



CHARACTER

ONE:

SUSAN

Ein Film von

TIM LIENHARD

UCM.ONE / DARLING BERLIN PRÄSENTIERT SUSAN ANGELINI • AYDIN ÜRETHMEN • BAVARA • BAYBJANE
IN "CHARACTER ONE: **SUSAN**" MIT CHRISTIAN ANHUTH • MORITZ HAASE • LUKAS PREUSS • ABSINTHIA ABSOLUT
KAMERA ALEXANDER SCHMALZ & TIM LIENHARD SCHNITT FRÉDÉRIC SAPART & TIM LIENHARD
ASSISTENZ RENÉ WEIDNER & LORENZ PASCH PRODUKTION TIM LIENHARD POSTPRODUKTION SAPART MEDIADESIGN
BUCH & REGIE TIM LIENHARD



CHARACTER ONE: **SUSAN**

Documentary, Germany 2018, 84 min

WORLD PREMIERE

14th Achtung Berlin – New Berlin Film Award

DISTRIBUTED BY

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CAST & CREW

Director, author, production: Tim Lienhard

with Susan Angelini, Bavara, Absinthia Absolut, Christian Anhuth,
Lukas Preuss, Moritz Haase

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**DARLING
BERLIN**



SHORT SYNOPSIS

Susan, in her early 50s, is a very attractive woman. But the half Italian, born at the beginning of the 60s in Berlin, is ill. She is bipolar and has a schizo-affective disorder. Susan tells us her life. That, she says, ended at the age of 11. Because at that age she was sexually abused. Despite a good school performance and the attempt to take up a bourgeois profession, she never led an ordinary life.

As queen of the Berlin techno clubs of the 90s, as a drug dealer and globetrotter, she still defends her independence today. With her impressive talent to make herself the subject of the film and to do so in a very strong, self-confident and reflected way, Susan captivates the audience.

The film gives Susan a stage, portrays her as a film diva and combines her magnetizing screen presence with her relentless openness to an opulent, captivating performance. CHARACTER ONE: SUSAN is the portrait of an extraordinary woman.





LONG SYNOPSIS

Susan, in her early 50s, is a very attractive woman. But the half Italian, born at the beginning of the 60s in Berlin, is ill. She is bipolar and has a schizoaffective disorder.

She proudly pronounces to the camera that she has lived a thousand lives, but at the same time she emphasizes that her life ended at the age of 11. Because at that age she was sexually abused.

Despite a good school performance and the attempt to take up a bourgeois profession, she never led an ordinary life. The queen of the Berlin techno clubs of the 90s, once a drug dealer and globetrotter, still defends her independence until today. This has its price, because Susan lives on social welfare in Berlin and has a caretaker.

She is an alcoholic and finds herself in a co-dependent relationship with a much younger man.

A rape during the time of the shooting releases states of fear in Susan. But she speaks openly and offensively about everything that has happened to her. So this film is also a highly topical examination of sexism from the perspective of a beautiful, abused woman.

Her suffering from an obsessive-compulsive disorder is also a subject of the film. With her impressive talent to perform, to make herself the center of the film and to do so in a very strong, self-confident and reflective way, Susan captivates the filmmaker Tim Lienhard, whom she met 25 years ago at the Love Parade in Berlin.

He stages her to a lament by Handel and contemporary music by the pop band OK KID, thus unfolding excitingly surprising views of a fascinating woman.

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DIRECTOR TIM LIENHARD

Born in 1960 in the Black Forest (Villingen), he graduated from high school in Constance and studied theatre, film and television sciences, German philology and history at the FU Berlin and the University of Cologne.

Since 1983 Tim Lienhard has worked as a TV reporter for WDR/ARD and for over 25 years for Arte. He has produced over a thousand magazine reports for German and French television and well over 70 television features/documentaries.

His first independently produced and self-financed feature film ONE ZERO ONE - THE STORY OF CYBERSISSY & BAYBJANE was released in 2014, with an official cinema release and corresponding media attention. This 90-minute documentary about two drag-queens was shown at over 50 international film festivals (German premiere at the Hofer Filmtage 2013) and received several international awards for best documentary in 2013 and 2014.

With CHARACTER ONE: SUSAN, Tim Lienhard has continued to maintain his complete independence from clients and financiers.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In the early 90s, at the end of the Love Parade. At the time the Love Parade only crossed Ku'damm and ended at Wittenbergplatz. Suddenly, Susan stood before me.

A 1.80m tall woman, who was perhaps only 1.75m tall, but seemed larger than life. So much personality, so much glamour, high heels and perfect make-up. It was love at first sight. She claimed that a picture of the both of us had been on the front page of the BZ the day after. Pure cliché: Two celebrating Love Parade people who looked funky and sexy.

Then we partied through the 90s. Susan was always high, she tells all this in the film. I was completely abstinent, the counter-programme of Susan and yet a magnificent addition.

When I was looking for an assistant for a TV production in Rimini, I hired Susan, because although she was born in Berlin, her father came from near Rimini. The production company fell in love with Susan's photos and hired her not as an assistant but to be right in front of the camera. Only problem: her hair. The first thing I had to do was take her to Rimini to buy a wig. With this wig she made bella figura at her first and so far only appearance on television.

No question, I was fascinated by Susan's performance right from the start. Where she was, there was performance. It was not staged, it was always real. And incredibly amusing. Trained in nightlife, with a fascinating language. Great entertainment.

So it was only a question of time when I was going to make a film about this fantastic self-performer. Since Susan had literally disappeared for more than a decade, I couldn't pick up the thread again until around 2015. She was immediately willing to be filmed, loved the camera, especially when cameraman Alexander Schmalz was behind it.

And so a film came into being for which shoots were cancelled as often as they had been confirmed or had to be postponed because Susan was indisposed. There was always something going on, and it wasn't easy.

But we hung on and we held on. Always with the reward of great, sometimes extremely crass entertainment. Not everything was suitable for the public. I had a responsibility for Susan. I didn't want to hurt her. It was a tightrope walk. Apparently it was successful, at least we survived every crash and she was highly satisfied with the result at her first private screening. „Tim, I love you!“ she said every five minutes during this first screening, in the company of a few friends.

At the premiere screening during the Achtung Berlin film festival, Susan was constantly delivering live commentary. These oscillated between approval and criticism.

An adventure called Susan, a journey that I was happy to embark on and which is probably far from over.

Susan is one of the most dazzling personalities I know. Her directness has a power that blows your mind. Susan is truly stunning and if I have succeeded in expressing this in my colourful, authentic portrait, then I have achieved my goal. I worship Susan and my film can certainly be seen as a declaration of love. Perhaps in exactly the same way that life was celebrated at the Love Parade with „Peace, Joy, Pancakes“ and lots of drugs, at the abyss of a fire-breathing volcano. In a counter world.





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TRAILER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTeAw5yCzro>

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