



WINGS OF DESIRE



WINGS OF DESIRE marked Wenders's "homecoming" and was his first German film after eight years in America. The main characters are guardian angels—benevolent, invisible beings in trench coats—who listen to the thoughts of mortals and attempt to comfort them. One of them, Damiel (Bruno Ganz), wishes to become human after he falls in love with the beautiful trapeze artist Marion (Solveig Dommartin). Peter Falk, played by himself, helps him during his transformation, by introducing him to life's little pleasures.

The film is narrated from the perspective of the angels, who see the world in black and white. Only when Damiel becomes human does the world of color reveal itself to him. He leaves behind his old friend Cassiel (Otto Sander), who continues to be accompanied by Homer (Curt Bois), the "storyteller of humanity."

The film has achieved cult status all around the world; in 1998, it was remade under the title CITY OF ANGELS, which features Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan in the lead roles.

WINGS OF DESIRE

West Germany/France 1986/87

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

1987 Cannes International Filmfestival: Golden Palm (Best Director)

1987 Bavarian Filmprize (Best Director)

1988 Gilde-Filmprize in Silver (Best National Film)

1988 European Filmprize (Best Director; Best Supporting Actor: Curt Bois)

1988 German Film Award in Gold (Best full-length Feature Film; Best Camerawork Henri Alekan)

FORMAT

Length:
128 min, 3493m

Format:
35mm Black and White and Colour; 1:1.66; Sound
2K DCP 2014 (HD-Scan Criterion 2010)
4K Restoration scheduled for 2016

Language:
German, French, English

CREDITS

Production:
Road Movies Filmproduktion GmbH (Berlin), Argos
Films S.A. (Neuilly-sur-Seine)

Director:
Wim Wenders

Producer:
Wim Wenders, Anatole Dauman

Screenplay:
Wim Wenders, Peter Handke, Richard Reitinger

Director of Photography:
Henri Alekan

Editor:
Peter Przygodda

Sound:
Jean-Paul Mugel, Axel Arft

Cast:

Bruno Ganz (Damiel), Solveig Dommartin (Marion),
Otto Sander (Cassiel), Curt Bois (Homer), Peter Falk
(Himself), Hans Martin Stier (The Dying Man),
Elmar Wilms (A Sad Man), Sigurd Rachman (The
Suicide), Beatrice Manowski (Young Prostitute),
Lajos Kovács (Marion's coach)

Script:

Gabriele Mattner

Assistant Director:

Claire Denis, Knut Winkler, Carola Hochgräf

Music:

Jürgen Knieper, Laurent Petitgand (Circus Music)

In Cooperation with:

Westdeutscher Rundfunk (Cologne)

Personal Assistant to Wim Wenders:

Ulla Zwicker

Assistant Camera:

Louis Cochet, Agnès Godard (Camera Operator),
Achim Poulheim (Focus Puller), Peter Uhlig (Materials)

Additional Shots:

Peter Ch. Arnold, Martin Kukula, Frank Guido
Blasberg, Peter Braatz

Helicopter Shots:

Klemens Becker, Klaus Krieger

Special Effects:

Fritz Lehmann, Wolfgang Schmidt

Assistant Editor:

Anne Schnee, Leni Savietto-Pütz

Still Photographer:

Ralf Strathmann

Sound Assistant:

Uwe Thalmann

Re-recording:

Lothar Mankewitz

Re-recording Mixer:

Hartmut Eichgrün

Light:

Bernd Hübner, Dieter Dentzer, Thomas Gosda, Claus Gerling

Sets:

Klaus Bieling, Dieter Bähr, Alexander Korn, Markus Pluta

Sculptor:

Joost van der Velden, Claude Lalanne

Requisite:

Peter Alteneder, Esther Walz, Henrik Gross

Choreography:

Lajos Kovács (Trapeze), Dieter Koschorrek (bird trainer)

Wardrobe:

Monika Jacobs, Brigitte Friedländer-Rodriguez, Irmtraud Simone Simon

Make-up:

Viktor Leitenbauer, Regina Huyer

Set Design:

Andreas Olshausen

Title Technician:

Studio Bartoschek

Title Design:

Uli Mayer

Songs:

Laurie Anderson, Laurent Petitgand, Crime & The City Solution, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, Sprung aus den Wolken, Tuxedomoon, Minimal Compact, Die Haut

Location Manager:

Herbert Kerz, Barbara von Wrangell

Line Producer:

Ingrid Windisch

Editorial Office:

Joachim von Mengershausen

Production Support:

Pascale Dauman und Chris Sievernich

Film Management:

Inge Ruf

Primary Distribution:

Filmverlag der Autoren GmbH & Co KG (Frankfurt o.M.)

World Distribution:

Argos Films S.A. (Neuilly-sur-Seine)

Shooting:

20.10.1986 – 20.12.1986; 09.02.1987 – 18.02.1987 in West Berlin + vttv Studioa

Premiere

(FR): 17.05.1987, Cannes International Filmfestival;
(DE): 10.1987, Hof Filmfestival

First Release (DE):

29.10.1987