

27 FILMS Production & Les Films de l'Étranger present

CHRISTA THERET

LUISE ASCHENBRENNER

LEONARD KUNZ



INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM

LUISE

a film by
MATTHIAS LUTHARDT

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present



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With

LUISE ASCHENBRENNER, CHRISTA THERET, LEONARD KUNZ
and ALEKSANDAR JOVANOVIĆ

INTERNATIONAL SALES

PYRAMIDE INTERNATIONAL
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Runtime : 95 mn

2023 – Germany/France – 2.39 – 5.1

STILLS AND PRESSKIT DOWNLOADABLE AT WWW.PYRAMIDEFILMS.COM



SYNOPSIS

Alsace in the late summer of 1918. Luise, a young farmer, lives alone on an isolated farm near the French border. One morning, in her house, she discovers H el ene, a French woman pursued by Hermann, a German soldier. Being injured, Hermann is forced to stay on the farm for a while, even though this makes him a deserter. Luise decides to give them both shelter. While the two women get closer to each other, Hermann feels increasingly excluded and tries to stand in their way.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE OF INTENTION



«*Be a good animal, true to your animal instincts*» - a piece of advice from D.H.Lawrence, whose novella *The Fox* inspired us to tell our story about the young Alsatian farmer LUISE. Two women and a soldier, in a confined space, at the backdrop of a seemingly endless war. The struggle for survival awakens and sharpens the animal instincts of our protagonist.

Following the actual news, this question became more and more urgent for me, as an European filmmaker: how would I behave if the war entered directly into my house?

LUISE tells the story of an awakening love, of emancipation and liberation. Luise discovers her own voice - and with it, the right to freely dispose of her body, her fantasies, and longings. She follows her instinct, even if she has to pay a very high price for it.

In a war made and dictated by men, traditional gender roles come to the fore, both at the front and in everyday life at home. It was important to me to highlight the urgency of questioning and breaking those stereotypical role models, using a timeless and universal story.

Matthias Luthardt



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY



Born and raised in his early years in the Netherlands, Matthias Luthardt grew up in Southern Germany and Hamburg. While studying French and German literature and journalism in Tübingen, Paris and Hamburg, he made his first short film experiments.

From 1998 to 2005, Matthias attended directing class at the film academy in Potsdam-Babelsberg. Curious about the hidden laws of European film production, he completed the first year of Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris.

His debut feature *PINGPONG* premiered 2006 at Critics' Week in Cannes and won the SACD-Award and Young Critics Award as well as a nomination as «European discovery» at the European Film Awards.

Matthias initiated and coproduced Noaz Deshe's feature film debut *WHITE SHADOW*, shot in Tanzania and awarded with the «Lion of the Future» at Venice Film Festival 2013. On behalf of Tom Tykwer, he supervised the script development and shooting of the Kenyan feature film *SOMETHING NECESSARY* in Nairobi, directed by Judy Kibinge and screened at IFFR in 2013.

Besides his work on fiction films, Matthias has realized TV-documentaries about the history of European cinema. He has been teaching at film schools and cultural institutions in Germany and abroad and is a member of the European Film Academy and the German Film Academy.





CAST

Luise Luise Aschenbrenner
Hélène Christa Theret
Hermann Leonard Kunz
Captain Aleksandar Jovanovic



CREW



Directed by **Matthias Luthardt**

Written by **Sebastian Bleyl**
in collaboration with **Matthias Luthardt**
inspired by *“The Fox”* by D.H. Lawrence

Produced by **Oliver Damian & Philippe Avril**

Music by **Pēteris Vasks & Matthias Petsche**

Director of Photography **Lotta Kilian (BVK)**

Production design **Olivier Meidinger**

Costumes **Tanja Gierich**

Editing **Florian Miosge**

Sound **Philippe Fabbri, Aline Huber, Kinane Moualla**

Casting **Uwe Bünker & Maya Serrulla**

1st AD **Maria Ochs**

A German-French co-production by
27 Films Production & Les Films de l'Étranger

in co-production with

Bayerischer Rundfunk, Arte

La Cinéfiliale, Will Production

in association with **Pyramide**

with the support of **CNC/FFA, Creative Europe MEDIA**

Filmförderungsanstalt (FFA)

Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg

MFG Baden-Württemberg, Région Grand Est

Conseil Départemental des Vosges (réseau Plato)

Eurométropole de Strasbourg

German Distribution **Salzgeber Medien**

French Distribution **Pyramide**

International Sales **Pyramide International**

The logo features a stylized pyramid icon above the word "PYRAMIDE".
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