

PRESS KIT

Natural Art



"NATURAL ART" Starring JAZZ BRANTSCH - JOHANNES GRATZ Written & Directed by HENRIK BOBB Music by MARIUS HAGEDORN

Camera by STEFFEN ROß Lights by JOEY PERMANTIER Set Design by LINH PHAM MARVIN DELHAES

Costume Design by MICHAEL EMMERICH Make Up by STEFANIE PEITZ Choreography by CECILIA JARZEMBKE

Set Photography by MAX WOLTER Produced by HENRIK BOBB & SOPHIA FAROB



Synopsis

An unconventional young artist is more than inspired by the sounds of Tchaikovsky and the movements of a passionate ballerino for her next work of art.

Director's Note

The idea for the short film came to me in 2021 when I saw the documentary „Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable“ by Damien Hirst in a seminar.

Immediately, the question arose in me of what art is still allowed to do in today's world. How controversial can one work? What is allowed in art? How quickly do the boundaries between art and reality blur?

After a few drafts of the script for the story, it quickly became clear to me, that I was moving in fields of obsessiveness and that I found the extent to which an artist goes to for his art particularly exciting.

I found this kind of obsessiveness above all in the of the classical period: Painting, dance (ballet), music. In the early stages of development, I knew that I wanted to unite these fields.

The look, inspired by German expressionist films from the 1920s and film noir, was a signpost in our visual language. Especially for camera and light.

Since I decided against dialogue and wanted the images to count, I realised that each room had to have a décor that told about the character. So we used existing rooms and created a set in them.

Our cast was mainly made up of already experienced film & theatre actors and stage dancers.

In a previs, everyone was able to get an idea of how how experimental this short film is supposed to be.

I am grateful to everyone who made it all possible.



Background

„Natural Art“ is an experimental short film that was made as part of a film seminar at the FH Aachen.

After development of the script and multiple revisions by Henrik Bobb, it was produced and self-financed by him.

The first test screening in front of an audience took place on 11.07.2023 in Aachen at the „Movie Mania“ organised by the FH. There, the short film received a great response from the audience.

„Natural Art“ is currently taking part in various film festivals - both nationally and internationally.

A Filmmakers Approach

After completing the final script, Henrik Bobb communicated his vision for the short film to his crew.

„Natural Art“ was to combine a modern editing style with the visual aspects of expressionist German films from the 1920s and US film noir from the 1950s.

In order to focus on compositions (light, composition, etc.) and the actions of the characters, the scenes in the film appear in black and white.

Classic camerawork and dynamic editing ensure an exciting narrative that does justice to the events of the story.

The search for suitable locations was always dictated by these criteria. The artist's studio was transformed from an old boiler room into an atmospheric filming location.

The chase scene took place in Monschau because of the narrow streets and old half-timbered houses. The ancient town fitted perfectly into the style of the classic film noir.

After several failed attempts to find an independent theatre, we found one in the „Theater am Wall“ in Warendorf.

The creative and logistical preparations and the shooting took a total of half a year. During this time, the director, production, camera and lighting were constantly exchanging ideas, adjusting the shots to the locations and shot previsuals were always revised.

Particular inspirations were films and scenes by Fritz Lang, Orson Welles, Andrei Tarkowski, Luis Buñuel and Darren Aronofsky.



Casting

The casting took place for the two main roles „Artist“ and „Ballerino“. The rest of the cast consisted of dancers with little camera experience.

The main search was for an expressive actress and a young actor with experience in classical ballet.

30 people applied for the role of the artist. Jazz Brantsch was chosen because she proved her versatility for the role in her e-casting.

Johannes Gratz was contacted personally by Henrik Bobb. For Johannes this was his first and so far only short film. He has plenty of theatre and musical experience. Johannes is currently starring in the Harry Potter musical in Hamburg.

Shoot & Location

The filming for the movie took place in Aachen, Monschau and in the „Theater am Wall“ in Warendorf.

The crew based in Aachen travelled to Monschau and Warendorf for the respective days of shooting.

In Monschau, we had been given permission to use the entire small town and its motifs for our night shoot.

We had 4 shooting blocks from October 2022 to April 2023. We had a total of 6 shooting days.

We shot digitally on the Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera by our cameraman Steffen Roß.

Post Production

The post-production editing was done by Henrik Bobb.

After some time, it became apparent that a new interpretation of the classic Tchaikovsky piece „Waltz of the Flowers“ was needed for the film.

The Enschede-based film composer and sound designer Marius Hagedorn took care of the score and the final mix. He also worked out the sound of the film in a few Foley sessions.

After several edit versions of the film and VFX collaboration with Gong Bao, the short film found its final version.



The Filmmaker

Henrik Bobb

Writer/ Director/ Producer

Henrik Bobb is currently studying at the FH Aachen in the degree programme „Communication Design“ with a specialising in „Film“. He specialises in the areas of screenwriting, directing and production.

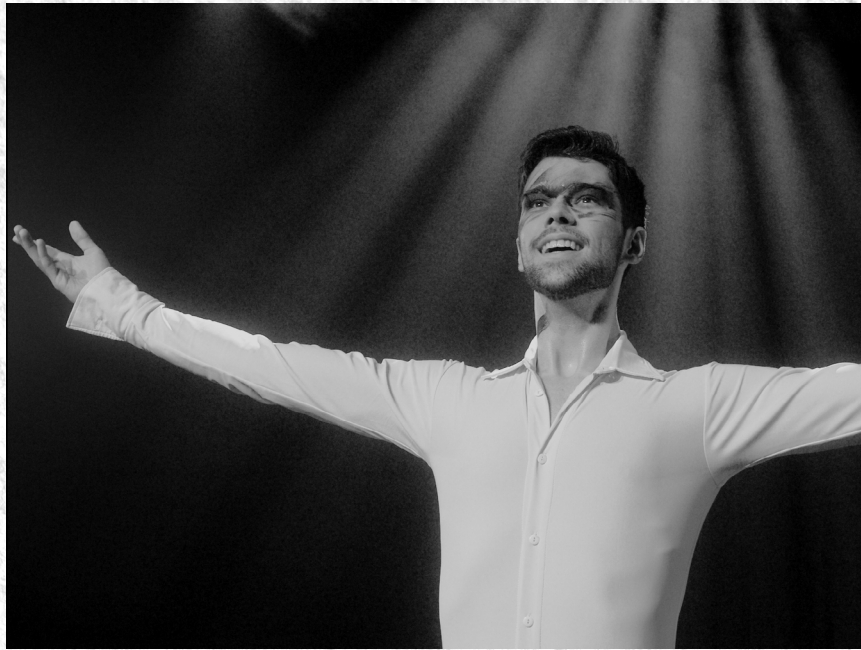
He became enthusiastic about the medium at a very early age and and shot small short film projects.

During his studies, he was able to expand his film knowledge and gain experience on other student sets. Besides his studies, he works as a freelancer for various content creators and advertising companies.

His latest short film „Natural Art“ is currently being screened at several international festivals.

He currently lives in Aachen, Germany.





Key Production Credits

Production Companies

FH Aachen University
Alcore Digital Cinema

Writer/Director

Henrik Bobb

Producers

Henrik Bobb
Sophia Faroß

Production Manager

Asena Cakir
Jessica Russo

Cinematographer

Steffen Roß

Gaffer

Joey Permantier

Set Design

Linh Pham
Marvin Delhaes

Costume Designer

Michael Emmerich

Make-Up Artist

Stefanie Peitz

Choreography

Cecilia Jarzembek

Film Editor

Henrik Bobb

Sound Designer & Composer

Marius Hagedorn

Artist

Jazz Brantsch

Ballerino

Johannes Gratz

Ballet Company

Cecilia Jarzembek
Shayenne Jarzembek
Jennifer Seifert

Country of Production

Germany

Ratio

1.33:1 (4:3)

Duration

08 mins 30 secs

Genre

Thriller, Film Noir, Experimental

Contact

Henrik Bobb

Stromgasse 31

52064 Aachen

Mail: henrik.bobb@gmail.com

Tel.: 015231715858

Useful Links

Film Trailer

<https://youtu.be/HyVlVaSOmZw>

Behind the Scenes - Photos

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mx2jla-e0q0dl8td/AAB989ew0yFn4i17BNjnZ-9TCa?dl=0>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/henrik.bobb/>