DREAMLAND
a film by Petra Volpe
MAIN DETAILS

**English Title**  Dreamland
**Original Title**  Traumland
**Genre**  Drama
**Directed by**  Petra Volpe
**Screenplay**  Petra Volpe
**Country of Production**  Switzerland, Germany
**Production Year**  2013
**Producer**  Lukas Hobi, Reto Schaerli
**Produced by**  Zodiac Pictures Ltd
**Co-producer**  Wüste Film Ost
**Director of Photography**  Judith Kaufmann
**Edited by**  Hansjörg Weissbrich
**Music**  Sascha Ring & Nackt
**With backing from**  Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen, SRG SSR, Arte

Zürcher Filmstiftung, Kulturfonds Suisimage, Bundesamt für Kultur (EDI), Deutscher Filmförderfonds, Migros-Kulturprozent, Kanton Luzern und Aargau

**Swiss distributor**  Filmcoopi

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

**Format**  DCP
**Running Time**  99'00"
**Screen ratio**  2.35
**Frames / second**  24
**Sound Format**  DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1
**Original version**  Swiss German / German / Spanish / Bulgarian
**Subtitled version**  ENGLISH
**Title:** DREAMLAND

**Tagline:** Four stories, one dream

**Synopsis**

DREAMLAND is a multi-narrative portrayal of desire, solitude and betrayal in affluent Switzerland. Set in Zurich on the 24th of December, the narratives unfold against a stark backdrop of human trafficking, prostitution, deception and a hope for genuine intimacy.

While preparing the family Christmas dinner, pregnant LENA (Ursina Lardi) discovers that her husband MARTIN (Devid Striesow) is deceiving her with prostitutes.

JUDITH (Bettina Stucky) is a dedicated social worker who pursues her own sexual fantasies, betraying her boyfriend JONAS (Stefan Kurt) with a police officer.

ROLF (André Jung), recently divorced, is trying to mend his relationship with his teenage daughter.

MARIA (Marisa Paredes), widowed and desperately lonely, yearns to seduce a grieving JUAN (José Ángel Egido), who still can’t get over the death of his wife.

All their paths cross with MIA (Luna Mijović), a Bulgarian girl working as a prostitute on the streets of Zurich and her manipulating pimp DAVID (Kire Gjorevski).

**PRESS INFORMATION**

In her theatrical debut DREAMLAND Petra Volpe directs European talent such as Marisa Paredes («Todo sobre mi madre», «Hable con ella», «La vita è bella»), Devid Striesow («The Counterfeiters», «Drei», «Lichter») and Luna Mijovic («Atmen», «Dreileben», «Grbavica»).

Ursina Lardi («The White Ribbon»), André Jung («Giulias Verschwinden»), Bettina Stucky («Nachbeben») and Stefan Kurt («Lovely Louise») complete the ensemble. The research and development of DREAMLAND took several years and led writer and director Petra Volpe deep into the milieus of Zurich, Switzerland. The picture was developed with the support of Europe’s prestigious development programs Ekran and éQuinoxe.

Award winning cinematographer Judith Kaufmann («Vier Minuten», «Die Fremde», «Das Ende ist mein Anfang») and highly acclaimed Editor Hansjörg Weissbrich («Night Train to Lisbon», «Crazy», «Requiem») supported Petra Volpe on DREAMLAND. The score was contributed by Sascha Ring and Nackt, better known as the Berlin based and internationally successful electronic band «Apparat».

Producing team Lukas Hobi and Reto Schauerli from Zodiac Pictures («Bold Heroes», «Bon Appétit», «The Little Ghost»,) produced the picture in co-production with Yildiz Özcan and Stefan Schubert from Wüste Film Ost, Berlin based daughter company of Wüste Film («Head On», «Emmas Glück», «Tannöd»).

Shooting took place between November 25th 2012 and January 12th 2013 in Zurich and Berlin.

DREAMLAND was finished in time for its World Premiere in the International Competition of Zurich Film Festival. The picture will have its International Permier in the Flash Forward section of the International Film Festival Busan and the German Premier at the Internationale Hofer Filmtage. DREAMLAND will be released in Swiss cinemas through Filmcoopi in early 2014.
Berlin based Swiss/Italian director/writer Petra Volpe studied film at the Filmacademy "Konrad Wolf" in Potsdam-Babelsberg. During her studies she wrote and directed several short films. Volpe received her Master’s Degree in 2003 and since that time has worked as a free-lance writer and director, including short features, documentaries and television features.

Her short films «Der Kuss» (2000) and «Crevetten» (2001) won awards for Best Student Film or Best Film at various festivals in Switzerland and abroad. «Crevetten» won Volpe the Action Light Award at the International Film Festival in Locarno, Switzerland. Her TV movies «Schönes Wochenende» (2006) and «Frühling im Herbst» (2009) scored high ratings on Swiss Television SF and were sold to broadcasters in Germany and other countries.

«Frühling im Herbst», Volpe’s most recent comedy, won the Swissperform Award for Best Actress. At the Baden-Baden TV Film Festival 2010 the film won the Grand Prize for Best German-Speaking TV Film as well as the award of the students of the film academy Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg, Germany.

Her most recent and first feature length film is the powerful contemporary drama «Dreamland» (Traumland) – starring Luna Zimic Mijovic, André Jung, Ursina Lardi, Devid Striesow, Bettina Stucky and Marisa Paredes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>DREAMLAND</td>
<td>Feature Film</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>LA FIDANZATA</td>
<td>Screenplay, Director Short Feature</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>LOVELY LOUISE</td>
<td>Feature Film</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>MEIER MARILYN</td>
<td>Screenplay, TV Film</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>NE PESCE NE UCELLO</td>
<td>Screenplay, Director Documentary</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>SCHLORKBABIES</td>
<td>Director, Short Feature</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>FRÜHLING IM HERBST</td>
<td>Screenplay, Director TV Film</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>CREVETTEN</td>
<td>Screenplay, Director Short Feature</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>KLEINE FISCHER</td>
<td>Screenplay, Director TV Film</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>DER KUSS</td>
<td>Screenplay, Director Short Feature</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>SCHÖNES WOCHENENDE</td>
<td>Screenplay, Director TV Film</td>
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**Awards:**

2010  FRÜHLING IM HERBST: Winner of Best German-Speaking TV Feature Film Award & Student Award by the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg at Fernsehfilm-Festival Baden-Baden 2010 Winner of the Swissperform Award 2010 for Best Actress (Therese Affolter)

2001  CREVETTEN: First Price at Shortfilmfestival Burgdorf; Jurydiplom for Best Studentfilm at International Filmfestival Kiew; Action Light Award at International Film Festival Locarno

2000  DER KUSS: Best Student Film at Gay Filmfestival Bratislava, Jury's Special Mention Award in European Competition at Festival Cinematographique D´Automonde Gardanne
**PRINCIPAL CAST:**

Mia  
Luna Zimić Mijović  
Maria  
Marisa Paredes  
Rolf  
André Jung  
Lena  
Ursina Lardi  
Judith  
Bettina Stucky  
Martin  
Devid Striesow  
Jonas  
Stefan Kurt  
Juan  
José Ángel Egido  
David  
Kire Gjorevski  

**PRINCIPAL CREW:**

Director  
Petra Volpe  
Screenplay  
Petra Volpe  
Producer  
Zodiac Pictures Ltd  
Co-Producer  
Wüste Film Ost GmbH, Berlin  
  Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen SRF  
  SRG, SSR  
  Arte  
Director of Photography  
Judith Kaufmann  
Editor  
Hansjörg Weissbrich  
Production Design  
Su Erdt  
Costume Designer  
Linda Harper  
Make Up  
Jean Cotter  
Score  
Sascha Ring & Nackt (Apparat)  
Casting  
Ruth Hirschfeld  
  Beatrice Kruger
PRINCIPAL CAST: FILMOGRAPHIES

Luna Zimić Mijović (Mia)

Selected filmography:

2012  VENUTO AL MONDO
      Director: Sergio Castellitto

2010  BREATHING
      Director: Karl Markovicz

2010  NA PUTU – ON THE PATH
      Director: Jasmila Zbanic

2010  NICK
      Director: Fow Pyng Hu

2010  DREILEBEN/ BEATS BEING DEAD
      Director: Chr. Hochhäusler

2008  I DON'T DREAM IN GERMAN (short)
      Director: Ivana Lavolic

2008  ON A TRIP
      Director: Jasmila Zbanic

2008  CIRKUS FANTASTIKUS
      Director: Janez Burger

Marisa Paredes (Maria)

Selected filmography:

2012  FOTO
      Director: Carlos Saboga

2011  THE SKIN I LIVE IN
      Director: Pedro Almodóvar

2006  FOUR LAST SONGS
      Director: Francesca Joseph

2006  REINAS
      Director: Manuel Pereira

2001  EL ESPINAZO DEL DIABLO
      Director: Guillermo del Toro

1999  ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER
      Director: Pedro Almodóvar

1997  LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL
      Director: Roberto Benigni

1996  THREE LIFES & ONLY ONE DEATH
      Director: Raoul Ruiz

1995  THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET
      Director: Pedro Almodóvar

1991  HIGH HEELS
      Director: Pedro Almodóvar

1987  TRAS EL CRISTAL
      Director: Agustí Villaronga

1983  DARK HABITS
      Director: Pedro Almodóvar

1980  SUS ANOS DORADOS
      Director: E. Martínez Lázaro

Awards:

1985  Onda Madrid Prize
1996  Spanish National Film Award
André Jung (Rolf)

Selected filmography:

2013  **FIEBER**
Director: Elfi Mikesch

2011  **LA MER À L'AUVE**
Director: Volker Schlöndorff
Nomination Adolf-Grimme-Prize

2009  **DER LETZTE SCHÖNE HERBSTTAG**
Director: Ralf Westhoff

2009  **GIULIAS VERSCHWINDEN**
Director: Christoph Schaub
Audience Award Film Festival Locarno
Nomination Prix Walo

2008  **CARETAKER**
Director: Lutz Konermann

2007  **DIE BESUCHERIN**
Director: Lola Randl

2005  **PERL ODER PICA**
Director: Pol Cruchten

2004  **IM NORDWIND**
Director: Bettina Oberli

2001  **LE CLUB DES CHÔMEURS**
Director: Andy Bausch

2001  **DAS EXPERIMENT**
Director: Oliver Hirschbiegel

1999  **GROSSE GEFÜHLE**
Director: Christof Schertenleib

1997  **BACK IN TROUBLE**
Director: Andy Bausch

Awards:

2010  GIULIAS VERSCHWINDEN: AZ-Star Best Actor

2003  Golden Mask, Theatre Zurich

2002  Best Actor of the Year – Theater Heute

2000  Rita-Tanck-Glaser-Award of Arts Foundation Hamburg

1981  Best Actor of the Year – Theater Heute
Ursina Lardi (Lena)

Selected filmography:

2013  UNTER DER HAUT
      Director: Claudia Lorenz

2013  EINFACH DIE WAHRHEIT
      Director: Vivian Naefe

2012  GRÜNINGERS FALL
      Director: Alain Gsponer

2012  DIE FRAU VON FRÜHER
      Director: Andreas Kleinert

2011  FESTUNG
      Director: Kirsi Limataiien

2011  LORE
      Director: Cate Shortland
      Hessian Movie Award, Hamburg Film Critics

2011  EINER WIE BRUNO
      Director: Anja Jacobs

2010  DER VERDINGBUB
      Director: Markus Imboden

2009  SONGS OF LOVE AND HATE
      Director: Katalin Gödros

2009  DER KAMERAMÖRDER
      Director: Robert A. Pejo

2008  THE WHITE RIBBON
      Director: Michael Haneke
      Golden Palme, 62nd Cannes International Film Festival
      European Movie Award Best Movie, Best Screenplay and Best Director
      Golden Globe

2006  DER LANGE SCHLAF
      Director: Mona Lenz

2001  MEIN LANGES LEBEN
      Director: Angela Schanelec

1995  LOVE GAME
      Director: Mike Eschmann

Awards:

2013  LORE: German Acting Award nominated for Best Supporting Actress

2006  Prize of Eliette-von-Karajan-Art Foundation
Bettina Stucky (Judith)

Selected filmography:

2012 ÜBER-ICH UND DU
Director: Benjamin Heisenberg
2012 SITTING NEXT TO ZOE
Director: Ivana Lalovic
2012 DAS KLEINE GESPENST
Director: Alain Gsponer
2011 DIE FEINEN UNTERSCHIEDE
Director: Sylvie Michel
2009 STATIONSPIRATEN
Director: Mike Schaerer
2009 DER LETZTE WEINFELDT
Director: Alain Gsponer
2008 HUNDELEBEN
Director: Mike Eschmann
2007 UMDEINLEBEN
Director: Gesine Danckwart

2007 ROBERT ZIMMERMANN WUNDERT
Director: Leander Haussmann
2006 SOKO KÖLN-SCHLUSS MIT LUSTIG
Director: Michael Schneider
2006 TOD IN DER LOCHMATT
Director: Daniel Helfer
2005 NACHBEBEN
Director: Stina Werenfels
2004 OESCHENEN
Director: Bernhard Giger
2003 MEIER MARILYN
Director: Stina Werenfels

Awards:

2007 TOD IN DER LOCHMATT: Swiss TV-Movie Award for Best Actress
2004 MEIER MARILYN: Swiss Movie Award for Best Supporting Actress
2001 Young Actors Award Theater Heute
2001 Alfred-Kehr-Prize at the Berlin Theatre meeting
2000 O.E.-Hasse-Prize
Devid Striesow (Martin)

Selected filmography:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Director(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>DIE FRAU VON FRÜHER</td>
<td>Andreas Kleinert</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>SPUTNIK</td>
<td>Markus Dietrich</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>FRAKTUS</td>
<td>Lars Jessen</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>DREI</td>
<td>Tom Tykwer</td>
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<td>Prize of the German Film Critics</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>RÉSISTE!</td>
<td>Jonas Grosch</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>THIS IS LOVE</td>
<td>Matthias Glasner</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>YELLA</td>
<td>Christian Petzold</td>
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<td>Prize of the German Film Critics</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>THE COUNTERFEITERS</td>
<td>Stefan Ruzowitzky</td>
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<td>Oscar 2008 for Best Foreign Film</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Roter Kakadu</td>
<td>Dominik Graf</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>EDEN</td>
<td>Michael Hofmann</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>DOWNFALL</td>
<td>Oliver Hirschbiegel</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>LICHTER</td>
<td>Hans-Christian Schmid</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE</td>
<td>Gregor Schnitzler</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<td>Anne Wild</td>
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<td>2000</td>
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<td>Rainer Kaufmann</td>
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Awards:

- 2011: DREI: Prize of German Film Critics for Best Actor
- 2007: THE COUNTERFEITERS: German Movie Award Best Supporting Actor
- 2004: Young Actors Award, Theater Heute
- 2003: LICHTER: Prize of German Film Critics for Best Actor
Stefan Kurt (Jonas)

Selected filmography:

2013  ICH UND KAMINSKI  
   Director: Wolfgang Becker  
2012  GRÜNINGERS FALL  
   Director: Alain Gsponer  
2012  LOVELY LOUISE  
   Director: Bettina Oberli  
2010  RUHM  
   Director: Isabel Kleefeld  
2010  DER VERDINGBUB  
   Director: Markus Imboden  
2009  STATIONSPIRATEN  
   Director: Mike Schaerer  
2009  GIULIAS VERSCHWINDEN  
   Director: Christoph Schaub  
2008  MENSCH KOTSCHIE!  
   Director: Norbert Baumgarten  
2006  BIS ZUM ELLENBOGEN  
   Director: Justus von Dohnányi  
2006  MEIN FÜHRER  
   Director: Dani Levy  
2005  VIER MINUTEN  
   Director: Chris Kraus  
2001  BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY  
   Director: Maria von Heland  
1999  FRAU2 SUCHT HAPPY END  
   Director: Edward Berger  
1998  DER VULKAN  
   Director: Ottokar Runze  
1998  BERESINA  
   Director: Daniel Schmid  
1998  DER SCHATTENMANN  
   Director: Dieter Wedel  
Adolf-Grimme-Prize and Telestar Awards:

2012  DER VERDINGBUB: Swiss Movie Award Quartz, Best Supporting Actor  
2012  DREILEBEN: BFFS Acting-Prize, Best Actor  
2010  DER LETZTE WEFENFELDT: Swissperform Prize, Best Actor  
2006  TOD EINES KEILERS: Swissperform Prize

Kire Gjorevski (Dávid)

Selected filmography:

2009  GLUHARCHE  
   Director: Igor Hristov  
2007  SENKI  
   Director: Milcho Manchevski  
2009  DANDELION (short)  
   Director: Igor Hristov  
2007  DOES IT HURT?  
   Director: Aneta Lesnikovska
Judith Kaufmann (DOP)

Selected filmography:

2013  SPÄTER IM SOMMER
   Director: Feo Aladag
2012  SEIN LETZTES RENNEN
   Director: Kilian Riedhof
2012  ZWEI LEBEN
   Director: Georg Maas
2012  DAS ENDE EINER NACHT
   Director: Matti Geschonneck
2011  THE LOOK. CHARLOTTE RAMPLING
   Director: Angelina Maccarone
2011  WER WENN NICHT WIR
   Director: Andres Veiel
2009  DAS ENDE IST MEIN ANFANG
   Director: Jo Baier
2008  DIE FREMDE
   Director: Feo Aladag
2007  FEUERHERZ
   Director: Luigi Falorni
2006  VIVERE
   Director: Angelina Maccarone
2005  VIER MINUTEN
   Director: Chris Kraus
   Jin Jue Award for Best Movie at Shanghai International Film Festival
   Nomination German Movie Award Best Film
2005  BELLA BLOCK
   Director: Kai Wessel
2004  FREMDE HAUT
   Director: Angelina Maccarone
2003  ERBSEN AUF HALB SECHS
   Director: Lars Büchel
2001  ELEFANTENHERZ
   Director: Züli Aladag
   Bavarian Movie Award
2001  SCHERBENTANZ
   Director: Chris Kraus
2000  JETZT ODER NIE
   Director: Lars Büchel
1999  VERGISS AMERIKA
   Director: Vanessa Jopp

Awards:

2012  Honorary Award from the German Camera Prize
2011  Prize from the DEFA-Foundation
2010  DIE FREMDE: German Camera Award for Best Cinematography
2006  BELLA BLOCK – DIE FRAU DES TEPPICHEGERS: German TV-Award for Best Cinematography, Marburg Award for Cinematography
2003  SCHERBENTANZ: German Camera Award for Best Cinematography
Hansjörg Weissbrich (Editor)

Selected filmography:

2012  ZUM GEBURTSTAG  
      Director: Denis Dercourt

2012  NIGHT TRAIN TO LISBON  
      Director: Bille August

2012  ZWEI LEBEN  
      Director: Georg Maas

2011  WAS BLEIBT  
      Director: Hans-Christian Schmid  
      Berlinale 2012, Competition

2011  HOTEL LUX  
      Director: Leander Haußmann

2010  WER WENN NICHT WIR  
      Director: Andres Veiel  
      Berlinale 2011, Competition, Alfred-Bauer-Prize

2009  MORGEN DAS LEBEN  
      Director: Alexander Riedel

2008  STORM  
      Director: Hans-Christian Schmid

2008  JOHN RABE  
      Director: Florian Gallenberger

2007  KRABAT  
      Director: Marco Kreuzpaintner

2006  TRADE  
      Director: Marco Kreuzpaintner

2005  DIE WILDEN HÜHNER  
      Director: Vivian Naefe

2005  REQUIEM  
      Director: Hans-Christian Schmid

2004  NVA  
      Director: Leander Haußmann

2003  LICHTER  
      Director: Hans-Christian Schmid

2003  SOMMERSTURM  
      Director: Marco Kreuzpaintner

2002  BIBI BLOCKSBERG  
      Director: Hermine Huntgeburch

2002  SOLOALBUM  
      Director: Gregor Schnitzler

2000  CRAZY  
      Director: Hans-Christian Schmid

1998  23  
      Director: Hans-Christian Schmid

1995  NACH FÜNFF IM URWALD  
      Director: Hans-Christian Schmid

Awards:

2011  Nomination for German Film Award Best Film Editing

2010  STORM: German Movie Award for Best Film Editing

2009  STORM: Prize of German Film Critics for Best Film Editing
Sascha Ring & Nackt (Score)

Sascha Ring and Nackt are best-known as German electronic-band Apparat - one of Berlin’s most vibrant and best-known electronic acts.

Their track «Goodbye» was featured in the French trailer of Rust and Bone and in the Season 4 finale of Breaking Bad. The track «Black Water» was featured in episode 2 in series 6 of Skins. Another track: «Ash/Black Veil», also featured on the 2011 snowboard documentary «The Art of Flight».

In 2013 Apparat released «Krieg und Frieden», an album based on Sebastian Hartmann’s theatre production of Tolstoy’s War and Peace, which was commissioned by the renowned German arts festival «Ruhrfestspiele» in Recklinghausen. They later toured the album with great success.

DREAMLAND is the first score that Sascha Ring and Nackt wrote for a feature film.

Discography (Selection):

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Album</th>
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<td>MODERAT II (with Modeselektor)</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>HOLDON</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>KRIEG UND FRIEDEN (Music for Theatre)</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>WALLS</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>CANDIL DE LA CALLE</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>BERLIN, MONTREAL, TEL AVIV</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>SONS OF LAOS</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>ORCHESTRA OF BUBBLES (with Ellen Allien)</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>BLACK WATER</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>IMPULSIVE! REVOLUTIONARY JAZZ REWORKED</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>ASH/BLACK VEIL</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>SILIZIUM</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>THE DEVIL’S WALK</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>SHAPEMODES</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>SAYULITA</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>CAN’T COMPUTERIZE IT</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>DJ-KICKS: APPARAT</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>KOAX</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>MODERAT (with Modeselektor)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>DUPLEX</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>THING TO BE FRICKLED: PARTS &amp; REMIXES</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>ALGORYTHM</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>MULTIFUNKTIONSEBENE</td>
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INTERVIEW WITH PETRA VOLPE (WRITER & DIRECTOR)

What drew you to this story - is it based on someone you know?
I lived in the red light district of Zürich and was always wondering about that parallel world of the sex business and ‘normal life’ around me. The women on the street touched me, I wondered about their lives. As a woman - unless working as a prostitute, you are excluded from this world and that alone somehow outraged me but also drew me to it.

When I was a student I worked as a telephone sex operator for a while. I needed money but I was also curious to know what was behind those telephone sex ads. I had the obvious conversations but I also talked a lot to the customers about their relationships, their sexual desires, fantasies - and it left a lasting impression on me.

How would you describe the film?
DREAMLAND is about how we treat the most vulnerable in our world and ultimately I believe this is linked to how we deal with our relationships. The people who meet Mia are not bad, they are just unable to deal with their own pain and I think that is very damaging. The more I came to know about the sex-business, the more it led me to questions about relationships in general, how we deal with issues of rejection, loneliness, betrayal, vulnerability, pain and yearning for intimacy and closeness.

How did you approach the subject?
My research for DREAMLAND took over a year and I got to talk to a lot of people involved in the red light world. I was in brothels, clubs and I spent time with the police etc. When I talked to Johns I was astonished how much they were looking for something "real" - ‘real desire, real contact, real conversations’.

But I was most deeply moved by my encounters with the often very young girls from Eastern Europe who come to Switzerland on a three month visa to work as street prostitutes. I met most of them through FIZ, Fachstelle Frauenhandel und Frauenmigration, an NGO that help women who have problems or who want to stop working as prostitutes. The FIZ does a tremendous work and they helped me a lot in my research.

When I asked these young woman what would be important for them in such a movie they all said: they would like to be seen as human beings. This always stayed with me in the long process of developing the screenplay.

It’s an ensemble film - how did you come to that idea?
The redlight world shows like in a mirror the distribution of social, political and economic power in our society. Knowing more about the sex business, led me to questions about the people who were outside of it - the people who only get in touch with it by interacting with a prostitute. All the characters are inspired by my research. But instead of putting Mia in the center of the narrative, I focus on our culture.

Is this story something you think is very Swiss - or universal? Why Zürich?
There are scenes that are very specific for Switzerland, but the emotional topic of the film is universal and the story could also take place in another city in Europe or America. The characters who encounter the girl from Bulgaria don’t have pressing economic problems. But I think this is not an achievement, it’s just luck. The scene of the two girls on the balcony is an image for that: they are both teenagers but one was lucky and was born in Switzerland and the other not - and this defines your fate.
What is your view on human trafficking and prostitution?
It’s important to distinguish prostitution and human trafficking - it’s not the same thing, although sometimes the lines are blurred. The idea of "free will" is very complicated in this context.

The situation of a German student, who wants to make some money to finish her law studies and works as an escort, is entirely different than the situation of a Roma girl from Hungary, with no education who works on the street of Zürich.

One of the biggest problems is the stigmatisation and double moral around prostitution. Women who work in this profession are not respected and experience a lot of condemnation and hostility.

What do you think about the situation in Zürich?
In Zürich they just built a drive-in zone with tax money for men to buy sex from women who come from very poor countries.

All over the world there are different laws to try to regulate the redlight world. Maybe there is not ‘one’ right law for something that at its core is so ethically questionable. As long as there is such a high demand for very cheap sexual services human trafficking will flourish.
WORLD SALES

Picture Tree International GmbH was founded by Andreas Rothbauer and Alec Schulmann and is an internationally aligned and integrated world sales and production company with headquarters in Berlin.

The core business of Picture Tree International is the worldwide licensing of film rights and the co-production of international feature films in an integrated business model.

The company will handle an overall international sales line-up of up to eight films per year and will internally coproduce two projects.