

MINERVA PICTURES



5 WAYS TO DIE - ONE WAY TO SURVIVE

THE BITTER TA5TE

DEFEAT YOUR OPPONENT

a DORCON FILM production "THE BITTER TA5TE"

JULIA DORDEL NICOLO PASETTI ANNE ALEXANDER SIEDER and JOHN KEOGH
director of photography GUIDO TÖLKE music by CLEMENS DAMERAU
executive producers MICHAEL HEIKS WOLFGANG HOWIND
executive producers BJÖRN DIXGÅRD PATRIK HEIKINPIETI DANIEL HAGLUND and HÅKAN SÖRLE from MANDO DIAO
screenplay by JULIA DORDEL and GUIDO TÖLKE produced by JULIA DORDEL
directed by GUIDO TÖLKE



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MANDO DIAO

PROJECT BREAKDOWN

Tagline: "Five ways to compete, five ways to die, one way to survive..."

Content: A retired pentathlete is captured by an undead countess and her cursed followers. To survive a cannibalistic manhunt, she teams up with a charming fisherman and a grumpy cop, while having to rely on her rusty athletic skills.

Target Audience: The typical horror audience of all ages, however, also women and men ages 25 and older who enjoy higher concept supernatural thrillers and adventure films with female action.

Film References: Look and feel are inspired by *From Dusk till Dawn*, *The Thing*, *The Evil Dead* (remake), and *A Cure for Wellness*.

Genre: Horror-Action-Adventure

Running Time: 120 min.

Language: English

Writers: Julia Dordel & Guido Tölke

Director: Guido Tölke

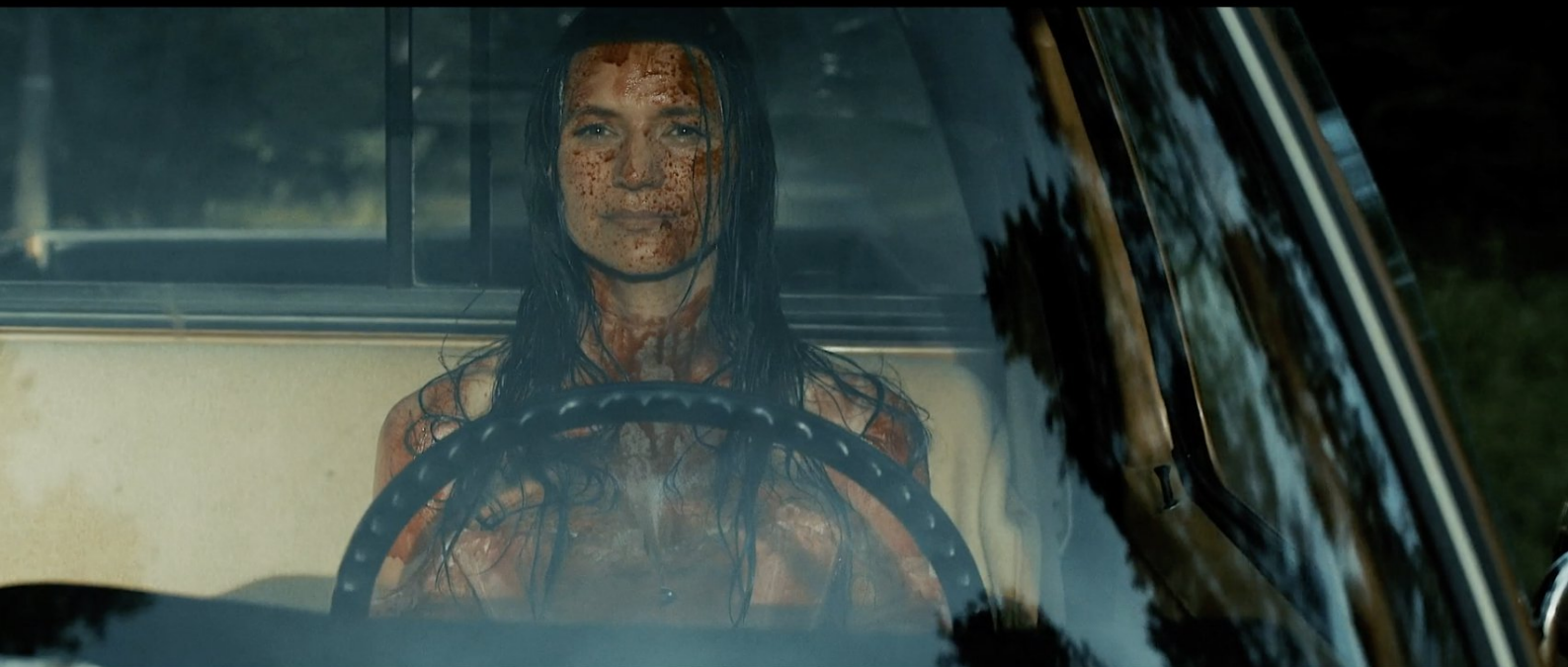
Producer: Julia Dordel

Executive Producers: Michael Heiks, Wolfgang Howind, Björn Dixgård, Patrik Heikinpieti, Daniel Haglund, and Håkan Sörle FROM MANDO DÍAO

Production Company: Dorcon Film

World Sales: Minerva Pictures

Status: Completed by August 2024



SYNOPSIS

Marcia, a hunting guide with a chronic pain condition, discovers valuable historic documents in an envelope that she desperately needs to sell to pay for her upcoming surgery.

On her way home through a remote area, Marcia accidentally hits a woman named Silva with her car. She takes Silva into her car to help her, covering her with the jacket that contains the stolen documents. However, they are soon pursued by a demon-like creature that drags Silva and the jacket away. Marcia crashes her car and barely escapes to a nearby village, only to receive a threatening phone call from the owner of the documents who demands their return.

Following Silva's tracks, Marcia arrives at the estate of Countess Badesky, an undead creature. She finds Silva barely alive, hanging from a butcher's hook, but is discovered by Helena, one of the countess' sword-wielding disciples. A struggle ensues, and Marcia manages to escape with the help of Josh, a local fisherman who owns an eel-smokehouse.

The local police officer, George, doubts Marcia's story, especially as she is taking painkillers, and thinks she may be delusional. Marcia becomes convinced that the countess and her disciples are hunting and killing female athletes to maintain their eternal youth.

With Josh's help, Marcia investigates further and discovers a photograph that shows Silva with four other women, including two athletes who arrived at the estate earlier. She suspects that these women are in danger. As George shows no interest in pursuing Marcia's leads and suspects her of stealing the documents, Marcia decides to leave the village. However, at the train station, she encounters the two remaining unknown women from the photograph, who are also heading to the countess' estate.

Determined to save them, Marcia returns to the estate with Josh. In the catacombs beneath the estate, Marcia and Josh find the jacket with the envelope containing the cursed documents. They learn that the countess and her disciples are bound to the estate by a curse sealed within the documents.

Marcia realizes that she must take the athletes' place to save them and faces a deadly hunt from the undead, who want the documents to break free from the curse.

As Marcia fights for her life, she discovers that Josh harbors a dark secret. With time running out, Marcia must use her rusty athletic skills to outwit the undead and protect the documents from falling into the wrong hands.

MAIN CAST



Julia Dordel as MARCIA

Julia studied theatre and film acting in Vancouver, Canada, where she lived for over ten years. Here she made her first steps in the (Hollywood) film industry on large sets with directors such as Roland Emmerich, Robert Redford and Chris Columbus.

She is an active Modern Pentathlete who used to train with the former Canadian Olympic Team and an aficionado of the action and horror genres.

Her lead role in the two-part action series "Mission NinetyTwo" saw her performing all of her stunts herself.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3721187/?ref=nm_bio_nm



Nicolo Pasetti as JOSH

Nicolo has appeared in various roles in German TV shows and movie projects like "Rico, Oscar und der Diebstahlstein" and "Lenin, die Deutschen und der Zarenmord". In 2016 Pasetti played New York's famous mayor Fiorello LaGuardia in director Kai Christiansen's film "Der Traum von der Neuen Welt". In 2017 Nicolo starred in the historical drama "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" ("Deine Juliet"), directed by Mike Newell as German soldier Christian Hellmann. Currently, Nicolo is being hyped by the media as Germany's next Hollywood export: https://www.focus.de/kultur/kino_tv/nicolo-pasetti-der-naechste-deutsche-hollywood-export_id_9391892.html. Nicolo speaks accent-free English, German and Italian.

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7551038/>



Anne Alexander Sieder as GEORGE

Anne is a US-American actress based in Germany who has appeared in numerous films such as "Guns Akimbo" under the direction of Jason Lei Howden, "Forget About Nick" along side Katja Riemann, as well as TV-shows like the new SKY series, "Acht Tage", directed by Oscar winner Stefan Ruzowitzky & Michael Krummenacher, as a series regular in the sci-fi series "Ice Planet" directed by Winrich Kolbe of Star Trek fame. In addition to that Anne has played leads in several indie films such as, "8 Remains", and "Morning, Noon & Night which are currently available on Amazon Prime.

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0018253/>

USP'S

- Female dominated:
 - Gender equality and diversity: Female lead character(s) of all ages
 - Women in male-associated jobs (mechanic, police-officer)
 - Woman:Men Ratio (2:1)
 - Women in action
- Breaking of cliches: Romance between an "older" woman and younger man
- Based on the myth of Blood Countess Elizabeth Bathory
- High Production Value:
 - Shot on original historic locations (castles, manors, mines...)
 - Vintage cars and steam-trains
 - Horse-pursuits
 - Sword fighting
 - etc...
- Green Production from idea to postproduction
- The famous independant rock band MANDO DÍAO composed an exclusive Song for the film



OUR TEAM



Guido Tölke

Director

German award-winning Director and Cinematographer has recently received recognition for »Best Environmental Documentary Feature« for »Intelligent Trees« at the Atlanta Docufest 2017, Best Foreign Film for »Mission NinetyTwo – Energy«, at the »Artemis Women in Action Film Festival 2017«, USA, Best Cinematography und Best VFX at the »International Indie Film Festival Melbourne 2016« Australia among others. Guido graduated from film studies at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Hannover, Germany. Since then he has collected valuable skills as a DOP, camera operator, focus puller and gaffer on numerous of camera systems. His work on countless film projects has taken him around the world.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2375162/?ref=fn_al_nm_1



Dr. Julia Dordel

Producer, Writer (Dorcon Film)

Julia Dordel has produced a number of award-winning feature, documentary and short films since she founded Dorcon Film in 2013. After a bank apprenticeship she studied Economics and Forestry and spent about a decade abroad in Canada and Argentina, during which time gained vast experiences in the fields of acting, screenwriting and film production in "Hollywood North", Vancouver, Canada. "The Bitter Taste" will be her third feature-length film project.

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3721187/>

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Being a kid of the 80s, I always loved cave adventures like "The Goonies" and "Indiana Jones," as well as fun splatters like "The Evil Dead 2" and creature features like "The Thing." It has always been a dream of mine to bring all these elements together in one film, perhaps adding a certain "Gore Verbinski" mood to it.

However, with "The Bitter Taste," we initially aimed to make a fast, simple, but original micro-budget horror film—to pass the time while we were trying to get a much larger film project off the ground. We ended up with our most ambitious and elaborate movie yet, made on the smallest budget you could imagine!

It was Julia Dordel's idea to use the sports discipline of modern pentathlon as an overarching theme because, as she said, "no one has ever done this before." We both took the challenge and went "no holds barred" in writing a screenplay without any restrictions, making it impossible to stay as simple and contained as we had intended. "The Bitter Taste" suddenly evolved into a location-heavy, action-heavy, and effects-heavy film with many actors, a complex backstory, and a long running time.

Given the many locations, action sequences, and a very limited low budget, the goal was to intelligently achieve as much production value and viewing pleasure as possible. That meant figuring out how to turn a big-budget idea into a DIY project.

It became a dream and a nightmare, involving no less than five years of work, mainly at nights, trying to realize a film that switches from mystery to action to horror to splatter, featuring chases by car and on horseback, underwater scenes, fencing, shootouts, a proper "end boss" monster, and a burning house. We wanted to go beyond the average horror/slasher film by creating an entertaining genre mix that we call "crossover horror." It pays tribute to many of my childhood movie classics while featuring modern, strong female characters, thanks to Julia's creative work on the screenplay. Together, we created a story that is so varied and filled with ideas that we hope it attracts not only horror fans but also an audience that loves action, adventure, suspense, and mystery.

Film Stills







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For more information please contact:
julia@dorconfilm.com or
sales@minervapictures.com



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