

MINERVA PICTURES



5 WAYS TO DIE - ONE WAY TO SURVIVE

THE BITTER TA5TE

DEFEAT YOUR OPPONENT

a DORCON FILM production "THE BITTER TA5TE"

JULIA DORDEL NICOLO PASETTI ANNE ALEXANDER SIEDER and JOHN KEOGH
director of photography GUIDO TÖLKE music by CLEMENS DAMERAU
executive producers MICHAEL HEIKS WOLFGANG HOWIND
executive producers BJÖRN DIXGÅRD PATRIK HEIKINPIETI DANIEL HAGLUND and HÅKAN SÖRLE from MANDO DIAO
screenplay by JULIA DORDEL and GUIDO TÖLKE produced by JULIA DORDEL
directed by GUIDO TÖLKE



TV
Plus Productions
Germany



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MANDO DIAO

PROJECT BREAKDOWN



Tagline: "Five ways to compete, five ways to die, one way to survive..."

Content: A former pentathlete is captured by an undead countess and her cursed followers. To escape the deadly hunt, she must reactivate her rusty skills in swimming, running, riding, shooting, and fencing. Alongside a dubious yet charming fisherman and a grumpy police officer, she forms a reluctant alliance to increase their chances of survival.

Target Audience: Men and women aged 25-55, who enjoy plot-driven action-horror thrillers with strong female leads and supernatural elements, aligning with current trends favoring intense, suspenseful narratives.

Film References: Look and feel are inspired by *From Dusk till Dawn*, *The Thing*, *The Evil Dead* (remake), and *A Cure for Wellness*.

Genre: Action-Adventure-Horror **Running Time:** 125 min.

Language: English **Writers:** Julia Dordel & Guido Tölke

Director: Guido Tölke **Producer:** Julia Dordel

Executive Producers: Michael Heiks, Wolfgang Howind, Björn Dixgård, Patrik Heikinpieti, Daniel Haglund, Håkan Sörle of Mando Dia

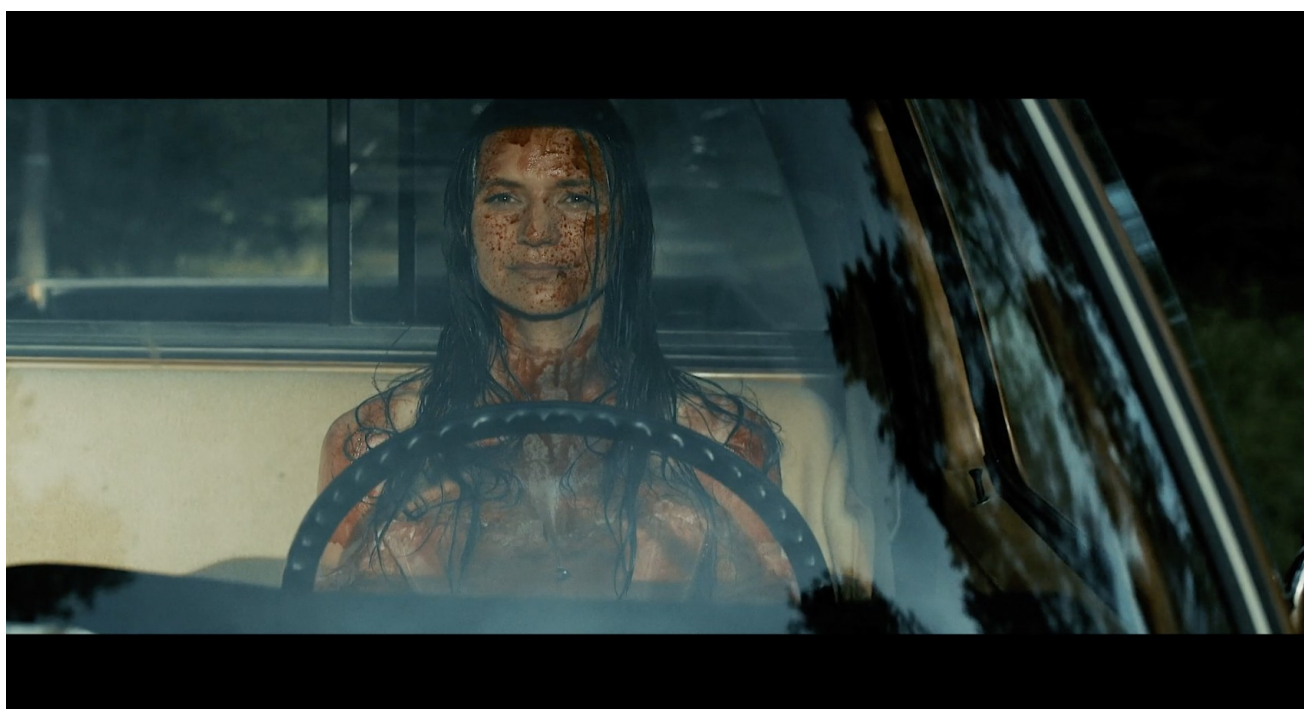
Production Company: Dorcon Film

World Sales: Minerva Pictures International

Status: Theatrical Release on June 1st, 2025 **(FSK 18)**

Teaser: <https://vimeo.com/1008060528>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/821710648/a69c102f56>



PRESS REVIEWS

"It's consistently, refreshingly surprising, and Dordel has great physical presence."

— **Kim Newman**, Writer, Critic, Broadcaster, Journalist [LINK](#)

"It's about 30 movies rolled into one, but I was breathless by the end because of the thrilling pile-up of incidents."

— **Alan Jones**, International film critic, co-director of FrightFest & artistic director of Trieste Science+Fiction Festival

"There is grotesquerie galore, plenty of wild detours, and a final girl who really is put through hell before finding strength she never knew she had... this is gothic updated with a mad, maximalist spin."

— **Anton Bitel**, Projected Figures [LINK](#)

"The Bitter Taste has such an all-encompassing compulsion to engage with horror fans that it could quickly become a cult favourite with some."

— **Bradley Hadcroft**, The People's Movies [LINK](#)

"It keeps you on the edge of your seat as you wonder what could happen next".

— **Darren Lucas**, Movie Reviews 101 [LINK](#)

"(...) be ready for a quirky horror movie that plays things rather straight, and you should have a pretty fun time with The Bitter Taste".

— **Joseph Perry**, Horror Fuel [LINK](#)

SYNOPSIS



Marcia, a rugged hunting guide and former top athlete battling a debilitating chronic pain condition, stumbles upon a life-changing discovery—an envelope containing priceless historic documents. Desperate to afford her impending surgery, Marcia must sell these documents. But her journey home through a desolate wilderness takes a terrifying turn when she accidentally strikes a mysterious woman, Silva, with her car.

Taking Silva into her vehicle to seek help, Marcia unwittingly covers her with the jacket hiding the stolen documents. Before long, a nightmarish demon-like entity attacks, dragging Silva and the jacket into the shadows. Marcia crashes her car in the ensuing chaos, barely making it to a nearby village, only to be confronted by a menacing phone call from the documents' ruthless owner, demanding their return.

Determined to retrieve the documents and rescue Silva, Marcia traces her to the eerie estate of Countess Badesky, a seemingly ageless and undead aristocrat. Inside, she discovers Silva clinging to life on a butcher's hook but is ambushed by Helena, one of the countess's sword-wielding, fanatical disciples. Marcia narrowly escapes with the unexpected aid of Josh, a mysterious local fisherman with secrets of his own.

Despite her painkiller-fueled haze and the local police officer George's skepticism, Marcia becomes convinced that the countess and her disciples are preying on female athletes to preserve their eternal youth. Her suspicions are confirmed when she uncovers a photograph linking Silva to other missing athletes, now marked for death.

When the authorities dismiss her claims and accuse her of theft, Marcia resolves to leave the cursed village. Yet at the train station, she encounters two more women from the photograph, both en route to the estate and unaware of the horrors awaiting them.

Driven by a newfound sense of responsibility, Marcia returns to the countess's lair with Josh. Deep within the estate's labyrinthine catacombs, they discover the cursed documents, the key to the countess's immortality. But Marcia soon realizes that to save the athletes, she must offer herself up as prey in their place, facing a deadly game where the stakes are her life and the souls of the damned.

As the hunt intensifies, Marcia's fading athletic skills are put to the ultimate test against an ancient evil, while Josh's dark secret threatens to unravel everything. In a race against time, Marcia must outwit the undead, secure the cursed documents, and prevent the countess and her minions from unleashing an unimaginable horror upon the world.

MAIN CAST



Julia Dordel as MARCIA

Julia Dordel is a versatile actress, writer, producer, and forest scientist (PhD) who honed her acting skills in Vancouver, Canada, working on major Hollywood sets with directors like Roland Emmerich and Robert Redford. A former semi-professional Modern Pentathlete who trained with the Canadian Olympic Team, Julia is passionate about action and horror genres. She performed all her own stunts in the action series "Mission NinetyTwo", as well as in her leading role in "The Bitter Taste." Julia is fluent in German, English, and Spanish.

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3721187/>



Nicolo Pasetti as JOSH

Nicolo Pasetti has continued to build an impressive career with roles in international film and television. After his breakout role in "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society," Nicolo starred in projects like the Italian biopic "Carosello Carosone," where he portrayed the famous guitarist Peter Van Wood, and the Netflix horror film "The Last Voyage of the Demeter" as Deputy Hirsch. More recently, he played key roles in the TV series "That Dirty Black Bag," a Spaghetti Western, and the Netflix series "The Law According to Lidia Poët." Known for his versatility, Nicolo is fluent in English, German, and Italian and has been recognized as a rising star in both European and international cinema.

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7551038/>



Anne Alexander Sieder as GEORGE

Anne Alexander Sieder is a versatile US-American actress based in Germany, recognized for her powerful portrayals of complex, often flawed, yet resilient women. Recently, she has taken on roles in diverse projects, including the Hallmark film "A Heidelberg Holiday" and a recurring part as a driven businesswoman in the acclaimed German series "Katakomben." Anne also starred as a lead in the indie feature "Ojai," and appeared as a guest star in the iconic series "Tatort." Fluent in English, German, and Italian, Anne remains a significant figure in both the American and European entertainment industries.

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0018253/>

USP'S



- EXCLUSIVE theme song by famous Swedish indie-rock band MANDO DIAO
- Based on the myth of Blood Countess Elizabeth Bathory
- High Production Value:
 - Shot on original historic locations (castles, manors, mines...)
 - Vintage cars and steam-trains
 - Horse-pursuits
 - Sword fighting
 - etc...
- Female dominated:
 - Gender equality and diversity: Female lead character(s) of all ages
 - Women in male-associated jobs (mechanic, police-officer)
 - Woman:Men Ratio (2:1)
 - Women in action
- Green Production from idea to postproduction



OUR TEAM



Guido Tölke

Director

German award-winning Director and Cinematographer has recently received recognition for »Best Environmental Documentary Feature« for »Intelligent Trees« at the Atlanta Docufest 2017, Best Foreign Film for »Mission NinetyTwo – Energy«, at the »Artemis Women in Action Film Festival 2017«, USA, Best Cinematography und Best VFX at the »International Indie Film Festival Melbourne 2016« Australia among others. Guido graduated from film studies at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Hannover, Germany. Since then he has collected valuable skills as a DOP, camera operator, focus puller and gaffer on numerous of camera systems. His work on countless film projects has taken him around the world.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2375162/?ref=fn_al_nm_1



Dr. Julia Dordel

Producer, Writer (Dorcon Film)

Julia Dordel has produced a number of award-winning feature, documentary and short films since she founded Dorcon Film in 2013. After a bank apprenticeship she studied Economics and Forestry and spent about a decade abroad in Canada and Argentina, during which time gained vast experiences in the fields of acting, screenwriting and film production in "Hollywood North", Vancouver, Canada. "The Bitter Taste" will be her third feature-length film project.

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3721187/>

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Being a kid of the 80s, I always loved cave adventures like "The Goonies" and "Indiana Jones," as well as fun splatters like "The Evil Dead 2" and creature features like "The Thing." It has always been a dream of mine to bring all these elements together in one film, perhaps adding a certain "Gore Verbinski" mood to it.

However, with "The Bitter Taste," we initially aimed to make a fast, simple, but original micro-budget horror film—to pass the time while we were trying to get a much larger film project off the ground. We ended up with our most ambitious and elaborate movie yet, made on the smallest budget you could imagine!

It was Julia Dordel's idea to use the sports discipline of modern pentathlon as an overarching theme because, as she said, "no one has ever done this before." We both took the challenge and went "no holds barred" in writing a screenplay without any restrictions, making it impossible to stay as simple and contained as we had intended. "The Bitter Taste" suddenly evolved into a location-heavy, action-heavy, and effects-heavy film with many actors, a complex backstory, and a long running time.

Given the many locations, action sequences, and a very limited low budget, the goal was to intelligently achieve as much production value and viewing pleasure as possible. That meant figuring out how to turn a big-budget idea into a DIY project.

It became a dream and a nightmare, involving no less than five years of work, mainly at nights, trying to realize a film that switches from mystery to action to horror to splatter, featuring chases by car and on horseback, underwater scenes, fencing, shootouts, a proper "end boss" monster, and a burning house. We wanted to go beyond the average horror/slasher film by creating an entertaining genre mix that we call "crossover horror." It pays tribute to many of my childhood movie classics while featuring modern, strong female characters, thanks to Julia's creative work on the screenplay. Together, we created a story that is so varied and filled with ideas that we hope it attracts not only horror fans but also an audience that loves action, adventure, suspense, and mystery.

Film Stills









For more information please contact:
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MANDO DIAO

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