ABOUT THE DIRECTOR


After “100 Pro”(2001), “Men in the City” is his second feature film.

Simone Verhoeven

1972, Munich

Performing Arts:
Lee Strasberg Theater Institute, New York

Film Music:
Berkley College of Music, Boston

Film Directing:
Tisch School of the Arts, New York

Television & Film:
“Partygirl” (1993)
“Mutters Courage” (1994)
“Vasilisa” (1998)
“Star Star Star” (1999)
“Abgedreht” (1999)
“Vino Santo” (1999)
“Bride of the Wind” (2000)

Music Videos & Short Films:
“Water” (1997)
“Phone” (1997)
“Nice Meeting You” (1999)

Film Festivals:
Showcase Winner at NYU Film Festivals

Feature Film:
“Men in the City” (2001)

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SYNOPSIS

If love is a battlefield, you have to be in shape to come out of it alive. So what better place is there to get ready for a showdown with Cupid than a gym? Five prototypes of the male species have turned a Berlin gym into an experimental terrain for friendship, fitness and frustration, a kind of demilitarized zone where love is analyzed, dissected, deconstructed and sweated out of every pore.

Jerome is the alpha male, oozing self-assurance, his steeled abs literally reaching out for success. He still gets every girl he wants – just not the lucrative contracts in his job as music producer. In fact, things have gotten so bad that he’s had to take on the over-the-top pop singer Bruce Berger, who’s on a mission to stamp out hunger in the world through his sugar-coated lyrics.

Another denizen of the gym club, Roland keeps to himself and screams out his repressed emotions while working out. Talking about them might help more: a former subway driver who was traumatized in a fatal incident, he is unable to function normally and nurtures an aggressiveness that’s headed towards an explosion.

The two pals Philip and Niklas are a study in contrasts. Philip, the eternal student, has been fired from his trainee job and wants to open a health-food restaurant. Niklas is an advertising and PR ace. What they both share are women problems: three weeks into a new relationship, the penniless Philip finds out that his girlfriend is pregnant. Niklas, meanwhile, is set to marry his sweetheart, but starts getting cold feet at the thought of tying the knot – and begins an affair with a younger woman…

Are men the strong sex? These five – sensitive, vulnerable, often intolerable – ask themselves this question as they stumble from one misadventure to another, from one woman to another, until they learn a very valuable lesson: that you have to fight for the woman you love. Even if you have to take on a crocodile single-handedly!