

kamm[m]acher GmbH presents

NADINE VINZENS

PHILIPPE GRABER

NILS ALTHAUS

ANDREA ZOGG

JAAP ACHTERBERG

MARCUS SIGNER

GINA GURTNER

MARY & JOHNNY

KAMM(M)ACHER GMBH PRÄSENTIERT IN KOPRODUKTION MIT 400ASA UND TELECLUB AG «MARY & JOHNNY» EIN FILM VON SAMUEL SCHWARZ
MIT NADINE VINZENS, PHILIPPE GRABER, NILS ALTHAUS, ANDREA ZOGG, JAAP ACHTERBERG, MARCUS SIGNER, GINA GURTNER, MARA THURNHEER U.A.

KAMERA QUINN REIMANN SZENENBILD MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER & FREDERIK KUNKEL KOSTÜME SILVIA FREI MASKE SUNDARI WÜRGLER TON IVO SCHLÄPFER, DANIEL HOBI, JEAN-PIERRE GERTH
CASTING SUSAN MÜLLER SCHNITT ROLF LANG MUSIK & SOUNDDSIGN MICHAEL SAUTER AUSFÜHRENDE PRODUZENTIN JUDITH LICHTNECKERT PRODUZENTEN SAMUEL SCHWARZ,
JUDITH LICHTNECKERT, MERET HOTTINGER KOPRODUZENT MOHAN MANI DREHBUCH SAMUEL SCHWARZ FREI NACH DEM THEATERSTÜCK «KASIMIR UND KAROLINE» VON ÖDÖN VON HORVÁTH
REGIE SAMUEL SCHWARZ & JULIAN M. GRÜNTAL



400ASA



TELECLUB

Jelmoli



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"Mary & Johnny"

80 Min.

FORMAT RED 4K 16:9 – **SOUND** 5.1

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE Swiss German

SUBTITLES German, English

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1. PRESS REVIEWS

“Dialog, soundtrack and visual language fit. They merge into a desolate, addictive swoosh that is intoxication and night.”

TAGES-ANZEIGER

“Luckily, Nils Althaus and Andrea Zogg realised the capability of this sinister opus – they perform splendidly.”

OUT-NOW

“Those who accuse the Swiss cinema of being chronically tame will here get convinced of the opposite.”

OUT-NOW

“‘Mary & Johnny’ is harsh and urban, and it awaits you with convincing actors and a driving soundtrack.”

SDA/NEWSNETZ

“Considering the many simple and unimaginative Swiss films, ‘Mary & Johnny’ is almost revolutionary.”

WELTWOCH

“A movie, rapid and lurid, cheap and witty, angry and powerful.”

NZZ-FOLIO

“An irritatingly faithful reflection of ordinary madness.”

SONNTAG

“Haunting: Nadine Vinzens.”

NZZ

“Marcus Singer und Nils Althaus masterfully hint at their abysmal sides.”

BASLER ZEITUNG

“From the very start, a lively staged performance with throughout authentic actors. A joy!”

Rolf Lyssy in TAGBLATT DER STADT ZÜRICH

2. SYNOPSIS



Zurich Fest 2010, shortly before the final of the Football World Championship. Mary would really like to watch the match, but her boyfriend Johnny is in a bad mood because he has just lost his job. A series of misunderstandings leads to a quarrel and the couple goes their separate ways. Underway through the night they come across shady characters and become entangled in turbulent incidents. Tragically, they miss one another over and over again. At the crack of dawn, however, there is a dramatic yet comic showdown between the lovers. Freely adapted from "Casimir and Caroline" by Ödön von Horvath.

3. CAST



MARY Nadine Vinzens



JOHNNY Philippe Graber



HOSTETTLER Nils Althaus



SEPP RAUCH Andrea Zogg



VANDENBRENK Jaap Achterberg



MISCHA Marcus Signer



FRÄNZI Gina Gurtner

ADDITIONAL CAST

MADAM Golda Eppstein

STORE MANAGER Julian M. Grünthal

DANIELA Mara Thurnheer

OLD MAN Edi Huber

DORIS Nadja Brenneisen

JENNIFER Ranja Kamal

METTE Annina Euling

BOY Bernhard Schneider

HOBO Bruno Kocher

JOSÉ Jakob Schwarz

STRIPPER Lukrezia Pistol

4. CREW

DIRECTED BY Samuel Schwarz & Julian M. Grünthal
WRITTEN BY Samuel Schwarz
PRODUCED BY Samuel Schwarz, Judith Lichtneckert, Meret Hottinger
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Judith Lichtneckert
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Quinn Reimann
PRODUCTION DESIGN Michael Baumgartner & Frederik Kunkel
MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN Michael Sauter
SOUND RECORDISTS Ivo Schläpfer, Daniel Hobi, Jean-Pierre Gerth
COSTUMES Silvia Frei
MAKE-UP Sundari Würgler
EDITOR Rolf Lang
CASTING Susan Müller, Castingbüro Zürich

5. DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES

SAMUEL SCHWARZ

Born in 1971 in Bern, he gained his first experience as a director with a punk Christmas story at the autonomous centre for culture at the Reithalle Bern. From 1992-1995 he attended various film courses taught by Christian Iseli, a video course with Jürg Neuenschwander, 1994-1998 studies of direction and drama at the Theaterhochschule Zürich. In 1998 and 1999 he had engagements with Benno Besson and Peter Palitzsch. In 1998, he founded the independent theatre group 400asa (together with Lukas Bärfuss) and celebrated various successes with independent productions, amongst others 1999 "Italienische Nacht" by Horvath and 2000 "Medeää" according to Euripides/Lars von Trier.

Since 1999 Samuel Schwarz has worked as a director at various theatres in Switzerland, Germany, Slovenia, China and Poland. A company coaching workshop for 400asa, held by Asta Welejus of Zentropa Interactions in Copenhagen, lead to the founding of kamm[m]acher GmbH in 2006. At present Samuel Schwarz is developing a Sci-Fi feature film for SWR, which is planned to go into production in 2012.

AWARDS

- 1998 Zürich Radio Prize for the radio play "Röstiblit" (together with Udo Israel)
- 2000 Zürcher Kantonalbank grant for "Medeää"
- 2011 Winner of the Zurich Advancement Award for Theatre/Music

5. DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES

JULIAN M. GRÜNTAL

Director, Actor, Playwright and Scriptwriter

Born in Freiburg in Breisgau, Germany in 1981. After graduating in 2000 he studied drama at the Theaterhochschule Zürich from 2001 to 2005.

During his studies he worked as an actor at Schauspielhaus Zürich and at Theater Winkelwiese. After receiving his diploma he was employed by various theatres (Theater Biel-Solothurn, Freilichtspiele Luzern, Seeburgtheater Kreuzlingen). 2006–2007 member of the ensemble of Theater Bielefeld. Since 2007 he is living again in Zürich and works freelance for films and theatre. He is a member of the theatre groups 400asa and Grenzgänger.

EXCERPTS FROM THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

DER BUS Co-director (Director: Samuel Schwarz)

2007 Theater Chur, Theaterhaus Gessnerallee Zürich, Auawirleben-Festival Bern, Festival Politik im freien Theater Köln, Acco Festival (Israel 2010)

CHECKPOINT. Israel-Palästina in unseren Köpfen. Director, Producer, Scriptwriter

2010 Südpol Luzern, Schlachthaus Bern, Message Salon Zürich

2011 Vorstadttheater Basel, Schauwerk Schaffhausen, Theater Tuchlaube Aarau

LA CÉRÉMONIE Co-Director with Samuel Schwarz

Part of the Swiss-Chinese Cultural explorations programme/
Culturescapes Festival

2010 Theater Gessnerallee, Peng Hao Theatre Peking, Theaterspektakel Zürich, Schlachthaus theater Bern, Stadttheater Bern

NICO'S LOVE. Scriptwriter, Director

2011 Lucerne, Berne. 2012 Zurich

AWARDS

PREMIO Young Directors Award 2011 for "Nico's Love"

6. DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

“Mary & Johnny” is a free adaptation of Ödön von Horvath’s play ‘Kasimir & Karoline’, which shows the results of the Big Bang of 1929 on human relationships. The play is a tragicomedy, or, to be more precise, a romantic comedy turned upside-down. In a romantic comedy the protagonists are together with wrong partners at the beginning of a story and find their right counterparts at the end – Horvath lets his protagonists start AND end up with partners, who are far from right for them. The romantic ideal cannot be realised.

Time and again, “Mary & Johnny” deviates from Horvath’s original play, only to reoccur to its roots in the end. The film is set during the finals of the 2010 Football World Championship. Mary takes Johnny along to a big party, she wants to have fun. Johnny, who has just lost his job the same afternoon, doesn’t feel like partying and spoils Mary’s fun. Mary sends him packing. Now, both start their individual trips which will take them through a long party night. Johnny meets Mischa, an old “friend” of his, who keeps beating up his girlfriend Fränzi. Mischa tries to make Johnny look ahead, tries to make him indifferent towards women. Mary, however, makes the acquaintance of the handsome but sociopathic Hotstettler and meets Sepp, an ageing football manager, who wants to pull her. The story drifts towards its tragicomic ending.

The narrator of the story is Mischa, the romantic non-conformist, who tells us about his dodgy former doings remorsefully. Mischa embodies the pimp-like soul of Horvath, tied to and fascinated by evil, and constantly fighting his own, anti-social drives.

The period during which Horvath had been writing his story is called the “pink” period. A specific working man’s culture had developed from the “Casion Capitalism” of the 1920s. It was the period of the well-dressed, efficient employees with rosy cheeks and pink shirts. “Pink” as the colour of capitalism cloaked the relentless economisation of each and every domain of life. The 1929 crash ended the pink period, people, however still trembled with the aftershock of the pink vibes.

6. DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

"Mary & Johnny" is set in the time immediately after the "pink" period. The events of the summer 2010, again a time of financial crises, state bankruptcies and aggressive capitalism, invade our private lives just as the events of 1929 did. In "Mary & Johnny", Zurich is the capital of Casino capitalism and the cheesy football manager Sepp embodies the chauvinist male power, which still governs our lives considerably – not only where football is concerned. Zurich is a melting pot of various dialects, but also a global, "Seldwyla-like" village, where country bumpkins meet global players. In "Mary & Johnny", Zurich is the symbol of a capitalism based on gambling, in which people are just one more commodity amongst many, goods to be had and disposed of under the many bright lights of the city festival.

Mary und Johnny are the revenants of the Horvathian employees. Their precarities are different from the ones of their counterparts in the 1930s, however, they too work in cursatory jobs, for which they have been trained only superficially. They are embedded into a world governed by media, and they too are emulating their idols. As in Horvath's world they use fashion magazines and tittle tattle tales as their guidelines. Even Mary's calamitous tendency towards losing control and letting herself go seems to be inspired by the borderline girlies of the world of glamour. The lack of social and political perspectives leaves the characters with little hope for the future and makes them stray blindly, always on the look-out for glamour and happiness.

7. FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE FILM

- After a two year preparation phase "Mary & Johnny" was filmed in nine short nights in the final phase of the football world championship 2010. After three further hurly-burly filled nights at the Züri Fäscht (Zurich City Festival) more night shoots in our purpose built festival zone in the Binz area followed.
- The film was realised with the kind support of our co-producer Teleclub. Thanks go to Jelmoli and other sponsors and the great effort that was put in by crew and cast. The usual film funding companies did so far not facilitate the production of "Mary & Johnny".
- Part of the project development was a workshop held in collaboration with the ZHDK. During one week, scenes were rehearsed with the participatin drama students and test shoots took place. The test shoots included among other things work with the original cast and the director of photography, Quinn Reimann. Furthermore, we also rehearsed the conditions of the Züri Fäscht in the public viewing zones during the football tournament. Apart from the inputs as far as the development of the script and visualisation of scenes was concerned we could also cast two drama students as supporting acts for the movie (Mara Thurnheer and Nikolai Bosshardt).
- "Mary & Johnny" is the first feature film by Samuel Schwarz and Julian M. Grünthal. For several years they have been collaborating with the theatre group 400asa, where they have tried and tested their successful model of a double directorship.

7. FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE FILM

The cast consists of a mixture of actors from the free theatre scene, seasoned pros from the Swiss film scene and celebrities from the show biz scene. Nadine Vinzens as "Mary" will be seen in her first leading part in a feature film. She has further projects lined up, both, in her adopted home Los Angeles as well as in Switzerland. Among other things she will premiere the Gotthelf Musical "How five girls die pitifully through Brandy" on October 4 with the theatre group 400asa in the Theaterhaus Gessnerallee. Philippe Graber, remembered by many from "Der Freund", which bought him the 2008 prize for the best Swiss Newcomer in Film is "Johnny".

Nils Althaus will make an appearance as Johnny's dubious enemy "Hostettler". Since he has been named Shooting Star 2007 he has been seen in numerous films and was nominated for the 2008 and 2009 Swiss Film Prize. Andrea Zogg is "Sepp Rauch", an influential football manager. Familiar from various films and known by a wide audience he was also nominated for the 2011 Swiss Film Prize and has supported "Mary & Johnny" from the very beginning with a lot of dedication. For the character roles of "Vandenbrenk" and "Mischa" we have been able to lure Jaap Achterberg and Marcus Signer away from the theatre stage in front of the camera. Gina Gurtner as "Fränzi" will make her debut in a feature length film.

Michael Sautner, among other things, known for the sound track of "Strahl", "Im Sog der Nacht", "Lou's Wash salon", "Heldin der Lüfte" and soon also for "One Way Trip 3D" is responsible for the music in "Mary & Johnny" and even took on the part of the sound design.

8. FESTIVALS

2011 7. Zurich Film Festival (German-Language Feature Film Competition)

2011 45. Hof International Film Festival

2012 33. Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis (Feature Film Competition)

2012 47. Solothurn Film Festival

AWARDS

Special Mention of the Jury at the Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis:

“‘Mary & Johnny’ is a fast, tough and anarchic film, closely following the awareness of life of a generation in search for meaning. The filmmakers and the ensemble masterly manage to translate classical literature into a distinctive young film language.”

Nomination for Marcus Signer for the Swiss Film Prize “Quartz 12” in the category “Best Performance in a Supporting Role”.

9. THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

kamm[m]acher GmbH (kam[m]acher Ltd.) is the filmic arm of 400asa – a highly productive Swiss theatre team which repeatedly causes havoc with its innovative and political projects. Kam[m]acher GmbH translates the narrative voice of 400asa into the medium of film. And as 400asa they aim to produce films that aim to be “political, funny & rhythmical” and should capture the hearts of the cinema and television audience with a gaudy mixture of folksiness and artistic aspirations. The focus lies on narrative forms, which, thanks to the idea of convergence, doesn’t make a difference between the stages of the theatre, the internet and the cinema screen anymore.

The second part “SEPP”, will further develop the character of the dubious football manager – loosely based on Shakespeare’s RICHARD III. Part three, “MISCHA’S RETURN” will focus – inspired by Shakespeare’s Hamlet – on the evil, but fascinating character of Mischa, who makes his appearance as charismatic narrator in “Mary & Johnny”. kam[m]acher GmbH develops innovative and unconventional projects, however, it aims to also create synergies with the market. Apart from the mentioned trilogy, kam[m]acher is also developing the Sci-Fi project “DER POLDER” in collaboration with the SWR, which is planned to be realised in 2012 in co-production with the German Company Niama Filmproduktion GmbH.

A further project is the film musical “SELDWYLA – THE MUSICAL TOWN”, which transports Gottfried Keller’s world famous model town Seldwyla into the globalised and musicalized present.

10. PRODUCTION PARTNERS

COPRODUCERS

Teleclub AG, Mohan Mani
400asa

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ARTWORK

Tarzan + Jane

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