

Beta Cinema presents
a production of **Pantaleon Films** and **Warner Bros. Film Productions Germany**
in co-production with **ERFTTAL Film**

OSKAR'S DRESS

directed by
Hüseyin Tabak

written by
Florian David Fitz

starring
Florian David Fitz
Lauri
Ava Petsch
Senta Berger
Burghart Klaußner
Kida Khodr Ramadan
Marie Burchard

Producers
Dan Maag, Daniel Sonnabend, Marco Beckmann

Supported by
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World Sales
Beta Cinema

Logline

An extended visit from his children gives the broken-down policeman Ben the chance to present himself as a perfect father. But now that Oscar wants to be called Lili, Ben and his conventionally messed-up family find themselves plunged into an unexpected adventure. A sensitive and accessible tragicomedy that goes straight to the heart.

Short Synopsis

Ever since Ben has been living apart from his ex-wife Mira and their children Oscar and Erna, his life has fallen apart. Alone in his semi-detached house, he drags himself through sleepless nights and starts the day with muesli and beer. But unexpectedly, Ben gets a second chance to prove that he can be a perfect father: when the heavily pregnant Mira has to go to the hospital prematurely, his children temporarily move in with him. However, things don't go quite according to plan. Ben realizes this the moment he opens the suitcases. Because there it is: Oscar's dress. And with this innocent dress, Ben and his conventionally messed-up family embark on an adventure at the end of which everything is different – and no one is the same anymore.

Press Note

Family is a place where it doesn't matter who you are or how you are. Boy or girl, old or young, introvert or eccentric. But is that really the case? And how do the closest relatives behave when these pigeonholes become too narrow? Our children and grandchildren don't always fit into the familiar norms, and we have to come to terms with that. Screenwriter Florian David Fitz and director Hüseyin Tabak get to the bottom of these questions in the moving tragicomedy "Oskar's Dress." Pantaleon Films in co-production with Warner Bros. Film Productions Germany present the heartwarming father-son story, which deals with a topic that has long received little attention in a thoughtful yet entertaining way: Transgender children. The inner turmoil when body and perceived gender don't match makes it difficult for children to find their place in life. Although the acceptance of parents would be necessary as an important basis, many adults find it difficult to understand and respect that their child is not "just going through a phase". Lead actor and author Florian David Fitz, who wrote the screenplay, tells the story of an overwhelmed father who reaches his own limits of acceptance with his child's fundamental search for identity with the courage to be honest and humorous nuances. Newcomer Lauri makes her acting debut in the role of Oskar/Lili. Other roles are played by Ava Petsch, Kida Khodr Ramadan, Marie Burchard, Juan Lo Sasso, Burghart Klaußner and Senta Berger.

The Message of the Film - Individual Freedoms

More tolerance towards new things! "Oskar's Dress" advocates a more open-minded coexistence. Unfamiliar situations and the individual lifestyles of our fellow human beings are part of everyday life and must be accepted. Those who close their minds to other ways of looking at things rob themselves the chance to see the world in all its diversity. For author and actor Florian David Fitz, this is an important statement he wants to make with his story: "I tried everything to make 'Oskar's Dress' a funny, charming, sad, beautiful and touching film, and Hüseyin has done his invaluable part. Viewers will see in Lauri's eyes alone how such a personal issue as transgender can engage even children. When she looks at you with her questioning gaze, you see a whole world in it. This is the real gain of our film." Senta Berger emphasizes the closeness to real life: "The change from Oskar to Lili creates a lot of confusion in the family because everyone has to rethink their position on the child. It creates tension because not only does the relationship with the little boy change, but also the relationships in the family are reshuffled. Florian David Fitz tells this with many comedic elements. But the beauty of it is that it turns into a serious comedy. It reflects life with laughter and tears. Because even with challenges and new insights, everyone involved comes together again through the feelings of this little boy. Maybe not as a family, but as people who love each other and are understood". "For me, Oskar's story is also about choices", says Juan Lo Sasso. "The question of responsibility is raised, or how views should be respected. This sensitive subject demands a more conscious encounter." "We can't take responsibility with the film", adds Burghart Klaußner. "However, we do encourage people to think more openly about transgender people". "It's important to make a film like this about this topic and to give it space. More acceptance must be generated, and an open approach practiced. With the help of this great story and a beautiful script, maybe we pave a normal way of dealing with trans identities and children facing this situation", Marie Burchard underlines. "The word freedom takes on a wonderful meaning in the film", concludes Kida Khodr Ramadan. "Freedom is the most beautiful thing in life! For the viewer, I hope he recognizes this wisdom in the film and is entertained at the same time. He will get to see a story that will make him need a handkerchief and laugh out loud at the same time."

CAST

Florian David Fitz as *Ben*

Florian David Fitz, born in Munich in 1974, studied music and theater at the Boston Conservatory. In 2009, he was in front of the camera for Simon Verhoeven's cinema comedy "Männerherzen". With 2.4 million viewers, the prominently cast ensemble film was one of the biggest German box-office hits of 2009. Florian David Fitz wrote the screenplay for the feature film "Vincent will Meer" (2010), which was directed by Ralph Huettner and in which Fitz played the male lead. The film had over one million viewers and won the German Film Award in the Best Film category. Fitz himself won the trophy for Best Leading Actor. In 2012, directed by Detlev Buck, he starred in the bestselling film adaptation "Measuring the World". This was followed in 2016 by "Der geilste Tag", for which Florian David Fitz both directed and wrote the screenplay. The film had more than 1.7 million viewers. In October 2016, 6.88 million viewers saw Florian David Fitz as the lead in Lars Kraume's TV movie "Terror - Ihr Urteil" based on the play of the same name by Ferdinand von Schirach. Also in 2016, Simon Verhoeven's "Willkommen bei den Hartmanns" was launched. With 3.8 million viewers, the most successful German comedy of the year was awarded the German Film Prize, the Bavarian Film Prize, the German Comedy Prize, the Bambi, the Jupiter and the Peace Prize of German Film, among others. In 2018, he celebrated his next major theatrical success with "100 Dinge", for which he wrote the screenplay, directed it himself and starred alongside Matthias Schweighöfer. Fitz starred in Sönke Wortmann's comedy "How about Adolf" (2018) and its sequel. Most recently, Florian David Fitz was part of the ensemble comedies "Das perfekte Geheimnis" (2019) by Bora Dagtekin as well as in Sönke Wortmann's "Eingeschlossene Gesellschaft" (2022).

Lauri as *Oskar/Lili*

Lauri lives in Bavaria and was born in 2011. She makes her impressive feature film debut in "Oskar's Dress". It was and is important to Lauri to give expression to the theme of the film and the story about Oskar/Lili with her acting. However, Lauri does not want to put her own (gender) identity and history in the foreground or make it a theme. She says of herself here simply: "I am Lauri. A girl."

Ava Petsch as *Erna*

Ava Petsch establishes her career as a talented young actress with "Oskar's Dress". In the feature film "Was man von hier aus sehen kann" directed by Aron Lehmann and based on the novel of the same name by Mariana Leky, Ava played alongside Corinna Harfouch and Luna Wedler. The film was part of the Berlin International Film Festival in 2023 and is currently nominated for the German Film Award.

Kida Khodr Ramadan as *Seyit*

Born in 1978 in Beirut, Lebanon, Kida grew up with four siblings in a Turkish-Lebanese family. During the civil war, the family left the country and moved to Berlin-Kreuzberg. He discovered his passion for acting through his acquaintance with the German-Turkish director Neco Çelik, who cast him in his TV project "Alltag" (2003). His cinema roles include Stefan Schaller's German Film Award Nominee "Five Years" (2013) as well as German Boxoffice successes "3 Türken und ein Baby" (2015), "Männertag" (2016), "My Blind Date with Life" (2017), "Only God can Judge me" (2017), "Narzissus and Goldmund" (2020) and "Wolke unterm Dach" (2022). As the lead actor in the hit series "4 Blocks", Ramadan was awarded the German Television Prize and the Grimme Prize. He made his directorial debut with his moving drama "There are no Orange Trees in Berlin" (2020), in which he also co-wrote the screenplay and took on the lead role.

Marie Burchard as *Mira*

Marie Burchard, born in Bonn in 1982, grew up in France. After graduating from high school, she moved to Berlin and studied at the Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Arts. She starred alongside Til Schweiger in his comedy "Klassentreffen 1.0 - Die unglaubliche Reise der Silberrücken" (2018). The tragicomedy "Wenn Fliegen träumen" (2018) was the third production within the successful cinema year. Her other cinema projects include Sebastian Schipper's drama "Roads" (2019), which was nominated for best international feature at the Tribeca Film Festival. Most recently, in 2022, she starred in Aron Lehmann's comedy "Hunting Season", in which she took on one of the leading roles, Michael Bully Herbig's journalist drama "A Thousand Lines", and Til Schweiger's novel adaptation "Lieber Kurt".

Juan Lo Sasso as *Diego*

Juan Lo Sasso is an Argentine artist. He works as a musician, director and actor in Germany, Spain, Italy and his native country. In addition to his work as an actor, he studied sociology at the prestigious University of Buenos Aires and film at the film school ENERC. In addition, he completed numerous trainings in theater and music. In Germany, he was convincing in the feature film "Datsche" (2018), in which he plays a globetrotting musician who hides out for a summer in a Potsdam allotment garden. He was nominated by the Filmhaus Berlin and Lonely Wolf London for Best Supporting Actor for his role in "Your Colour" (2019). Juan Lo Sasso will be seen next year in "El Colaborador", the second dark humor thriller from the production company 1000bares (Oscar® for Best International Film for "El Secreto de Sus Ojos"). In the production he shines alongside the legendary Argentine actor Guillermo Francella.

Burghart Klaußner as *Mr. Kornmann*

Born in Berlin in 1949, she first appeared in the cinema in 1980, in Dietrich Schubert's feature film "Ziemlich weit weg". Further roles in feature films such as Sönke Wortmann's "Das Superweib", Helmut Dietl's "Rossini" and the award-winning film "Good Bye, Lenin!" by Wolfgang Becker made him famous. He worked with director Hans-Christian Schmid on "23 - Nichts ist so wie es scheint" (1998), "Crazy" (2000) and "Requiem" (2006), for which he was nominated for Best Supporting Male Actor at the 2006 German Film Awards. Burghart Klaußner had already accepted this prestigious award a year earlier for his portrayal of the kidnapped manager in Hans Weingartner's acclaimed Cannes entry "The Edukators" (2004), and at the 2006 Locarno International Film Festival Klaußner was awarded the Silver Leopard for Best Leading Actor for his leading role in "Der Mann von der Botschaft" (2006) by Dito Tsintsadze. He appeared in Michael Klier's "Age and Beauty" and as a judge alongside Kate Winslet in the Oscar®-nominated film adaptation of the novel of the same name "The Reader" in theaters in 2009, Burghart Klaußner shone in Michael Haneke's drama "The White Ribbon", which won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes International Film Festival, then the Golden Globes and the European Film Award, and received an Oscar® nomination for Best Foreign Film. For his acting performance, he himself was awarded not only the German Film Critics' Prize, but also the 2010 German Film Award for Best Actor. Other highlights included Steven Spielberg's "Bridge of Spies", "Elser - He Would Have Changed the World", "The Lion Girl" and "The State Against Fritz Bauer." In addition, Burghart Klaußner was part of the international cast of the Netflix series "The Crown".

Senta Berger as Mrs. Kornmann

Senta Berger was born in Vienna in 1941. In 1958 she was the youngest ensemble member of the Vienna Theater. Her participation in the American productions "Secret Paths" (1961) and "The Victors" (1963) paved her way to Hollywood, where she became a world star, appearing on the cover of "Life" and starring under the direction of Sam Peckinpah ("Sierra Charriba", 1965) and Bond director Terence Young "Poppy is also a Flower" (1966). She returned to Europe in the late 1960s and filmed in Italy and France in various genres. Senta Berger has worked with German stars such as Klaus Kinski, Mario Adorf, Martin Held, Joachim Fuchsberger, Bruno Ganz and Helmut Griem, as well as international ones such as Alain Delon ("With Devilish Greetings", 1967), Kirk Douglas ("The Shadow of the Giant", 1966), Charlton Heston and Richard Harris ("Sierra Charriba", 1965), James Coburn ("Steiner - The Iron Cross", 1976), Dean Martin ("When Killers Lie in Wait", 1967), George Segal ("The Quiller Memorandum - Danger from the Dark", 1966) and Marcello Mastroianni ("The Two Lives of Mattia Pascal", 1985). Her awards include Bambi, Romy, Federal Cross of Merit, Berlin Bear of Honor, Grimme Award and a star on the Boulevard of Stars. In 2016, she received the Honorary Award of the Bavarian Film Prize.

CREW

Hüseyin Tabak – Director

Hüseyin Tabak was born in Bad Salzuflen in 1981 as the child of Turkish guest workers. From 2006 to 2012 he studied directing and screenwriting with Michael Haneke at the Vienna Film Academy. His first short film "Cheese..." (2008) was invited to over 70 international festivals and received 16 awards. During his studies he also realized his first feature film production. The documentary about participants in the World Cup for homeless people, asylum seekers and former alcohol and drug addicts was well received by critics and earned much praise. His drama "Deine Schönheit ist Nichts Wert" (2012) won the Turkish Film Award and subsequently dozens of international prizes, including the Studio Hamburg Newcomer Award in the screenplay category. In January 2014, it also won the Austrian Film Award in five categories, including Best Film, Best Screenplay and Best Director. His documentary "The Legend of the Ugly King" (2017) screened at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival and at the Hof Film Festival, where it won the 2017 Hof Documentary Award. In 2020, Hüseyin Tabak's emotional boxing drama "Gypsy Queen" told the story of courageous Ali, a single mother who must provide for her family. Hüseyin Tabak is responsible for the direction and screenplay of this award-winning film, which won acclaim at the Austrian Film Award, the German Film Award and the Günther Rohrbach Film Award, among others.

Florian David Fitz – Screenplay

See cast biography.

Daniel Gottschalk – Director of Photography

Daniel Gottschalk was born in Saarbrücken in 1972. He trained at the Baden-Württemberg Film Academy in the camera department and made a name for himself as a commercial filmmaker and with music videos. Gottschalk made his feature film debut with Marco Kreuzpaintner's "Ganz und gar" (2003). He also filmed "Summer Storm" (2004), "Trade – Welcome To America" (2007), "Krabat" (2008) and "Coming In" (2014). With Dennis Gansel he made "Die vierte Macht" (2012) and "Mechanic: Resurrection" (2016), with Pepe Danquart "Lauf Junge lauf" (2013) and "The Grass is Greener on the Other Side" (2017). Wolfgang Petersen got him behind the camera for "Vier gegen die Bank" (2016), Marcus H. Rosenmüller for "Trautmann" (2019), for Neele Leana Vollmar he photographed "Mein Lotta-Leben - Alles Bingo mit Flamingo!" (2019) as well as for Karoline Herfurth "Sweethearts" (2019), "Beautiful" (2022) and "Simply Complicated" (2022). In addition to his work in the cinema, he regularly the image design of commercials and music videos, among others for Rammstein and Aha.

Daniel Sonnabend – Producer

Before Daniel Sonnabend gained his first filming experience with his first commercials for well-known companies such as Daimler AG, ARD and Amazon Prime Video, he studied law for a few semesters at the University of Göttingen. However, his passion for the arts led him first to theater and later to the film set. Since 2012 he has been part of the Pantaleon Films team and worked on Matthias Schweighöfer's films "Schlussmacher" (2013) and "Vaterfreuden" (2014) as well as Markus Goller's "Frau Ella" (2013), Aron Lehmann's "Highway to Hellas" (2015) and "Die letzte Sau" (2016). In 2018, Daniel Sonnabend acted as producer for the first time for the sensitive coming-of-age comedy "Vielmachglas" by Florian Ross and Florian David Fitz's third directorial effort "100 Dinge". He was also responsible for the successful Netflix series "Das letzte Wort" with Anke Engelke as a producer duo together with Dan Maag. The comedy "Trauzeugen", planned for 2023, is currently in production.

Dan Maag – Producer and Head of Pantaleon Films

Dan Maag was born in Mettmann in 1975 and has been producing feature films for national and international cinema since the late 1990s. During this time, he realized projects such as "Dead Fish" (2005) with Gary Oldman or the high-seas thriller "Open Water 2" (2006). Since 2012 he is managing director and producer of Pantaleon Films GmbH. Under the flag of Pantaleon Films, Maag developed german box office hits such as "What a Man" (2011), "Schlussmacher" (2013), "Vaterfreuden" (2014), "Der Nanny" (2015), "Highway to Hellas" (2015), "Der geilste Tag" (2016), "Vielmachglas" (2018), "100 Dinge" (2018) and "Dem Horizont so nah" (2019), as well as the English-language project "Resistance" (2020), which starred Jesse Eisenberg. Other recently released films include the book adaptation "Generation Beziehungsunfähig" (2021), the joint directorial effort "Rocco's Journey" (2021) by Frederick Lau and Kida Khodr Ramadan, as well as the intense family drama "Wolke unterm Dach" (2022) and the sketch comedy "The Story of Mankind - Slightly Abridged" (2022). With Pantaleon Films, Maag was also able to realize the title of the first German-language Amazon original series. "You Are Wanted" launched on the platform in March 2017 and continued with a second season a year later. For Netflix, Dan Maag is also realizing the prequel "Army of Thieves" (2021), which deepened the story of the successful horror flick "Army of the Dead" and was directed by lead actor Matthias Schweighöfer.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Germany 2022 // German // Drama, Comedy // 102 min

MAIN CAST

Ben	Florian David Fitz
Oskar/Lili	Lauri
Erna	Ava Petsch
Mrs. Kornmann	Senta Berger
Mr. Kornmann	Burghart Klaußner
Seyit	Kida Khodr Ramadan
Mira	Marie Burchard

CREDITS

Directed by	Hüseyin Tabak
Screenplay	Florian David Fitz
Produced by	Pantaleon Films, Warner Bros. Film Production Germany in co-production with Erfttal Film
Producers	Dan Maag, Daniel Sonnabend, Marco Beckmann
Co-Producers	Florian David Fitz, Klaus Dohle
Executive Producers	Patrick Zorer, Stephanie Schettler-Köhler, Nicolas Paalzow, Christian Angermayer, Klemens Hallmann
Line Producer	Stephanie Hayward-Schneider
Junior Producer	Elena Erbenich
Associate Producer	Markus Reinecke
Hair And Make-Up	Tatjana Krauskopf, Gloria Göschel
Costume Design	Katharina Ost
Set Design	Eva-Maria Stiebler (Vsk)
Director Of Photography	Daniel Gottschalk
Editor	Ana De Mier Y Ortuño (Bfs)
Postproduction Supervisor	Sven Nuri, Lukas Lerch
Music Supervisor	Pia Hoffmann
Music	Josef Bach, Arne Schumann
Sound	Christian Bischoff
Sound Design	Stefan Busch
Original Sound	Marc Meusinger
Head Of Production	Tobias Pollok (Bhp)
Kids Casting	Franziska Schlattner
Casting Director	Daniela Tolkien
Supported by	Filmfernsehonds Bayern, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Filmförderungsanstalt, Deutscher Filmförderfonds
Local distributor	Warner Bros. Pictures Germany

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