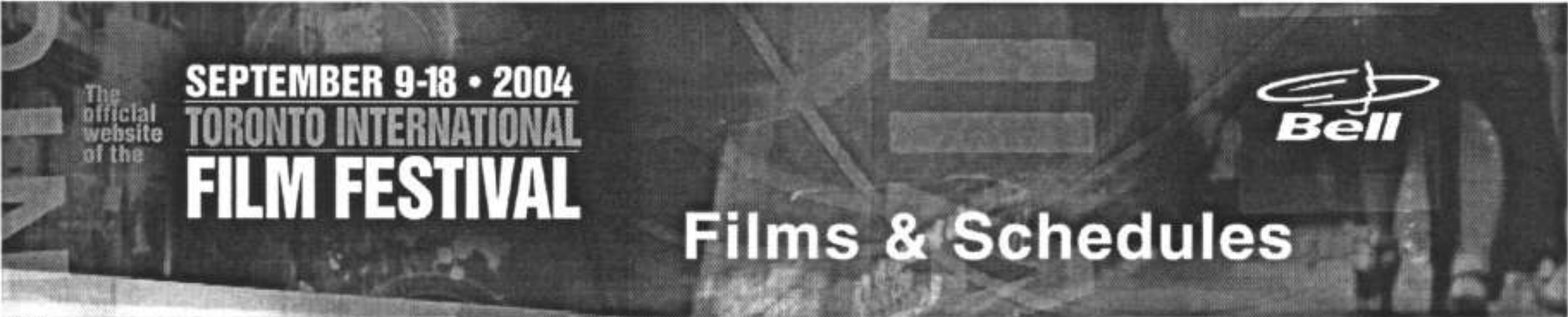


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Film Description

FILM TITLE:

Antares

Programme: Contemporary World Cinema
Director: Götz Spielmann
Country: Austria
Year: 2004
Language: German
Time: 105 minutes
Film Types: Colour/35mm



SCREENING TIMES:

Friday, September 10

06:15 PM

CUMBERLAND 2

Sunday, September 12

03:00 PM

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Production Company: Lotus-Film GmbH/TeamFilm Produktion GesmbH & Co. KG
Producer: Erich Lackner
Screenplay: Götz Spielmann
Cinematography: Martin Gschlacht
Editor: Karina Ressler
Production Designer: Katharina Wöppermann
Sound: Ekkehart Baumung
Music: Walter C. Cikan
Principal Cast: Petra Morzé, Andreas Patton, Hary Prinz, Susanne Wuest, Dennis Cubic, Martina Zinner, Andreas Kiendl

Antares may cause some controversy due to the raw sexuality of certain of its scenes, but Götz Spielmann's representation of intercourse is entirely in line with his desire to show the world as it really is. "Reality is not my final aim," the director says, "but it has to be the start. It is the only honest way to begin to tell a story." Following in the footsteps of Michael Haneke, Austrian directors like Spielmann have unleashed a flood of jet-black films that probe people's darkest insecurities. They present a bleak picture of a country notorious for attempting to bury its demons, breaking the dam of silence that prevents criticism.

The film's title refers to the brightest star in Scorpio - the astrological sign associated, for better or worse, with passion, sexuality, jealousy and force. Appropriately, the film is about the extremes of joy and anguish to which love can lead. In telling the stories of three couples, Spielmann explores the forces beyond sexual attraction that bring people together.

Alex (Andreas Kiendl) and Nicole (Martina Zinner) are divorced, but Alex cannot let go of what is past; Sonja (Susanne Wuest) is facing tough times because of her pregnancy and becoming wildly jealous of her husband Marco (Dennis Cubic); while Eva (Petra Morzé), a loyal wife and mother, has her life turned upside down by a fling with Tomasz (Andreas Patton). They all live in the same impersonal housing estate, emotionally messy individuals within a uniform concrete façade.

Spielmann portrays antagonism and social convention - rather than love or passion - as the forces that keep people together. The characters here are all connected in subtle and complex ways, a strategy that suggests that human communion can bring solace despite the hardships of existence. In this, Antares is not as pessimistic as some other contemporary Austrian films. It not only demands that we open our eyes to see through the deceptiveness of appearances and false emotions, but also suggests there is change for the better to be glimpsed on the other side.

- Dimitri Eipides

Götz Spielmann was born in Vienna and studied at the Vienna Film Academy. In addition to directing numerous short films and television dramas, he has made several features as writer-director, including Erwin und Julia (90), the award-winning The Neighbour (91), The Stranger (99) and Antares (04).

Associated with European Film Promotion, an initiative supported by the European Union's MEDIA Programme.

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