



**DSCHOINT VENTSCHR
FILMPRODUKTION**

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TARIFA TRAFFIC

DEATH IN THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR
PRESS KIT



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SYNOPSIS

Tarifa, a city in the south of Spain, Europe's southernmost point, early morning. The wind surfers sail across the clear blue sea and the first tourists are taking their places in the deck chairs. Only a few steps away a dead body is being tossed up on the shore by crashing waves.

They come when there is a full moon and a smooth sea. These are the nights of the „pateras“, the motorboats that try to cross the Strait of Gibraltar in the dark.

They are filled to the hilt with ever-more people from Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa. Many cannot swim and have nothing except for the clothes on their backs. And it doesn't take much for an overfilled boat to capsize or sink, leading to a catastrophe.

From a European perspective and with haunting images, the film looks at the people of Tarifa whose everyday life is influenced by the constant flow of illegal immigrants looking for a better future in the fortress that is Europe.



CREDITS

Director Joakim Demmer
Screenplay Joakim Demmer
Screenplay, Development Brenda Osterwalder
Assistant Director Carolina Ormazabal
Comissioning Editor Inge Classen
Photography Hoyte van Hoytema
Editor Joakim Demmer
Ingrid Landmesser
Assistant Editor Natali Barrey
Sound Design Daniel Iribarren
Otar Bilek
Original Music Matthias Trippner
Soundmix Alexander Leser
Sound Editors Daniel Iribarren
Ota Bilek
Research Carolina Ormazabal
Line Producer Valentin Greutert
Producer Samir

A Dschoint Ventschr Filmproduktion

in coproduction with Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin
3sat



BACKGROUND

SPAIN IN HI-TECH WAR ON IMMIGRANTS

The Spanish police have installed a £90m system of radars and night vision cameras to help it stop illegal immigrants being smuggled across the Strait of Gibraltar from Africa.

The interior minister, Angel Acebes, said yesterday that the system would enable the frontier police to watch any vessel, however small, crossing the nine-mile Strait at any time of the day or night. The route is one of the most popular - and dangerous - ways into Europe for African illegal immigrants.

Increasingly, the smugglers use inflatable launches, which are low-lying and difficult to detect with normal radar, to carry migrants to beaches around Tarifa and Algeciras.

The route is also popular with drug-runners. Nearly 60% of Europe's cannabis comes into Spain from Morocco.

Now three large towers containing new radar systems, infra-red cameras and powerful video cameras have been erected, near Algeciras, Tarifa and Zahara de los Atunes. The Israeli-made radar was originally developed to prevent Palestinian commando units landing on beaches from high-speed launches. A dozen more towers are being built along the southern coast and in the Canary Islands to cover all the beaches facing Morocco.

The control centre in Algeciras is dominated by a huge screen which shows every vessel in the strait. Other screens let those monitoring the traffic zoom in on individual vessels.

Immigrant pressure groups in Spain say that 4,000 people have drowned on the crossing in the past five years. The civil guard says it has saved 730 from drowning since 2000.

„That gives you an idea of the humanitarian importance of controlling the maritime frontier,“ Mr Acebes said. Spain has expelled more than 12,155 immigrants, most of them Moroccans, this year.

Mr Acebes said the EU as a whole should get more involved in tackling illegal immigration, and not leave the task to those states which have external borders that are difficult to control.

„The question of borders is more than just a national issue now that we have got rid of internal borders“

*An article by Giles Tremlett,
published in "The Guardian",
August 16, 2002*

[JOAKIM DEMMER]

Joakim Demmer was born 1965 and grew up in Stockholm. After he studied photography in Gamleby, Sweden, he began working as a freelance photographer in Stockholm, Prague and London. In 1991 he returned to Stockholm to work as both director of photography and Cutter for Info AB Vita.

In 1992, he moved to Oslo where for the the next six years he worked for TV2, first as a photographer for their foreign news service in Russia and Bosnia and later as photographer, editor and co-director for their documentary department and on several projects across Europe.

During his study at the Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin (dffb) between 1995 and 2001, he continuously worked as both director of photography and cutter. **Tarifa Traffic** is his first documentary feature since graduation. While continuously developing future documentary projects, Joakim Demmer is currently also writing a screenplay for his first feature film.

Filmography (Selection)

- 2002 **Zehn Argumente Gegen Gelb**, Short (fiction), 10 min, BetaSP
- 2001 **Play-Off**, Short (fiction), 15 min, S16/35mm
- 2000 **Unborn**, Short (fiction), 22 min, 16mm
- 1999 **Vergehen**, Short (fiction), 15 min, 16mm
- 1999 **Kita**, Short (documentary), 10 min, Beta SP
- 1998 **Flieger**, Short (fiction), 15 min, 16mm



FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

Festivals (Selection)

Vision du Réel, Nyon

Locarno International Film Festival

IDFA International Documentary Film Festival, Amsterdam

Docpoint Helsinki Documentary Film Festival

Aux Écrans du Réel, Le Mans

Belgrade International Film Festival

Duisburg Filmweek

Prix International du documentaire et du reportage méditerranéen, Syracuse

One World Film Festival, Prag

Revelation Perth International Film Festival

International Documentary Film Festival Munich

Documenta, Madrid

Holland Film Festival

International Environmental Film Festival, Barcelona

International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, Glasgow

International Environmental Film Festival, Barcelona

Human Rights Nights Film Festival, Bologna

DocHouse, Zagreb

Rencontres Internationales du Documentaire de Montréal

Tempo Documentary Film Festival, Stockholm

Copenhagen International Film Festival

Ismailia International Film Festival of Documentary & Short Films

Thessaloniki International Documentary Film Festival

Awards

Prix Suisse TSR, Nyon

Audience Award for Best Film, Duisburg

1er Prix du Concours Européen du 1er film documentaire, Le Mans

Medienpreis der Evangelischen Kirche, Germany



DSCHOINT VENTSCHR

DSCHOINT VENTSCHR FILMPRODUKTION develops, produces and markets films dealing principally with cross-cultural, political and social issues: their prominent feature films and documentaries focus on the meeting of different cultures. Dschoint Ventschr constantly strives to further develop modern visual approaches and takes advantage of the creative potential offered by modern technologies.

In a year Dschoint Ventschr produces an average of two feature films, along with numerous documentaries, which have cinema and TV releases. Since 1994, over 40 dedicated documentaries and cinema films have been produced – many of them as co-productions with other countries (including, among others, Germany, France, Austria, England, Canada) or well-known TV institutions, including Arte, 3sat, WDR, ZDF, SWR, RTBF and SF DRS.

Dschoint Ventschr works predominantly with young authors and has, in Switzerland, gained a reputation as a ‘talent factory’. Many of the films produced by Dschoint Ventschr have won awards; these include **Little Girl Blue** and **Summertime** by Anna Luif, **Strahl** by Manuel Flurin Hendry, **Miel et Cendres** by Nadia Fares, **Clandestins** by Wadimoff/Chouinard; the documentaries **Forget Baghdad** and **Babylon 2** by Samir, **Noel Field – der erfundene Spion** and **Von Werra** by Werner Schweizer and **Do It** by Sabine Gisiger and Marcel Zwingli; the TV documentary **Tarifa Traffic** by Joakim Demmer, as well as the short films **Pastry, Pain & Politics** by Stina Werenfels, **Babami Hirsizlar Caldi (The Stolen Father)** by Esen Isik and **Exit** by Benjamin Kempf.

In 1997 Samir and Swiss received a special award from the City of Zurich in recognition of their outstanding work as producers. Their work as directors has also earned them recognition: in 1996 Werner Schweizer was awarded the prix La Sarraz for the best documentary of the year and in 1998 Samir won the Swiss Film Prize for his short film **Angelique (Blind Date)**.

In addition to the two writers/directors/producers **Samir** (in charge of acquisition and handling of feature film projects) and **Werner Schweizer** (in charge of documentary projects), the DSCHOINT VENTSCHR team includes **Karin Koch** and **Susann Rüdinger** (executive producers), **Remo Brauchi** (distribution), **Frank Steffen** (operational business management), **Claudia Eichholzer** (line producer) and the production assistants **Tunje Berns** and **Tamar Berkovits**.



Samir
Director, Writer, Producer



Werner Schweizer
Director, Writer, Producer



Karin Koch
Producer

[DSCHOINT VENTSCHR FILMOGRAPHY]

SELECTION

- 2005 **Snow White**, drama, 113', Samir
Gambit, documentary, 107', Sabine Gisiger
White Terror, documentary, 89', Daniel Schweizer
Ricordare Anna, drama, 96', Walo Deuber
- 2004 **Karim Patwa's Spaceship**, experimental film, 60', Karim Patwa
La Fidanzata, short film, 10', Petra Volpe
Strähl, drama, 82', Manuel Flurin Hendry
Höllentour, documentary, 120', Pepe Danquart
ZwischenSprach, TV documentary., 52', Samir
The last Wall, TV documentary., 52', Silvana Ceschi
- 2003 **Skinhead Attitude**, documentary, 90', Daniel Schweizer
Little Girl Blue, drama, 80', Anna Luif
Meier Marilyn, TV comedy, 90', Stina Werenfels
Aline, musical fairytale, 55', Kamal Musale
Homeland, TV documentary., 52', Sabine Gisiger
Tarifa Traffic, TV documentary, 60', Joakim Demmer
- 2002 **Forget Baghdad**, documentary, 90', Samir (CH/D)
Birdseye, media thriller, 90', Mike Huber & Stephen Beckner (CH/USA)
Peiden, TV documentary, 22', Matthias Caduff
Mama hat dich lieb, drama, 34', Carla Lia Monti
Exit, drama, 10', Beni Kempf
Von Werra, documentary, 90', Werner Schweizer (CH/D)
Epsteins Nacht, drama, 90', Urs Egger (D/A/CH)
- 2001 **Auf allen Meeren**, documentary, 90', Johannes Holzhausen (A/D/CH)
Camenisch, TV documentary, 87', Daniel von Aarburg
B-52, documentary, 90', Hartmut Bitomsky (D/USA/CH)
Studers erster Fall, detective thriller, 90', Sabine Boss
Reise ohne Rückkehr, drama, 45', Esen Isik
Im Spiegel der Maya Deren, documentary, 100', M. Kudláček (A/CH/D)
- 2000 **Yugodivas**, documentary, 60', Andrea Staka
Do it, documentary, 97', Sabine Gisiger & Marcel Zwingli (CH/D)
Gespräch im Gebirg, exp. documentary, 60', Mattias Caduff (D/CH)
Summertime, drama, 27', Anna Luif
- 1999 **ID Swiss**, documentary, 90', 7 episodes, various directors
Viehjud Levi (Jew Boy Levi), drama, 97', Didi Danquart (D/CH/A)
Babami Hirsizlar Caldi – The Stolen Father, drama, 24', Esen Isik
- 1998 **Projecziuns tibetanas**, TV documentary, 24', Samir
Pastry, Pain & Politics, comedy, 30', Stina Werenfels
- 1997 **La eta knabino**, silent film fable, 7', Samir
Clandestins, drama, 90', N. Wadimoff & D. Chouinard (CH/F/CDN)
- 1996 **Miel et Cendres**, drama, 85', Nadia Fares (CH/Tun)
Take Off From The Sand, documentary, 60', Wageh George
Noel Field – Der erfundene Spion, Dok, 104 Min., Werner Schweizer
- 1994 **Babylon 2**, Dok, 91 Min., Samir

Swiss Film Prize Strähl (2005)

Best Leading Role: Roeland Wiesnekker; Best Supporting Role: Johanna Bantzer; Jury Award for Best Cinematography: Filip Zumbrunn

Meier Marilyn (2004)

Best Main Role: Bettina Stucky

Do it (2001)

by Sabine Gisiger & Marcel Zwingli

Summertime (2001)

by Anna Luif

Babami Hirsizlar Caldi (2000)

by Esen Isik

Pastry, Pain & Politics (1999)

by Stina Werenfels

Nominations for Swiss Film Prize

Ricordare Anna (2005)

Best Leading Role: Mathias Gnädinger

Little Girl Blue (2004)

by Anna Luif

Skinhead Attitude (2004)

by Daniel Schweizer

Forget Baghdad (2003)

by Samir

Exit (2003)

by Benjamin Kempf

Yugodivas (2002)

by Andrea Staka

Journey without Return (2002)

by Esen Isik

ID SWISS (2000)

by various directors

Clandestins (1998)

by Nicolas Wadimoff &

Denis Chouinard

Miel & Cendres (1998)

by Nadia Fares