



## AUF DAS LEBEN!

**Genre** Tragicomedy **Category** Feature **Director** Uwe Janson **Screenplay** Thorsten Wettcke **Director of Photography** Peter Joachim Krause **Cast** Hannelore Elsner, Max Riemelt, Sharon Brauner, Aylin Tezel, Andreas Schmidt, Matthieu Carrière, Catherine Flemming, Markus Maria Profitlich, Timothy Peach, Nikola Kastner, Martin Neuhaus, Matthias Bundschuh, Dagmar Sachse, Nele Rosetz, Georg Marin, Markus Gertken **Producer** Alice Brauner **Co-Producer** Michael Zechbauer **Production Company** CCC-Filmkunst/Berlin, in co-production with ZDF/Mainz, MZ-Film/Munich, in cooperation with ARTE/Strasbourg **Original Version** German **Shooting Dates** November-December 2013 **With backing from** German Federal Film Board, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, German Federal Film Fund

AUF DAS LEBEN!, which translates into English as "To Life!" and into Hebrew as "L'Chaim", the celebrated Jewish toast, is the unashamedly HAROLD AND MAUDE-like story of two very unlikely individuals, equals but opposites, the elderly cabaret singer, Ruth, and the younger man, Jonas, both of whom give each other reason and purpose to live.

Ruth is a grand lady, sarcastic but very warm-hearted, an elderly woman, who, despite her traumatic childhood, stands with both feet planted firmly in the midst of life. It is only when her apartment is compulsorily sold, along with her musical instrument workshop, to finance her very unwilling move into a senior citizens' home that her flame flickers and pales. Jonas, meanwhile, is 29, lives in a minibus after splitting up with his girlfriend, is fighting the first signs of serious illness, has given up his employment training scheme and, fully aware he is heading down a one-way street, seeks distraction from his hopelessness by living a lifestyle best described as "excessive."

It is when working as a furniture transporter (read: he carries boxes up and down stairs) that Jonas first meets Ruth, a brief encounter that quickly becomes a deep bond because of his resemblance, both physically and personally, to the great love of her life, Victor.

Despite their great age difference, despite their lifetime experiences that could hardly be more different, and as individual the strokes of fate and misfortune that have taken their toll, their mutual wish to help the other back on his and her feet is so incredibly strong that before long both Ruth and Jonas are not afraid to adopt even the most unusual of measures.

SK

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