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ABENDLAND - NIGHTFALL -

a film by
Fred Kelemen

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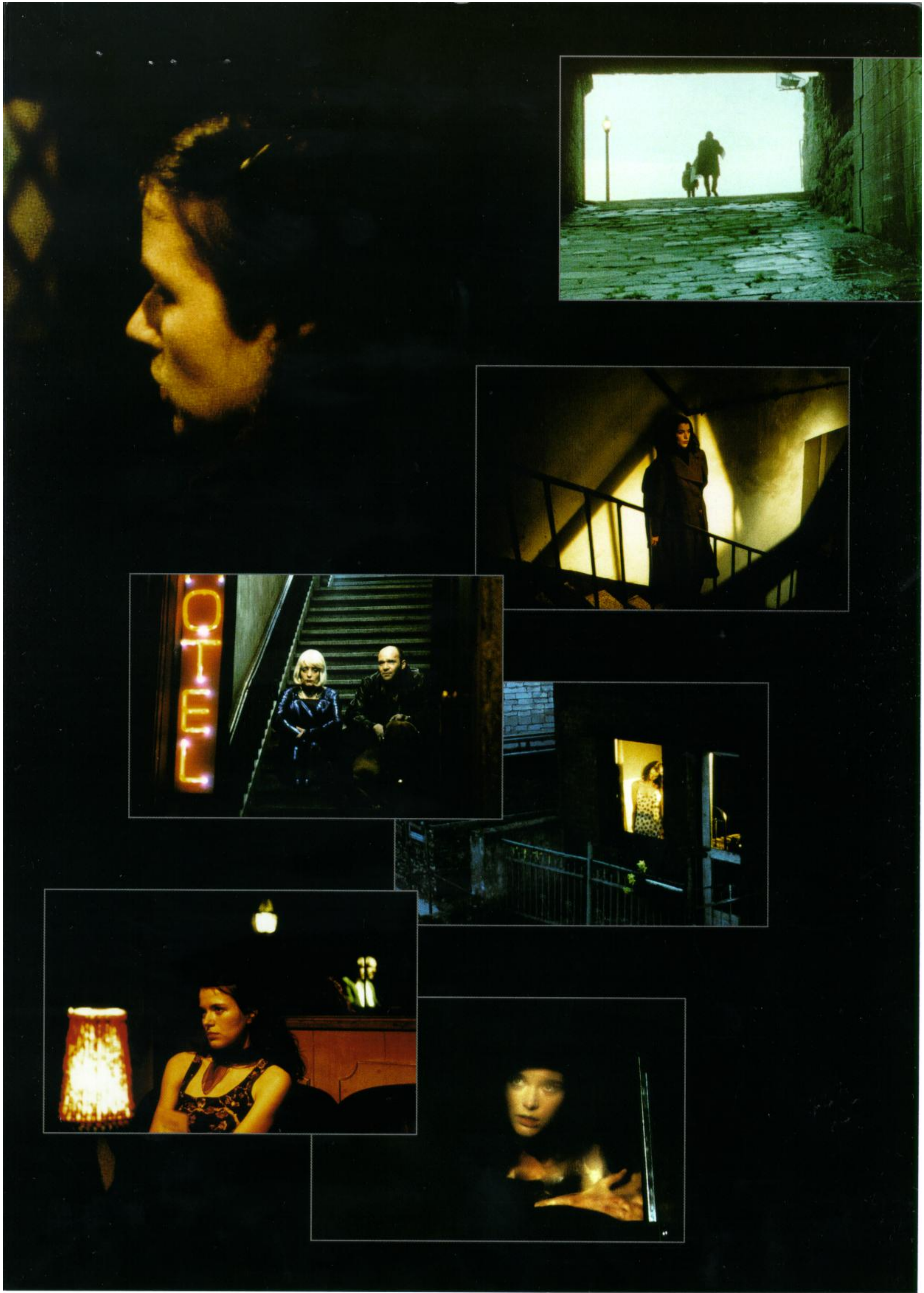


Somewhere in Europe at the end of the 20th century. Everything has lost its apparently safe place. In the city unemployment rules like a plague. Also Anton is affected.

Leni, who he has been living with for years, works as an ironer in a laundry. She tries to put life against the dark cocoon, Anton has weaved around them. A life that is not obliged to materialism and work - but to sensuality, believe and the possibility of love as the ultimate anarchistic and dignified act against a barbarous environment. She tries to follow a longing, bigger than the small being in the narrow world of disintegration, fear, doubts and lethargy.

Torn apart at dusk, each of them fights alone on their nocturnal odyssey through the black of the night and their own souls. Desperately rebelling against their loneliness, they will cross the lives of different people, will be weaved in strange fates, will hurt and will get hurt, tumble, fall and get up again, and will face each other with the taste of darkness and a certainty in their hearts which was unknown to them before.

"NIGHTFALL" speaks of love not in its beginning, when it is still illusionary, but when it is about to end while it had just begun to become essential.





PRINCIPAL CAST

Leni.....Verena Jasch
 Anton.....Wolfgang Michael
 The bell founder.....Adolfo Assor
 Nina.....Isa Hochgerner
 Paul.....Urs Remond
 Man in leather coat.....Thomas Baumann

CREDITS

Screenplay.....Fred Kelemen
 Assistant Directors.....Anna Schuchardt, Susanne Schmitt
 Director of Photography.....Fred Kelemen
 Camera Assistant.....Arnd Geissheimer
 Video Camera.....Hans Bouma
 Grip.....José Gomes, Miguel Efe
 Chief Electrician.....Christoph Demel
 Electricians.....Ki Bun Wedemann, Stefan Förster
 Sound.....Jörg Theil, David Gräwe
 Production Design.....Ralf Küfner, Anette Kuhn
 Costumes.....Daniella Petrovics, Melanie Kutzke
 Make-up Artist.....Sybille Tams
 Editing.....Fred Kelemen, Anja Neraal, Nicola Undritz Cope
 Music Composer.....Rainer Kirchmann
 Sound Mix.....Alexander Schäfer
 Production Manager.....Mandy Rahn
 Production Assistant.....Ellen Bickmeier
 Executive Producer.....Jörg Rothe
 Associate Producer.....Heike Hempel (WDR)
 Producer.....Alexander Ris
 Director.....Fred Kelemen

Production company.....Mediopolis Berlin
 in Co-Production with.....Filmes do Tejo, Lisbon
 and.....Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) Cologne

35mm - colour - 1:1,66 - 3,850 m - 140 minutes - Germany 1998/99

World Sales

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FUTURA FILM / WELTVERTRIEB IM FILMVERLAG DER AUTOREN

Rambergstraße 5 · 80799 München

Tel. (089) 38 17 00 30 · Fax (089) 38 17 00 20

NIGHTFALL

by Fred Kelemen

A German city close to the Polish border. Leni, ironer in a laundry, and Anton, unemployed, on their lonely odyssey through the black of the night and their own souls. Their desperate rebelling against a barbarous living and their attempt to regain the ability to love.

ABENDLAND NIGHTFALL

A film by Fred Kelemen

„Nightfall“ is like a long, sad song. Similar to a Portuguese Fado or to a Tango, transformed into images, the film talks about a life in loneliness, about poverty, about the futility of love, about violence and about the longing for redemption.

A German city close to the Polish border. Everything has lost its apparently safe place. Unemployment rules like a plague. Also Anton is affected. Leni, who he has been living with for years, works as an ironer in a laundry. She tries to put life against the dark cocoon, Anton has weaved around them. A life that is not obliged to materialism and work but to sensuality, believe and the possibility of love as the ultimate anarchistic and dignified act against a barbarous environment. She tries to follow a longing, bigger than the small being in the narrow world of disintegration, fear, doubts and lethargy. Torn apart at dusk, each of them fights alone on their nocturnal odyssey through the black of the night and their own souls. Desperately rebelling against their loneliness, they will cross the lives of different people, will be weaved in strange fates, will hurt and will get hurt, tumble, fall and get up again, and will face each other with the taste of darkness and a certainty in their hearts which was unknown to them before.

The film speaks of love not in its beginning, when it is still illusionary and charged with romantic dreams, but when it is about to end while it had just begun to become essential and demands to fight for it.

„Nightfall“ is dedicated to Amália Rodrigues who gave her song „Lágrima“ as a gift to the film.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Born in West-Berlin, Fred Kelemen first began studying painting and music, he worked as an assistant director at various theatres and in different jobs. In 1989, he began his studies at the German Film & TV Academy Berlin (dffb). During that time, he has made a number of films and videos as director and worked as director of photography and cameraman for several film directors. Since 1995, he is working as a guest lecturer at the Centre of Cinematographical Studies of Catalonia (C.E.C.C.) in Barcelona/Spain.

THE FILMS & THE PRIZES

(Selection)

1994 · VERHÄNGNIS / FATE

Prix FIPRESCI (International Film Critics Award) Special Mention - Toronto International Film Festival/Canada 1994

Audience's Award - Film Festival Max-Ophüls-Preis Saarbrücken/Germany 1995

German National Film Award (Silver Ribbon) 1995

Precolumbian Gold Circle Award for the Best Director - Bogota International Film Festival Colombia 1995

Award for the Best Film - Molodist International Film Festival Kiev/Ukraine 1995

„Arsenáls Magic Crystal“ - „Arsenáls Film Forum“ Riga International Film Festival/Latvia 1996

Nominated for the German Film Music Award 1997/1997/98

1997/98 FROST

Prix FIPRESCI (International Film Critics Award) - Rotterdam International Film Festival/The Netherlands 1998

Cariddi D'Argento Alla Migliore Regia (Best Director Award) – Taormina International Film Festival/Italy 1998

1998/99 ABENDLAND / NIGHTFALL

Prix FIPRESCI (International Film Critics Award) – Thessaloniki International Film Festival/Greece 1999

Premio „Principado de Asturias“ al mejor largometraje (Best Film Award) – Gijón International Film Festival/Spain 1999