

## Document Citation

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## Macao

### Clemens Klopfenstein

**Switzerland, 1988, 90 minutes**

**Production Company:** Ombra Film (Bern)/Pandora Film (Frankfurt)/Modern Films (Hong Kong)

**Producer:** Dieter Fahrer

**Screenplay:** Clemens Klopfenstein, Felix Tissi, Wolfram Groddeck

**Cinematography:** Clemens Klopfenstein

**Editor:** Fee Liechti

**Sound:** Ivan Seifert

**Principal Cast:** Max Rüdinger, H-Dieter Jendreyko, Christine Lauterburg, Che Tin Hong, Shirley Wong

**Print Source:** Swiss Film Centre, Münsterstrasse 18, CH-8001, Zurich, Switzerland. Tel: (01) 47.28.60. Telex: 56289. Fax: (01) 69.11.32.

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Swiss director Clemens Klopfenstein's tale of paradise regained and the magical powers of love is based on a story reminiscent of the *Orpheus and Euridice* legend of Greek mythology. Its similarity to the Greek prototype, however, does not go any further than a simple thematic association. *Macao* is a thoroughly modern rendering of the "life after death" theme, set in the present, located within a plot laced with action, spiced with more than a few suspenseful twists and served up with large doses of inventive imagery. The story revolves around Mark Grundbacher, a Zurich-based specialist in Swiss dialects who is invited to Stockholm to lecture on his work. His plane crashes during the flight, but Mark believes he has survived the disaster. He swims to the coast of a small island, only this island seems to be half way around the world, situated somewhere in the South China Sea. The plot's implicit eccentricity (already a consistent trait of Klopfenstein's previous work) depends not only on the reversal of some of the key elements of the original Greek legend, but also on the contradiction of presenting an unbelievable story in a completely realistic and credible style. The end result is a thoroughly refreshing and entertaining film which does not need to justify any of its fantastic excesses. *Macao* is a captivating and idyllic thriller.

**Clemens Klopfenstein** was born in 1944. A painter and photographer as well as a filmmaker, he completed his first film, *Umleitung*, in 1966. His films include: *Nacho Rio* (68), *Variété Clara* (70), *Geschichte der Nacht* (79), *A Nachtlang Füürland* (81), *Trances* (82), *Das Schlesische Tor* (82), *Der Ruf der Sibylla* (85).

**Dimitri Eipides**