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Der Einstein des sex - leben und werk des Dr. M. Hirschfeld (The Einstein of sex: life and work of Dr. M. Hirschfeld), von Film Subjects

Praunheim, Rosa, 1999



Kai Schuhmann Friedel von Wangenheim **Gerd Lukas Storzer** Olaf Drauschke Tima die Göttliche Ben Becker Meret Becker **Otto Sander** Wolfgang Völz in a film by

Rosa von Praunheim

The Life and Work of Doctor Magnus Hirschfeld



The Einstein of Sex is a dramatic feature film about the once world-famous sexologist Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, a Jewish gay socialist. In 1897 Hirschfeld founded the first political gay group in the History.

Also in Berlin he opened his Institute of Sexual Science in 1920, which remains unique and was highly regarded throughout the world. In 1933 the Nazis destroyed his life's work. He died in exile in France in 1935.

The Einstein of Sex

Germany, 1999; 35mm, feature, colour, 16:9, 98 min., optical sound, stereo. English subtitled version available.



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The Einstein Sex

The film reveals Hirschfeld through the major figures in his life: from the unfulfilled love affair with Baron von Teschenberg to the happy years with young Karl Giese; from his struggle with his major gay opponent, right-wing writer Adolf Brand, to the presence of his guardian angel, the transvestite Dorchen, a character of wit and great courage.

The Einstein of Sex is what the American newspapers called Hirschfeld in 1931. When asked how he felt about that, Hirschfeld replied, "I think it is very good. But better would be to call him the 'Hirschfeld of Physics'."

The Einstein of Sex, Magnus Hirschfeld died on his 67th Birthday, on Mai 14th 1935 in the exile in Nice, France. Karl Giese committed suicide in 1938 in the formel Czechoslovakia, on the run from the Nazis. Dorchens whereabouts are unknown.

Up to now, all attempts to organize an equivalent institute for sexual-science have failed.

Rosa von Praunheim

Rosa von Praunheim was born in Riga, Latvia, in 1942. At the age of 10, he escaped to the West and then moved to Praunheim, a district of Frankfurt am Main.

He studied painting in Berlin at the Acadamy of the Arts and took his artist's name of Rosa von Praunheim in 1964, partly in reference to the pink triangle homosexuals were forced to wear in the Nazi concentration camps.

Living in Berlin, New York and Los Angeles, Rosa is a well-known gay, who has made over 50 films as the enfant terrible of the New German Cinema. Some of his best-known films are: It's Not the Homosexual Who Is Perverse, but the Situation in Which He Lives (1970); Army of Lovers (1971-76); A Virus Knows No Morals (1985); I Am My Own Woman (1992); Transsexual Menace (1996); Gay Courage (1998), among many others.

The Crew:

Screenplay: Chris Kraus,

Valentin Passoni

Camera: Elfi Mikesch

Producer: Rosa von Praunheim

Executive Producer: Elke Peters Co-producers: Erik Schut,

Peter van Vogelpoel

Production Manager: Meike Kordes

Music: Karl-Ernst Sasse

Set Designer: Peter Kothe

Costume Designer: Doris Wolf

Costume Designer: Doris Wolf
Sound: Lilly Grothe

Assistant Director: Ingo Taubhorn
Sound Design: Constanze Semeling,
Guido Schwarz

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Supported by: Filmboard Berlin Brandenburg; Bundesministerium des Innern; Hessische Filmförderung; Filmbüro NW; Kulturelle Filmförderung Mecklenburg – Vorpommern; the COBO Fund Holland. In Coproduction with: Hessischer Rundfunk/arte; Argus Film Produktie, VPRO-Television, Holland; Studio Babelsberg Art Dept.







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