

Mein Deutschland

(Spelling my Germany)



(film frame)

A film that touches you, allows you to laugh and moves you
A plea for a more tolerant world.

A film by:

Martin Pfeil

Production:

Lupo media

Michael Wolf

Press kit

sponsored by:

FFF Bayern



lupo media GmbH, Filmproduktion, Untertaxetweg 89
82131 Gauting Tel: 089 – 81 89 3333, Fax: 089 – 89 35 75 71
info@lupomedia.de www.lupomedia.de

film-fernsehproduktion martin pfeil völkstraße 8
86150 augsburg tel: 0821-311640 fax: 0821-3491555 0171-3655500
info@pfeil-film.de www.pfeil-film.de

Abstract:

A love story between migrants who not only have to fight for integration in Germany, but also with the different mentality here.

The focus is the friendship between the German born Turkish woman, Jack, who has gone through an arranged marriage and the African asylum seeker, Fesal, who has been threatened with deportation.

A cinematic plea for the mutual respect and recognition of cultural diversity in Germany.



(film frame)

Original Format: HD
Length: 86 minutes
Location: Germany / Bayern
Release Date: 2010

While there is much debate about whether Germany is a country of immigration or not, whether foreigners should leave or are badly needed here and how the number of immigrants can be regulated by law, millions of foreigners already live in Germany. The Federal Statistical Office puts the number at 7.3 million while many social organizations believe that there is a significant number of unreported immigrants or people living here illegally. Radical right-wing parties even estimate that there are 14 million foreigners in order to create fears and prejudices. The topics of immigration, xenophobia and the integration of foreigners are not only burning issues in all current political and social discussions, but they will not lose any of their topical relevance in the coming years. According to recent statistical surveys the percentage of foreigners in Munich hovers around 25% of the city's population. By the year 2010, in the large cities of German cities especially, more than half of the under 40-year-olds will have a migration background. A recent study conducted by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung stated that every second Bavarian is of the opinion that the number of foreigners in Germany has reached dangerous proportions.

The author Martin Pfeil sees his story as a cinematic plea for the mutual respect and recognition of cultural diversity and of all religions. Thus, "Mein Deudshland" is a testament to his great awareness of the peculiarities of ethnic identities and his keen sense of social differentiation. Additionally, the broad spectrum of interesting characters offers a high potential for identification and recognition. Thus, for example, the German cook Robbie undergoes an especially interesting development over the course of the story. At the end of the story, the antagonist plans to apologize to Fesal and prove to him that people are able to change their views. Unfortunately, it is then too late. Robbie, and along with him, the audience, have to make the bitter experience that he has inflicted great harm to another person by his jealousy, his prejudices and his narrow-mindedness. The theme of the film is unquestionably contemporary and fits excellently into the political and social debate on migration and integration that has been going on for some time now.

The Film "Spelling my Germany" is, above all, a story about friendship and love. It not only profoundly changes the life of the main Turkish-born female character but its fateful ending also has positive affects on the lives of those Germans touched by the protagonists. Vibrant, genuine characters take the audience through a well-researched and authentic film about the world of foreigners in Germany. The audience witnesses a moving and unfulfilled love affair between a young African man named Fesal and a young Turkish woman named Jack, set against a background in which a thrilling and sometimes humorous and ever changing story unfolds.

The Government of Swabia placed the "Flakkaserne" refugee accommodation at our disposal.

The city of Augsburg provided us access to their urban locations.

intv Ingolstadt, together with the **BLM (Bayerische State Institute for New Media)**, supported the project financially within the framework of the 2008 priority topic, "intercultural dialogue"

The **FilmFernsehFonds** of Bavaria has supported both the script and the film production.

Summary

FESAL (30, Njamy Sitson) is from Cameroon. His parents want their son to have a better life than they have so they scrape together all the money they have and send him to Germany. But Fesal does not get a residence permit. So he, like so many others, creates his own identity. This way he hopes to be granted asylum by the German authorities. He suffers under the burden of his lies, under the uncertainty of his situation and the fear of being deported. But Fesal is a happy man. With the hope for a better future, he puts his fate in his own hands. He even finds work in a restaurant and falls in love with a young Turkish woman called Jack.



JACK (35, Suzan Demircan) was born in Germany as a child of Turkish parents. At 16, she has to marry a stranger in Turkey who is twice her age. On her wedding night she is raped and then beaten into obedience in the weeks following. She manages to escape, but back in Germany her parents cast her out as a "disgrace" to the family. In a woman's shelter, she begins her new life: Hatun turns into Jack. She takes off the headscarf and buys her first pair of jeans. Now, 10 years later, Jack seems to have self-confidence. She rebels against the hated Turkish traditions and provokes wherever she can. "Bloody foreigners" are Jack's first words. But shortly afterwards, she helps Fesal when they do not want to give him the main prize, a video camera, which he has won in a lottery at a department store. She even secures him a job as a kitchen helper in the restaurant where she works as a waitress. Fesal is happy and does his job with lots of dedication. He and Jack gradually become more and more close and spend a brief happy time together. The German cook, Robbie, is burning up with jealousy because he sees himself as the boyfriend of the attractive Jack. One morning, Fesal is notified that his application for asylum has been finally rejected and is therefore not permitted to work anymore. He is afraid to go to his shelter because he fears that the Police will come for him and place him in detention. Jack tries to comfort him and allows

him to sleep the night on her sofa. As he is leaving the apartment the next morning he is seen by Robbie who wanted to surprise Jack with some fresh rolls for breakfast. On the same afternoon two policemen appear in the restaurant because they had received a tip that somebody was working illegally in the kitchen. The boss assures the police. The same night, after the cash register is totalled, 500 € is missing and it is found, in Fesal's coat, of all places. He protests his innocence but no one believes him. He is fired without any notice. Even Jack is very disappointed and accuses him of having abused her trust. When it becomes clear that Fesal is the victim of a setup, Jack wants to make up for the damage but much too much has happened already ... In the end, they must stand by and watch Fesal being led away by two policemen to be finally deported. The only things he leaves behind are his life and a DVD. On it is a film which he has shot for Jack with the camera he had won. It is in stark contrast to their current situation for it shows once again the beautiful and happy moments they had enjoyed together.

Actors and Crew

JACK	Suzan Demircan
FESAL	Njamy Sitson
NURAN	Gülay Hakerek
DAOUID	Bobet Nlombi Nsi Keto
ROBBI	Ronald Hansch
KATHARINA	Anna Maria Jordan
TONI	Antonello Belcuore
MARY	Jennifer Mulinde-Schmid
SCHÄFER	Thomas Hinrich
HAMDIYE	Nagihan Ostermeir
Screenplay/Direction/Cut	Martin Pfeil
Producer	Michael Wolf
Director of Photography	Xaver Schweyer
Assistent Director	Johannes Simon Becker
Sound	Robert von Münchhofen Regina Popfinger
Screenplay -coach	Thomas Hinrich
Second ad Lightning	Marion Port Dennis Schützsack Johannes Strahler
Set & Costumes Requisite Makeup artist	Elke Zückert Ulrike Beutel Katharina Weiß Fernando Santoianni
Music Cut Assistent Colour matching	Andreas Schmidt-Hoensdorf Caroline Meier Andreas Brückl



(film frame)



(film frame)



(film frame)

**Director/Screenwriter
Martin Pfeil**



Since 1990, Martin Pfeil has been a freelance writer and cameraman for the Bayerischer Rundfunk.

He has written and produced numerous screenplays for documentaries, documentary feature films and short films.

In 2004 he received script/screenplay funding from FFF Bayern for his first feature cinema film "Mein Deudshland."

Filmography (Excerpts)

2008/2009 **"Mein Deudshland"** "Spelling my Germany"
Feature film sponsored by FFF and BLM

2006 **"Recognition Now"**
Four cinema spots on behalf of MigraNet, an initiative for the recognition of school certificates and job training qualifications of people with immigrant backgrounds. FBW rated : "highly commended"

2004 -
video clips for all the new productions of the Bavarian State Opera see www.staatsoper.de

2003 **„Ein englischer Ritter im Freistaat - Sir Peter Jonas"**
"An English Knight in the Free State of Bavaria - Sir Peter Jonas " Portrait. On behalf of BR,
Editorial "Lifelines" 45 min Aired on Arte 12/28/2003

„Die schwarzen Buben" "The Black Boys"
A short film about asylum seekers attending a German course, based on a story by Heinrich Hoffmann, awarded the "European Language Label"

2002 **„fatto da dio"** Die Salesianer auf San Giorgio Maggiore
"fatto da dio" The Salesians of San Giorgio Maggiore
Self-production, documentary, 60 min OmdU
18th International Documentary Festival Munich 2003

2000 **„Faschings Fahrt" Das Race Across America 2000**
"Faschings Ride" The Race Across America 2000
Documentary 55 min

- 1999 **„Eine Prinzessin auf der Reise durch das Leben- Hetti von Bohlen und Halbach“**
 "The Princess and her Journey Through Life – Hetti von Bohlen und Halbach "
 On behalf of BR, editorial "Life lines" 45 min
 Initial Broadcast 6/21/1999 BR / NDR
- 1997 **„Bachschmids Rückkehr in die Gegenwart“**
 (Biographie eines Musikers)
 "Bachschmid's Return to the Present"
 (Biography of a musician)
 Documentary Feature, 36 min intv-Media and BLM
 Nominated for the Bavarian Television Award 1998
- 1995 - several videos and EPK's including among others,
 an Ariola with Gianna Nannini, Andrea Bocelli, Haindling
- 1994 **„werde versuchen, daß es nicht regnet...“**
 "I will try to ensure that it doesn't rain ..."
 (Dying on camera) documentary,
 43 minutes by Ma Kronawitter various film festivals,
 Aired, among other times, 11.25.1995 at SFB, hr, DRS
- „Als die Sonne ihr Gesicht verbarg“**
 "When The Sun Hid Her Face" Discrimination in Germany,
 documentary, 35 min
 Film Review Board Wiesbaden: rated "valuable"
 Aired, among other times, 01/01/1994 3SAT
- 1990 - working as a freelance writer and cameraman for, a
 mong others, ARD, ZDF, Contributing to Capriccio for
 BR and the Cultural channel of ARD, "Lifelines".
- 1989 **„Wolli und Kurtl - Die Welt Der Traum Der Tod“**
 "Wolli and Kurtl – 'Life Dreams Death '
 (The suicides of two friends) Documentary, 60 min
 5th place Independent Film Days in Augsburg, 1989
 and among others, 32nd place at the Leipzig Documentary Film
 Festival, Filmfest Würzburg Verleih: Medienwerkstatt Franken