



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
LA RÉSIDENCE

The Flowering of a Chimera

a film by Simon Maria Kubiena

Technical Information

Title: The Flowering of a Chimera
Original Title: Das Blühen einer Chimäre
Screenplay: Simon Maria Kubiena
Nationality: Austria
Genre: Drama
Length: 90 min.

Status: 6th draft
Shooting Location: Vienna, Lower Austria, Germany
Producers: Elli Leeb & Fabian Leonhardt
Partners: FFA German Federal Film Board, ZDF Das Kleine Fernsehspiel

Director's Information

Simon Maria Kubiena, born in 1998, is an Austrian writer-director based in Vienna and Berlin.

He began studying film directing in 2019 at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, with a semester at La Fémis. In 2023, he started a Master's degree in screenwriting at the London Film School (LFS).

His short film ***Blue Noise*** received an award at the 72nd Berlinale, followed by the co-directed short film ***Mise à nu***, which premiered at the 73rd Berlinale. His latest short film ***At home I feel like leaving*** was shown at Premiers Plans d'Angers.

Simon is currently developing his first feature film, ***The Flowering of a Chimera***, which explores the journey of a disturbed young man coming to terms with his guilt through a healing, yet unusual, connection with an older man.

Simon Maria Kubiena

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Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

Since 2000, La Résidence du Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to 12 selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. These young filmmakers are selected 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 the ure film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Festival de Cannes, to bring their project to co-production status.

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*„Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field.
I'll meet you there.“*

Rūmī

Synopsis

After a dark event, Jakob, recently turned 18, drops out of school and starts to work in a factory for pesticides close to Vienna. Meanwhile his family grows increasingly distant from him. They are unable to face what happened, and isolating Jakob allows them to maintain a fake sense of harmony. Jakob suffers from loneliness more every day. Things start to change when Jakob forms an unusual connection with Marius, a factory colleague who is over thirty years older than him. But as the two of them draw closer, Jakob's past rises to the surface. In a desperate move, Jakob finds himself in front of Marius' doorstep at night, first acting playfully but quickly offering himself naked to him, searching for a second chance of a first time.

Statement of Intent

The film traces the disturbance of a young man burdened by guilt, unable to find healing, because his family can not love him and face what he has done at the same time. We navigate alongside Jakob as he learns to deal with his past through a bond with an older man. Piece by piece, Jakob's trauma unfolds, revealing his involvement in a forced sexual encounter with a former classmate. Sexualized violence among young men – an underrepresented topic – is one I have access to through personal stories and research. With a light touch and a spark of magic alongside a social-realistic approach I intend to explore themes of guilt and an unusual path to healing and love. Violence is also human, and it prompts us to consider how we want to treat those who have done wrong. This story aims to pursue such questions and encourage empathy.

*« Par delà les idées de bien et de mal, il y a un champ.
Je t'y retrouverai. »*

Rūmī

Synopsis

Après un sombre événement, Jakob, qui vient d'avoir 18 ans, abandonne l'école et commence à travailler dans une usine de pesticides près de Vienne. Sa famille s'éloigne de plus en plus de lui. Ils sont incapables de faire face à ce qui s'est passé, et s'écarter de Jakob leur permet de maintenir un faux sentiment d'harmonie. Jakob souffre chaque jour davantage de la solitude. Les choses commencent à changer lorsqu'il noue une relation inhabituelle avec Marius, un collègue d'usine de plus de trente ans son aîné. Mais à mesure qu'ils se rapprochent, le passé de Jakob remonte à la surface. Dans un geste désespéré, Jakob se retrouve la nuit devant la porte de Marius, agissant d'abord de manière innocente, puis s'offrant rapidement à lui, nu, à la recherche d'une seconde chance de vivre une première fois.

Note d'intention

Le film retrace les troubles d'un jeune homme accablé par la culpabilité, incapable de trouver la guérison, parce que sa famille ne peut pas à la fois l'aimer et faire face à ce qu'il a fait. Petit à petit, le traumatisme de Jakob se dévoile, révélant son implication dans un rapport sexuel forcé avec un ancien camarade de classe. La violence sexuelle chez les jeunes hommes est un sujet sous-représenté auquel j'ai eu accès par le biais d'histoires personnelles et de recherches. Avec une approche à la fois légèrement magique et socio-réaliste, j'ai l'intention d'explorer les thèmes de la culpabilité, de la guérison et de l'amour par un chemin inhabituel. La violence est aussi humaine, et nous oblige à réfléchir à la manière dont nous voulons traiter ceux qui ont mal agi. Ce film espère approfondir ces questions et encourager l'empathie.