



PRESENTS



MOONMAN

MONDMANN (ORIGINAL GERMAN TITLE)
BASED ON THE PICTURE-BOOK BY **TOMI UNGERER***

PRESS BOOKLET ENGLISH

MORE INFOS & DOWNLOADS AT:
<http://www.mondmann-film.de>

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* published by Diogenes Verlag Zürich (Switzerland), 1966



TITLE

original title (German)	Mondmann
international title	Moonman
English	Moonman
French	Jean de la lune
Italian	Uomo della luna
Spanish	Hombre de la luna
Portugese	Homem na lua

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

One night, the lonely man in the moon jumps on a passing comet. He is carried to earth, where he is glad to make his first friend – the young inventor Lucia. However, most humans are afraid of the Moonman, so it is up to Lucia to lead him to safety...

A dreamlike adventure into the imagination of a child, based on Tomi Ungerer's classic picture-book "The Moonman".



DIRECTORS STATEMENT

“MOONMAN” is my graduation project at the Munich Filmschool (HFF) as a director and producer. It is based on Tomi Ungerer’s classic picture-book which I adore ever since I was three years old. My objective was to translate it’s unique story into a compelling live-action film and likewise to carry my own fascination to a new generation of children and grown-ups.

The bittersweet story of Moonman’s voyage to earth is simple but universal. It deals with a character that longs for relief from loneliness. It is this feeling of yearning that might remind a lot of people of something they know - and intuitionaly understand.

Adapting the visual style of Ungerer’s original work automatically led me into combining classic filmmaking with the digital realm. I used new techniques like 3d animation and digital image manipulation to translate the special characteristics of the picture-book into the language of modern film. This was an arduous but thrilling experience, for I hadn’t learned anything about it at filmschool. So the process of bringing the thing to life was a constant quest of “learning-by-doing”.

An important goal was to make the audience experience the nightly earth through the eyes of our gentle extra-terrestrial, who is of course a nocturnal being. And so the mood of the film is anything but dark and grey. Instead “Moonman” is a picture-book in motion - full of colors, bright graphic imagery and an overall fairytale mood. As a film fanatic I couldn’t resist from being inspired by a whole lot of other films that impressed me from my early childhood on. You can find some “E.T.” in it, maybe some “Brazil” or “Edward Scissorhands” and perhaps even some early George Méliès like e.g. “Le voyage dans la lune”.

But the most important thing you might notice is the film’s mission to touch the hearts of children and of those that have let a little bit of child remain in themselves. When the 4-year-old son of my cinematographer was watching the rough cut whilst eating his porridge, his spoon dropped out of his mouth. That moment I knew that that plan had paid off.

What the audience will get to see is – in a way – a plea for friendship and humanity. They get to experience that an individual appearing strange and akward in the first place, can turn out to be a wonderful companion after all. Things that are different aren’t necessarily evil. They’re just special.

Fritz Böhm

January 2007



LONG SYNOPSIS

Once upon a time there lived a very sad man up in the silvery moon. Since countless years he stares down to planet earth and thinks of his greatest wish: being like us humans – just once in his life. But the Moonman can't leave his home, condemned to infinite loneliness. One night he gets a surprising chance. He manages to jump on a passing comet that brings him to the place of his dreams: earth.

But the blue planet isn't as peaceful as he imagined it. Above all, a fierce general considers him an intruder and strives to capture the poor fellow. Only 8-year-old inventor LUCIA finds out about the true nature of the harmless alien. She rescues him from the General's dungeon and guides him to the castle of her famous grandfather BUNSEN VAN DER DUNKEL. But even here he is not safe from mankind. With a heavy heart Lucia decides to send her embosomed friend back to where he came from: the moon. And very soon the General's men find out about the hidden visitor. As the General tries to conquer grandpa's castle with a giant airship, Lucia has to use her wit and imagination to come up with a new rescue plan. In the highest of all towers rests a rusty space rocket, ready for lift-off. But how will the Moonman's chubby head fit inside the tiny lid?

An entertaining shortfilm for children & adults, based on the book by TOMI UNGERER.



TECHNICAL SPECS

country of production	Germany
year of production	2006
original language	German
subtitles 35mm	English
running time min:sec	29:10
length in metres	830,80 (35mm, 24 FPS)
length in feet	2.726 (35mm, 24 FPS)
shooting format	Super 35, color
screening format	35mm anamorph, color
number of reels	2
sound system	Dolby Digital 5.1 (optical sound)
aspect ratio	1:2.35 (cinemascope)
value of print	4.850,- EUR
other formats available	HD CAM SR 24p *.DPX Sequence (10 Bit LOG 4 :4 :4, 2k) Digital Betacam PAL (16:9) Betacam SP PAL (16:9) DVD-R PAL (16:9) VHS PAL / NTSC IT-mix (DA88, ProToolsHD-Session) Dolby MOD
Available subtitles	English French Spanish
<i>FBW quality predicate</i>	“besonders wertvoll” (“especially valuable”)
Rating	FSK ohne Altersbeschränkung (age 0) according to §14 JuSchG / German Federal Law



SCREENING HISTORY: FESTIVALS & AWARDS

- 03/2008 **7th INT' FESTIVAL OF CINEMA & TECHNOLOGY – Official Selection**
opens in Los Angeles, CA (USA)
- 12/2007 **CINEMAGIC INT' FILM FESTIVAL – International Competition**
Belfast (NORTHERN IRELAND)
- 11/2007 **33rd FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE FILMETS – International Competition**
Barcelona (SPAIN)
- 10/2007 **30th MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL – California Film Institute (Official Selection)**
Marin County, CA (USA)
- HEART OF GOLD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL – International Competition**
Gympie, Queensland (AUSTRALIA)
- 09/2007 **11th LA SHORTS FEST – International Competition**
Burbank, CA (USA)
- SHHH... COPENHAGEN INT' FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN – Int. Competition**
Copenhagen (DENMARK)
- 21st EIFF / EDMONTON INT' FILM FESTIVAL – International Competition**
Edmonton, Alberta (CANADA)
- 10th SIEGENER OPEN AIR**
09/07, Siegen, NRW (GERMANY)
- 08/2007 **11th RHODE ISLAND INT' FILM FESTIVAL – International Competition – WINNER**
Grand Prize "Best Children's Film", 08/07-08/12/07, Providence, RI (USA)
- 22nd INT' ODENSE FILM FESTIVAL – International Competition**
Odense (DENMARK)
- 07/2007 **FILMFEST MÜNCHEN (MUNICH) – National Competition - WINNER**
Main Prize: "Children Media Award" (THE WHITE ELEPHANT)
Munich, Bavaria (GERMANY)
- SHORTS AT MOONLIGHT OPEN AIR FILMFESTIVAL**
Mainz & Höchst (GERMANY)



FÜNF SEEN OPEN AIR FILMFESTIVAL - National Competition

Starnberg, Bavaria (GERMANY)

06/2007

ZLIN DOG INT' STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL – Official Selection

Zlin (CZECH REPUBLIC)

05/2007

60th FESTIVAL DE CANNES - Short Film Corner (German Films)

Cannes (FRANCE)

GERMAN CHILDREN FILM & TV FESTIVAL "GOLDENER SPATZ" – National Competition, nominated: "Best Short"

Erfurt & Gera (GERMANY)

04/2007

36th INT' STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL SEHSÜCHTE – National Competition nominated: "Producer Award"

Potsdam-Babelsberg (GERMANY)

INT' TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL – International Competition

Children Film Festival "Sprockets" (section: Fabulous Fables)

Toronto (CANADA)

03/2007

GERMAN PREMIERE

03/03/07, Munich, Bavaria (GERMANY)

02/2007

29th FESTIVAL INT' DU COURT MÉTRAGE CLERMONT-FERRAND

Short Film Market, Clermont-Ferrand (FRANCE)

01/2007

PREDICATE "HIGHLY VALUABLE" & "SHORTFILM OF THE MONTH"

Filmbewertungsstelle Wiesbaden (GERMANY)

updates on <http://www.mondmann-film.de>



CAST

Lucia	Jana Andjelkovic
Moonman	Michael Tregor
Professor Bunsen Van der Dunkel	Piet Klocke
General	Ralf Richter
Photographer	Stefan Rutz

FILMOGRAPHYS (CAST)

- Michael Tregor** - Tatort - A g'mahde Wiesn (2006, TV, dir: Martin Enlen)
* September 10th 1950, - Tatort - Tod auf der Walz (2005, TV, dir: Martin Enlen)
Santiago de Chile - Bluthochzeit (2005, feature, dir: Dominique Deruddere)
- Die Mandantin (2004, TV, dir: Marcus O. Rosenmüller)
- Tatort - Vorstadtballade (2004, TV, dir: Martin Enlen)
- Der weisse Afrikaner (2003, TV, dir: Martin Enlen)
- Ghetto Kids (2001, feature, dir: Christian Wagner)

theatre performances: Residenztheater München, Salzburger
Festspiele 2006, Opernfestspiele München, Staatstheater Hannover,
Schillertheater Berlin, Kammerspiele München
awards: Nachwuchsschauspieler des Jahres 1992

- Ralf Richter** - Goldene Zeiten, 2005, feature, dir: Peter Thorwarth
* August 17th 1957, Essen - Insert Coin, 2004, feature, dir: Sacha El Waraki
- Strike, 2004, feature, dir: Peter Thorwarth
- Cowgirl, 2003, feature, dir: Mark Schlichter
- Was nicht passt wird passen gemacht, 2001, feature, dir: Peter
Thorwarth
- Fussball ist unser Leben, 2000, feature, dir: Tomy Wigand
- Suck my Dick, 2000, feature, dir: Oskar Röhler
- Bang, Boom, Bang, 1999, feature, dir: Peter Thorwarth
- Der Eisbär, 1999, feature, dir: Til Schweiger
- Superstau, 1991, feature, dir: Manfred Stelzer
- Abwärts, 1984, feature, dir: Carl Schenkel
- Das Boot, 1980, feature, dir: Wolfgang Petersen

- Piet Klocke** - Der Räuber Hotzenplotz, 2005, feature, dir: Gernot Roll
* December 20th 1957, - Die wilden Hühner, 2006, feature, dir: Vivian Naefe
Emmerich/Rhein - Das fliegende Klassenzimmer, 2003, feature, dir: Tomy Wigand



CREW

directed by	Fritz Böhm
screenplay by	Fritz Böhm, based on the picture-book by Tomi Ungerer
music	Martina Eisenreich
director of photography	Michael Praun (BVK)
editor	Horst Reiter
production design	Irina Kromayer
supervising art director	Susanne Prieschl Monika Nüchtern
SFX make/up design	Birger Laube Raimund Vetter Christian Augustin
re-recording mixer	Bernhard Maurer
sound design	Achim Hofmann
location sound	Wolfgang Müller
casting by	Stefany Pohlmann
special physical effects	Dirk Lange
stunts	Florian Oswald
visual effects by	Hochschule für Fernsehen und Film München ARRI Digital Film Georg-Simon-Ohm-Fachhochschule Nürnberg
visual effects supervisor	Hans Kornacher
creative consultant (visual effects)	Jürgen Schopper
lead animators	Duc Minh Tran Andreas Alesik Patrick McCue Lubosz Sarnecki Thomas Waldinger
lead composers	Benjamin Krebs Eva Marel Jura
first assistant director	Sven Nuri
production manager	Christoph Strunck
line producer	



PRODUCERS & PARTNERS

production company	Toccata Film
producers	Sven Nuri, Christoph Strunck, Fritz Böhm
co-producers	Alexander Dierbach Hannah Lea Maag
	Hochschule für Fernsehen und Film München Abteilung V Prof. Manfred D. Heid Frankenthaler Str. 23 81 539 München
television co-producers	Bayerischer Rundfunk Redaktion „Kinder- und Familienspielfilm“: Dr. Friederike Euler Redaktion „Film und Teleclub“: Dr. Claudia Gladziejewski
world sales	Toccata Film
distributor german-speaking territory	Katholisches Filmwerk Ludwigstrasse 33 60 327 Frankfurt / Main
film funding	Film Fernseh Fonds Bayern BKM Bundesbeauftragte für Kultur und Medien FFA Filmförderungsanstalt Deutschland
partners	Georg-Simon-Ohm-Fachhochschule Nürnberg ARRI Film & TV ARRI Digital Film ARRI Kopierwerk ARRI Sound Deutsches Filmorchester Babelsberg Eisbach Studios München BMW München Diogenes Verlag Zürich



ABOUT TOMI UNGERER



picture from the original book „The Moonman“
(© Diogenes Verlag, Zuerich, Switzerland)



Tomi Ungerer

“Moonman” is based on the classic picture-book by Tomi Ungerer, published by Diogenes Verlag Zuerich (Switzerland) in 1966. The book was translated into more than 20 languages and can be found in children’s rooms all over the globe.

Tomi Ungerer was born as Jean-Thomas Ungerer on November 28th 1931 in Strassburg. He became famous as a graphic designer. Amongst his work are more than 80 books for children and adults, satirical works and hundreds of advertising campaigns (e.g. the poster artwork for Stanley Kubrick’s “Dr. Strangelove or How I learned to really love the bomb”). Tomi Ungerer sees himself either as French nor German, but as European. Throughout his work he always sided with children’s and minority rights. His stories deal with topics such as personal independence, self-fulfillment and childlike curiosity.

Ungerer was honored with numerous awards, e.g. the Jacob-Burckhardt Prize (Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe Foundation), the appointment to the "500 World Leaders of Influence" by the American Biographical Institute, the German Order of Merit, the international Hans-Christian-Andersen Prize and the Erich-Kaestner-Prize for Literature.

In 2006 Tomi Ungerer had his 75th birthday. He lives in a remote country estate in Ireland, together with his family.



INTERVIEW: FRITZ BÖHM



director Fritz Böhm and leading actor Michael Tregor

How did you first come in touch with Tomi Ungerer's „The Moonman“?

I loved the picture-book when I was about three years old. My bites are in the hardcover. It was a birthday present from my Grandma. But I had forgotten it for many years until I found it the shelf, in March 2003.

How did the idea of making a film version of this story come up?

I was searching for a story for my graduate project on filmschool and told my partners Sven and Christoph about the discovery I had

made in my shelf. They encouraged me to work out a script. We were very enthusiastic about the simple and universal way this story deals with a character that longs for a relief from his loneliness.

How did the idea of making a film version of this story come up?

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Why did you choose to do the film in live-action instead of making an animated cartoon?

On the one hand I had only done live-action films up to then. On the other hand I thought it would be a greater challenge to do it in live-action. We had to create the nightly, dreamlike world of the picture-book in real, with real actors. And of course the stylistic concept automatically led into combining classic filmmaking with the digital realm. So in the end we got to do more animation than we had planned in the first place.

What were the capital changes from original book to script?

Our objective was to translate the special characteristics of Tomi Ungerer's style into the language of film. But it was necessary to create a clearer dramatic structure which is why we added a new character – 8 year old Lucia. It's a human being that guides us into the story. For the audience it's easier to sympathize with her, rather than with the alien. Another change was to expand the General's character and give him an antagonistic function. In the picture-book he appears on only one page and isn't even mentioned in the text. Instead there are a lot more villains with smaller parts in the book. We also re-ordered some of the events in the book, left some out or invented new ones.

How would you describe the charms of the original book?

Next to the story itself it certainly has to do with Ungerer's style as a graphic designer. He uses flat and graphic images, like in comics. He uses very strong colors and loves high contrasts. We spent a lot of time designing the colors for the film, basically it's high key night photography with over-saturated colors. I wanted the audience to experience the nightly earth through the eyes of the Moonman – kind of a nightbeing. In our film the night is anything but dark and grey.



SHORT BIO FRITZ BÖHM

Fritz Böhm was born on September 2nd 1980 in Berlin-Steglitz. Between 1983 and 1990 he grew up in the surroundings of New York City, Princeton (New Jersey, USA) and Newark (Delaware, USA). In 1990 his family moved back to Siegen, Germany, where Fritz graduated from high school in 2000. He achieved local popularity as a rock musician. His band "Jimi The Jet" was nominated for the German Popular Music Prize in 1999 and won several local prizes.

In 2001 Fritz shot his first 16mm film titled "A Fratricide" in Prague, based on the short novel by Franz Kafka. In 2006 he received his diploma in film & television producing & media economics at filmschool Munich. "Moonman" is Fritz' graduate film as a producer and director. During his studies he got to know fellow students Sven Nuri & Christoph Strunck with whom he founded the production company Toccata Film. Since then they have produced more than 15 successful shortfilms. Fritz Böhm & Sven Nuri are at the moment preparing their first feature project.

FILMOGRAPHY FRITZ BÖHM

2006	DAS GEFRORENE MEER THE FROZEN SEA	associate producer
drama 25min S16mm color directed by Lukas Miko producer: Naked Eye Filmproduktion, co-producers: Bayerischer Rundfunk		
2005	DEN KOPF IN DIE KISSEN HEAD BETWEEN THE PILLOWS	producer
commercial for DERAG Hotel & Living S16mm written & directed by Tomasz Rudzik producer: Toccata Film		
2005	TIGERKRAUT TIGERWEED	producer co-composer
roadmovie 30min miniDV & 35mm written & directed by Eva Marel Jura producer: Toccata Film, co-producers: Bayerischer Rundfunk Lajoya Filmproduktion		
2005	TOUGHER YET	producer
drama 15min S16mm written & directed by Felice Götze producer: Toccata Film		
2005	GARAGE LOVE	story supervisor
commercial for BMW Kurzfilm Award 2004 (Prinzip Freude, BMW 1er) written & directed by Tomasz Emil Rudzik producer: Bavaria Film Keckfilm (Elke Keck)		
2004	NICHT MEINE HOCHZEIT	production manager
feature 88min DigiBeta directey by HFF Kurs III/2002 producer: HFF München		



2004	FANG DES LEBENS THE LAST FISH	producer first AD
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drama 21min 35mm color written & directed by Sebastian Stern producer: Toccata Film, co-producers: Bayerischer Rundfunk HFF München B.O.A. Videofilmkunst München		
2004	ANEMONENHERZ ANEMONEHEART	co-producer
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drama 28 min 35mm color written & directed by Janina Dahse producer: Vanille Film ION Pictures, co-producers: Toccata Film HFF München		
2004	LEISE KRIEGER SILENT WARRIORS	producer postproduction manager
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drama 29 min 35mm color written & directed by Alexander Dierbach producer: Niessner Film (in association with Pictorion_Das Werk & HFF München)		
2003	TOTE INDIANER DEAD INDIANS	producer production manager
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drama 12min 35mm color written & directed by Tomasz Rudzik producer: HFF München & Toccata Film		
2003	NACH HAUS COMING HOME	producer first AD
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experimental 7min 35mm b/w written & directed by Sebastian Stern producer: HFF München Toccata Film		
2002	FLASCHENDREH ROTATION	producer production manager music
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drama 9 min 35mm b/w written & directed by Tomasz Emil Rudzik producer: HFF München Toccata Film & Thomas Bartl		
2001	EIN BRUDERMORD A FRATRICIDE	producer writer director
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drama based on the short novel by Franz Kafka 13min S16mm b/w producer: Toccata Film		

The films have been screened at numerous film festivals worldwide, including: International Festival du Cannes 2005, AIFF International Hollywood Film Festival 2005, 38th Annual Worldfest Houston-Texas 2005, New York International Film Festival 2005, New York International Student Film Festival, 54. International Filmfestival Berlin „Berlinale“, Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis, International Filmfestival Palm Springs, Filmfestival „Sehsuechte“ Potsdam-Babelsberg, Internationales Filmfestival Bombay, Filmfest Dresden, Internationales Festival of Filmschools Munich 2004/2005, Filmfestival Sleepwalkers 2005 Tallium/Estonia, Filmfestival Budapest/Hungaria, 12th Int. Women's Film Festival Torino, 16. Lesbian & Gay Filmfestival Hamburg, 17th New York NewFest 2005, 15th Int. Queer Filmfestival „Verzaubert“ 2005, Internationale Hofer Filmtage 2004, International Festival of Filmschools Helsinki 2005, Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival (Korea) 2004, Festival of the Filmacademy Wien 2005, Internationales Filmfestival Sao Paulo 2004, International Foyle Film Festival Seagate 2005, Int. Festival of Filmschools Helsinki 2005, Internationale Grenzland Filmtage 2004 Selb, European Shortfilmfestival Brest 2004, Regensburger Kurzfilmwoche 2004, Cinema Of Tomorrow 2004 Augsburg, Int. Filmfestival Schwerin, Int. Oberhausener Kurzfilmtage 2004, Filmfest München 2004 (Open Air), Landshuter Kurzfilmfestival 2005