

TRUTH OR DARE

POISON PRESENTS A FILM BY MAJA CLASSEN

DOX Leipzig
German
Competition
Documentary Film
2024



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien

AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE

PLANEMO



AGENDA

KEY FACTS	3
PRESS RELEASES	4
THE FILM	5
TRAILER & VISUALS	6
CONTENT	8
FESTIVALS & AWARDS	9
TEAM	10
INTERVIEW MAJA CLASSEN	14
DIRECTOR'S NOTE	16
PRODUCER'S NOTE	18
CAST	19
CONTACT	23

01 KEY FACTS

PRODUCTION &
DISTRIBUTION COMPANY

POISON

PR AGENCY

THE GIFT

MAIN COUNTRY
OF PRODUCTION

GERMANY

YEAR

2024

RUNTIME

79 MINUTES

FORMAT

DCP, 1:1.85

GERMAN
THEATRICAL RELEASE

13TH NOVEMBER 2025

SWISS
THEATRICAL RELEASE

05TH DECEMBER 2025



02 PRESS RELEASES

“ With consent and care at its core, Truth Or Dare is both an erotic charge and a tender meditation on intimacy, capturing the beauty, vulnerability, and electric thrill of human connection.

Ella Gauci, DIVA Magazine

“ It's nice that Maja Classen creates a utopia here, showing how gentle and yet self-confident, and certainly also hard consensual sex can be.

Matthias Dell, Deutschlandfunk Kultur

“ [...] It was referred to upholding peace and exchange, which always sounds very general, but if you look closely, this idea actually materializes best in TRUTH OR DARE, because everything is so mixed up. This is not about standardized beauty, there are no gender boundaries - everything is in flux and that is actually the utopian potential, which has something very enchanting [...].

Matthias Dell, Deutschlandfunk Kultur

“ “[...] For every audience member who embraces the film, there will be many who will be fearful, suspicious, even terrified of its content. That said, director Classen's treatment of the subject may be up front and personal, but it is far from confrontational

Nick Cunningham, Business Doc Europe

“ “[...] “Truth Or Dare” is - with the voice of a self-liberated woman off-screen - more searching. The rest in approximation. [...]

Norbert Wehrstedt, Leipziger Volkszeitung

03 THE FILM

“The camera glides through a nocturnal deserted Berlin, documenting disembodied dance floors on which spotlights shine into the void. On the soundtrack, narratives of longing and desire. A brief visual reminiscence of lockdowns and retreats into bourgeois intimate spheres, threatening for a sex-positive culture that demands the consensual, open encounter of bodies. But people, curiosity and desire are reclaiming the movie. Exploring softness together, seeing where the bodies are leading, allowing skin cells and nerve endings to get to know each other - and asking where the boundaries lie at every step. This is the program of three couples and a group of sex-positive people who meet here. “Truth or dare” is at play, which has always been a pretext for overcoming taboos.

What Maja Classen explores with you, without wanting to fixate on it, is how consent makes a new sexuality possible. Protection against sexually transmitted diseases is also part of the game, personal responsibility in darkrooms, the images of femininity and masculinity and love dragged along from socialization that have to be alienated again. Nothing you see goes beyond boundaries. Nothing that happens without consent. And yet none of it is taken for granted. “The joy of being - of being right there.”

– Jan Künemund for [DOK Leipzig](#)

04 TRAILER

TRAILER
watch here

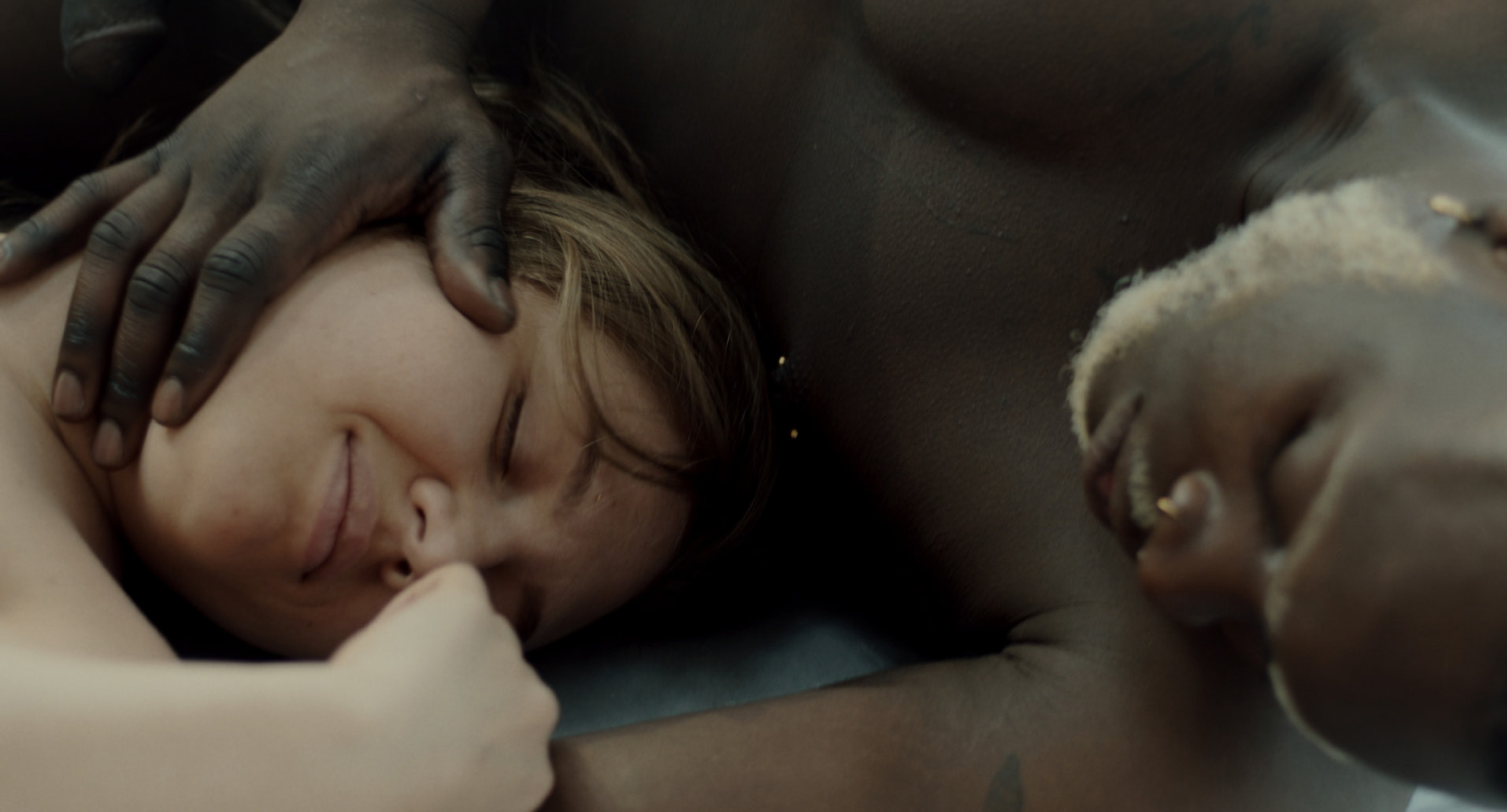


STILLS
click here



SCREENER

Please send a request to office@poison-berlin.com if you are interested in the confidential screening link.



05 CONTENT

Disembodied dancefloors.

Humming hollow halls.

Craving of bodys.

Where to take our longing?

Where to take our desire?

Where to take our flesh?

Inspired by the feeling of loneliness and longing during the first Covid lockdown, the experimental documentary "Truth or Dare" begins. From interviews, that were conducted over a distance unfolds a fragmentary narration by people from different parts of the world who all came to Berlin to find a home and belonging here in the queer sex-positive scene. It's about the discovery of queer bodies, the need for consent and the struggle for awareness of self-determined sex work.

As we glide through nocturnal Berlin and deserted clubrooms, we hear sirens singing and luring us in. The voices of different people are telling their stories, yearning for freedom, recognition and belonging.

The protagonists take us into their private spaces. We hear them talking about their desires and boundaries. We feel how they relate to each other by the way they speak and touch: It's the playful, tender and animalistic aspect of sexuality. As a couple and in a group. And why all that?

"When you see birds flying together in a flock, there is a loss of control and a loss of ego for the bird who is flying in that majestic way with all the other birds. People go on roller-coasters to feel that loss of control and people sing in choirs, because we want to feel part of something."

Adrienne Teicher
in Truth or Dare

06 FESTIVALS & AWARDS

WORLD PREMIERE

DOK LEIPZIG 2025 (DOK BUSTER*)

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

CPH:DOX COPENHAGEN INTERNATIONAL
DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL 2025

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

BFI FLARE: LONDON LGBTQIA+ FILM FESTIVAL 2025

ACHTUNG BERLIN FILMFESTIVAL 2025
(BESTE KAMERA DOKUMENTARFILM)

PFF VIENNA 2025 (BEST FEATURE FILM)

*A DOK BUSTER is a curated film shown outside the DOK Leipzig Festival's competition program that is characterized by special audience appeal.

07 TEAM

DIRECTED AND WRITTEN BY

MAJA CLASSEN

PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED BY

SARALISA VOLM

DOP

ALINA ALBRECHT

EDITED BY

SABRINA RÜCKER

SOUND MIXER

KOENRAAD ECKER, MARINA FUNCK,
MAD KATE, CLAUDIA MATTAI DEL MORO,
NELE SCHINZ, PUSSY RANZ

SOUNDDESIGN & MIX

UWE BOSSENZ

MUSIC

VANESSA CHARTRAND-RODRIGUE,
ANGAD BERAR

07 TEAM



DIRECTOR & WRITER

MAJA CLASSEN initially studied American Studies, Psychology and German Studies at the University of Hamburg. After a year of practical training with filmmaker William Farley in San Francisco, she began studying directing at the Filmuniversity Babelsberg in 2000. There she made two feature-length documentaries: *FEIERN - DON'T FORGET TO GO HOME* (2006), a portrait of the Berlin club scene, which screened at numerous festivals, was released on DVD and is still recognized 15 years later as an important contemporary document on the electronic music scene. Her graduation film *OSDORF* portrays a group of delinquent boys in a Hamburg high-rise district. The film was shown at numerous festivals, was nominated for the First Steps Award and received the Babelsberg Media Prize. During her studies, Maja dealt theoretically with hybrid forms and the question of authenticity in film - which is still reflected in her work today. Since graduating as a director (with distinction) in 2007, Maja Classen has worked as a filmmaker and lecturer in Berlin.

She has made further documentaries: *PLÖTZLICH IST DIE WELT GANZ KLEIN*, 2016 (ZDF/3Sat), about families of premature babies, as well as *KÜSSE*, 2018, the portrait of three couples and their relationships. Together with POISON and ZDF/3sat, Maja realized *A BODY LIKE MINE*, 2023, about an artist and her activist sex worker alter ego and the experimental documentary *TRUTH OR DARE* about desire, intimacy and consent in Berlin's queer sex-positive scene. In addition, Maja is developing her feature film debut "FAKE" together with POISON and is researching for a hybrid film that is based on the story of her grandfather's late coming out. Since 2008 Maja has been teaching documentary film at various film and art schools.

07 TEAM



PRODUCER & DISTRIBUTER

SARALISA VOLM (*1985) is a filmmaker, writer, actress and producer. As a studied art historian, she constantly explores the boundaries between film, text and visual art. With her company POISON, she produced, among many other projects the film FIKKEFUCHS starring Jan Henrik Stahlberg and Franz Rogowski, which was successfully released in German cinemas in 2017. Volm has already written several books, most recently DAS EWIGE UN-GENÜGEND, published by Ullstein in 2023, which deals with Volm's longstanding feminist exploration of the body. Her feature film debut as a director THE SILENT FOREST premiered at the Berlinale in 2022 and was shortlisted for the German Film Award 2023. Volm's new TV film AT THE END OF TRUTH premiered at the Filmfest München 2024. She recently completed filming her Tatort debut SCHWESTERNLIEBE. She is a member of the German and the European Film Academy.

07 TEAM

POISON

POISON is an independent Berlin-based family company. Since its founding in 2014, numerous short films, television productions and feature films have been created, which were represented at several national as well as international festivals, won awards and reached a large audience.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

THE SILENT FOREST

Feature Film (2022), D: Saralisa Volm

Premiere: Berlinale 2022

(Perspektive Deutsches Kino Section)

In co-produktion with ...if Productions,
Bayerischer Rundfunk, arte, Hessischer
Rundfunk, Saarländischer Rundfunk



BEDBUGS

Feature Film (2017), D: Jan Henrik Stahlberg

Premiere: Filmfest München 2017

(Opening film, Neues Deutsches Kino Section)

Deutscher Filmpreis 2018 (Preselection)

Distributed by Alamode Film



A BODY LIKE MINE

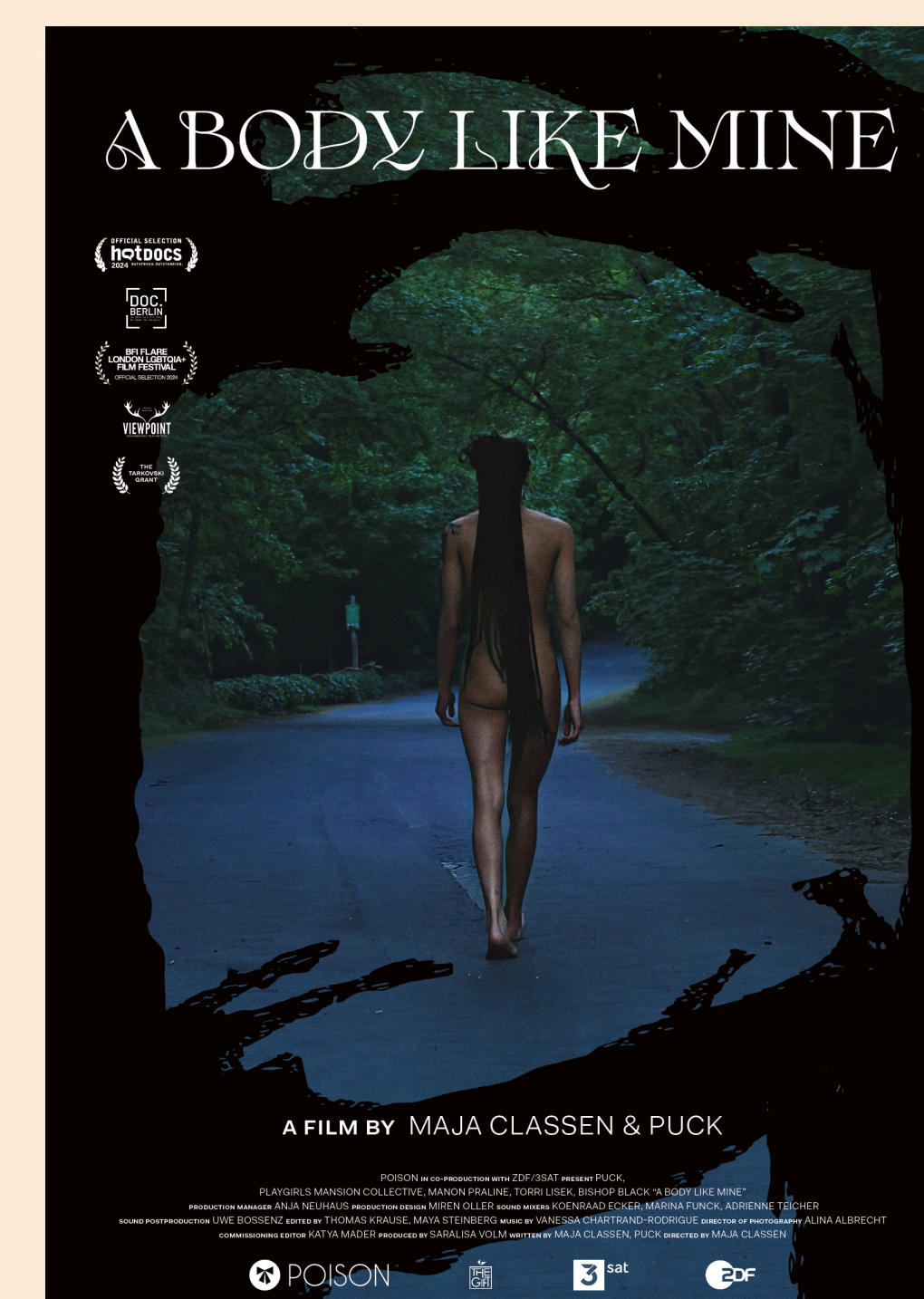
Documentay Shortfilm (2023),

D: Maja Classen

in co-Produktion with 3sat/ZDF

Premiere: Doc.Berlin Documentary Film Festival
2023 (Best German Documentary Award)

Int. Premiere: Hot Docs Canadian International
Documentary Festival 2024



METAMORPHOSIS

Short Film (2015), R: Igor Plischke

Premiere: Internationale Hofer Filmtage 2015

In co-Produktion with Bayerischer Rundfunk

Nominated by First Steps Award, Deutscher
Kamerapreis, Deutscher Menschenrechts
Filmpreis



08 INTERVIEW MAJA CLASSEN

What inspired you to make this film TRUTH OR DARE?

The idea for TRUTH OR DARE was inspired by the physical distance during the Covid lockdown. I felt loneliness and longing for physical touch, closeness, intimacy. I was afraid that we had lost liberated safe spaces where people can dance, kiss and touch for eternity. So, I went on a quest to find others in Berlin who shared these feelings.

What is the key message you hope LGBTQIA audiences take from TRUTH OR DARE?

I would like to encourage people to follow their desires, whatever they are. Nothing should be a taboo, as long as it is done mindfully and consensually. Be curious and free, but respect each other's boundaries at all times. Keep checking if your counterpart is vibing with you all the time. See how sexy consent talk can be.

What is your favourite line or scene from TRUTH OR DARE?

When you see birds flying together in a flock, there is a loss of control and a loss of ego for the bird who is flying in that majestic way with all the other birds.

People go on rollercoasters to feel that loss of control and people sing in choirs, because we want to feel part of something.
(Adrienne Teicher in Truth or Dare)

How did you get into filmmaking and what has been your biggest challenge in the industry?

I got into filmmaking about 25 years ago. I fell in love with the magic that happens when people who are passionate and talented about something, also collaborate on it. Some years later I discovered that it is especially documentary filmmaking that I love, because I can start with a question, dive deeply into worlds I hadn't known before, meet amazing inspiring people

08 INTERVIEW MAJA CLASSEN

and learn something from the process. As a documentary filmmaker you have to have the mind of a crazy researcher and the heart of an artist.

My biggest challenge has been to finance my films, especially because they are often daring and quite edgy.

Why is LGBTQIA representation in film so important in 2025?

LGBTQIA representation in film is so important to me, because we are so many. Many still don't dare to come out. With the far right rising, many get scared. So, visibility and solidarity are now more important than ever. Films have the power to show all facades of humanity that people of all genders, sexual orientations, ages and heritages. We all share, shyness, desire, vulnerability - we all bleed red.

Why are events like BFI Flare which centre LGBTQIA films so important?

Film events like BFI Flare honor and celebrate queer films and community and serve as a safer space.

What do you hope to see in the future of LGBTQIA filmmaking?

In the future of LGBTQIA filmmaking I hope we will survive, strive and make more wonderful films that empower and encourage queer people all over the world. I believe that queer films can help building bridges, opens hearts and overcome phobia, hate and shame, so that LGTBTQIAs will one day have equal rights and live in peace all over the globe.

The interview questions were asked by Ella Gauci

09 DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Just when I had ventured a bit into the sex positive party universe, the lockdown came. The clubs were closed. Dancing banned. Sex outside your own household taboo anyway. But the people were still there. The longings, too. I felt this in my own body. So my artistic research journey began. I asked myself: How can I continue to work and research artistically if we can no longer meet? During this time, the disembodied Berlin clubs reacted to the pandemic and opened up to other art forms. From Berghain, to the Salon to Wilde Renate, to the Paloma Bar, the clubs became galleries and exhibition spaces. This was the impetus for me to think of my questions in a different form than the classic documentary film I come from. A project that explores the relationship between space and intimacy. The relationship between sex and public space, truth and performance, reality and art, identity and gender. This is how the present concept for the documentary experimental film Truth or Dare was born, which will be evaluated at international festivals, as well as the immersive exhibition of the same name that will be shown in

collaboration with galleries and clubs, inviting the viewer to actively engage with the subject.

During the first Lockdown I had conversations via video call with people from the queer sex positive scene in Berlin. People of different ages, backgrounds, gender and sexual preferences opened up and touched my heart. Surprisingly, despite the physical distance, a great closeness developed between me and the protagonists. Each of us in the safety of our own home, we talked completely openly about our desires, wishes and experiences. People of different ages, backgrounds, genders and sexual preferences opened up to me. I was challenged to examine my own prejudices and gained deep insights into the experiential worlds of my counterparts. I learned how their family, political and cultural backgrounds affected the development of their sexuality and what healing potential they found for themselves in Berlin's sex-positive subculture. Many of them deliberately chose Berlin because here they could

09 DIRECTOR'S NOTE

finally live their sexual orientation and gender identity freely and find a sense of belonging. Because, they told me, Berlin was not only club capital of the world, but also sex positivity capital of the world. Nowhere else is as free as here. That has a magnetic effect. And at the same time, it also harbors abysses. I learned how the scene now deals with HIV much more fearlessly, because the use of drugs for treatment or prevention, makes it possible to practice unprotected sex without contracting HIV. I learned about the complexities of being a father who advocates for visibility as a trans man, sex worker, and performer, yet hides this part of his identity around his child. I took part in an Afro-German woman's reflections on her own rape fantasies at the hands of a white man, seemingly at odds with her emancipation from fantasies of exoticization, yet at the same time vouching for her potential for self-empowerment and reappropriation of postcolonial heritage. And I learned how fetish and BDSM helped one woman come to terms with her own personal sexual traumas.

All these personal insights into biographies create the possibility for me to connect emotionally with the protagonists and embrace their diverse forms of sexuality, which I am now translating together with them and my team into a documentary experimental film and make it possible for the viewer to experience, because I am convinced that deep down we all long to finally dare.

– Maja Classen, Director

10 PRODUCER'S NOTE

We've done it again. POISON has once again produced a film that shouldn't really exist. A documentary without a broadcaster, without a distributor and with a very small budget. TRUTH OR DARE exists because many people passionately believed that topics such as consent, queerness and desire need more space in public discourse.

I remember very clearly when Maja Classen approached me with the idea for a video installation and asked for help. Of course I wanted to help, but the project, which was based in Berlin's sex-positive scene, quickly became bigger and more complex and when she called that she considered her research work to be an option for a feature-length film, I was worried. The funding was neither there nor possible. I was worried and would have liked to say "no" for the sake of common sense.

But Maja Classen sent me seven minutes of research material with consent talks. And when I saw these consent talks, I was

moved to tears. Maja Classen's research not only led her to people who are more generous with their sexuality, but also to the realization that she was meeting families of choice, community and care. I called Maja Classen and said: "Now I get it. We're not telling a story about eccentric partygoers. On the contrary. The way the people in this film talk to each other about their longings, feelings, limits and needs is instructive for all of us. It's the way to more empathy and devotion and it's the way in which we can all have better sex.

So, we made an impossible feature-length film possible and are really hyped to share it with the world now.

– Saralisa Volm, Producer & Distributer

11 CAST

LO-FI_CHERRY

PUCK

JASKO FIDE

BISHOP BLACK

JORGE THE OBSCENE

MAD KATE

ADRIENNE TEICHER

MOLLY HOPE

KAY GARNELLEN

CARLOS RAÌZ

MX. GILI

NATASHA KUZMINA

FILTHY GAMI

DITA RITA SCHOLL

ANN ANTIDOTE

NICKY MILLER

ROB TALIN

DIANA KLEIMENOVA



VOICES OF THE PROTAGONISTS

How was the shooting experience for you? What was different or what was special?

So to me, you have to understand it's been shot in vastly different parts of my life. So, it has been. Okay, I will find the word. Some parts of shooting this film was a lot of talking with the director and finding my own story and finding ways to talk to a stranger about really deep experiences, which in a way is exactly what you do when you go out to a club and you go out and seek a very intimate connection with strangers. And I was in a very lost place and then I was starting to build my life together. And then in the end of this film, I have it all together almost. And so if you ask me what it was to shoot, how it was to shoot this film, it was, it followed me through different parts of life. And yeah, it made me also appreciate this part of life much more.

Why should people watch the film?

So, this film is very deep. That's why I'm sitting here and thinking, I cannot say to have a better sex life, but that is what I want to say. So I just feel everything essential will improve if you watch this film.

LO-FI CHERRY



VOICES OF THE PROTAGONISTS

How do you feel watching the film?

I feel elated after watching the film. I was really just thrilled to see my relationship with Kate portrayed in this very sweet and honest and kind of, like, had a lot of lightness and as well as, like, expressing the difficulties of intimacy as well. I was happy to see everything there represented in the film.

Why should people watch the film?

I think people should watch the film because they might find a mirror in which they can explore their own relationship to sex and sexuality and the role sex plays for them in their lives and connecting with other people.

Who would you recommend to watch the film?

I think everybody should see the film. I really believe that people who are interested in understanding how queer sex can be a part of their lives and can change their relationship to their bodies, change their relationship to their lovers, their friends, their families, they should see the film.

ADRIENNE TEICHER



VOICES OF THE PROTAGONISTS

Which words come to your mind when you think about the film?

Softness, consent. Some relaxing truth. Integrity, reality – queer reality.

Who would you recommend to watch the film?

Everyone basically. But I mean, it's great if it's shown in the queer scene and at Porn Film Festivals and stuff. But it would be nice to go out to even like small cities, small cinemas. Because there are always people who feel lonely and alone there. And then suddenly they can see something like that. And they could be like, oh yeah, I'm not alone actually. Even with Internet, I think there are some people who haven't still found what they're looking for. Maybe they don't even know what they're looking for. And that could be one of these movies that make them realize something.

KAY GARNELLEN



CONTACT

SARALISA VOLM

POISON GMBH
PLANUFER 92 E
10967 BERLIN

WWW.POISON-BERLIN.COM
OFFICE@POISON-BERLIN.COM

