

ADVERTISEMENT

THE TIMES OF INDIA

People



The Times of India

Advanced Search »

Home City India World Business Tech Sports Entertainment Life & Style Women Hot on the Web Classifieds Travel deals Photos Times Now Videos LIVE TV

Relationships Health & Fitness Spirituality Fashion Beauty Parties Food **People** Specials Debate

You are here: Home » Life & Style » People

From Germany, with love

ROSHNI MUKHERJEE Times News Network , Aug 8, 2010, 12.00am IST

New York Film Academy : www.NYFA.com - Hands-On Film & Acting School Offering Degrees & Workshops.

Ads by Google

Article | Comments



MORE

Tags: School | Kolkata | Germany



Wotan Wilke Möhring

Kolkata is fast becoming a favourite haunt of film-makers. And we are hinting at not just Bollywood, but also at directors from foreign shores.

This time around, the city has opened its gates to Germany. Four students from Hamburg Media School, one of Germany's most renowned film schools, are canning shots for their graduation project in the city. Interestingly, the school has won the Student Academy Award twice earlier.

Giving details of the project, student producer Stefan Gieren, says, "Max Zähle, Sin Huh and Florian Kuhn are in charge of direction, camera and screenplay respectively. We have shot two movies earlier and this film is part of our final year graduation project." This 20-minute film, which currently has a working title of Kolkata, might later be titled City of Joy. "It is part-fiction and part-documentary," says Stefan, adding, "In keeping with the documentary approach, the German cast will be conversing in German, while the dialogues between the Indian and German cast will be in English. Any on-screen exchange between Indian characters will be in Bengali."

The team had come for a recce to the city in March and in the course of it, "fell in love with the city". They made a stop at Mumbai and then took a train to Kolkata in order to observe the city's culture. "It was our first time in India and we travelled by AC II-tier so that we could interact with people and breathe in the ambience of the city. Mumbai is hectic, but I love the pace of Kolkata. It's architecture is fascinating and the people here are friendly," Stefan opines. Ask him why he chose to shoot in the city and the young producer reasons, "We have a partnering university in Kolkata and hence, we decided to film it here."

Max Zähle, on his part, explains, "India is a magical place. I've always been looking for an opportunity to visit India. But I've never felt comfortable being a tourist. I'm not interested in sights or artefacts. If I come to a country, I'm interested in people, culture and traditions. Such encounters move me and this is the basis of artistic expression."

And the young team's expression takes shape in narrating a socially relevant topic. It's the story of a German couple coming to Kolkata to adopt an Indian orphan. After a couple of days, the child runs away and the new father starts looking for him in the busy streets of Kolkata. While on his journey, he gets to see the magical sides of this city that lead him to a deeper understanding of himself. Suddenly, he becomes aware that adoption is about finding parents for children and not about finding children for parents.

Ask Max if there was any particular reason that the story has a German couple coming to India to adopt a child and he answers, "Any narration can never be fully objective. There is always a

savithanjali
LIVE IN THE OPEN
MARG PROPERTIES TIES

WAKE UP TO TECH-SMART LIVING

PRICE STARTING FROM
Rs.37 to 60 lakhs
www.margproperties.com

Use Deal Code "FLY FREE" **Book Now** **make my trip**

LATEST NEWS

IN THIS SECTION | ENTIRE WEBSITE

- Star chauffeurs on the catwalk next?
- Tackling jet lag
- Is Mr Gandhi following you?
- 'I didn't have an easy win'

MORE FROM THIS SECTION

shaadi.com The World's Largest Matrimonial Service

Looking for **Bride** | Age **18 - 2** | **Find Now**

Best Matches | Most Responses | Fully Secure

TOI The Times of India
Like 220,252

MOST POPULAR

READ | COMMENTED | SHARED | VIDEOS

IN THIS SECTION | ENTIRE WEBSITE

- Rajini jokes
- I feel in place: Murali Vijay
- Suresh Kalmadi, a bundle of Jokes!
- Single and 'happily' pregnant

message, a certain form of judgement. It would be inappropriate if I wanted to tell an Indian story. India has great directors. They should do this. I have a lot to tell and to argue about the situation in [Germany](#) and [Europe](#). About prejudice, arrogance, egoism. So this can only be a German story, but with a strong connection to Kolkata due to the fact that I feel strongly related to this place even after a couple of weeks."

Stefan continues, "We are not against adoption. But we want to create a consciousness within Germany and the European society towards this concept. Fact is, people opt for adoption without thinking how it might affect the child if he/she is uprooted from his/her familiar surrounding and placed elsewhere."

Now that the German team has been placed in Kolkata, one wonders what the experience is like. Stefan adds, "I am figuring out the process of film-making in Kolkata." And for Max, "It is the greatest adventure of my life. I enjoy Kolkata and its people, but to shoot a movie here is a great challenge. I'm used to the German way of producing movies and I've done many commercials over there. We're adapted to a different pace of work, to longer working hours and to a different way of distributing responsibilities amongst crew members."

And talking of the cast, two of Germany's very renowned film personalities, Wotan Wilke Möhring and Julia Richter are part of this venture. Arindam Sil too is part of the cast apart from being the executive producer of the same.

The team had approached the stars with the first draft of the script and the concept. "They liked it and decided to be part of the venture," Stefan fills in.

Max too wastes no words in their praise, "I love the way they approach their roles. I'm a great admirer of their work as actors. It is a great gift that both of them have decided to join this adventure. And being a student director I'm very proud of having the opportunity to work with such renowned actors."

The experience of being part of an international venture is undoubtedly exciting for this actor, whose name was suggested by Gaurav Pandey to the German team. "I play Arun, the director of an NGO here and most of my shots are with Wotan, whose name is Jan. Julia plays his wife and her name is Sarah. Wotan is a fantastic actor. In fact, the team is so professional that it doesn't look like a students' project. Before a scene, I remember rehearsing at least 10 to 15 times to get that perfect shot," says Arindam, adding, "Wotan and I have been exchanging notes on cinema and he said that he has a lot of respect for Indian films."

The team will be here till August 10, shooting in New Market, Latubabur bari and other places that highlight Kolkata's rich heritage.

[Follow us on Twitter for more stories](#)

Storyboards ▶▶

www.storyboard-artist.de

Storyboards for Feature, Television and Commercial Films

Neuer Film ▶▶

www.GROUPON.de/_Neuer+Film

Ein tolles Angebot. Gutscheine in Hamburg mit bis zu -70%. Jetzt!

Ads by Google

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

PREVIOUS STORY

[‘Where’s the motivation?’](#)

NEXT STORY

[‘Student escort rackets are rampant in Kolkata’](#)

RELATED COVERAGE



» more

VIDEOS ▶▶



The Foodie with Kunal Vijaykar



Deepika's sexy photoshoot



B-town hotties set ramp on fire

ALSO INSIDE THE TIMES OF INDIA

City ▶▶

58-yr-old held for attempt to rape

Locker stolen from Raj Thackeray's office

Gurgaon: Minor allegedly raped by 2 men

India ▶▶

Parliament's session to begin on Nov 9

JD(U)-BJP combine to get 170 seats in Bihar: Poll

Jairam orders review of Sindhudurg mine leases

Sports ▶▶

Easy draw for Saina in Asian Games

'Rooney should learn from Tendulkar'

Champ Dani's \$20k challenge to Poonia

Entertainment ▶▶

I'm not a survivor: Rekha

Prithik, the perfect husband

Rajini in Himalayas

THE TIMES OF INDIA



Get a replica of your favourite edition of TOI and feel at home.

SELECT EDITION

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Articles

HC glare on corporal punishment in schools

Rancho's school washed away

Student strength in corporation schools drops

Fire fighting equipment for schools rot as PWD busy with Games

Complaint after school thrashing

Blogs

Another Durga Puja, in exile.

Save my Gilbert Hill, please!

Just some random rambling on rain

Teacher, teacher ...

Dilli Meri Jaan

NETWORK

Hot on the Web



Shweta Tiwari's BF slapped by Raja

Ranbir's looks in 'Rockstar'

Street, day, ATM named Khali!

Priyanka refuses sex scenes

» More from Hot On The Web

Shop | Travel | Mobile 58888 | NRI SOLUTIONS

Fly Delhi to Mumbai @3.155

Fly Mumbai to Bangalore@ 2.331

Fly Bangalore to Hyderabad @ 2.385

Exotic Andamans @ 25.999

More>>

Sponsored Links

- » India News
» Film Production
» India Newspapers
» India Today
» Kolkata Apartment

There are no comments on this article yet. Why don't you post one?

Comments are moderated and will be allowed if they are about the topic and not abusive.

Your comment text area

Characters remaining (1500)

To post this comment you must log in.

Log In/Connect with: facebook twitter More Login Options

OR

Fill in your details:

Name and Email input fields

Location input field

Share this Comment:

Post to Facebook and Post to Twitter buttons

Please answer this simple math question.

3 + 3 = [input] Post comment button

More inside The Times of India

CITY

58-yr-old held for attempt to rape

Locker stolen from Raj Thackeray's office

Gurgaon: Minor allegedly raped by 2 men

Theft at high security Kashi Vishwanath?

» MORE FROM CITY

INDIA

Pakistan spy agency 'had role in planning Mumbai attacks'

City girls go for shot to delay early puberty

Jaya storms Alagiri bastion, rolls out scathing attack

Neutrino lab project gets green signal

» MORE FROM INDIA

WORLD

Pentagon sets up team as Wiki leak nears

Beijing promises growth from grassroots

Bardot to challenge Sarko in prez race?

Swraj among 3 Asian peers suspended from House

» MORE FROM WORLD

BUSINESS

Sensex gains 163 pts in opening trade

Day One: CIL IPO packs a punch

ITC shifts media account to Madison from Lintas

HDFC posts 22% jump in Q2 net profit to . 808 crore

» MORE FROM BUSINESS

TECH

6 Over-paid tech CEOs

Facebook apps leak users' private info

YouTube sued for 'derogatory' video

Your iPad, iPhone can give you infection

» MORE FROM TECH

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Powered by **INDIATIMES**

[About us](#) [Advertise with us](#) [Terms of use](#) [Privacy policy](#) [Feedback](#)
[RSS](#) [Newsletter](#) [TOI Mobile](#) [ePaper](#) [Sitemap](#) [Archives](#)

Other Times Group news sites

The Economic Times | इकनॉमिक टाइम्स
ईशेनोसिंह टाइम्स | Mumbai Mirror
Times Now | Indiatimes
नवभारत टाइम्स | महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स

Living and entertainment

Timescity | iDiva | Bollywood | Zoom

Network

itimes | Dating & Chat | Email

Hot on the Web

Hotklix

Services

Book print ads | Online shopping | Business solutions | Book domains | Web hosting
Business email | Free SMS | Free email | Website design | CRM | Tenders | Remit
Cheap air tickets | Matrimonial | Ringtones | Astrology | Jobs | Property | Buy car
eGreetings

Copyright © 2010 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: [Times Syndication Service](#)