

MARTIN READS THE QURAN

Directed **Jurijs Saule**

Written by **Michail Lurje, Jurijs Saule**

Starring **Zejhun Demirov, Ulrich Tukur**

Producer **Michail Lurje, Jurijs Saule**

Production Company **Blobel Film**

Original Title: **Martin liest den Koran** | 107' | German OV | Germany 2023 | Audio 5.1 | Colour | Aspect Ratio 1.5:1 (3:2) | Shot On 6K with Sony Venice Rialto X-OCN

The best elements of the thriller combined with the real-life question of whether the Quran allows for a violent interpretation.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Martin visits a professor of Islamic Studies to tell him about an attack he has initiated. Can the professor show Martin a passage from the Quran that says it's wrong to kill people with bombs? If not, Martin's bomb will rightfully kill many people. The professor has no other weapons other than the word of God itself.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Jurijs Saule studied literature and mathematics in Berlin. Since he did not attend film school, he founded the production company "Blobel Film" to realize his dream of directing his first feature film. His script for "Martin reads the Quran" was awarded the highest German screenplay prize and the golden Lola Award, which enabled the project to receive state funding. Jurijs Saule is a member of the "German Film Academy" (Deutsche Filmakademie e.V.).

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

What would it mean for our society if it could not be proven that the Quran and God himself forbid the use of violence? Must we restrict the beliefs of others if they threaten our way of life? Do we presume to know better than the Almighty? Is Martin a madman, a bloody reformer, or the blurry mirror of a modern citizen forsaken by God?

CAST BIOGRAPHY

Zejhun Demirov, who has Macedonian roots, began his acting career under the direction of Petra Lammerts and Jean-Luc Bubert at the Acting School in Düsseldorf. From 2009 to 2016 he acted in the RTL series "Der Lehrer". In 2011 he appeared for the first time in a feature film in a supporting role in the ORF production "Kebab mit alles". For his leading role in the feature film "Oray", he was awarded the Götz George Young Talent Award of the First Steps Film Prize in 2018 for his acting achievements. In 2020 he will appear in "Tatort: Rettung so nah".

Ulrich Tukur first appeared as an ensemble member under Zadek at the Freie Volksbühne Berlin from 1985 to 1995 in numerous leading and supporting roles. In 1986 he was named Actor of the Year by German theater critics. From 1995 to 2003 he was artistic director of the Hamburg Kammerspiele. From 1999 to 2001 he appeared at the Salzburg Festival in the title role of Hugo von Hofmannsthal's Jedermann. In 2006, Ulrich Tukur played the role of Lieutenant Colonel Anton Grubitz in the Oscar-winning film "The Lives of Others". In 2014, he took over the patronage of the German Television Crime Award. Ulrich Tukur is a member of the Freie Akademie der Künste Hamburg. In March 2015 he became a member of the German Academy of Performing Arts. In October 2019 he published his first novel "Der Ursprung der Welt".

GENRE

Drama, Thriller

CREW

Director **Jurijs Saule**

Writers **Michail Lurje, Jurijs Saule**

Producers **Michail Lurje, Jurijs Saule**

DOP **Arsenij Gusev**

Editing **Jurijs Saule**

Sound **Achim Burkart**

Sound design **Thorsten Hoppe**

Costume **Riccarda Merten-Eicher**

Art Director **Stefan Rohde**

Production Company **Blobel Film**