

## Document Citation

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## **A Virus Respects No Morals**

(Ein virus kennt keine Moral)

West Germany, 1985, 82 mins.

In German with English subtitles

Satire may not be the best revenge against AIDS, but it goes a long way in this irreverent, deadly serious and enormously powerful movie: this is gallows humor as furious provocation. As a fantasy, it is painfully obviously inspired by reality and von Praunheim spares no one his poisoned harpoon. There is the reporter who turns pernicious voyeur in order to keep her public in-the-know, a cold-blooded scientist whose comeuppance comes from behind, a rash of "new psychologies," and forked-tongued government ministers who plan to deport the infected to an island paradise. Most of the straight-world heavies seem to be women, but then von Praunheim himself plays an avaricious gay bathhouse owner whose denial for dollars turns into a real-life, five hankie melodrama when the disease hits home. Von Praunheim is a leading AIDS activist in Berlin, and here his deep colors, agonized angles and vaudevillian antics serve up a genuine cry—hold the pathos.

—Judy Bloch

SE-INT'L FILMFEST 1987

Director/Producer: ROSA von PRAUNHEIM. Executive Producer: RENEE GUNDALACH. Camera: ELFI MIKESCH, 16mm, 1.33. Screenplay/Cast: von PRAUNHEIM, DIETER DICKEN, MARIA HASENACKER, et al. Editor: von PRAUNHEIM, MICHAEL SCHAFER. Production Co./Print Source: EXPORTFILM BISCHOFF & CO. GmbH, Bayerstr. 15, D-8000, Munich 2/Tlx: 528290.

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