

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



Title: Du bist So Wunderbar (Paradise Europe)

Length: 17min

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Format: 2k Digital

Year: 2023

Genre: Comedy

Language: German, English, Portuguese

Shot in Berlin

SYNOPSIS

On the day thousands of people went to the streets protesting against unaffordable rents in Berlin and the abolishment of the rental cap law, a gay Brazilian immigrant who was just kicked out of his apartment struggles to find a new room while his personal life falls apart as well as the city around him. **Winner of the Silver Leopard at the 76th Locarno Film Festival - Pardi di Domani International Competition.**

CAST

Edu - Murillo Basso

Valerie - Greta Amend

Person 1 - Angel Quel

Person 2 - Magnús Þorri Jökulsson

Person 3 - Zoe Valentini

Person 4 - Filipe Matzembacher

Friend on the phone - Paulo Menezes

Jenny - Cleo Spiro

Sverre - Blake Kendall

Mia - Dilan GeZaza

Flavio - Marcio Reolon

Drug Dealer - Leandro Goddinho

CREW

Writers/Directors - Leandro Goddinho & Paulo Menezes

Assistant Director - J Frisch Wang

Line Producer/Production Manager - Sara Russo

Director of Photography - Álfgerður Malmquist

Gaffer - Magnús Þorri Jökulsson

Sound Recordist - Helen Clocherty, Sara Russo, Paulo Menezes

Art Director - Zoe Valentini

Editor - Carolina Cardoso

Sound Design - N Fanari

Music - Geil / N Fanari - D.Calvi

Vecradica - MAR

Poster & Illustration - Pedro Stolf

Producers - Paulo Menezes & Leandro Goddinho

Production Company - CinemaPosgenero



AWARDS

- **Silver Leopard** - Pardi di Domani International Competition - 76th Locarno Film Festival /August 2023.

SELECTIONS

- **76th Locarno Film Festival** - Pardi di Domani Int' Competition - Switzerland /Aug 2023.
- **52nd Festival du Nouveau Cinema de Montreal** - Int' Competition - Canada /Oct 2023. (Oscar Qualifying)
- **42nd Uppsala Short Film Festival** - Int' Competition - Sweden /Oct 2023. (Oscar Qualifying)
- **39th Interfilm Int' Short Film Festival** - Germany /Nov 2023.
- **PÖFF Shorts - Black Nights Film Festival** - Live Action Competition - Estonia /Nov 2023. (Oscar Qualifying)
- **24th Mezprata Queer Film Festival** - Int' Competition - Czech Republic /Nov 2023.

Other Festivals:

- **8th QFFM - Queer Film Festival Munchen** - Germany /Oct 2023.
- **11th Porn Days** - Switzerland / Nov 2023.

WHAT HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE MOVIE

'Du bist so wunderbar' is explosive filmmaking, a tragicomical tour de force following a young immigrant in today's Berlin who, in the heyday of the housing crisis, struggles to exist among social inequalities and cultural stereotypes.'

Eddie Bertozzi - Locarno Programmer

"A bold and exuberant slice of life, full of humor and complexity, this film identifies a rich, comic situation in the indignities of apartment hunting in Berlin. The filmmakers were brave and bold, original with their approach, and their film is beautifully elevated by a nuanced and charismatic lead performance."

Pardi di Domani Jury 2023

(Matthew Rankin, Amos Sussigan and Ewa Puszcynska)

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

/ Leandro Goddinho

Leandro Goddinho is a Brazilian filmmaker dedicated to LGBTQ+ issues. His recent

short film *"Du bist So Wunderbar (Paradise Europe)"* won the Silver Leopard at the esteemed **76th Locarno International Film Festival** as part of the Pardi di Domani International competition. He is also a **BERLINALE TALENTS** alumni and winner of more than **100 awards** at film festivals worldwide.

In 2015, Leandro was selected for the German Chancellor Fellowship for Prospective Leaders, sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. This prestigious opportunity allowed him to research and develop a documentary project titled "The World is round so that nobody can hide in the corners," which focused on LGBTQ+ Diaspora. The first part, "Refuge," was screened at over 70 festivals, securing awards in Greece and the US, and receiving nominations for the Große Klappe Award in Germany and the Iris Prize in the UK. The second part, "The Kiss," has been showcased at prominent festivals such as the acclaimed 72nd Edinburgh Film Festival, as well as being exhibited at the Mais Performance exhibition at the Oi Futuro Museum in Rio de Janeiro, the Ruhrtriennale Festival der Künste 2018 in Germany, and the Archive of Forgetfulness in South Africa.

Leandro's graduation project, "DARLUZ" (2009), garnered 38 awards. His 2016 short film, "Piscina" (Pool), made its world premiere at the Palm Springs Film Festival and has since won 45 awards while being selected for over 150 film festivals worldwide. In 2017, he received the New Screenwriters Fund from the Brazilian Ministry of Culture to write his debut feature film. Since then, Leandro has secured over 15 film funds to develop and produce his projects.

With a Master's degree in Media and Visual Anthropology from Freie Universität-Berlin, where he held the DAAD Scholarship for Foreign Artists, Leandro is currently lecturing at two German universities. He teaches in the MA in Visual & Media Anthropology program at HMKW – Hochschule für Medien, Kommunikation und Wirtschaft, as well as at Catalyst Berlin - Institute for Creative Arts & Technology in both the MA and BA programs, where he also serves as the Film Production Program Lead.

Goddinho is presently involved in the post-production of his feature documentary, "Telas" (Screens), scheduled for release in 2023/24, and is also actively developing two feature scripts "Piscina" and "Tem alguém que nos odeia".

/ Paulo Menezes

Paulo Menezes is a Brazilian filmmaker currently studying directing at the **DFFB**. He previously studied Film and TV production in London and after graduating he worked on various documentaries for **BBC** and **Al Jazeera** in the UK. He moved to Berlin in 2016 where he did his Masters in Media and Visual Anthropology at **Freie University**.

His film **Lolo** about gay kids navigating a heteronormative world screened in more than 200 festivals around the world. His next short **Pommes Paradies** premiered at Filmfest Dresden and was selected by **AG Kurzfilm** as part of their **Cannes catalog** in 2021. His short "**Nicht die brasilianischen Homosexuellen sind pervers, sondern die Situation, in der sie leben**" screened in many festivals including Uppsala, BFI Flare, Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg to name a few. At Filmfest Dresden the film took home the **German Film Critics Award** as well as the **LUCA award** in 2022.

His most recent short "**DU BIST WUNDERBAR**" won the Silver Leopard at the **76th Locarno International Film Festival**, as part of the **Pardi di Domani Competition**. Recently Paulo was a jury member at Filmfest Dresden in April 2023.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As film directors, "Du bist so wunderbar" holds deep personal significance as it is rooted in the Queer culture and reflects real events from our lives as immigrant artists in Berlin. The film explores the pressing issue of the city's housing crisis, which becomes even more complex and chaotic when experienced by a gay immigrant artist without a European passport.

Drawing inspiration from the "Third Cinema" movement, which traditionally addresses socio-political issues in the developing world, our film reinterprets this approach in the context of the "First world." By doing so, we aim to shed light on contemporary challenges that persist in a post-pandemic society still tied to its hetero-patriarchal colonialist past.

The narrative revolves around Edu, whose life becomes a tumultuous journey through a single day. The housing crisis and gentrification in Berlin lay bare the facade of a society claiming to be pseudo-liberal and open-minded but rife with minor daily aggressions.

As filmmakers in diaspora, we align ourselves with the emerging Accented Cinema trend, where we illuminate the difficulties we face while making a living abroad. Our struggles extend beyond language barriers and encompass cultural obstacles, prejudice, racism, and homophobia, even when disguised with good intentions.

Our film emphasizes the power of queer narratives, which have always challenged the system, questioned societal norms, and offered fresh perspectives with a raw and underground aesthetic that defies established standards.

Through this film, we aim to spark conversations about the multifaceted struggles faced by individuals in marginalized communities. By presenting Edu's story and the intersectionality of his identity, we hope to encourage audiences to confront their preconceived notions and biases and embrace a more inclusive and understanding

society. Ultimately, "Du bist so wunderbar" is a passionate homage to the power of low-budget cinema to challenge and inspire change.



CONTACT INFO
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