

third installment (*The Silver Spider*) may go into production later that year on location in Eastern Europe.

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Scene from "Unter Strom"
(photo © Sandra Steh)

Unter Strom

Type of Project Feature Film Cinema **Genre** Comedy
Production Company Next Film/Leipzig, in-coproduction with Cine Plus Filmproduktion/Berlin **With backing from** Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung, German Federal Film Fund (DFFF)
Producer Clementina Hegewisch **Co-Producers** Frank Evers, Zoltan Paul **Director** Zoltan Paul **Screenplay** Uli Brée, Zoltan Paul **Director of Photography** Christopher Rowe **Editor** Sebastian Thuemler **Music by** Julian Adam Pajzs **Production Design** Helen Kraiczky **Principal Cast** Harald Krassnitzer, Catrin Striebeck, Hanno Koffler, Robert Stadlober, Anna Fischer, Ralph Herforth, Tilo Nest, Franz Xaver Zach, Sunnyi Melles **Casting** Bo Rosenmueller **Special Effects** Jens Doeldissen **Format** HD, blow-up to 35 mm, color, cs, Dolby SR **Shooting Language** German **Shooting in** Dresden, Weimar, Jena and surroundings, February – March 2008 **German Distributor** Salzgeber & Co. Medien/Berlin

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Unter Strom ("Live Wire") is, says co-producer, co-writer and director **Zoltan Paul**, a "lightning short circuit of all those recent films which made going to the cinema a real event, and more. It's an extraordinary successful amalgam of Quentin Tarantino (*Pulp Fiction*, *Reservoir Dogs*), Pedro Almodóvar (*Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*), British humor (black and absurd), Swedish humor à la *Kops* and Austrian laconicism."

Frankie (**Hanno Koffler**) is sentenced to fifteen years for murder: being innocent, he flips out and takes hostage the newly divorced Daniel and Anna Trieb. Needing a hideout, they end up at the Trieb's summer place. On the way, Frankie kidnaps the economics minister, Jan van Moellerbreit, whom he holds responsible for his plight.

For reinforcements, Frankie also collects his wife, Gloria and his best friend Cheesie (**Robert Stadlober**). He needs them, too, because

Anna Trieb's new lover (**Franz Xaver Zach**) has already made himself comfortable at the house – with champagne and Viagra! Before Frankie can get the group under control, Detective Kaminski and his men already have the place surrounded.

Frankie's situation would be hopeless, if Kaminski hadn't sneaked in to rescue his secret lover, van Moellerbreit; if Daniel and Anna would not fight so much; if it didn't come out that Cheesie has got Gloria pregnant; if Anna's lover didn't have a painfully permanent erection, and if Sigrid (**Sunnyi Melles**), Kaminski's right hand, who is hopelessly in love with her boss, doesn't have to discover that Kaminski has no interest in women! It all comes to a dramatic showdown in which events spin totally out of control!

For anyone who likes fast-paced, well-constructed comedy with a sense of the absurd, **Unter Strom** promises to be a treat. And for everyone else it's still got to be as much fun as a barrel of monkeys!

Hungarian-born director-producer and co-writer **Zoltan Paul** began his professional career as a stage and TV actor, having studied in Vienna. A move to Bavaria saw him swapping actor's for director's hats as well the start of his screenwriting activities. His first short, *Gone*, was invited to the Max Ophuels Festival. Two years later, in 2003, he made his first feature, also called *Gone*, which in 2004 was in competition at Argentina's Mar del Plata festival.

Co-producer and co-writer **Uli Brée** also studied acting in Vienna and became one of Austria's most well-known theater and television writers. He has penned numerous TV-movies for ORF, RTL, ARD and ZDF and is a multi-Romy Award winner.

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Scene from "Werther" (photo © Nils Kinder)

Werther

Type of Project TV Movie **Genre** Theater **Production Company** teamWorx Television & Film/Potsdam, in co-production with sturmunddrangfilm/Weimar, commissioned by ZDFtheaterkanal/Mainz, in cooperation with ARTE/Strasbourg, 3sat/Mainz **Producers** Christian Rohde, Oliver Czeslik, Uwe Janson, Sigi Kamml **Commissioning Editors** Wolfgang Bergmann, Meike Klingenberg **Director** Uwe Janson **Screenplay** Uwe Janson **Director of Photography** Philipp Sichler **Editor** Florian Drechsler **Production Design** Olaf Rehahn **Principal Cast** Stefan Konarske, Hannah Herzsprung, Aaron Hildebrand, David Rott, Fritz Roth **Casting** Nina Haun **Format** HD, color, 1:1.85, Stereo