



all of a sudden

A FILM BY **ASLI ÖZGE**



ALL OF A SUDDEN SEBASTIAN HÜLK JULIA JENTSCH HANNS ZISCHLER SASCHA A. GERŠAK LUISE HEYER

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **EMRE ERKMEN** EDITED BY **MURIEL BRETON** **ASLI ÖZGE** SOUND DESIGNER **JAN SCHERMER** RE-RECORDING MIXER **LARS GINZEL** ART DIRECTOR **TIM PANNEN**

COSTUME DESIGNER **BIRGITT KILIAN** MAKEUP & HAIR **LILLI MÜLLER** CASTING DIRECTOR **SIMONE BÄR** LINE PRODUCER **DORISSA BERNINGER** ASSOCIATE PRODUCER **MICHAEL REUTER**

PRODUCED BY **FRANS VAN GESTEL** **ARNOLD HESLENFELD** **SIMON ARNAL** **CAROLE SCOTTA** **GEORGES SCHOUCAIR** PRODUCED BY **FABIAN MASSAH** **ASLI ÖZGE** WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY **ASLI ÖZGE**

EEE PRODUCTIONS IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH **TOPKAPI FILMS** **HAUT ET COURT** **SHORTCUTS INTERNATIONAL** **THE POST REPUBLIC** WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF **WDR-ARTE**

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Original title (German): Auf Einmal

SYNOPSIS

After the party in Karsten's apartment, everybody leaves except Anna. Admiringly, Karsten approaches this mysterious woman. How could he have known, that in a moment of weakness, his well-established life would spiral out of control and turn into a disaster? In this small provincial German town, disappointment soon fuels anger, justice hides behind hypocrisy, and evil gradually unfolds.



Where did this story start / emerge?

Once I read about a young woman, who had died in the apartment of a man she had just met: the cause of her death was unknown, she was married and had a child. While some journalists investigated to find the culprit, others saw an opportunity for tabloid sensation, claiming that the woman had been discovered in *flagrante*. My thoughts were with the man whose life had been turned upside down, and who had to cope with the death of a woman he had only just met... What was to happen to him? This is where my film begins: how such a disaster can change a man's life — even more so when he is the only witness, as well as the only suspect of a death with so many unanswered questions?

The peer pressure on Karsten makes him feel guilty on a crime he is convinced to be innocent of. Are you blaming an over-moralistic society?

Evidently, we see ourselves obliged to play particular roles within our communities, and in order to keep our reputation we behave according to the image society expects from us. The pressure of losing our position or of not being loved by others is too big of a stake. That's why we try not to make any mistakes, when acting in that very way can lead us to even bigger mistakes. Karsten, being the son of a well-established family knows the rules of society very well. Even in a moment of panic, he has a tendency to look away when the impact of an event could harm his image. For me he is a victim of society, something he is unaware of until this unfortunate incident.

But he seems to take advantage of this new complicated position, to take revenge on life. What is your intention here?

I think the dark side within ourselves comes to surface when we feel weak. Being confronted with evil in our lives, we may show more toughness trying to protect ourselves. Karsten feels weak because he experiences how hypocritical and brittle the relationships he once considered to be solid are. He wants loyalty and support from his relatives, but as soon as the system starts to crack, he sees how fragile these bonds are. I was mostly thinking about politicians when I was writing about the mutation of Karsten. Often it is the unsympathetic ones that are in the ruling positions because they are tougher than others. People tend to position themselves on the side of "power" whether it matches their visions or not. Karsten experiences this by living through it. At the end, the aftermaths of a death case, which he in fact did not cause, make him become a person who actually could have made himself guilty of causing this death.

Can you tell us more on the cast and on Sebastian Hülk?

I prefer to work with actors who are open to long rehearsal periods, since I use pre-production time to carry on developing the script. I also have a tendency to adapt surprise elements during the shooting, it doesn't matter how long I work on a script.

In ALL OF A SUDDEN the role of the leading actor was arduous which is why I am very pleased to have met Sebastian Hülk and that he was ready to go on such a demanding journey with me. For this role, he had to put on different masks, express different emotions — from good to wicked, from passive to active, and from weak to powerful in every single scene.

Apart from Sebastian, none of the cast had read the script: they had detailed information about their characters and the scenes they were in, but they only knew as much as their characters did. The result of this method was very satisfying for me because it leads to authentic reactions and surprises — and it remained that way even after adding new scenes during production and changing the ending.

"And if your life could change all of a sudden?" How would you tackle this question that is at the same time the worst fear and a fantasy for most people?

We never know what will hit us tomorrow: an earthquake, a love affair, the lottery, a car? But still we hold tightly to our ambitions. We all live as if we won't die, although there is no guarantee even for tomorrow. Actually that's how I started this project — all of a sudden you wake up and everything is different — how do you deal with it?

DIRECTOR'S BIO & FILMO

FILMOGRAPHY

2013 Lifelong
110', feature film, TR/DE/NL, Bulut Film / Razor Film / Augustus Film / ZDF-Arte

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2009 Men On The Bridge
87', feature film, DE/TR/NL, Endorphine Prod. / Yeni Sinemaclik / Kaliver / ZDF-3sat / Bayr. Rundfunk

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2005 Hesperos' Apprentices
60', documentary film, DE/TR, EEE Productions

—

2003 Little Bit Of April
98', TV Film, DE, EEE Productions / ZDF-3sat

—

2000 Capital C
21', short film, TR

BIOGRAPHY

Aslı Özge was born in Istanbul, Turkey and lives also in Berlin, Germany since 2000. After graduating from Marmara University Film and TV Academy she directed short films and a documentary before making her feature film debut in 2009 with MEN ON THE BRIDGE. The film premiered internationally in Locarno and won a string of awards, including Best Turkish Film. Her second feature LIFELONG screened in the Berlinale Panorama Special in 2013. ALL OF A SUDDEN is her first German language cinema film.

CREW

DIRECTOR & WRITER: Aslı Özge

PRODUCED BY: EEE Productions

CO-PRODUCED BY: Topkapi Films, Haut et Court, Shortcuts International, The Post Republic

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Emre Erkmen

EDITOR: Muriel Breton, Aslı Özge

SOUND: Jan Schermer

SET DESIGNER: Tim Pannen

CAST

SEBASTIAN HÜLK – Karsten

JULIA JENTSCH – Laura

HANNS ZISCHLER – Klaus

SASCHA A. GERŠAK – Andrej

LUISE HEYER – Judith

PRODUCTION

EEE PRODUCTIONS

Husemannstr. 7, 10435 Berlin, Germany

t +49 30 4737 3954

fmassah@eee-film.com

WORLD SALES AND FESTIVALS

MEMENTO FILMS INTERNATIONAL

9, cité Paradis – 75010 Paris – France

t +33 1 53 34 90 33

sales@memento-films.com

festival@memento-films.com

international.memento-films.com

INTERNATIONAL PRESS

MM FILMPRESSE

Sylvia Müller

t +49 - (0)30 - 41 71 57 22

mueller@mm-filmpresse.de

www.mm-filmpresse.de/en/

Shooting format / screening format: Digital / DCP

Image ratio: 2.39

Sound: Dolby Digital 5.1

Duration: 112 min

