

A film in development by Sabine Ehrl

PARADISE _bleeding

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Sabine Ehrl

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Festival de Cannes

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or even first

feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

Technical Information

English Title: Paradise_bleeding

Working Title: Paradies_bluten

Director: Sabine Ehrl

Screenplay: Sabine Ehrl

Nationality: German

Genre: Drama with elements of Horror

Format: Cinemascope

Duration: 120 min

Director's Information

F For Freaks

(Fiction 2019 // 30')

Guilt

(Fiction 2017 // 20')

Day After Day

(Documentary 2016 // 10')

Sabine Ehrl grew up in a small town in eastern Bavaria, Germany. Alongside jobs in the film industry in Munich and Berlin, she worked at a chocolate factory, the post office, a company for IT consulting, horse auctions and as a waitress. She studied Psychology in Vienna, Austria and graduated with honors.

During her studies at the Film University Babelsberg, she directed the internationally awarded documentary **Day After Day**, the essay-film **Guilt** as well as the internationally awarded dystopian sci-fi **F For Freaks**, which ran amongst other festivals in Sitges and Trieste and won the Audience Award in Busan and Best International Short as well as Best Actress at Fantasia in Montreal. In 2020 she won the T-Port Talent Award at the Les Arcs Talent Village. Currently she is developing the miniseries **F For Freaks** and her feature debut **Paradise_bleeding** at the Cinéfondation Residence in Paris.



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Synopsis

In a Bavarian village at Christmas time in the early 1990s, an epic drama unfolds in interwoven episodes about innate guilt, unconditional belief in love, the longing for recognition, the fermenting of inherited traumas and the will to rebel.

While the entire village is busy getting Christmas presents without having any money, one village festival follows the next and people tend to drink and fight excessively. The supposedly peaceful surface remains the same, while a secret love triangle ends in a horrific outbreak of violence, a young altar boy fights back against his overbearing mother, a failed wife becomes a murderess, and a lonely teenager surprisingly becomes a mother.

Statement of Intent

In *Paradise bleeding*, I want to dissect this fictional village, its inhabitants, and the role of Catholicism. When it comes to family life, the time before and after Christmas can be highly critical, leading to an increase in domestic violence, alcoholism, suicides and even murder. On the one hand, there is this beautiful, heavenly idyll; on the other hand, people are trapped in their inflated expectations, not allowed to show any real emotions or feelings, and not allowed to openly address conflicts. Highly explosive components collide, and Catholicism and capitalism provide the fuel for the fire. Merry Christmas.

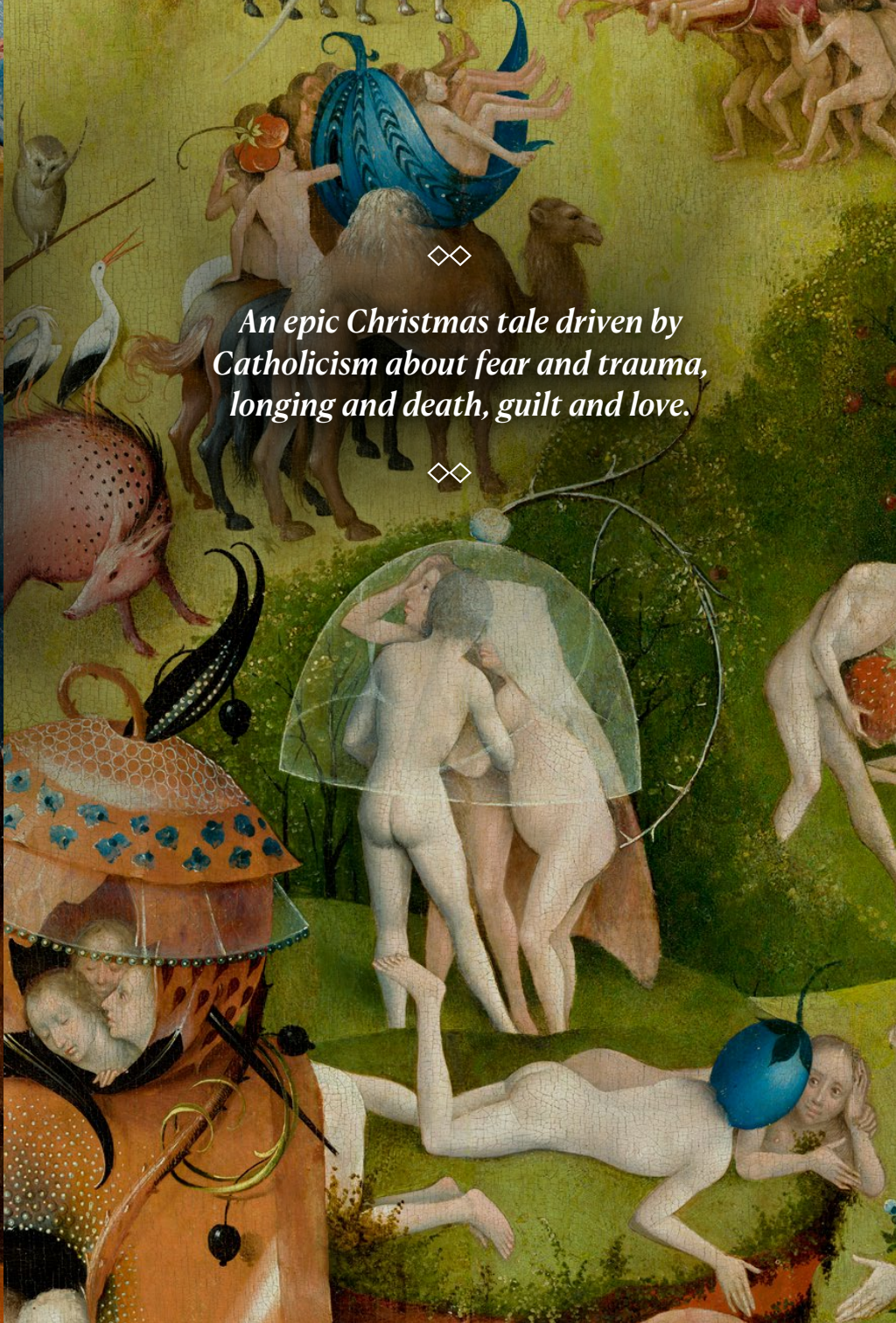
Synopsis

Dans un village bavarois, à la période de Noël au début des années 1990, se déroule un drame épique en épisodes imbriqués sur la culpabilité innée, la croyance inconditionnelle en l'amour, le désir de reconnaissance, la fermentation des traumatismes hérités et la volonté de se rebeller.

Alors que tout le village est occupé à recevoir des cadeaux de Noël sans en avoir l'argent, les fêtes de village se succèdent et les gens ont tendance à boire et à se battre de manière excessive. La surface prétendument paisible reste la même, alors qu'un triangle amoureux secret se termine par une horrible flambée de violence, qu'un jeune enfant de chœur se bat contre sa mère autoritaire, qu'une épouse ratée devient une meurtrière et qu'une adolescente solitaire devient étonnamment une mère.

Note d'intention

Dans *Paradise bleeding*, je veux disséquer ce village fictif, ses habitants, et le rôle du catholicisme. Quand on parle de la vie de famille, la période avant et après Noël peut être très critique, entraînant une augmentation de la violence domestique, de l'alcoolisme, des suicides et même des meurtres. D'un côté, il y a cette belle idylle paradisiaque; de l'autre, les gens sont piégés dans leurs attentes exagérées, ne sont pas autorisés à montrer de véritables émotions ou sentiments, ni à aborder ouvertement les conflits. Des composants hautement explosifs entrent en collision, et le catholicisme et le capitalisme fournissent le combustible pour le feu. Joyeux Noël.



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An epic Christmas tale driven by Catholicism about fear and trauma, longing and death, guilt and love.

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