



TAXIMAN

A SHORT FILM

GENRE: COMEDY-DRAMA

DURATION: 9 MINUTES

LANGUAGE: GERMAN

SUBTITLES: ENGLISH

LOCATION: BERLIN, GERMANY

WRITER & DIRECTOR: LEANDER BEHAL

PRODUCERS: NICOLA HERRMANN,
LEANDER BEHAL

A woman with dark hair, wearing a dark, textured coat, is shown in profile from the chest up. She is holding a black rotary telephone receiver to her ear. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light source on the right side, possibly from a window or a light fixture, creating a bokeh effect of light spots on the right side of the image. The background is dark and indistinct.

LOGLINE

An aging alcoholic and a mysterious taxi driver embark upon a different kind of road trip.

SYNOPSIS

All the taxi drivers in the city agree: they no longer want to give Doris a ride. The self-declared grand dame and notorious alcoholic only causes trouble. But when Doris seems to have exhausted all resources, she discovers the "Taximan" in the depths of the phone book. He agrees to drive her home. There's just one catch: he's even crazier than she is.

„DORIS and the TAXIMAN are two individuals who have been broken by reality. It seems as if they have lost touch with society completely. And in return, society has shunned them. Will these two outsiders manage to save each other? Or will they sink lower than ever?“

Leander Behal



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I am fascinated by the varying shades that madness comes in. Especially the kind that is symptomatic of human fragility. When life breaks you, when the weight of it all becomes too much to bear, madness can be a viable option. It could be the superficial kind, that drives people to lose touch with society and develop their own "crazy" habits and aspirations. Or it could be the kind that makes you lose touch with reality and escape inward.

DORIS and the **TAXIMAN** are sensitive and conflicted individuals with tortured pasts. Outsiders who wish to escape the tragic confines that reality has placed them under. The reality, which has all but broken them. It seems as if they have lost touch with society completely. And in return, society has shunned them. The question is, whether they will be able to save each other. If they don't, no one will.

I'm not sure why I am drawn to such characters. Perhaps it is because I can't make sense of society, so I try to make sense of those who fall through the cracks. Or maybe the key to understanding society lies in the observation of those who are overlooked, excluded and forgotten.

Leander Behal





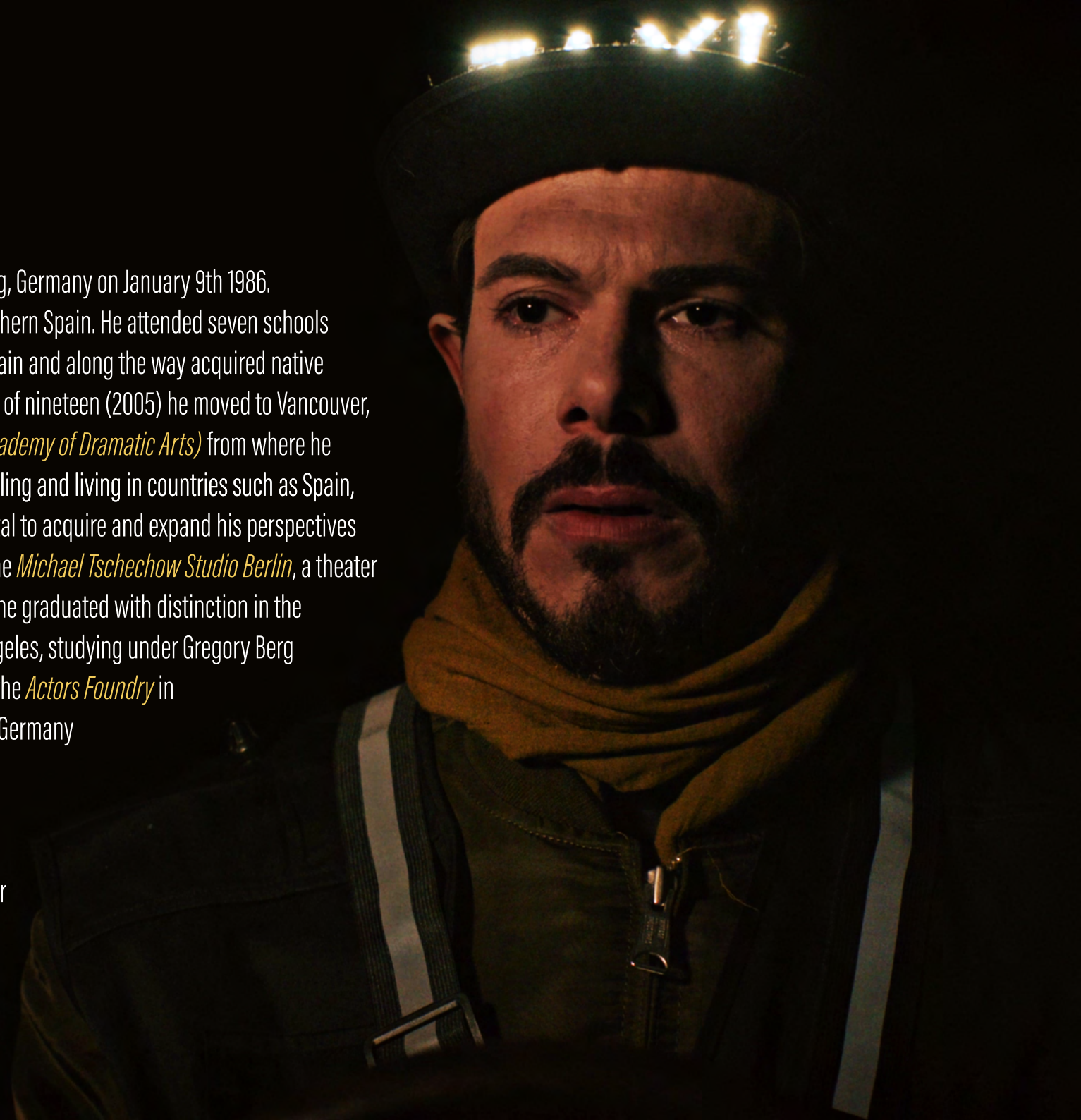
MICHAELA BEHAL (DORIS)

Michaela Behal was born in Wahlstorfer Felde in 1966. As the daughter of a German mother and an Indian father, she was in a very unusual position for that time and place. From an early age, she was known as "the daughter of the Black man". At the age of six, the desire to become an actress arose. Defying all resistances, she was accepted at the *School for Drama Kiel* at the age of twenty. When the school closed after a year and a half, she transferred and graduated from the *School for Drama Hamburg*. The first theater engagements soon followed: at the *Thalia Theater*, the *Landesbühne Wilhelmshaven*, the *Stadttheater Baden-Baden*, *Pfalztheater Kaiserslautern* and the *Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe*. In 1998 her son Leander was born and they moved to Berlin. In the course of this change, Michaela did further training as a film and television actress. Last year she played the lead role in Leander Behal's short film "*Mordgesicht*", which premiered at the Filmfest Bremen 2021. She currently resides in Berlin.

LEE REIMERS (TAXIMAN)

Lee Reimers is an actor and writer born in Hamburg, Germany on January 9th 1986. He grew up in Hamburg, Zurich and Murcia, in southern Spain. He attended seven schools in three countries, until finishing high school in Spain and along the way acquired native fluency in German, English and Spanish. At the age of nineteen (2005) he moved to Vancouver, Canada to study film acting at *VADA (Vancouver Academy of Dramatic Arts)* from where he graduated in March 2006. After three years of traveling and living in countries such as Spain, England, Australia and Thailand, since he held it vital to acquire and expand his perspectives on life, he returned to studying Drama in 2009 at the *Michael Tschechow Studio Berlin*, a theater school in the heart of Berlin, Germany from where he graduated with distinction in the summer of 2012. And after a short period in Los Angeles, studying under Gregory Berg at the *Berg Studio* and under Matthew Harrison at the *Actors Foundry* in Vancouver, Canada, Lee is currently base in Berlin, Germany pursuing an international career in film, tv, theatre and as a novelist.

„*Taximan*“ is Lee’s fourth collaboration with Leander Behal. The first of their collaborations was the 2016 short film „*Out of the Shell*“ - and there is no end in sight.



TEAM



WRITER & DIRECTOR

Leander Behal was born in 1998 in Berlin, Germany. After graduating high school, he studied Film Studies at the *Free University Berlin* for five years and directed short films and documentaries in his spare time. Since 2021, he is studying Directing Fiction at the *Filmakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg*. His films are characterized by a very specific narrative style, taking its cues from surrealism, absurdism and magical realism.



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Lucas Heinze is a director of photography and steadicam operator from Berlin, Germany. After getting a bachelor's degree in sound design, he started studying cinematography at the *Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF*. He is active in narrative film, as well as the documentary, commercial and music video sector. For „Taximan“ Lucas mainly filmed with a steadicam to mimic the movement of a car in motion.



PRODUCER

Nicola Herrmann is a freelance producer in Berlin. She is currently studying for a Master's degree in Film Studies at *Freie Universität Berlin*. In addition, she is active in the feminist film collective *Generation Tochter* as an executive producer. "Taximan" is her third collaboration with Leander Behal. The shoot required, among other things, the blocking of a road and the transport of a telephone booth. No problem for Nicola.



COSTUME & SET DESIGN

Mia Prah is a freelance production designer in Berlin. For "Taximan" she was faced with a completely new challenge, as the production design required a mixture of costume and set design. This task was a welcome change of pace for Mia. Due to years of experience, the lack of budget was only a minor inconvenience and the shoot could take place as planned.

TAXIMAN

CONTACT

LEANDER BEHAL

leander.behal@filmakademie.de

+49 174 7318707



CAST & CREW:

WRITER & DIRECTOR: LEANDER BEHAL

PRODUCER: NICOLA HERRMANN, LEANDER BEHAL

EDITOR: ERIC BAUDLER

CAST: MICHAELA BEHAL, LEE REIMERS

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: LUCAS HEINZE

1st ASSISTANT CAMERA: HANA REINTGES

STEADICAM: LUCAS HEINZE

GAFFER: LINUS BERBERICH

COSTUME & SET DESIGN: MIA PRAHL

HAIR & MAKE-UP: ANTONIO FLORES

UPM: JULIUS BECHER

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: MEY WOELKE

SOUND RECORDIST: SEBASTIAN SCHULZ

COLOR GRADING: HANNO MERTIN

MUSIC: REMOU