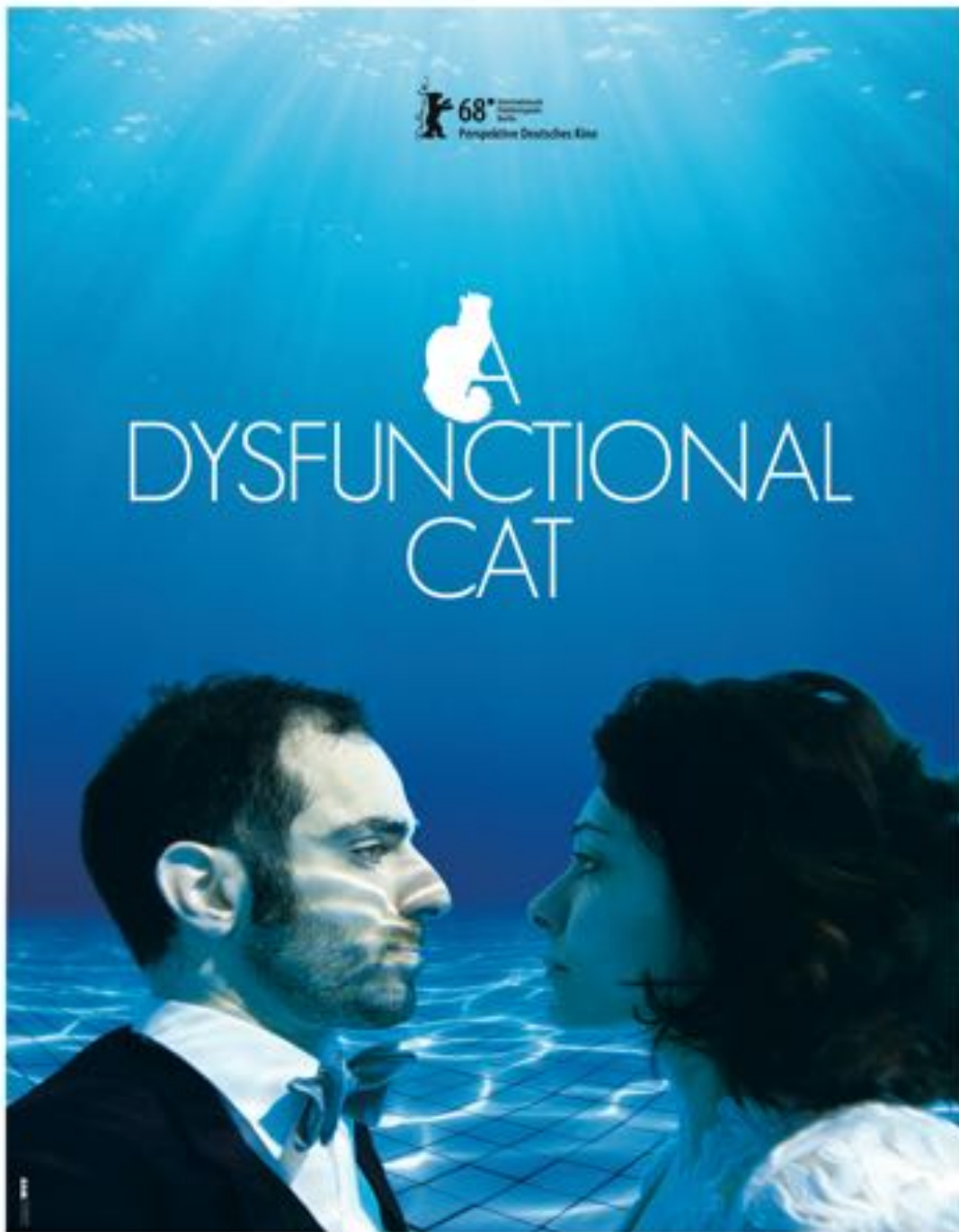


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Festspiele Deutsches Kino



DYSFUNCTIONAL CAT

GLORY FILM Produktion in Zusammenarbeit mit SPIEGELFISCH KUNSTFILM ARTE
 in der Regie von WOLFGANG PETERSEN
 mit dem Drehbuch von MARKUS DÖRFLINGER und der Regieassistenz von ANJA SCHREIBER
 Hauptdarsteller: MARKUS DÖRFLINGER, ANJA SCHREIBER, SPIEGELFISCH und FRANK MULLER
 Regieassistenz: SEBASTIAN FLEISCHER, UDO STERNHUBER, NICOLA KREIß, CHRISTOPH FREYDOLL
 Produktion: ALVA WILBURG, CAROLINE FÖRCHER, NATALIE SPRIGG, CRYSTIN HONKA, LUBOMIR BRUNTSCH, BARBARA HASE (ARTE)
 Vertrieb: RALF ZWISCHMANN Vertrieb & Distribution: SUSANNE SCHWABE & CO.

arte CASYS          

A DYSFUNCTIONAL CAT

A film by Susan Gordanshekan
A production of Glory film
in coproduction with BR and ARTE

Funded by FFF Bayern, BKM and FFA
Country, Year: Germany 2018
Duration: 93 minutes

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Note of the director

As the daughter of Iranian parents born in Germany, I grew up with both Iranian and German culture. In traditional Iranian culture, men and women get to know each other at mingling events arranged by the family. If they find each other likeable, they often decide to marry after only a few meetings. Having grown up in the West, where romance and love are the initiators of relationships, I was very surprised to see traditional Iranian marriages ending up just as happy or unhappy as Western "love" marriages. The only difference is the reverse order of "getting to know" and the wedding.

A DYSFUNCTIONAL CAT tells the story of a traditional marriage and puts it in a Western context to highlight the similarities of their challenges rather than their differences.

We accompany the couple through their difficult experience. They realize what an arranged marriage between two strangers is and how it is more difficult than first imagined.

The protagonists Mina and Kian choose each other, but they have different demands and expectations from this marriage. Their relationship increasingly turns out to be dysfunctional - just like the name of the cat Mina brings along home in the course of the movie.

The two find each other only after they leave their expectations from each other behind as well as the expectations of their social environment. Freed by having acknowledged the failure of the relationship, Mina and Kian see each other for the first time as they really are.

A DYSFUNCTIONAL CAT is about getting rid of ideals in order to find happiness. Just like the ideal image of love, the protagonist Mina must also let go of her ideal image of the West. "It's not like satellite TV," responds Masoud about Mina's life in Germany after Mina hinted at her initial disappointment.

All relationships confront similar challenges at some point, regardless of how they came about. Romance and love both too are preceded by an ideal concept, forced by the media. Letting go of this ideal opens up the opportunity to engage with another person with all his/her weaknesses and peculiarities.

To me, these thoughts build the foundation of the film. Nevertheless, I did not want to make a film that works out a thesis, but rather capture a "reverse love story", contrary to the established cinematic narrative. Thus, the end of A DYSFUNCTIONAL CAT is to be understood as a beginning, since both protagonists get a chance to get to know each other one more time.

Susan Gordanshekan

Synopsis

Mina lives in Iran. By Iranian standards she has left it rather late in the day to decide to marry. Kian is a doctor of Iranian origin. He's single and lives in Germany. Frustrated by a series of unsuccessful blind dates, he finally takes his mother's advice and uses the traditional Iranian method of arranged encounters with potential partners in order to find a wife. When Mina and Kian meet it's not exactly love at first sight and yet they both sense the possibility of a life together. Mina decides to marry Kian and start a new life in Germany, with all the uncertainty that might bring. Both have the best intentions to create a harmonious relationship, and yet they do nothing but fail. In a wonderfully understated approach that also exhibits a subtle flair for capturing anxieties, key moments and turning points director Susan Gordanshekan tells this story of a relationship that turns out to be as dysfunctional as the cat that Mina has brought into their shared home. Only by shedding their charged expectations of each other as well as those of their social milieu does the couple finally find a way to live together.



Technical specifications

Title:	A DYSFUNCTIONAL CAT
Genre:	Drama
Languages:	German / Farsi
Production country:	Germany
Production year:	2018
Length:	93 min.
Picture format	1: 1.85
Sound format:	5.1

Cast

Pegah Ferydoni (Mina)

Hadi Khanjanpour (Kian)

Henrike von Kuick (Sophie)

Constantin von Jascheroff (Lars)

Arash Marandi (Masoud)

Kianoosh Sadigh (Maryam)

Azar Shahidi (Mrs Torabian)

Mahdokht Ansari (Rawi)

Marzieh Alivirdi (Mrs Faridani)

Massud Rahnama (Mr Faridani)

Crew

Written and directed by **Susan Gordanshekan**

Director of Photography **Julian Krubasik**

Editing **Frank Müller**

Music **Sebastian Fillenberg**

Sound Design **Nico Krebs**

Sound **Udo Steinhauser**

Production Design **Markus Dicklhuber**

Costumes **Katharina Schmidt**

Make-up **Sylvia Niehues**

Assistant Director **Olga Müller, Merlin Nadj-Torma**

Production Manager **Caroline Fischer**

Producer **Ralf Zimmermann**

Co-Producers **Natalie Lambsdorff, Monika Lobkowicz, Barbara Häbe**

Co-production **Bayerischer Rundfunk, München; Arte, Straßburg**

BIOGRAPHY WRITER – DIRECTOR

Susan Gordanshekan is a German filmmaker of Iranian origins. She first studied Communication Design in Germany and France (specializing in video and multimedia-design), but in the course of her studies she realized that her real passion was to make movies. After working for a North German TV Station and a film production company in Berlin, she decided to study film at the University of Television and Film in Munich.



Over the years, she has made several documentaries and three short fiction films. Notably, her documentary **GARÇONS MANQUÉS** and the short fiction **EISBLUMEN** were screened at numerous film festivals worldwide. **EISBLUMEN** premiered at 61. Berlinale.

In 2013/14 Susan attended as one of six international filmmakers the 27th session of Cinéfondation Residence of Festival de Cannes in Paris where she developed her first feature film **DIE DEFEKTE KATZE (A DYSFUNCTIONAL CAT)**.

FILMOGRAPHY

2018 DIE DEFEKTE KATZE / A DYSFUNCTIONAL CAT
feature film (fiction), 93 min.

2016 IN LIMBO
short film (fiction) 25 min.

2011 EISBLUMEN / ICE FLOWERS
short film (fiction), 30 min.

2008 GARÇONS MANQUÉS / Tom Boys
documentary, 33 min.

2005 TAROF
short film (fiction), 13 min.

2003 KANN MAN MUSIK SEHEN / CAN YOU SEE MUSIC?
documentary, 52 min.

Producer's Biography:

Ralf Zimmermann worked in numerous well-known cinema productions as line producer and production manager among others in COMEDIAN HARMONISTS, BRANDNER KASPER (Joseph Vilsmaier), NOW OR NEVER, LIPPEL'S DREAM (Lars Buchel) and MY LIFE IN ORANGE (Markus H. Rosenmueller).

The titles PEAS AT 5:30 (Lars Büchel), THE ANARCHIST'S WIFE (Marie Noëlle, Peter Sehr) and DIE HUMMEL (Sebastian Stern) count to his first projects as producer.

He then has found the GLORY FILM in 2012 of which the credits include:

MARIE CURIE by Marie Noelle; 2016; Period Drama; World premiered at TIFF 2016, Nominated for the German Film Prize in 3 categories.

DER HUND BEGRABEN by Sebastian Stern; 2017; Black Comedy. starring Justus von Dohnanyi, Juliane Köhler and Georg Friedrich.

A DYSFUNCTIONAL CAT by Susan Gordanshekan; 2018; Drama; World premiering at the section PERSPEKTIVE DEUTSCHES KINO of the Berlinale 2018.

DER TRAFIKANT by Nikolaus Leytner; post-produktion; Period Drama; Literary adaptation based on the eponymous bestseller by Robert Seethaler, starring Bruno Ganz, Simon Morzé, Johannes Krisch and Emma Drogunova. Theatrical release est. Fall 2018.

The productions of GLORY FILM are awarded 6 Bavarian Film Awards in various categories.

Pegah Ferydoni (Mina)

Actress, host and singer Ferydoni was born in 1983 in Tehran. The politically and artistically active parents flee to Berlin two years after, where she later studies philosophy for three semesters, stars in Maxim Gorki Theater, Heimathafen Neukölln and Ballhaus Naunynstraße and founds her band "Shangahi Electric" in 2002. Between 2011 and 2013 she presents shows on TV such as ZDF Kultur and 3sat magazine zdf.kulturpalast.



She starts her acting career on German television on series such as SOKO 5113 and TATORT and KOMMISSARIN LUKAS. Her role as Turkish strict Muslim girl Yağmur Öztürk in the 2005 ARD Comedy TV- Series TURKISH FOR BEGINNERS by Bora Dagtekin marks her breakthrough as an actress, the series receive awards such as German TV-Price (Deutscher Fernsehpreis), the Grimme-Award and a Bambi. Even though the show later in 2012 is adapted as feature film, her film career starts with FOLLOW THE FEATHER, which is shown at numerous film festivals and wins the Audience Award of the Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg in 2004.

Other multi-lingual roles include the one in Shirin Neshat's Silver-Lion-winning WOMEN WITHOUT MEN, the lead role in Su Turhan's AYLÄ, and in Til Schweiger's RABBIT WITHOUT EARS. In 2013 she stars in Züli Aladag's 300 WORTE DEUTSCH alongside Nadja Uhl and Christoph Maria Herbst and lends her voice in the colorful animated film MANOLO AND THE BOOK OF LIFE to the main character Maria.

Hadi Khanjanpour (Kian)

Hadi Khanjanpour was born in Tehran. When he is almost 4 years, he and his family flee to Germany because of the war, he then resides 20 years in Offenbach am Main, where he graduates from high school and completes his civil service.

Later he begins to study Sports-Informatics to later drop off, once he gets an opportunity for a theater casting and is cast for roles in pièces of Laien's Club of the Frankfurter Concert Hall and the theater group "theaterperipherie".



He then applies to the acting school in Ludwigsburg out of curiosity, yet receives an acceptance there immediately. Even though he was already too old to enter, the Academy, under the direction of Luk Perceval makes an exception, and accepts the 27 years old.

Until he completes his course in 2013, he stars in theater plays, and in the first short films at the Film Academy Ludwigsburg.

He also writes and directs plays due to his drive to tell his own stories. In addition to his acting career, he works as a freelance director and writer in theater and in film.

Today his theater productions receive numerous awards. His pilot film of the series DR ILLEGAL has already celebrated festival success worldwide.

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