



presents

David Hayman and Udo Kier

in

MY NEIGHBOR ADOLE

a film by

Leon Prudovsky



Cohen Media Group Head of Marketing, PR and Distribution

Justin DiPietro

justin@cohenmedia.net

Cast

Polsky	David Hayman
Herzog	Udo Kier
Frau Kaltenbrunner	Olivia Silhavy
Intelligence Officer	Kineret Peled
Council Head	Jaime Correa
Expert	Tomasz Sobczak
Mailman	Danharry Colorado Cortés
Security Guard	Dorian Alexis Zuluaga Seguro

Crew

Director	Leon Prudovsky
Script	Leon Prudovsky and Dmitry Malinsky
Producers	Haim Mecklberg, Estee Yacov-Mecklberg, Stanislaw Dziedzic, Klaudia Smieja
Line Producers	Federico Brizzio
Co-Producers	Julieta Biasotti, Diego Conejero, Julio César Gaviria, Juan Pablo Lasserre
Production Companies	2-Team Productions and Film Produkcja in co-production with Vandalo and United King Films
Funded by	The Joshua Rabinovich Tel-Aviv Foundation for the Arts Cinema Project, Polish Film Institute, Comité Promoción Filmica Colombia
Director of Photography	Radek Ladcuk
Editor	Hervé Schneid
Casting	Heidi Levitt
Production Design	Maria Camila Agudelo
Costume Design	Analia Manouelian
Sound	Carlos Arcila
Music	Łukasz Targosz

Technical Data

Israel, Poland 2022
Length: 96 Minutes
Screen Ratio: 1:2,39
Format: Digital, 2K
Sound: 5.1 Dolby Digital
Languages: English, German, Spanish, Yiddish, Hebrew



Logline

South America, 1960. A lonely and grumpy Holocaust survivor is convinced that his new neighbor is none other than Adolf Hitler. Not being taken seriously, he starts an independent investigation to prove his claim.

Synopsis

Colombia, May 1960, just after Israel's abduction of Adolf Eichmann in Argentina. Polsky, a lonely and grumpy Holocaust survivor, lives in the remote Colombian countryside. He spends his days playing chess and tending his beloved rose bushes. One day, when a mysterious old German man moves in next-door, he suspects that his new neighbor is... Adolf Hitler. Since nobody believes him, he embarks on a detective mission to find the evidence. But, in order to gather evidence, he will need to be closer to his neighbor than he would like. So close that the two could almost become friends.

Leon Prudovsky – The Director

Leon was born in St.-Petersburg, Russia and grew up in Israel. Holding a BFA from Tel Aviv University, he co-wrote/wrote and directed series, features films, and shorts in Israel, France, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. Among his awards: a nomination for Student Academy Awards™, a special mention in Venice, Best Film in Beijing Film Academy, Silver Bird in Seoul Drama Awards and more. Leon is based in Tel Aviv and Paris and is fluent in Hebrew, Russian, English, French and passive in Spanish.

Selected Filmography

- 2022 *My Neighbor, Adolf* – 93 min.
- 2019 *L'attaché* (co-directed) – 10 episodes, 40 min. HOT TV, Acorn TV, Starzplay; Israel, France.
- 2015 *Family Album* – 14 episodes, 50 min. Channel 1. Russia.
- 2012 *Welcome and our Condolences* - 30 min.
- 2010 *Troyka* – 4 episodes, 45 min. HOT TV. Israel.
- 2009 *Five Hours from Paris* – 92 min. Selection - Toronto, Awards in Haifa, Napoli, Nice.
- 2005 *Dark Night* - 30 min. *Student OSCAR finalist. Awards in VENICE, Beijing, Jerusalem, Rome etc.*





Director's Statement

My grandmother was a bitter, short-tempered, anxious lady. She rarely laughed, she was constantly tense, looking like always waiting for the next blow. Like many other Holocaust survivors, she could never recover from the trauma, reconcile with the loss, or get over her enmity towards Germans.

In *My Neighbor Adolf* I tried to tell a sort of a Hasidic parable, with an ironic and tragic offbeat humor, so typical for the pre-Holocaust Jewish world. A parable, which walks the fine line between grief and ridicule, realism and absurdity, clever delicacy and grotesque bluntness.

My Neighbor Adolf explores the nature of animosity. What happens if you get to know your worst enemy and start seeing humanity in the object of your sheer hatred? What if you find yourself becoming his friend? OR is hatred stronger than the need for a friend? Is there a place for reconciliation?

I believe the questions this parable raises are universal and eternal and can be asked about any conflict, any place and any time in history. And maybe today finding the answers to these questions is more urgent than ever.

Leon Prudovsky

Cast

David Hayman as Malek Polsky

David Hayman is well known for his role as Chief Supt. Michael Walker in Lynda La Plante's long-running crime thriller *Trial & Retribution*, which had 12 series from 1997 to 2009. Hayman was born in Bridgeton, Glasgow, Scotland. He studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. He began his acting career at the Citizens Theatre in the city, playing a variety of roles, including Hamlet, Figaro and Al Capone. He gained national prominence playing notorious Barlinnie Prison convict turned sculptor, Jimmy Boyle, in the film *A Sense of Freedom*. His extensive list of film credits include supporting Pierce Brosnan in *The Tailor of Panama*, Bruce Willis in *The Jackal* and Kevin Spacey in *Ordinary Decent Criminal*. He also appeared in *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, John Boorman's *Hope and Glory*, *Macbeth* opposite Michael Fassbender and *Finding Your Feet* opposite Timothy Spall and Celia Imrie. Recent releases include *Bull*, *Fisherman's Friends* (he has recently wrapped on *Fisherman's Friends 2*) *Blinded by the Light*, *The Corrupted* and *Our Ladies*. Upcoming releases include *The Ballad of Billy McCrae* and *Raging Grace* as well as *Andor* (for Disney+) and *Raven's Hollow*, which are due for release this autumn.

David's recent television credits to name but a few include: *Top Boy*, *Landscapers* with Olivia Colman, *Help* with Jodie Comer, *The Nest* for BBC, *Hatton Garden* (which he starred in opposite Timothy Spall) *Bang*, *Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes*, *Taboo* opposite Tom Hardy, *London Spy*, *Shetland*, *Top Boy*, *The Paradise* and *Henry IV, Part I*. Hayman has also had huge success in directing film and TV productions. *Silent Scream* is a return to a study of convicts in Barlinnie Prison, examining the life of convicted murderer Larry Winters. *Silent Scream* won the BAFTA Michael Powell award for best British film at the Edinburgh Film Festival and the Silver Bear and Special Jury Prize at Berlin. Later followed *The Hawk*, starring Helen Mirren as a woman who begins to suspect that her husband is a serial killer. *The Near Room* is a dark and disturbing film about child abuse and corruption set in Glasgow.

On stage, Hayman appeared as Chris in the 2011 production of *Anna Christie* opposite Ruth Wilson at the Donmar Theatre, London. In 2012, he returned to the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow to play the title role in *King Lear*. He recently worked on a new hybrid version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* conceived and directed by Hope Dickson Leach, adapted from the original novella and relocated from London to Edinburgh. Presented by the National Theatre of Scotland and Selkie Productions in association with Screen Scotland and Sky Arts, this unique retelling used innovative theatrical and cinematic techniques to create a live filmic and theatrical experience.

Hayman was awarded the City of Glasgow's gold medal in 1992, for outstanding services to the performing arts. In 2001 he founded the humanitarian charity Spirit Aid, which is dedicated to children of the world whose lives have been devastated by war, genocide, poverty, abuse or lack of opportunity at home and abroad. He has also been awarded four Honorary Doctorates. As a Broadcaster/Presenter David has fronted 24 Documentaries including the *In Search Of Series...*



Udo Kier as Herman Herzog

Beginning his life with the same flare for the dramatic that would come to define his career, Udo Kier was born in Köln, Germany near the end of the 2nd world war. The hospital was bombed and buried Kier and his mother in the rubble. Both survived, and Kier would later move to London as a young adult to study English. Kier was discovered in London by Michael Sarne, who cast him in his first role as a gigolo in *Road to Saint Tropez*. Kier then starred in Michael Armstrong's extremely controversial *Mark of the Devil*. He would go on to work with Paul Morrissey in Andy Warhol's *Flesh for Frankenstein* and *Blood for Dracula*, Dario Argento in *Suspiria*, and Rainer Werner Fassbinder in *The Third Generation*, *Lilli Marleen*, and *Lola*.

Kier entered the American independent cinema scene many years later after meeting Gus Van Sant at the Berlin Film Festival. Van Sant offered Kier the role of Hans, the lamp-singing john in *My Own Private Idaho* with Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix. He would later have roles in Gus Van Sant's *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* and *Don't Worry He Won't Get Far On Foot* as well as such 90s Hollywood hits as *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, *Johnny Mnemonic*, *Barb Wire*, *End of Violence*, *For Love Or Money*, *Armageddon*, *Blade*, and *End Of Days*.

Kier is probably best known for his collaboration with Lars von Trier, appearing in most of his films including *Medea*, *Europa*, *Breaking the Waves*, *Dancer in the Dark*, *Dogville*, *Manderlay*, *Melancholia*, *Nymphomaniac (VOL. II)* and *The Kingdom* (Danish TV). Kier's recent renaissance has seen him play memorable roles in the Activision game franchise *Call of Duty*, numerous television roles in Europe and North America, including a leading role in the upcoming 2nd season of *Hunters* on Amazon, and in the films *Iron Sky*, *Brawl in Cell Block 99*, *Downsizing*, *American Animals*, *Bacurau*, *The Painted Bird*, *The Blazing World* and *Swan Song*, among many others.

Olivia Silhavy as Frau Kaltenbrunner

Olivia Silhavy grew up in Vienna, Austria. Throughout her childhood, she was fortunate to be able to achieve many goals and skills. Some of her hobbies included skiing, tennis, horseback riding, piano lessons and ballet. In her teenage years, Olivia spent time in Paris and London learning the languages and she also earned a scholarship at the prestigious New York University in New York City. The actress finished school, achieving her A Levels. She then was scouted and started working at the Austrian Television as an announcer.

Additionally she attended the famous acting school “Max Reinhardt Seminar” in Vienna. After earning her diploma, Olivia moved to Salzburg for her first theatre contract. During her career, she had lead roles in plays from Tschechow, Lessing, Woody Allen, Joshua Sobol, Allen Ayckbourn, Neil Simon and many more. In 1984, Olivia moved to Berlin where she performed in different theatres for four years. It was there that German producer Wolfgang Rademann discovered her talent and subsequently offered her a supporting role in a popular German series, where her career was set. Even though she started working in television, Olivia’s love for the theatre continued. She played around numerous large cities in Germany and also toured the country. Olivia had her big break in 1994 when she had the main role in the first ZDF Daily Soap *Jede Menge Leben (Lot’s Of Life)* where she appeared in 360 episodes. She played in countless dramas, comedies, police crime dramas and series. In the international movie *Woman in Gold* Olivia Silhavy starred opposite Dame Helen Mirren, German actor Daniel Brühl, and Ryan Reynolds in the role of the Austrian minister *Gehrer*. The film was directed by Simon Curtis. In 2017, she took a supporting role in the movie *A Rose In Winter* under the director Joshua Sinclair. In 2020 Olivia was shooting in Colombia in the lead role of Mrs. Kaltenbrunner for *My Neighbor Adolf* with Udo Kier and David Hayman. Olivia Silhavy sees herself as a “World Citizen,” is always up for new ideas and challenges. Her motto: “Never give up.”



Production Notes

First of all, it was great fun making this film. For *My Neighbor Adolf*, crew members from Israel, Poland, Colombia, Argentina and France came together so seamlessly and so enthusiastically to assist bringing this sad-funny-touching film to the big screen. Neither language barriers nor cultural differences could stand in our way - when there is a good universal story to tell, there are no barriers. And humor is the best way to bring people together.

When Leon Prudovsky and Dmitry Malinsky presented me their idea for the film, I was immediately blown away by it. I have found the sincerity of the story, presenting the remote option of reconciliation with the ultimate evil, told in a comic tone, extremely compelling. It resonated with the way my late father used to tell me his Holocaust stories. Most of his family was assassinated by the Germans, but he himself was saved by a German that has risked his life to save him. Thus, the indefinite way of looking at these relations was not foreign to me at all.

We have dreamed on filming in Poland and in Latin America and having a multi-national cast. But raising the fund to do it all the way we wanted, for a film to be directed by a 2nd feature film director was not easy. Well, casting the right partners to the project made it possible. Our good friends at Beta Cinema shared with Estee and me the same enthusiasm and our co-producers - Moshe Edery from Israel, Klaudia Smeja and Stanislaw Dziedzic from Poland, Diego Conejero from Argentina - all joined in and helped shape the production in a way that could be adequately financed. And the brilliant casting director, Heidi Levitt, contributed a lot, by helping us cast a very compelling ensemble, led by David Hayman, Udo Kier and Olivia Silhavy. This cast was the last thing the investors needed to open their hearts (and wallets).

Once the amazing cinematographer, Radek Ladczuk, joined in, we have found another huge obstacle. Since a big part of the film follows the surveillance mission of Polsky after his neighbors Herzog, we have come to understand the many angles we will need to cover it. Leon and Radek produced an entire book describing what should be seen from every window of Polsky's house, door, gate, front yard and backyard. There was no way to compromise it – this WAS the story. Failing to find any two houses that would be able to deliver all these angles, we decided to design the houses according to the filming requirements and actually build it. This not only gave us the freedom to film the exact way Leon and Radek have planned. By stocking the houses with the characters' belongings and rehearsing there for a few days, the actors gained a sense of real home, helping them to shape Polsky and Herzog in the best way possible.

David and Udo did an amazing job, listening to a director many years their junior, suggesting many brilliant ideas and playing of each other, creating these two compelling grumpy old men in the center of the story. Very much reminding me of the two old guys from the *Muppet Show* - not really participating, but always observing and always having opinions about everything. So different from each other and yet, so similar.

I believe it was the importance of the subject matter and quality of the script with its combination of dark humor and well-crafted drama, that convinced them to take on the roles. David called it „a cross between *Rear Window* and *Grumpy Old Men*. That's the spirit of the film.“ and then both started to sink their teeth into their characters.

We have chosen to film the Latin America part of the film in Colombia. And we are extremely happy with the decision. The local producers have gathered the most professional and nice crew from Medellin and Bogota. These crew members, and a few from Poland, Argentina and Israel, united under the leadership of Leon in the goal of making the best film they could and enjoying each other while at it, created a magical atmosphere on set, that the audience will be able to sense, viewing the film.

Haim Mecklberg

Crew

Dmitry Malinsky – Writer

Dmitry Malinsky was born in 1978 in Riga, Latvia. In 1991, at the age of 13, he immigrated to Israel with his parents. He graduated from the Film & TV department of Tel Aviv University. During his studies, he wrote and directed several award-winning short films and participated in numerous international film festivals. After graduating from university, he took a job at a leading advertising agency as a copywriter and made dozens of commercials before moving to long-format storytelling, TV and film screenplays.

He wrote *Between the Lines*, which was the first Russian language TV-series to be aired in Israel. He co-wrote his first feature film *My Neighbor Adolf* (2022), which was directed by Leon Prudovsky. He created and wrote Russian *Compound*, crime drama series for the Israel Broadcast Company Kan, which will be filmed in 2023.

Radek Ladczuk – Director of Photography

Born in 1976. Graduate of Cinematography Faculty of Lodz Film School, Radek has been working in many feature, documentary as well as commercial projects. Recognised for his visual style, he was nominated for many Polish and international awards. Awarded Golden Duck of Film magazine for “*Suicide Room*” film, Best Cinematography Award for *Princess* in Jerusalem Film Festival and many more. He is the author of cinematography for the film *The Babadook* acclaimed as one of the best horror films of XXI century. His latest movie *The Nightingale* directed by Jennifer Kent was awarded with Special Jury Prize in Competition of the 75th International Venice Film Festival. In 2019 Radek met with director Jan Komasa again on the set to make a sequel *Suicide Room: The Hater*. Shortly after the premier, the film won the award for the Best International Narrative Feature at Tribeca Film Festival.

Hervé Schneid – Editor

Award winning editor Hervé Schneid is one of the most respected editors working in film today. He has collaborated with a number of directors including Sally Potter, Lars Von Trier, Mike Figgis, Régis Wargnier, Bille August, Jean-François Richet, Jean-Jacques Annaud, Volker Schlöndorff. From his earlier work on Lars Von Trier’s Cannes prize winning *Europa*, which established his international reputation and earned him his first award, the Danish Robert for best editing, his varied career has spanned Hollywood blockbusters such as *Alien: Resurrection* to French art-house classics like *Delicatessen*, for which he won the Cesar for best editing in 1992. This was the beginning of a long-term collaboration with world-renowned filmmaker Jean-Pierre Jeunet that has seen him work on some of the biggest French breakout hits of the past twenty years. In 2002, *Amélie* saw him nominated for not only a Cesar, but also a Bafta and an Eddie from the American Cinema Editors association. His work on cult hits *Mesrine: Public Enemy No.1* and *Mesrine: Killer Instinct*, directed by Jean-François Richet, saw him nominated for yet another Cesar. They would later collaborate again on *One Wild Moment* and *The Emperor of Paris*.

Schneid's other credits are too numerous to list, but include all films directed by JP Jeunet *The City of Lost Children*, *A Very Long Engagement*, (Cesar and European Film Academy nominated), *Micmacs*, *The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet*, a film shot in 3D, *Sarah's Key* directed by Gilles Paquet-Brenner, *Sansa*, *Kinogamma*, *Kids Stories*, *Riga (take 1)* all directed by Siegfried, *Black Gold*, directed by JJ Annaud, *Zaytoun* directed by Eran Riklis, and *Dias de Gracia* directed by Everardo Gout, for which he was awarded an Ariel for best editing in Mexico.

Coming back from Kazakhstan where he has cut *Amanat* directed by Satybaldy Narymbetov, Hervé Schneid went on cutting *Neruda*, directed by Pablo Larrain, for which he was nominated to a Golden Reel Award for best sound editing, and awarded a Fenix for best editing. He then went on to cut *Anna's War*, for which he was nominated for a Nika. After having produced and edited his spouse's first feature film *Olma Djon*, Hervé has cut his first series, directed by Stefano Sollima, Janus Metz and Pablo Trapero, *ZeroZeroZero*, in Rome. He went on to cut JP Jeunet's latest opus *Big Bug*, and *My Neighbor Adolf* directed by Leon Prudovsky. He is a member of the french Académie des Césars, the Oscars Academy, the European Film Academy, the American Cinema Editors, and the British Film Academy.

Maria Camila Agudelo – Production Design

Maria Camila was born in Medellín, Colombia has been working as an Art Director/Production Designer for 13 years. After starting her career in the production of video clips and TV ads for well-known local and international brands, she has ventured into the series and movie industry, adding to her portfolio three series and three movies as well as two international films, in recent years. Over the years, she has consolidated a team of professionals with broad knowledge and skills in all aspects an audiovisual project may demand.

Lukasz Targosz – Music

One of the most popular and outstanding Polish film composers of his generation. He has made music to nearly 80 film and TV projects, including the biggest Polish blockbusters as well as international co-productions.

Lukasz is a Fryderyk 2021 laureate (the most prestigious Polish music industry award) for an album with music for the 3rd season of the HBO series *The Border*. In March 2015, he was awarded the prestigious MocArt of RMF Classic radio for the music for the 1st season of the same series. At the end of 2017, with his music for the animated film *Moomin's Winter Wonderland*, he was on the Academy "short list" of composers with a chance to be nominated for an Oscar. In 2018, he was nominated for the EAGLE - Polish Film Academy award, also for the music to *Moomin's Winter Wonderland*.

His music can be briefly characterized by three complementary terms - strong, sensitive and wise. Where it is needed, it highlights emotions with a strong and memorable theme, elsewhere it wraps the characters with tenderness. Lukasz does not leave the viewer indifferent, regardless of whether we hear contemporary orchestral scores or minimalist electronics and live solo instruments.

The Producers



The Company : 2 – Team Productinos

2-Team Productions is one of the leading film production companies in Israel. The firm's focus is crossover feature films - cinema that is artistic, socially relevant, and festival favorites, but that is also popular both in Israel and around the world. 2-Team is also engaged in the production of shorts, docs and TV series and in supplying production services for overseas productions. In the last three years, 2-Team's films have been selected to participate in ALL leading international film festivals, including Cannes, Venice, Toronto (twice), Sundance, and Berlin, and have won dozens of prizes including Sundance's World Cinema Grand Jury Award, Venice's Audience Choice Award, Thessaloniki's Silver Alexander Award, Chicago's Silver Hugo Award, Tokyo Filmmax's Grand Jury Award, and 11 Israeli Film Academy Awards, including 2016 Best Film Award. 2-Team's films have been sold and distributed worldwide by prestigious companies such as Films Boutique, Beta Cinema, Samuel Goldwyn, Pyramide International, and Memento. 2-Team offers turn-key production services to foreign productions in Israel. We also work with productions out-of-Israel as minority co-producers.

Haim Mecklberg

International award-winning Israeli film and TV producer, Haim Mecklberg founded 2-Team Productions in 2004 after 7 very successful years as a partner in HLS. Haim's career began as a director and scriptwriter of commercials and PSA's. He moved into feature films as an AD and Line Producer for both Israeli and American productions. In 1992 he produced his first feature film, *All I Know Is*, and has since produced mainly feature films and documentaries. His films have participated in many international film festivals and have won numerous prizes including the Israeli Academy Award for Best Film, Sundance World Cinema Grand Jury Award, and Audience Awards in Venice and Locarno.

Estee Yacov-Mecklberg

ACE member Israeli film and TV producer Estee Yacov-Mecklberg joined 2-Team Productions in 2005 as a full partner. The films she has produced have achieved both international recognition and box-office success. In charge of development and production, her films often deal with the lives and stories of women. She has a strong history of working with women and new talent, helping to develop their craft as scriptwriters and directors.

Stanisław Dziedzic

CEO, producer and founder of Film Produkcja – production house in Poland. Producer of feature, short, documentary, animated films and commercials. His latest production *My Neighbor Adolf* by Leon Prudovski will have a premiere in 2022. *Wolka* by Arni Asgeirsson which was the co-production with Iceland had a premiere in Poland in May 2021. Previous movie *Mr. Jones* by Agnieszka Holland had premiere at the Berlinale Film Festival. *Mr. Jones* won The Best Film award at 44 Polish Film Festival in Gdynia. His coproduction *Scaffolding* by Matan Yair, had a premiere at the ACID section of 70th anniversary of Cannes Film Festival. The movie was also presented at Toronto International Film Festival and many others. *Ilegitim* by Adrian Sitaru received the CICAE Art Cinema Award, and won the prestigious Prix Sauvage in Paris in 2016. *Chemo* by Bartek Prokopowicz, premiered at Karlovy Vary IFF 2015 in the main competition. The animated short *Lost Town of Świtez* gathered over 30 awards all over the world including festivals in Annecy, Las Palmas, New York, Palm Springs and Saint Petersburg. The animation was also a Polish candidate for the Academy Award in 2010.

Klaudia Śmieja-Rostworowska

In 2015 Klaudia Śmieja-Rostworowska together with Beata Rzeźniczek founded MADANTS, Warsaw-based production company with the aim to produce independent films with potential for distribution and international festival access. Since the moment of establishment, it has become one of the most active Polish production outlets involved in films such as Claire Denis' *High Life*, Agnieszka Holland's *Charlatan*, Icelandic hit *Lamb* by Valdimar Jóhannsson or *Other People*, a dark rap musical produced in association with Warner Bros Poland. Currently Madants is working on Agnieszka Smoczyńska's first English language film *Silent Twins* and James Napier Robertson's *Joika* starring Talia Ryder and Diane Kruger.

In 2018, Puszczynska and Śmieja-Rostworowska established NEM Corp – a collaboration between Madants, Extreme Emotions and Jan Naszewski's sales outlet New Europe Film Sales (sales company behind the international success of *Rams*, *United States of Love* and *Summer 1993*).



750 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022



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