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## Sibylla's Kiss

*Switzerland 1984. Produced, directed and photographed by Clemens Klopfenstein.*

*Script: Clemens Klopfenstein, Serena Kiefer, Max Rudlinger, Franz Rickenbach. Editor: Franz Rickenbach. Cast: Christine Lauterburg, Max Rudlinger, Michael Schacht. 104 mins.*

In Clemens Klopfenstein's witty experimental feature Balz, a Swiss painter living in Umbria, finds he can't live without his stage-actress girlfriend Clara, who is preoccupied by a forthcoming premiere in a fictitious city called Jammers. To cure Balz's worried state of mind, a friendly old Franciscan gives him a drink of herbal schnapps, Amaro Sibilla (the liquor actually exists), whereupon he wishes Clara's premiere would be cancelled. A curse falls on Clara's leading man and the premiere is cancelled.

Next Balz wishes that Clara would make the trip to join him in Umbria, which also happens, as she has nothing to do until her acting colleague recovers. Once in Italy, the two are then forced to stay together because suddenly Clara loses her voice — again the result of a magic spell being cast innocently by Balz with the help of the mysterious schnapps. Soon, however, Clara/Sibylla begins to realise that the magic is entirely in her power when she has the bottle in her hands: she is able to regain her voice and finds that even the forces of nature obey her commands. Sibylla's Kiss has all the qualities of a good road movie, using improvisation, wit and imagination on location. As his own cameraman, Klopfenstein is able to conjure some superb images that suit his own freewheeling and often surreal approach to his material.