



Presents

IN THE FADE

A film by Fatih Akin

105 mins, Germany, 2017

Language: German with English subtitles

Official Selection:

2017 Cannes Film Festival (Winner: Award for Best Actress – Diane Kruger)

2017 Toronto International Film Festival

Distribution



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SYNOPSIS

Out of nowhere, Katja's life falls apart when her husband Nuri and little son Rocco are killed in a bomb attack. Her friends and family try to give her the support she needs, and Katja somehow manages to make it through the funeral. But the mind numbing search for the perpetrators and reasons behind the senseless killing complicate Katja's painful mourning, opening wounds and doubts. Danilo, a lawyer and Nuri's best friend, represents Katja in the eventual trial against the two suspects: a young couple from the neo-Nazi scene. The trial pushes Katja to the edge, but there's simply no alternative for her: she wants justice.

DIANE KRUGER AS KATIA

Diane Kruger was born in Germany. She trained with the Royal Ballet from an early age, but an injury ended her dance career. She went on to enjoy great success as one of Paris' best-known models. She also took acting lessons at the Cours Florent, where she received the "Classe Libre" award as the best actress in her year.

Kruger made her screen debut in 2002, appearing opposite Dennis Hopper and Christopher Lambert in the independent film *The Piano Player*. She was nominated for a César for her role in the award-winning French film *Mon Idole (Whatever You Say)*. In 2003, she appeared in the French feature film *Michel Vaillant*.

Kruger's US debut came with the romantic thriller *Wicker Park*, in which she appeared opposite Josh Hartnett and Rose Byrne. She went on to have roles in Wolfgang Petersen's legendary epic *Troy* (as Helena), *National Treasure* with Nicolas Cage, *Joyeux Noel*, *Copying Beethoven* starring Ed Harris as Ludwig van Beethoven, Bille August's *The Color of Freedom*, *The Hunting Party* with Richard Gere, the sequel film *National Treasure: Book of Secrets*, *Anything for Her*, Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds*, Jaco Van Dormael's *Mr. Nobody*, *Lily Sometimes*, *Inhale*, *Unknown* with Liam Neeson, *Special Forces*, *Farewell, My Queen* (in the role of Queen Marie Antoinette), *A Perfect Plan* with Dany Boon, Andrew Niccol's *The Host*, *Me, Myself and Mum*, *The Better Angels*, *Disorder*, *Sky*, *Fathers & Daughters* with Russell Crowe and *The Infiltrator* with Bryan Cranston. She will soon appear in *Tout nous sépare* with Catherine Deneuve.

Diane Kruger also starred in the successful television series, "The Bridge" (2013 - 2014). In 2003, Kruger was awarded the Chopard Trophy as that year's "Female Revelation" at the Cannes Film Festival. In 2010, she won Germany's Golden Camera as Best International Actress for her role in *Inglourious Basterds*. This film also brought her, together with the rest of the cast, a Screen Actors Guild Award along with a nomination in the Best Supporting Actress category. In 2013, she received a Jupiter Award as Best International Actress for *Farewell, My Queen*. In 2017, she won the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival for *In the Fade*.

FATIH AKIN – WRITER / DIRECTOR

Fatih Akin was born in 1973 in Hamburg, Germany, the son of Turkish immigrants. He studied at the University of Fine Arts. After making two short films, he achieved his breakthrough in 1998 with his debut feature *Short Sharp Shock*. It was followed by the road movie *In July* with Moritz Bleibtreu and Christiane Paul, as well as the documentary *I Think about Germany: We Forgot to Go Back* about his parents' immigration story. His 2002 feature *Solino* tells the story of an Italian immigrant family in Germany.

His international breakthrough came with *Head-On*, winner of the Golden Bear, as well as the German and European Film Award. He documented the diversity of the Istanbul music scene in *Crossing the Bridge – The Sound of Istanbul*. His 2007 feature *The Edge of Heaven* won the Best Screenplay prize at Cannes. The following year, he directed an episode for the compilation film *New York, I Love You*. In his comedy *Soul Kitchen*, he created a monument to his hometown and won the Special Jury Prize in Venice. For his documentary *Polluting Paradise*, Akin followed the environmental damage in the Turkish village of his ancestors for many years. His 2014 feature *The Cut* premiered at the Venice Film Festival. His new feature *In The Fade*, starring Diane Kruger, premiered at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival.

AN INTERVIEW WITH FATIH AKIN

What's the origin of the project?

I was inspired by the NSU murders in 2011. The German Neo-Nazi group National Socialist Underground (National- sozialistischer Untergrund) perpetrated a series of xenophobe murders between 2000 and 2007 throughout Germany. It was shocking for me as I'm of Turkish background. My brother was acquainted with someone who was killed from Hamburg. The big scandal was that the police focused their investigation on people within the community of the victims, blaming drug or gambling connections. Police pressure was so intense that even the press and the community themselves began to have similar suspicions.

I started researching the concept of revenge. Does it really exist? Who would actually seek vengeance? Would I take revenge? Katja has her own morality, her own definition of justice. In that way, Katja embodies something dormant inside of us that should always remain dormant. I was not interested in the murderers' perspectives. I was very clear about where my empathy, my focus, had to be. *In the Fade* became a very personal film for me. Although she's a blond and blue-eyed German woman, the character of Katja is my alter ego. This film is about that universal feeling of grief and its many layers.

How did the collaboration with co-writer Hark Bohm come about?

Hark Bohm was on-board at an early stage. He's a lawyer, and of course it helped me a great deal that lawyers and court cases have also been central to his movies. We both headed to Munich to follow the 2013 NSU Trial live. That inspired me to study the case files, which I then discussed with Hark. In this sense, he became the supervisor of the court sequences.

How did you come to cast Diane Kruger?

I met Diane Kruger in 2012 at Cannes. I was presenting my documentary *Polluting Paradise* and we put on this little beach party. Diane turned up at the party and started talking to me in German. She said she'd want to shoot with me if the opportunity arose. I was happy to give her my word and the day came four years later: I was looking for the lead actress for *In the Fade* and thought of Diane and sent her the screenplay. Diane absolutely wanted to play Katja! I never regretted casting her. She plays the role magnificently.

What makes her such a great actress is that she's fearless and curious. She will try anything. She's also very focused. She has such a high level of concentration. I truly believe she enjoys acting, even in the most painful scenes. I also firmly believe that Diane put in such an exceptional performance because, as an international star, she's waited years for a big German-speaking role, as she grew up in Hanover and considers herself German. Diane really enjoyed acting in her mother tongue, in contrast to her usual English or French-speaking roles. Because she had the opportunity to express herself even more freely, in the language she grew up with. I realized she possesses a spot-on instinct and immediately senses when something's not right in a certain scene. That's why I was always well advised to listen to her in such cases.

How do you work with cameraman Rainer Klausmann?

My many years of working with Rainer is like a marriage. Our communication on-set has been reduced to the odd grunt because we hardly have anything to discuss. Rainer always drives me to try out new things and would never stand in the way. Rainer certainly supports me, but he always puts the brakes on if I lose sight of our original goals or get stuck at a dead-end. He tells me straight up if he thinks something is ridiculous or if he doesn't understand my motivation for a certain shot – or he'll sometimes accuse me of only choosing a shot for its aesthetics.

Tell us about your collaboration with Josh Homme of the rock group Queens of the Stone Age.

I listened to a lot of Queens of the Stone Age music when I was writing the screenplay. They have these fatalistic songs. It came to me that fatalism was the right attitude for this film. I made a Queens of the Stone Age playlist for the character of Katja. I asked my music supervisor to clear the rights to those songs and she suggested that I ask the band. I was able to speak with the group's founder and lead vocalist Josh Homme. He saw a very rough cut of the film and he liked it! Maybe it hit the same nerve where his songs come from. He was busy finishing the group's new album, but he still agreed to work on the film. He had only a short time to do it, but he managed to make this incredible music. It's very unique and sad and beautiful. I've always wanted to do a thriller or at least work with some elements of that genre. Integrating this music has definitely given the film that quality.

CREDITS

THE CAST

Katja – Diane Kruger
Danilo – Denis Moschitto
Defense Attorney Haberbeck – Johannes Krisch
Brigit – Samia Chancrin
Nuri Şekerci – Numan Acar
Jürgen Möller – Ulrich Tukur
Rocco – Rafael Santana
Edda Möller – Hanna Hilsdorf
André Möller – Ulrich Friedrich Brandhoff
Judge Grabow – Hartmut Loth
Nikolaos Makris – Ioannis Economides
Annemarie, Katja’s Mother – Karin Neuhauser
Michi – Uwe Rohde
Ali, Nuri’s Father – Asim Demirel
Hülya, Nuri’s Mother – Aysel Iscan

THE CREW

Director & Writer – Fatih Akin
Co-Writer – Hark Bohm
Director of Photography – Rainer Klausmann (BVK)
Editor – Andrew Bird
Production Designer – Tamo Kunz
Original Score – Joshua Homme
Costume Designer – Katrin Aschendorf
Make-up Artists – Daniel Schröder, Maïke Heinlein
Line Producer – Christian Vennefrohne
Production Manager – Klaus Spinnler
1st AD – Scott Kirby Production
Sound Mixer – Kai Lüde (BVFT)
Sound Supervisor – Kai Storck
Sound Re-Recording Mixer – Richard Borowski
Casting – Monique Akin
Producers – Nurhan Şekerci-Porst, Fatih Akin, Herman Weigel
Co-Producers – Mélita Toscan du Plantier, Marie-Jeanne Pascal, Jérôme Seydoux,
Sophie Seydoux, Ardavan Safaee, Alberto Fanni, Flaminio Zadra
Associate Producers – Ann-Kristin Homann, Michael Weber, Harro von Have
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