

# THE CHAIRS GAME

Reise nach Jerusalem

FICTION 110 min. GENRE Tragicomedy. LOCATION Berlin.

## LOGLINE

Alice is unemployed, she can no longer tolerate the disgrace of daily life and refuses to get along with the requirements of the Jobcenter. Defiantly, she keeps afloat with petrol vouchers that she gets from small jobs in market research institutes and tries to find the thread of her life through this absurd exchange...



## SYNOPSIS

'The chairs game' is a game based on luck: You have to be in the right place at the right time – or there won't be any chair left for you.

Alice has been unemployed for too long and she doesn't win this stupid game anymore. Her friends got married, some had children and built a career while she's writing job applications sitting on her shaky chair and with her broken notebook.

The employment office continuously invites her to some job application coaching, where she is forced to take persistent advices. Since some time already Alice has the feeling, that this has just the purpose of making the unemployment statistics look nicer.

Eventually, she has no patience anymore and ends up refusing the arrangements of the jobcenter.

In spite of everything, she still survives with petrol vouchers she gets from jobs in market research institutes – to exchange them for money, cause she has no car, of course. Her life becomes an absurd world of barter trade. Family and friends have no idea of how deep in trouble Alice is. Her persistent search for social acceptance cannot save her from the increasing isolation.

Time runs on her Japanese fortune cat watch next to her laptop: The rent remains unpaid, the bank is always calling because her account has a negative balance and she has no way to pay the phone bills. Alice keeps on fighting daily against electronic sounds that obstruct her way. And the petrol vouchers remain vouchers. Even Sex has its price, as she has to realize one night, as she tries to get rid of her isolation.

Therefore, she finally went to her neighbour Luca, who works as a stripper. A very intense encounter that will pull her out of her despair, just before facing a radical decision: Should she keep playing the game along or just let go?



## DIRECTORS NOTE

Alice took charge of her own life: she rejects the unemployment benefit and goes for a risky path.

She's had enough. She wants to get out from the queue of the employment office. She is lonely and wants to feel alive again! It has to work, one way or another.

But not for Alice. Why? She has studied and she's already had many experiences... Is she just unlucky? Is she dumb? What's wrong with her? Is she just not made for this competitive society? Possibly... or maybe society has to be this way - some will never have a spot and will count coins for life.

With all these questions, Alice caught me. I wanted to get into her life, into her head and into her world. Alice expresses her uniqueness. She hits fear and poverty and begins to juggle with her life. She masks her shame with lies and tangles up in absurd solutions that only end up causing a domino effect.

This is exactly what creates the humour of the film, although it cannot conceal the tragedy of a woman who is counting coins. The spectator will reflect about all of these questions, but without the urge to escape from sorrow .

'The chairs game' is a tragicomedy that brings the audience to tears and laughs.

In the movie I show the claustrophobia of Alice's microcosm as a carousel from everyday life through the continuous presence of small objects, electronic voices and Computers noises. Through the elements that are constantly making this world more relentless and tighter.

As a contrast, I also portrayed sequences of her dream. Objects and elements of everyday will be displaced from the normal context and become main characters. They visualize the fears of loss. Visions contrasting her microcosm. I want to compose images that will extend the logic and the viewer experience through fantastic and absurd surrealism.

To implement this concept in the movie, I chose the actress Eva Löbau by my side. A versatile actress, able to express comedy and tragedy with exceptional talent. The refined style of the cameraman Ralf Noack will visualize the dimension of everyday life and of the dream through an estetical Vision of lights and colours.



## DIRECTOR, AUTHOR

**Lucia Chiarla** was born in Genoa and lives in Berlin since 2005.

She completed her studies as an actor at the Academy of Performing Arts "Paolo Grassi" in Milan. Furthermore, she studied literature at the University of Genoa and graduated at the European Master Class for Drama "Ecole des Maîtres". In Italy, she worked as an actress in several film productions and national theaters.

In parallel, she began writing screenplays and later, she studied at the "Script Writer Academy" in Berlin. Her first film *Bye Bye Berlusconi!* (author and actress) was presented at the Berlinale – Panorama in 2006.

With *Reise nach Jerusalem*, Lucia Chiarla makes her debut as a film director. In 2009 she was nominated for the German Screenplay Award by the Film Fund FFF Bayern for the film project *Reise nach Jerusalem*. Lucia Chiarla already directed the short film for the preparation of *Reise nach Jerusalem* and later, the theater production *d'Amore e d'Anarchia* in 2013.



## MAIN ACTOR

**Eva Löbau** was born in Waiblingen (Austria) and lives in Berlin.

She studied at the Max Reinhardt Seminar in Vienna. In 1999, she had her screen debut in the short film *Summer at Horlachen* that successfully ran on the Hof Film Festival. In the same year, she won the award for Best Actress at the Festival Internacional de Cine de Gijón for her starring role as a single mother in the film *Ich werde dich auf Händen tragen*, filmed and directed by Iain Dillthey.

For the role as a young teacher in Maren Ade's film *Der Wald vor lauter Bäumen* (2003), she won the Film Prize in Buenos Aires and the New Port Best Actress Award. After this film, Eva Löbau became one of the most successful actresses in German film and theatre. Furthermore, she worked together with Nicolas Stemann, Sebastian Nübling, Ricarda Beilharz.

Since 2000, she belongs to the Munich performance group Bairische Geisha. In 2017, the new episodes of *Tatort* will be broadcasted, where she performs the inspector Franziska Tobler. With her, actors like Hans-Jochen Wagner and Harald Schmidt will act in this famous German crime TV series.



## KAMERA

**Ralf Noack** was born in Dresden and lives in Berlin.

After studying art history at the University of Technology in Dresden, he studied Art Work at the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg.

During his studies, he made several short and advertising films.

In 2005, he made his first international feature film *Blood Trails*. After that he worked for film and television productions as director of photography.

He worked as a cameraman for the film production *Schiwago* in various productions like in *disaster*, *Solness* and *Kasimir & Karoline*.

*Kasimir & Karoline* was nominated for the German Cinematography Award in 2012.

In 2015, he received the German Camera Award in the category TV movie / docudrama for *The butcher must detention*

---

**KESS Film** Production stands for provocation, independence, quality and the love for extraordinary film projects. The KESS Film Production was founded by Giulio Baraldi in 2014 and is specialized in national and international feature films, documentary films, short films and advertising films – both fictional and documental.

The film premiere of the experimental documentary film *Dust – The wanted life* from Gabriel Falsetta took place at the Torino Film Festival in 2015 and the film was also shown at the Berlinale. KESS Film Production was part of the production of the Berlin short film *Yet another sunset*, directed by Luca Lomonaco. In spring 2016, KESS Film Production assumed the role of the executive production in the film *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* from the American director Emily Manthey.

At the present time, KESS Film Production produces three feature films: *A private movie*, *The light steps* and *Reise nach Jerusalem*, all will be filmed in Germany and Italy in 2017.

KONTAKT:  
GIULIO BARALDI  
MOBIL : +49 - (0) 157 57496048



info@kessfilm.com  
www.kessfilm.com