



## ***RENT AN ACTOR***

Katarina Schröter  
Germany, Switzerland

**Production:** Julia Cöllen - Fünferfilm (Germany) /  
Ivan Madeo, Stefan Eichenberger - Contrast Film  
(Switzerland)

**Length:** 90 min / 52 min

**Completion Date:** 2021

**Estimated Budget:** 350.000,00 €

**Acquired Budget:** 35.000,00 €

**Project Stage:** Financing

## **SYNOPSIS**

*Rent an Actor* accompanies people in Tokyo who hire actors to play a fictitious counterpart - be it a dream girlfriend or a missing family member. As relationships develop between the protagonists and the actors, the documentary reflects in highly atmospheric images not only on the relation between fiction and reality, but also on the notion of the self in a flexible, globalized and fast-moving society.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

We live in a society in which for many people, the stage-managing of themselves in the virtual sphere has become the everyday practice. In Japan, this practice exists even beyond the digital reality and is accepted as a matter of course. There it is customary to hire someone as a bridesmaid, or friend at a party. Although this is not practised in the same way in Western societies, we too are displaying an increasing desire to have our emotional needs satisfied by way of Internet service providers (partner, granny and friend agencies, etc.). In every case the principle is the same: one's own life is subject to configuration and stage-managing. In my new film *Rent an Actor*, I would like to explore this area where game becomes reality and reality becomes a game. I am interested in the relationship that develops as protagonists and actors play out their scenarios and the essential feeling of realness that is part of it. The crucial point is not what is true, but what is perceived to be true. Here *Rent an Actor* moves between dream and reality, playful and earnest, performance and pretence, between avatar and humanity. This, in my opinion, is precisely the tension field that

embodies what is contemporary about this film. For these are the very contradictions that describe the conditions under which, nowadays, we try to find inner freedom and interpersonal closeness.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



### **Katarina Schröter**

Katarina Schröter studied dramaturgy in Munich, acting in Leipzig and was master student at the UDK Berlin in the field of art and media. She was a scholarship student at Dasarts Amsterdam. Based in Berlin she works as a director, author and actor for film and theatre. Her first award winning feature documentary *The Visitor* was successfully shown at festivals worldwide.

## FILMOGRAPHY

*The Visitor* (2015)

## ABOUT THE PRODUCER



### **Julia Cöllen**

Julia Cöllen has produced numerous internationally successful films in ten years as a producer for the renowned production company Filmtank, before she joined Fünferfilm in 2019. The young company has established itself with its repertoire of artistic and unconventional feature films and documentaries. Our first feature film *Drift*, celebrated its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival in 2017, our last feature documentary *Olanda* had its world premiere at Berlinale 2019.

### **Fünferfilm**

Fünferfilm was founded in 2016. The company produces mainly films by filmmakers who have dedicated themselves to an artistic, courageous and very individual form of narrative.

## CONTACTS

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