

Begierde – Covetousness

- A film by Stephanie Ruß

LOGLINE

The sex addict Valentina is the complete opposite of Alina. She loves to pursue her passion, whereas Alina is compelled to do so. The psychologist Dr. Hindering accompanies the two women on a roller coaster ride of the senses.

THEME

Sexualität/Sinnlichkeit

GENRE

Drama, Comedy

TYPE

Independent Short Movie

STORYLINE

The sex addict Valentina is living her lust completely through being a „free lady“, she loves to pursue her passion and free chosen prostitution. Her boyfriend doesn't know her addiction and privat work. She is the complete opposite of Alina who is captured in the shadow world of prostitution and slavery, Alina is compelled to do so because of her drunken and useless husband. The psychologist Dr. Hindering accompanies the two women on a roller coaster ride of the senses. Especially when Valentina's boyfriend leave her she starts to realize that she might have a problem. Alina can't live like this further and figure a way out of her mess.

SYNOPSIS

In a city full of shadow and prostitution we meet two woman dealing with two sites of sexuality. Valentina deals with her sex addiction which she doesn't see as problem at the beginning. She lives her lust and loves to be a free lady. Meanwhile Alina is forced to prostitute by her husband to feed the family. Valentinas boyfriend see her cheating without knowing about her addiction and leaves her. Valentina doesn't recognize why this is such a big deal and try to find excuses and is mad at him for leaving her. But she realize that she might have a problem and contacts her known psychologst Dr. Hindering. Meanwhile Alina recognize (because of some discussions with old friends and events n the current situation) that no prince charming will rescue her out of the situation of violence and that she have to take action of her own. She contacts Dr. Hindering to get another point of view and help. While she normaly hates sex because of her learned lessons she starts to enjoy herself day by day more. She find a new love and want to leave her husband and start new. Than Valentina gets a message of a genetic sickness and additional to her missed love she is on the deepest point of her life and start to rethink. But she is weak and has some one-night stands with old lovers while she get to the point of change. Alina wants to leave but her husband (drunk) get aggressive and keep her in the flat. After this evil punch she lost the hope and the focus of leaving. Valentina looks for a last talk with her Ex to explain to him whats going on and hopefully to get him back. She is now in therapy. Finally Alina pack her luggage and leaves. She starts a new life with her new friend and finally be sexual free and lucky without pressure and violence. And finally Valentina make her peace with her ex and find the balance between lust and addiction.

LETTER OF INTENT

The story of this movie is in our eyes an important topic all over the world. Sexuality is not just black and white. There are many aspects and lessons which every single person learns throughout his/her life. That sexuality is something natural is forgotten in some kind of society/land and it's important, that we reconnect with this pure energy of life, without judging it. But there are always two sides of a medaillon.

The extremes of sexuality is in the one hand the addiction - where people fullfill a empty space with sex and on the other hand where forces from others get involved as sign of might and control of someone else. Of course we also have the „grey-shadow“ where people are not connected to their sexual might, which isn't healthy either like the extremes.

To show this different aspects and reconnect with the topic we decide to make this movie.

CHARACTERS

Valentina Covet – a sexaddicted young woman who lives her lust completely through being a „free lady“, she loves to pursue her passion and free chosen prostitution. But keeps this as a little secret to her boyfriend. When he leaves her she doesn't realize the problem on the first side but she feel lonely and empty more and more until she looks for help during a therapy.

Alina Plenika - She is captured in the shadow world of prostitution and slavery, Alina is compelled to do so because of her drunken and useless husband. She hates sex and feels ashamed and dirty because she has to do so to survive. On the first side she is the perfect victim until she awakes and take action.

Dr. Bianca Hinderling - is not connected to her sexual might, which isn't healthy either like the extrems of addiction and force. She tries to talk over the topic but at the same time tries to hide for this topic. She isn't confident with sex and starts to explore it more after meeting the sex addictet Valentina and forced Alina.

Direktorin (voice-over) ist ein heimlicher Fan von Dr. Hinderling und freut sich sehr über den Gastvortrag an Ihrer Universität!

Studentin (voice-over) - Die Studenten hören dem Vortrag gebannt zu. Jedoch hat ein/e Student/in nur flausen im Kopf und will den Vortrag so schnell wie möglich beenden. Student/in erkannte während des Vortrags die „verklepte“ Art von Dr. Hinderling und ergreift das Wort um dies zum Vorteil zu nutzen. Student - (m/w) Stimme eines frechen Studenten, der Dr. Hinderling in Verlegenheit bringt

Amanda – ist eine ehemalige Prostituierte. Sie ist eine alte Freundin von Alina. Im Gegensatz zu ihr hat sie es geschafft dem Milieu zu entkommen und lebt nun in einer anderen Stadt und arbeitet nun als Angestellte in einem kleinen Unternehmen. In regelmäßigen Abständen erkundigt sie sich nach Alina, ist jedoch allmählich von ihrem endlosen Kreislauf zwischen Prostitution, gewalttätigen Ehemann mit Alkoholproblem und Opferrolle genervt. Sie weiß das ihre Freundin aufwachen muss, jedoch auf eine harte und direkte Art – das hat sie im Leben schließlich so gelernt. Also gibt sie ihr noch weitere Ratschläge.

Marco Schmidt – (m,20-35), er ist der Ex-Freund der sexsüchtigen Valentina. Er sah sie mit einem anderen Mann und verlässt sie (obwohl er sie immer noch liebt). Er ist in seiner Ehre verletzt und versteht nicht weshalb sie das getan hat, von ihrer Sucht weiß er nämlich offiziell nichts. Er hat ein letztes Gespräch mit ihr über ihren Betrug. (mit Text)

Nachbar (m, 25-40) Er ist ein Nachbar von Dr. Hinderling und trifft sie auf der Straße. Sie versucht mit ihm zu flirten (aber sehr verwirrend und lustig und nicht sehr sexy), also flüchtet er. (kein Text)

Ehemann - (voice-over) eines betrunkenen Mannes, der herausfindet, dass Alina einen neuen Freund hat und ihn verlassen will. Aggressiv und fluchend. Der Ehemann zog mit Alina vor einigen Jahren nach Deutschland. Hat dort jedoch keine Arbeit gefunden. Durch einen Bekannten hat er Alina jedoch „weitervermitteln“ können, sodass sie ein gutes Leben haben. Ihr ständiges gejammer über die Arbeit als Prostituierte macht ihn wütend, sie sollte lieber dankbar sein, dass er ihr einen Job beschafft hat!

Nachrichtensprecherin (m/w) Eine kurze Sequenz über die Auflösung eines Menschenhändlerrings von einem Nachrichtensprecher.

LOCATIONS

This shooting is „special“. Because of the Corona Time in 2020 we looked for a solution to create wonderful movies (which doesn't have virus topics) within restriction and social distancing. We start shooting in **Berlin** outside and inside with basic home equipment. Other scenes and characters were shoot in **Krefeld** inside a flat and others in **Prague (CZ)** inside house and garden. Additional scenes get shooted in **Frankfurt**. Throughout this location mixture, it's a mixture of self-taped-directed movie with a lot of video and phone calls during the time.

NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

- Why is Valentina cheating?
- How will she respond when her boyfriend leaves her?
- Will they find their way back to each other, or is the relationship doomed due the truth?
- What will happen when Alina stay or leave?
- Can Alina get out of the slavery?

AESTHETIC APPROACH TO DIRECTING / PRODUCING THE SCRIPT

To create during big hurdles are around is always a lot of joy and an opportunity to grow as producer/director/actor. You explore new aspects of film and learn weaknesses and strengths and how to handle them.

I – personally – didn't want to wait until the next door opens so I decided to tell this story also if it's not the easiest way to do it. During the whole process it's a wonderful experience. Meeting new people with great conversations and to work with passionate people which are „hungry“ for this project and their area.

To prove that nothing – not a crisis or distance – can stop us to tell a story! That's the spirit of storyteller, isn't it?

OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS

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BIGGEST CHALLENGES TO DIRECTING THE SCRIPT

To do the storyboard and explain it via distance was a big challenge. I am not the greatest painter. But at the next time a artists might help me with that.

Additional to that was one challenge to structure the whole process. To make absolutely clear when it's time to discuss and ask questions and when it's not. Like „standing your man“ during the production. It's an important lesson which I am grateful for.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I NEED TO TELL THE STORY?

We decided to tell this story between 15-20 minutes.

Of course we could also make a longer version of the storyline but because of the restrictions we decided to make a short version.

FINAL WORDS

I am grateful for all participants on this projects which give their time, passion, point of views and honesty. We all hope our audience will enjoy this movie and we are looking to future projects.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Ruß

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