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LOSE YOUR HEAD

OFFICIAL SELECTION PANORAMA – BERLINALE 2013

A film by Patrick Schuckmann & Stefan Westerwelle

107min, Germany 2013, Color, HD & DCP

SYNOPSIS

Like thousands of other young tourists, Luis from Madrid arrives in Berlin to spend a carefree summer weekend. After a break-up, Berlin's infamous club scene seems the ideal place to fuck the pain away, make new friends, and fall in love again. However, Luis' resemblance to Dimitri, a young Greek student who had gone missing a few weeks earlier, gets him involved in a series of mysterious events. He encounters Dimitri's sister Elena who is desperately searching for her brother. After a wild night he falls in love with Viktor, an illegal immigrant from Ukraine. When it turns out that Viktor is seemingly involved in Dimitri's disappearance, the pressure begins to build around Luis. As he becomes infatuated with Viktor, he makes more and more disturbing discoveries. What started as a reckless adventure turns into a desperate chase through the streets of the city as Luis gets more and more lost between dream and reality. Berlin's booming club scene with its spacious clubs, illegal raves and industrial ruins forms the background for an intense psycho-thriller.

BACKGROUND

Lose Your Head is inspired by the true story of a young Portuguese man, who disappeared without a trace after a night at Berghain club in 2009. His body was found only months later in the river Spree. The story was prominently featured in the media and the whole club scene was discussing the man's fate. Apparently, many could identify with the feeling of getting lost. Lose Your Head does not deal with the facts of the case but with the fears and the fantasies it evoked.

Not only those who experiment with drugs know the fear of losing control, of losing oneself, of surrendering to the unknown. Those who have fallen in love may know the feeling as well. At some point you realize it is too late: The one you love has the power to torment you, to hurt you, to even kill you - if

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only by leaving you. More disturbingly, isn't it exactly this what makes him or her so attractive to us? *Lose Your Head* explores this fear. It is about real drug experiences and love as a drug. The drug trip is a metaphor for dreaming, an immersion in imaginary worlds - like the cinematic experience itself. *Lose Your Head* strikes a fine line between documentary and thriller, fact and fiction, reality and paranoia. It takes the audience on an exciting, intense trip in the protagonist's mind. In the end the boundaries become blurred and what is real and what is imaginary becomes indistinguishable. Nevertheless, the film is set in the contemporary reality of Berlin's Bermuda triangle between Alexanderplatz, Ostkreuz and Oberbaumbrücke and offers a semi-documentarian take on Berlin's club culture at the beginning of a new decade, a landscape populated by party people in search of intense experiences, willing to lose their heads. Films about people who take drugs usually end negatively: in madness, rehab or death. Our film is maybe no exception, but it also tells about the Utopian moments of the raver culture: the idea of a „family“ of like-minded people, belonging and caring for each other, the desire for extreme experiences and the dissolution of sexual categories. It is about the intensity of sound and light and dancing, of love and friendship. In this sense, the title can be viewed in a positive light - lose your head!

Westerwelle

Stefan Westerwelle was born in 1980 in Detmold and studied tv and film at Cologne's Academy of Media Arts. His graduation film „While you are here“ premiered at Locarno and received a Golden Lola as Best German film in a special category. In 2008 he was awarded the Nachwuchspreis for young artists in Northrhine-Westfalia. In 2012, his documentary „Detlef“ was shown at Berlin Film Festival. He works as a free-lance author, director and tutor.

Schuckmann

Patrick Schuckmann was born 1968 in Bielefeld and lives in Berlin. For the past fifteen years he has been working for diverse German television series as a script-writer, script editor and in the development of new formats. He also wrote several theatre plays and two theatre series that were performed in Berlin, Hannover, Zürich and Bern. With his brother Michael, he founded the production company Mutter-Film in 2012 and realized his own script „*Lose Your Head*“.

CAST

Tielve

Luis, the young party tourist from Madrid, is played by Fernando Tielve, who had his first leading role at the age of thirteen in Guillermo der Toro's „The Devil's Backbone“. In Spain, Tielve is not only known for big international productions like Milos Forman's „Goya's Ghosts“, but also for the tv series „Internado“. Tielve played the lead in Alexis Dos Santo's „Unmade Beds“ and can be seen in the new Spanish film „Seis Puntos Sobre Emma“.

Mandic

Well known Slovenian actor Marko Mandic, plays the enigmatic Viktor. He starred in Dominik Graf's critically acclaimed Russian mafia series „In Face of the Crime“ and played with Götz George in the award winning German tv production „Zivilcourage“. He is a member of the national theatre in Ljubljana and received several awards for Best Theatre Actor in Slovenia. He is also starring in Thomas Arslan's German competition film „Gold“ at the Berlinale.



Terzyian

Sesede Terzyian plays Elena, who is looking for her lost brother. The actress of Armenian origin studied at Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Art and is currently working at Ballhaus Naunynstraße, Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf and Deutsches Theater, Berlin. For her performance in „Verrücktes Blut“, she was nominated Actress of the Year by the „Theater Heute“ magazine. In 2012 she received an acting award for the same role at Kontakt Festival in Poland