

Bon Voyage Films & The Playmaker Munich present:

AXIOM

Germany / 2022 / 112 Min.

A film by
Jöns Jönsson

PRESS NOTES

World premiere
Berlinale 2022
Encounters

Cinema release Germany: 30 June 2022

Press materials can be downloaded [HERE](#)



Press notes AXIOM
Berlinale 2022

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

Julius is an eloquent young museum attendant loved by his friends, colleagues and his girlfriend. One day he invites his colleagues on a sailing trip on his aristocratic family's boat. But something goes wrong. Julius is not who he seems to be.

SYNOPSIS

Julius (Moritz Treuenfels) is an eloquent young museum attendant loved by his friends, colleagues and his girlfriend. One day he invites his colleagues to join him for a sailing trip on his aristocratic family's sailing boat. But something goes wrong. Julius is not who he seems to be.

Moritz Treuenfels is the perfect choice to embody this charming young man one gladly follows at first, only to feel less and less comfortable with the contradictions that arise from his fluid approach to life. In this finely written and directed film about identity and social behaviour, Jöns Jönsson pushes the idea of 'fake it till you make it' to its breaking point. Julius impresses everyone with his worldly knowledge and free-flowing conversation embodying modern ideals of self-reinvention. Yet his behavioural patterns are in conflict with the rules of society. Unfolding with a flexibility that echoes that of the protagonist, AXIOM is a fascinating exploration of this disquieting contradiction that is both visceral and intellectually dizzying.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I got the idea for AXIOM from a short anecdote a friend told me many years back. Somebody he knew had a new colleague who always had something interesting to say. A charismatic, sympathetic guy whom you'd be happy to be friends with. One day he invited his colleagues to go sailing but the trip never took place. It then took a while longer till they found out there was something up with the guy.

AXIOM is a film about the human condition, as I see it, boiled down to that one phrase "Fake it till you make it", which for me is a very striking description of our human behaviour from birth to death. My fascination of a person who is, in a contradictory way, so connected with his environment and yet so isolated from it, made me start thinking about this matter, and eventually took me to a point where I completely had to question any kind of 'true identity', in line with the views of writer Luigi Pirandello, suggesting we all invent a new identity for each new person we meet.

Jöns Jönsson, February 2022



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Jöns Jönsson

Jöns Jönsson was born in Stockholm 1981. In 2006 he started studying directing at the film school Filmuniversität Babelsberg Konrad Wolf in Germany. His short HAVET competed in the 2009 Berlinale Shorts programme. His debut feature LAMENTO won the First Steps Award and had its premiere in 2014 at the Berlinale section "Perspektive Deutsches Kino". His latest feature AXIOM was also selected to compete at the Berlinale, in the section "Encounters" in 2022.



FILMOGRAPHY

Havet / The Sea (2008)

23 min / Fiction / Filmuniversität Babelsberg Konrad Wolf
Premiere: Berlinale / Berlinale Shorts
Awards: Best Film at the Timishort Film Festival

Grand Ayatollah Bajat Sandschani (2009)

19 min / Documentary / Filmuniversität Babelsberg Konrad Wolf
Premiere: Les Ecrans Documentaires

Wertingen (2011)

33 min / Fiction
Premiere: Festival du Cinema de Brive

Lamento (2013)

86 min / Fiction / Buntfilm - Filmuniversität Babelsberg Konrad Wolf
Premiere: Berlinale / Perspektive Deutsches Kino
Awards: First Steps Award for best feature Film

Axiom (2022)

112 Min / Fiction / Bon Voyage Films
Premiere: Berlinale / Encounters

MAIN CAST

Moritz Treuenfels

Julius

Born in 1988 in Eutin, Moritz Treuenfels trained as an actor at the Otto-Falckenberg School in Munich. His first engagements while studying took him to the Munich Kammerspiele. In 2015 he was an ensemble member at the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus and in 2016 he received the "Gustaf" Audience Award for Best Actor. At the Hans Otto Theater in Potsdam he plays and sings Rio Reiser in *Rio Reiser. König von Deutschland*. He is praised nationally for his portrayal of Rio Reiser until he transferred to the Theater Basel for the 2019/2020 season. Since the 2020/2021 season Moritz Treuenfels has been a full time ensemble member at the Residenztheater. Moritz Treuenfels is also a regular performer in film and television, including the feature films *Rate Your Date*, *Schachnovelle* and most recently in *AXIOM*, directed by Jöns Jönsson.



Ricarda Seifried

Marie

Ricarda Seifried, born in Munich, began her acting training in 2011 at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. From 2015-2019 she studied acting at the Theaterakademie August Everding. This was followed by theatre and feature film projects. Among others she played a leading role in Jan Bonny's neo-Nazi drama *Wintermärchen*, a performance that was nominated for the German Film Critics Award 2020 for Best Actress and received the Special Award for an Ensemble Performance.

This was followed by Bonny's next film project, the Grimme Award nominated *Wir wären andere Menschen*. After an engagement at the Stadttheater Ingolstadt she appeared in the lead role in the 2021 Scene of Crime episode *Wie alle anderen auch*, directed by Nina Wolfrum. At the end of February she can be seen in the ZDF miniseries *Der Überfall* (director: Stephan Lacant).



Thomas Schubert

Erik

Thomas Schubert is an Austrian actor who began his career as an amateur when, at the age of 17, he chanced to accompany a friend to a casting. He made his acting debut with one of the lead roles in the Austrian film *Atmen* (2011).

In the drama *Am Ende des Sommers* (2015) he played the lead role of the young Ben, who, as a young man, learns that he is not the child of a great love but the result of a rape. In recent years he has appeared in, among others, the feature films *Windstill* (Nancy Camaldo, 2019), *Das freiwillige Jahr* (Ulrich Köhler & Henner Winckler, 2018) and *Wintermärchen* (Jan Bonny, 2018).



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

Bon Voyage Films was founded in 2015 with offices in Hamburg and Berlin by producer and director Amir Hamz and producer and head of production Christian Springer. The company produced successful films such as *THE NIGHTMARE* (Toronto, 2015). In Spring 2017 actor Fahri Yardim joined the team as a producer. In 2019, the company shot the feature film *CURVEBALL* by Johannes Naber that premiered in 2020 at the Berlinale in Berlin and won the German Film Award in Bronze in 2021. At the same time, the six-part series *DIARY OF AN UBER DRIVER* was produced for the streaming platform Joyn and the docu-series *FAHRI'S SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS* for ProSieben. In 2020, Bon Voyage Films also produced the feature film *AXIOM*, that premieres in 2022 at Berlinale in the Encounters Competition and was one of the main producers of Shirin Neshat's US indie film *LAND OF DREAMS* (starring Isabella Rossellini and Matt Dillon, among others), which was invited to Venice Int. Filmfestival in 2021. *SAFAHRI*, a high-end docu-series, has also been produced in 2021 and is available on Sky since autumn 2021. Bon Voyage Films works with writers and filmmakers with whom it wants to inspire, challenge, and move audiences in a lasting way. The production company also focuses on feature films and serial formats as well as major cinema documentaries.



CREDITS

CREW

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|-------------------------|---|
| Directed and Written by | Jöns Jönsson |
| Director of Photography | Johannes Louis |
| Editing | Stefan Oliveira-Pita |
| Sound Design | Paul Rischer |
| Sound Mix | Martin Steyer |
| Sound | Michael Schlömer |
| Production Design | Claudia Steinert |
| Costumes | Elisabeth Kraus |
| Make-up | Susanne Woerle – Jiritano, Kerstin Baar |
| Casting | Susanne Ritter |
| Assistant Director | Nils Strüven |
| Production Manager | Urte Amelie Fink |

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| Producers | Amir Hamz (Bon Voyage Films) Christian Springer (Bon Voyage Films) Fahri Yardim (Bon Voyage Films) |
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| In co-production with | WDR ARTE |
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CAST

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| Julius | Moritz Treuenfels |
| Marie | Ricarda Seifried |
| Erik | Thomas Schubert |
| Hannelore | Petra Weltheroth |
| Jonas | Max Themak |
| Lizi | Ines Marie Westernströer |
| Savo | Zeihun Demirov |
| Frank | Felix Tittel |
| Melanie | Deniz Orta |
| Robert | Hendrik Kraft |