

# Titus & Mirabella

A film by Melania Crisan



Axel Moustache

Melania Crisan

A CHARMION PRODUCTION

WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY MELANIA CRISAN      DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BENJAMIN STROBEL      LINE PRODUCER MALINA ILLENBERGER

PRODUCTION MANAGER ISABELL SAUER      EDITING MELANIA CRISAN LIGIA PRODAN DANIEL POPA

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# Specifications

Running time.....21 minutes  
Project Type.....Short  
Genre.....Romantic Comedy  
Year.....2020  
Language..... English  
Country of Origin.....Germany/ Romania/UK  
Country of Filming.....Germany  
Format.....2k, DCP  
Shooting format.....Digital  
Film Colour.....Colour  
First time filmmaker.....Yes



## Synopsis

A romantic comedy about the first date between two people who have never had a romantic relationship before but who desperately want one. A movie about fear and love.



## Summary

The movie is a romantic comedy that speaks about the first date between Titus and Mirabella, two people who are very different from each other, but who find a common ground in the fact that they are both outsiders and have problems in socializing. Neither of them was in a relationship before. They're on their first date in a café, but unfortunately, the meeting doesn't start very well. They are very nervous and very eager to impress one another, and this is causing one accident after another and one disagreement after another until chaos rules and they're forced to run away from the restaurant. They eventually arrive at Mirabella's front door. There takes place another attempt of him to make the first step. But another cause for not being able even to get close to one another is an obsessive-compulsive disorder that Mira has. She is afraid of germs and can't stand to be touched. That makes it even more difficult for Titus to approach her. Are they going to come together or are their fears going to win over their wish for romantic love?

## Director's Statement



With this film, I wanted to explore the dynamic between two people who like one another, who want to be together but who have to overcome huge obstacles within themselves and within the outside world to pluck up the courage to enter a relationship. The funny and absurd side of such an encounter is what I was interested in, as well as the question: "How come there are people in their 30's or maybe even 40's who've never had a

relationship, who want a relationship, but who can't seem to find a way of reaching their goal, even though they don't have a palpable obstacle impeding them from getting what they want?"

Relationships or romantic love is not an original topic, but every love and every relationship is different and unique, as well as every first date. And maybe we could bring a bit of hope into people's lives who haven't had a relationship yet or who have lost the hope of meeting the right one. For me, as a filmmaker, it is also a very important step, because it's my first film of this type and an important milestone on the road to feature films.

# Director's Biography

## Melania Crisan



Melania Crisan is a Romanian actress, born in Reghin, Transylvania. Titus & Mirabella is her first film as a writer, director and producer. In 2013 she finished her Bachelor in acting in Cluj, Romania at the Babes-Bolyai University and immediately after that she pursued another further study in acting for two years at the Athanor Academy, in

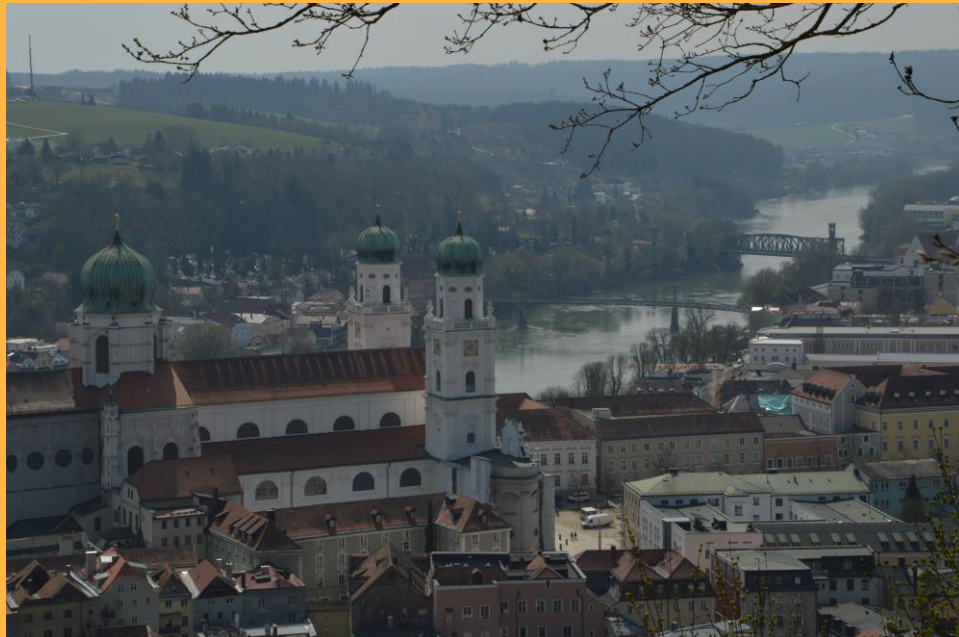
Passau, Germany. While still studying in Germany, she landed her first lead role in a German independent film, portraying a young woman, who fell victim to human trafficking. The film won an award for the best mid-length film at the Selb Film Festival, in Germany. The short film "Overcoming Mars" directed by Michaela Rihova, with Melania in the lead role, premiered at the Ringerike Youth Film Festival and it won a jury award. In the summer of 2016, she shot her first romantic comedy, as lead actress, scriptwriter, and director. Due to the lack of funds, the post-production was put on hold for two years to be resumed in 2019 and finished in 2020.

## Story Inspiration

The idea of the story came to me one sunny spring afternoon. I felt the need to write a romantic comedy because I had acted mostly in dramas and also the spring is for me the most magical time of the year when all the trees are blooming, and the bees make their appearance. I was living at the time in a beautiful city in Germany, called Passau. It is called "die Dreiflüssestadt" which means "City of three rivers". And the exciting thing about it is, that the three rivers meet at a place called "Dreiflüsseeck" (The corner of three rivers), but each stream keeps its colour, the colours don't mix. The Danube is dark green, the Inn is bright green, and the Ilz is kind of black. All of them are flowing into the Danube actually, but they don't seem to melt into one big river.



There was something in the air that spring that inspired me to write something romantic. The first scene that I wrote is the last scene in the movie, and around that, I built the rest of the story. I wrote all scenes with the exact locations from the city in mind. So the city played a huge part in the writing of the story.



## A Fine Romance

Another thing that inspired me to write this film is the sit-com “A Fine Romance” with Judi Dench and Michael Williams. I admire and adore Judi Dench, and I thought that Bob Larbey’s script was brilliant. I felt the desire to try and create something at least half as good as this show. I love British comedies and actors and British humour, so I wanted to make the audience feel the way I felt when I watched these series.



# Cast

## Axel Moustache



Axel's first love was film. He also discovered theatre and improvisation along the way, but he always returns to the set with pleasure. He starred in feature films and television, alternating very dear comic roles with those of drama, in which he culminated. Nominated as "Best New Actor" for his role as Hans Adolf in the German-Austrian-Romanian-Hungarian co-production

"The Decapitated Rooster", Axel Mustache is currently represented for international productions by the Baumbauer Actors Agency. With the role of the Romanian-German policeman Florin, who brings a healthy portion of Romanian humour to the film "Zielfahnder - Flucht in die Karpaten", Axel entered the German film industry, where he has since starred in top German productions broadcast on ARD, ZDF or SAT 1 such as:

\* Toni, männlich, Hebamme (Created by Sebastian Stojetz) - Germany 2019, ARD

\* Der Fall Collini (Directed by Marco Kreuzpaintner) - Germany-Italy 2019

\* Zielfahnder – Flucht in die Karpaten (Directed by Dominik Graf) - Germany/Romania 2016

\* The decapitated Rooster (Directed by Radu Gabrea & Marijan D. Vajda) – Coproduction between Germany/Austria/Romania/Ungaria 2007

-Nominated for "Best New Actor" - Undine Awards Austria

-Represented internationally as a film actor by Baumbauer Actors, Germany.

In Titus & Mirabella he plays the role of Titus, a shy, introverted and clumsy 30 years old man whose life has been greatly influenced by the early death of his mother and his overprotective sister. Thus he never managed to have a romantic relationship until now. He is passionate about cars and owns a car wash station. He doesn't realize that Mirabella doesn't share his passion and struggles to open himself up to her.



## Melania Crisan



Melania Crisan is a Romanian actress, born in Reghin, Transylvania. In 2013 she finished her Bachelor in acting in Cluj, Romania at the Babes-Bolyai University and immediately after that she pursued a further study in acting for two years at the Athanor Academy, in Passau, Germany. While still studying in Germany, she landed her first lead role in a German independent film, portraying a young woman, who fell victim to human trafficking. The film won an award for the best mid-length film at the Selb Film Festival, in Germany. She also starred in other film and TV productions in Germany and the UK such as:

- \* Schicksale (directed by Patrick Freiheit)- Germany, 2018, SAT1
- \* Aktenzeichen XY (directed by Robert Sigl) - Germany, 2017, ZDF
- \* Overcoming Mars (directed by Michela Rihova) - UK 2018
- \* Guest (directed by Finn Callan) - UK 2020

-Represented internationally as a film actor by Lucky Star International Agency, Belgium.

In Titus & Mirabella she plays the role of Mirabella, a 30 years old woman who has a troubled history of dating, resulting in her never actually being in a long term relationship ever. She suffers from OCD, she's afraid of germs and can't stand to be touched by other people. Also, she has always felt inferior to her sister and doesn't have much self-confidence.



## Nicolas Bach



Born in 1990, in Kehl, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, Nicolas grew up in Erstein, near Strasbourg, France. He got his BA degree in Applied Foreign Languages at the University of Strasbourg but returned to Passau, Germany where he worked at the Café Museum Jazz Club in event

management and gastronomy. That's where the director discovered him and offered him the part of the waiter in her film.

In *Titus & Mirabella* he plays the role of a somewhat annoyed but also amused waiter attending to the table of the two main characters. He starts off on the wrong foot with Titus and is glad and relieved when the derailed couple leaves his restaurant after they've made a mess.



## Crew

### Benjamin Strobel – Director of Photography



Benjamin Strobel is working as a director of photography and a commercial and film director. Since 2005 he is working nationally and internationally for several agencies and production companies. Born in Stuttgart (Germany) he was raised in Lower Bavaria. After a 5-year-training he started to work as a freelance DP and filmmaker. His professional and personal skills led him to working on several commercial and film projects, including local and global players. His full profile can be found on his website [www.blindedbythelight.de](http://www.blindedbythelight.de). In 2015 he started supporting young actors and filmmakers by giving film and acting classes at the Athanor Academy. In 2018 he directed his first independent feature film that will be released in selected Bavarian theaters in 2020.

## Malina Illenberger- Production Assistant



Malina Illenberger is a German digital content creator who is passionate about social media and politics. She majored first in Media and Communication at the

University of Passau. While studying, she also engaged in two universities groups, spaetschicht.tv and Pro.Fil, where she earned her first experiences with producing and editing video content. After leaving Bavaria, Malina moved to Berlin and post graduated in Media and Political Communication at the Free University of Berlin.



## **Ligia Prodan- Co-Editor**



Ligia Prodan is a video editor based in Romania. At the moment she studies Multimedia: Video Editing & Sound Design at the National University of Theatre and Film “I.L.Caragiale” from Bucharest, Romania. She worked as an editor on various projects

during her study: short films, music videos, commercials and several feature films.

## **Korbinian Altenbuchner- First AD and Camera Assistant**

Korbinian Altenbuchner was born in 1992 in Regensburg.

Between 2013 and 2021 he pursued his Bachelor/Master in Media Studies at Regensburg University. He worked on music videos, commercials, and television work as a camera assistant and electrician. In 2019 he led film and photography workshops for children with migrational background.

# Behind the scenes









# Our Sponsors

- Café Anemone (filming location)
- BUTLERS (toy cars)
- The Rewe enterprise ( drinks, fruits, sweets, salads, biscuits and other delicacy on set)
- The Jento Restaurant in Passau (a warm meal for the whole crew)
- The Wirtshaus zum grünen Baum in Passau (a lunch for the whole crew)
- Altes Bräuhaus (a meal for the whole crew)
- Café Greindl (coffee and cake for the whole crew)
- Caffè Fiona (drinks on set)
- Vitalia Reformhaus (biscuits, snacks)
- Ristorante Zi' Teresa (a meal for two members of the crew)
- Studentenwerk Niederbauern/Oberpfalz (lunch for the whole crew for two days)

# Credits

**Writer/ Director/ Producer**  
**Director of Photography**  
**Line Producer**  
**Production Design**

**Production Manager**  
**First Assistant Director**  
**and Camera Assistant**  
**Continuity**  
**Boom Operator**

**Assistant food stylist**  
**Props**

**Clapper Loader**

**Lighting**

**Make-up Artist**  
**Costumes & Casting**  
**Editor**

**Editor Assistants**

**Sound**  
**Music**  
**Colour Grading**

Melania Crisan  
Benjamin Strobel  
Malina Illenberger  
Melania Crisan  
Annalina Ebert  
Isabell Sauer  
Korbinian Altenbuchner

Alexander Lang  
Lukas Alberter  
Julien Wachter  
Malina Illenberger  
Malina Illenberger  
Annalina Ebert  
Julien Wachter  
Florian Czmaiduch  
Benjamin Strobel  
Korbinian Altenbuchner  
Julien Wachter  
Anne Brandl  
Melania Crisan  
Melania Crisan  
Ligia Prodan  
Daniel Popa  
Constantin Weber  
Laura Lazarescu-Thois  
Michael Johnson  
Audio Network  
Ştefania Grigorescu

# Cast

**Titus**

Axel Moustache

**Mirabella**

Melania Crisan

**The waiter**

Nicolas Bach

**Extras**

Isabell Sauer

Anne Brandl

Shiva

Alena Kollmann

Raoul Kinadeter

Christine Kollmann

Annalina Ebert

Michi Sicomico

Florian Czmaiduch



Titus & Mirabella