



# CHERUBS

A DARK COMEDY  
SHORT FILM

DIRECTED BY  
ANNA PIERI ZUERCHER  
& PIETRO ZUERCHER

**PRESS KIT**

## TECHNICAL SHEET

**Title:** Cherubs

**Directors:** Anna Pieri Zuercher and Pietro Zuercher

**Country of production:** Switzerland

**Year of production:** 2025

**Duration:** 12 min 44 sec

**Language:** English

**Subtitles:** French

**Format:** Digital, Color

**Genre:** Dark Comedy

**Screenplay:** Toby McShane

**Cinematography:** Pietro Zuercher

**Production Design:** Jimena Cugat

**Costume Design:** Laura Pennisi

**Make-up Design:** Assunta Ranieri

**Editing:** Jussi Rautaniemi

**Music:** Balz Bachmann

**Producers:** Cinédokké – Michela Pini, Olga Lamontanara;  
Orisono – Alexander Stratigenas, Timothy Ross; Pietro  
Zuercher; RSI Radiotelevisione svizzera – Alessandro  
Marcionni, Walter Bortolotti; 1291 Productions – Oliver Keller

## SYNOPSIS

A dark comedy about two exiled angels condemned to document every human suicide for eternity. The elder, once a high-ranking seraph who refused to carry out the Divine Flood, has lost all faith in God and is now jaded and bitter. The younger, cast out for a lesser sin, still dreams of returning to Heaven. As they wander through the wreckage of human despair, they question pain, faith and existence, between dark humour and profound reflection.

## ANGELS BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

The short film **CHERUBS** is centred around the characters of Gottlieb and Montmartre, two angels sent to Earth to fulfil a specific mission. Gottlieb, a sickly-looking angel in their 50s with a cynical world-view, contrasts with Montmartre, a young angel in their 20s who is naive and full of questions. Their interactions reveal a complex relationship shaped by Gottlieb's experience and Montmartre's innocence. Together, they navigate the challenges and mysteries of their mission while exploring the human world around them.



## A DARK RENDEZ-VOUS

The plot unfolds beneath a highway bridge, a dark and mysterious place surrounded by the sounds of urban life. Gottlieb and Montmartre wait in this oppressive atmosphere for something that could change their world forever. As twilight descends over the scene, a captivating conversation unfolds, delving deep into the depths of the human psyche. Questions about hope, despair, and the meaning of life arise. Gottlieb, grappling with their inner demons, and Montmartre, in search of answers, find themselves at a critical turning point that will captivate the audience. The tension escalates as events intensify, forcing the characters to confront their own fears and the reality around them.

## A CALL FOR EMPATHY

**CHERUBS** encourages reflection on the complex emotions in life that can bring forth humanity and compassion even in difficult times. The film invites viewers to contemplate themes of life, death, and empathy. It demonstrates that sadness and loss can also present opportunities for deeper emotional connections, while encouraging open dialogue.



## THE DIRECTING DUO



**Anna Pieri Zuercher**, the versatile Swiss artist, takes the leap into directing with *CHERUBS*. Renowned as the *TATORT* detective Isabelle Grandjean, she combines her strengths in this project: authentic, psychologically rich characters, an urban-dim aesthetic, and bold themes that break taboos. With *CHERUBS* she has crafted a thought-provoking and heartfelt narrative that addresses a sensitive topic. Pieri Zuercher is actively pursuing her directing career without denying her acting roots.



**Pietro Zuercher**, known for his impressive cinematography in *SONG OF SCORPIONS* (2017) and *DIE NACHBARN VON OBEN* (2023), makes his directorial debut with *CHERUBS*. His ability to capture emotions through light and composition now flows into a new narrative form: here Zuercher combines his visual depth by transferring his cinematic aesthetics to his directorial work. *CHERUBS* delivers a visual contemplation between past and present. Zuercher's motto is: "Every image is a promise to the story."

## THE CAST



**Richard Sammel**, known from international productions, takes on the role of the angel Gottlieb in *CHERUBS*. He began in theatre in the 1980s and became known through films like *IL PIACERE DELLE CARNI* (1992) and *TAXI* (1998). His successes in *CASINO ROYALE* and *INGLORIOUS BASTERDS*, as well as his role in the *Star Wars* series *ANDOR* (2025), cemented his reputation. He has lived in Berlin since 2007. In *CHERUBS*, Sammel as Gottlieb displays a balance between human emotions and supernatural wisdom, underscoring his ability to portray profound characters.



**Martha Benedict**, raised in Basel (Switzerland), impresses in a leading role in *CHERUBS*. After graduating from high school and studying acting in London, she developed her passion for theatre at the Junges Theater Basel. Her career includes appearances in productions such as *GEISTER VOR DEM FRÜHSTÜCK* (2025) and *EGGSHELLS* (2025). In *CHERUBS*, Montmartre is full of emotional depth and interacts with Gottlieb in intense scenes, allowing Benedict to fully utilize her ability to portray complex and nuanced characters. This role positions her as one of Switzerland's rising stars.



**Carol Schuler**, born in Winterthur (Switzerland), is a renowned Swiss actress and singer. She began her acting career at the age of twelve with television and film roles. One of her first leading roles was in the 2001 TV movie *LIEBER BRAD*, for which she received the Swiss Film Award. After her acting training in Berlin, she took on engagements at prestigious theatres and film roles in Germany and Switzerland. She impressed in projects like *NACHTLÄRM* and the Netflix series *SKYLINES*, for which she won the Grimme Prize in 2020. Additionally, she appeared as a commissioner in the popular crime series *TATORT* alongside Anna Pieri Zuercher.

## LOCAL COLLABORATION WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FLAIR

Together, the three production companies unveil their latest cinematic adventure, aimed at conquering festivals and audiences. This collaborative project demonstrates that in Switzerland, despite four national languages and the almost insurmountable Alpine landscape, a close and harmonious cooperation across linguistic and regional boundaries is possible, while also strengthening the Swiss film industry.

**Cinédokké**, based in Ticino (Switzerland), is known for its innovative approach to film productions. Under the leadership of Michela Pini and Olga Lamontanara, the company has celebrated international successes, including films presented at the Toronto International Film Festival, Berlinale, Locarno, San Sebastián, SXSW, PÖFF Tallinn Black Nights and many other festivals worldwide. Their emphasis on fostering talent and pushing creative boundaries sets them apart in the industry.

**ORISONO**, company founded in 2020 in Lucerne, has quickly established itself in the film industry. It develops feature films, documentaries, and series that gain recognition beyond Switzerland. A highlight is the co-production of the film SEW TORN, which celebrated its world premiere at SXSW and on the Piazza Grande at the Locarno Film Festival.

**1291 Productions**, the largest stunts and special effects company in Switzerland was founded by Oliver Keller, who worked for over 21 years in Hollywood and executed stunts for major international productions. With its own film studio and a team of experienced action directors and stunt coordinators, the company not only offers high-quality stunt and special effects services but also has an excellent reputation in the film community for creativity and safety standards.

