic audio character the film demanded.

A TRIUMPH OF PASSION

From the very beginning, this project was fueled by a deep passion — the desire to bring back into the film world something that seemed lost. Despite the substantial obstacles, which turned out to be far greater during production than originally anticipated, it was always clear to Marcel Maro and his team that this passion project had to be completed. In times of pandemic and lockdowns, this was no simple undertaking. Yet unwavering determination and tireless effort ultimately made it possible for *Furioso* to be finished after seven demanding years. In the end, *Furioso* is not merely a film, but a life's work that has overcome every adversity.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



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MARCEL MARO DIRECTOR, WRITER & PRODUCER

Marcel Maro is a Berlin-based German author, director, and cinematographer. He began his professional career directing international commercials (including Volkswagen, SEAT, and Lamborghini). In the following years, he went on to create remarkable cinematic works that drew attention in various theater and opera productions thanks to their defining visual elements. His feature film debut, *FURIOSO*, arose from a long-held, deep-seated desire to reinvent German cinema and simultaneously serves as a personal love letter to the art of film.

Maro is currently developing a new historical series that transports viewers to the legendary Lunapark, a mythical amusement park in the heart of 1930s Berlin. He is also working on another feature film about a group of affluent yet lost souls who, between Christmas and New Year's Eve, unexpectedly converge for a mysterious banquet in the snowy Alps.

GERNOT BAYER CINEMATOGRAPHER

Gernot Bayer, the first of a total of four cinematographers, handled the camera on most shooting days. With his sensitive approach and meticulous eye, he was instrumental in capturing the extraordinary images of *Furioso*. He works as a DOP on both national and international projects from his base in Berlin, covering narrative and documentary film formats. Commercial and corporate films are also part of his portfolio. He holds a degree in cinematography from the Film University Babelsberg Konrad Wolf and trained as a photographer. Since 2020, he has also been a partner at the independent agency DAS GUTE WERK BEWEGTBILD. In his work, he engages with actors sensitively and intuitively, striving to create space for creativity, visibility, and impact.

CHARACTERS AND CAST



CHARACTERS AND CAST



CHRISTIAN WEWERKA AS KARLO - THE DIRECTOR

Most recently seen at the Festival de Cannes in Doroteya Droumeva's *The Vagabonds*, Christian Wewerka's acting career began on the theater stages of Berlin in the 1980s. Trained by legendary acting coaches such as Geraldine Baron and Keith Johnstone, Wewerka has portrayed an array of characters from theater and musical history in over seventy stage productions, including Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Schiller's *Die Räuber*, and *Cabaret*.

JULIA DIETZE AS MARIE - THE ACROBAT

In the lead role of the international science fiction hit *Iron Sky*, the German-French actress Julia Dietze caused a worldwide sensation. Shortly thereafter, she shone alongside luminaries such as Keira Knightley and Helen Mirren in the feature film *Berlin, I Love You*. With ease, Dietze switches within her wide-ranging repertoire between dramatic roles—for example, as a breakdancer in *Little Paris*—or as a neurotic teacher in the hit comedy *Fack ju Göhte*.



ARASH MARANDI AS CAMIL - THE MAGICIAN

Often referred to by the international press as the Iranian James Dean, Arash Marandi has already been celebrated in various lead roles at the Sundance Film Festival and the Festival de Cannes. He made it into the shortlist for the Academy Awards with *Teheran Tabu*. For his role in the film drama *Luciernagas*, Arash Marandi won the Best Actor award at the Lleida Latin-American Film Festival. He gained international attention in the Apple TV+ series *Tehran* and as the lead in Ana Lily Amirpour's *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night*. In German television, he has appeared as a Tatort detective and in the hit series *All You Need*.

CHARACTERS AND CAST

MURIEL BIELENBERG AS ADRIANA - THE MIME

Originally from Hamburg, Muriel Bielenberg was performing in the circus ring from early childhood. She became known to a wider audience through her appearance in the successful German TV series *Charité*. She has performed at prestigious venues such as the Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg and the Theater der Jugend in Vienna. In addition, she is the German dubbing voice for Emma Corrin as Lady Diana in the award-winning Netflix series *The Crown*.



NICO BIRNBAUM AS ANTON - THE ACROBAT

Nico Birnbaum worked for many years as a translator and German teacher in Rome before discovering his passion for acting. By now, he has performed alongside international stars like Colin Firth and Kelly Macdonald, including in films such as the war drama *Operation Mincemeat* or Tom Tykwer's historical hit *Babylon Berlin*. Birnbaum also appears regularly at various German theaters and, as a dubbing artist, lends his voice to numerous roles in international film and gaming productions.

RUMMELSNUFF AS HANS - THE STRONGMAN

Roger "Rummelsnuff" Baptist is best described as a genuine local legend in Berlin. He is renowned for his unique, rough "Strommusik," his striking bodybuilder presence, and his stint as the legendary bouncer at what is arguably the world's most famous techno club, *Berghain*. From time to time, Rummelsnuff also performs in theater productions and is frequently invited to share the stage with well-known musicians such as *Die Ärzte* and *Fettes Brot*.



MORITZ BERG AS RUDI - THE HANDYMAN

Moritz Berg is a true multi-talent. Alongside appearances in international film productions such as *Cloud Atlas* by the Wachowskis and Tom Tykwer or Steven Spielberg's *Bridge of Spies*, Moritz Berg also trained as a state-certified clown and brings his art to hospitals under the *Rote Nasen* initiative. As an actor, he has worked at renowned theaters such as the *Deutsches Theater Berlin*, as well as in countless German film, TV, and commercial productions.

CHARACTERS AND CAST

JAN JOSEF LIEFERS AS DOCTOR BOCKMEIER

Jan Josef Liefers is one of Germany's most famous actors and achieved cult status through his role as Professor Karl-Friedrich Boerne in Münster's Tatort. In addition to this iconic TV role, he has excelled in successful feature films such as Knockin' on Heaven's Door and The Baader Meinhof Complex. His versatility and charismatic presence make him one of the most sought-after actors in Germany.



KATHARINA THALBACH AS CHARLIE MOOSBACH

Katharina Thalbach is among the most prominent German actresses, impressing audiences with her versatility on both stage and screen. She achieved international fame through her role in The Tin Drum, which won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Through numerous film and theater projects, she has established herself as an icon of German culture. She currently captivates millions of viewers in Germany as Miss Merkel.

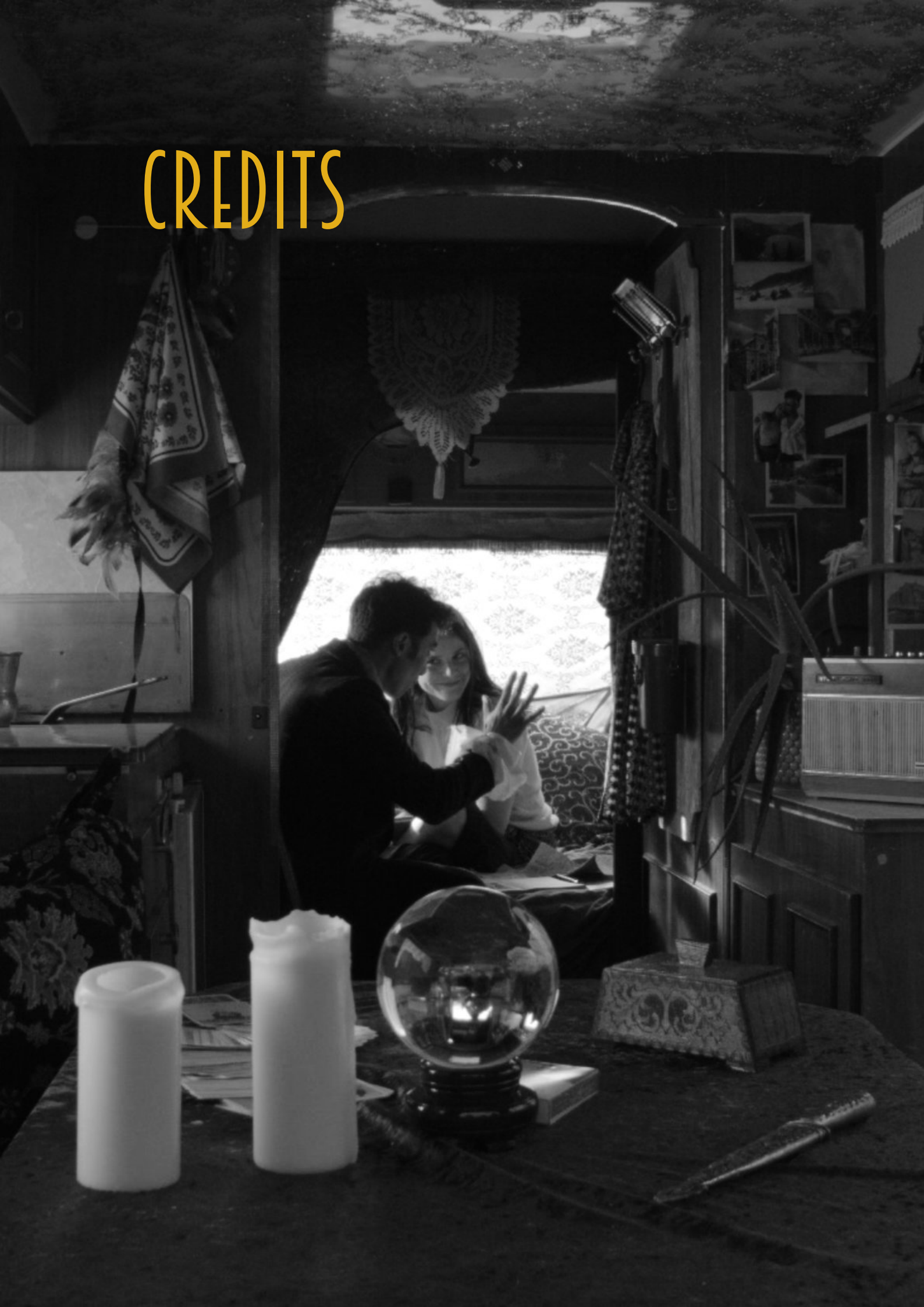


FRESH TORGE OELRICH AND BJÖRN MEYER AS THE LASSENDORF DUO

Actor and comedian "Freshtorge" Oelrich is considered one of the most influential influencers in the German-speaking world. In the leading role of the feature film Kartoffelsalat, he was supported by comedy icon Otto Waalkes, and as an actor he has had countless appearances in television formats and films, such as Er ist wieder da.

Known for his comedic talent, Björn Meyer is a regular cast member of the popular TV series Tatort Münster and plays the leading role in the internationally recognized Paramount+ series Der Scheich by Dani Levy. In addition, this renowned stage actor is a permanent member of the ensemble at the Thalia Theater Hamburg.

CREDITS



CREDITS

KARLO MORETTI	CHRISTIAN WEWERKA
CAMIL - DER ZAUBERER	ARASH MARANDI
MARIE - DIE ARTISTIN	JULIA DIETZE
ADRIANA - DIE PANTOMIMIN	MURIEL BIELENBERG
ANTON - DER ARTIST	NICO BIRNBAUM
RUDI - DER ASSISTENT	MORITZ BERG
HANS - DER KRAFTMENSCH	RUMMELSNUFF
BARTOSZ - DER CLOWN	ELIAS ELASTISCH
WEIßCLOWN - LASSENDORF DUO	BJÖRN MEYER
DUMMER AUGUST - LASSENDORF DUO	"FRESH" TORGE OELRICH
ERIK - DER INVESTOR	FRÉDÉRIC STROMENGER
REINHOLD - DER BÄCKER	DAVID BREDIN
DOKTOR BOCKMEIER	JAN JOSEF LIEFERS
CHARLIE	KATHARINA THALBACH
HEINER WIELAND	BENNO LEHMANN
FRAU ACKERMANN	CATHLEN GAWLICH
FANNY	LULU

BESONDEREN DANK AN NINA REITHMEIER

CASTING	CHRISTIAN FISCHER PASCAL ANDRES
BILDGESTALTUNG	MARCEL MARO
KAMERAUFÜHRUNG	GERNOT BAYER HANS PRZYBILLA JENS STAEDER MARCEL MARO
2. KAMERA	PAUL ADER ELIAS FRITZ
KAMERAASSISTENZ	PAUL ADER TARIK KOCYILMAZ

CREDITS

KAMERAASSISTENZ	ALEXANDRE WEBER MARTINS ELIAS FRITZ LUK FRIEDRICH THOMAS LOOS TILL DOSE PHILIP SÜß FLORIAN GEYER GREGOR CUNNINGHAM JAKOB HAMPEL
OBERBELEUCHTER	NILS LIEBHEIT GREGOR CUNNINGHAM ELIAS FRITZ
BELEUCHTER	MORITZ PFLOCK BENJAMIN POHL TARIK KOCYILMAZ MAGNUS LEYENDECKER
REGIEASSISTENZ	ALEXANDRE WEBER MARTINS PASCAL ANDRES LOUIS LEGGE
AUFNAHMELEITUNG	TARIK KOCYILMAZ MIKE HEIDE
KOMPARENENBETREUUNG	LOUIS LEGGE PASCAL ANDRES
SCRIPT CONTINUITY	PASCAL ANDRES
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CREDITS

KOSTÜM	FRANZISKA KARG DORIS BARTELT TANJA JESEK
KOSTÜMASSISTENZ	LEONIE HANSL MARINA KITSUKAWA JANNIKA HINZ PASCAL ANDRES
GARDEROBE	LEONIE HANSL DORIS BARTELT LAURA BURKHARDT ANNIKA JOY BRAUN DILARA ÖZKAN AURELIE HARAZIM ELLEN BORGMANN NOAH SHAW MARINA KITSUKAWA
MASKENBILDNER	SARAH JANE RUHNOW JANA DIETZ SILJA KRAUSE MONA PREIM ELISA ZARNIKO CARLA VOLMERG
ZUSATZMASKENBILDNER	NADINE VIEKER MARE JAESCHKE LEONIE ORLOB
AUSSTATTUNG	JONATHAN AHLBERG JENNY DÖRING STEPHANIE TRAUT ANNABELLA FORTMANN MURIEL BIELENBERG
AUSSTATTUNGSASSISTENZ	SABRINA RICHTER

CREDITS

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ADR EDITOR MONIKA TRÜMMER

ADR MIXER NICOLE BUSCH

SOUND DESIGNER OLAF SCHUBERT

SOUND EFFECT RECORDIST GÜNTHER STRAUCH

SOUND EFFECT EDITOR HEIKE MOSS

RE-RECORDING MIXER BERND FASSTRÄGER

FOLEY ARTIST GERD WÄCHMANN
PASCAL ANDRES
FRÉDÉRIC STROMENGER
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ARASH MARANDI

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FOLEY EDITOR CLAUDIA ECKSTEIN
KERSTIN SCHREIER
PASCAL ANDRES

FOLEY MIXER SAMIR KAZEMI

SOUND SUPERVISOR HEIKO SCHWENDRAU

SYNCHRONISATION, GERÄUSCHE UND MUSIK
AUFGENOMMEN UND GEMISCHT
IN DEN FURIOSO STUDIOS BERLIN

SCHNITT ERIK RÜLICHE

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O-TON	LUKA ANDRES GABRIEL MACEU FARIA
STUNTDoubles / ARTISTEN	ANDALOUSI LAGHMICH ELAKEL CHRISTIAN MÖLLER MILENA SCHWENKENBERG CHRISTOF BUCH
PYROTECHNIK	RONALD AURINGER ERIC AURINGER
TIERBETREUUNG	ANDY SCHULZ FRANSIKA SCHWAERTZKE RUBEN SEELISCH-AMOKWU

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