

## Document Citation

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Author(s)	Hy Hollinger
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**Betrogen**  
**(Betrayed)**  
**(WEST GERMAN-COLOR)**

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Hof, W. Germany, Oct. 26.

A Common Film production, Berlin, in coproduction with Cinegrafik/Helmut Herbst, Adolf Winkelmann Filmproduktion, and Bayerischer Rundfunk, Munich. Written and directed by Harun Farocki. Features entire cast. Camera (color), Axel Block; lighting, Holger Greiss, Joachim Scholz, Peter Arendt; sets, Ursula Lefkes, Hermann Pitz, Raimund Kummer; music, Andreas Köbner; editor, Renate Merck; tv producer, Silvia Koller. Reviewed at Hof Film Fest, Oct. 26, 1985. Running time: **90 MINS.**

With Roland Schäfer (Jens Baumann), Katja Rupé (Anna Mewis), Nina Hoyer (Edith Mewis), Timo and Denis Menzel, Swenja and Ilka Höwe (Micha and Laura).

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Harun Farocki specializes in avant-garde features soaked in social or political meaning, but generally running at a snail's pace — "Between Two Wars" (1978), "Something Becomes Visible" (1982), and now "Betrayed." For the film buff captivated by images and mannerisms, his unique approach to cinematic art deserves to be better known.

"Betrayed" follows the classic double-identity formula. Story (based on a newspaper account) offers a study of a man who has murdered his wife accidentally, then confesses the crime to his sister-in-law, with whom he has been having an affair while the wife was in a hospital (apparently a psychological clinic). The sister-in-law is pretty much a lookalike, so she simply changes roles with the dead partner, going so far in her new identity as to adopt her own children via a complicated but credible legal route.

What happens then is a round of role-playing until the cat is out of the bag some years later. —*Holl.*

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