



## AFFENTANZ - HUNTER

Germany • Horror / Mystery • Shortfilm / Music-Video  
2023 • In English with English subtitles • 9 min

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AFFENTANZ  
**HUNTER**

**LOGLINE**

The story of a hunter who suddenly finds himself in a world of reversed roles when the weaker ones and nature strike back as a parable with a socio-critical commentary with provocative images that leave a lasting impression.



**SYNOPSIS**

The hunter on the prowl. A stag in a scope. A finger on the trigger. But then – a crack. A smack from a faceless hooded figure. A knock out and darkness.

After an indefinite time the hunter wakes up deep in the forest. But not only does he not know what happened - he is completely naked. Frightened and confused, he stumbles through the forest until he meets another man. He too - naked.

From there everything will be different and is certainly not what you would expect.



## CYPRIAN HERCKA

**DIRECTOR / WRITER / PRODUCER / EDITOR /  
VISUAL EFFECT ARTIST & SUPERVISOR**

**CYPRIAN HERCKA** is born 1978 in Katowice. Has lived in Germany since 1982.

As son of an artist couple, Cyprian seemed to have the creative gene in his cradle. Legend has it that he was already painting on the chair in his father's studio at the age of 2. Fact is that at the age of 10 he was able to invite to his first solo exhibition at the Leopold Hoesch Museum in Dueren, Germany. At 13 and with his first VHS camera, he discovered his love of film. Suddenly he could bring stories, pictures and sculptures to life in a much larger space than on paper. And to this day, after 20 years in the industry and countless commercials, music videos and film projects, Cyprian still draws on these roots and also likes to use his experience and skills as a visual artist, storyboard and 2D artist, art director in pre- and post-production. Cyprian creates worlds - without a god complex. As a creative. As a director.



## TIMM LANGE

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

**TIMM LANGE** was born in 1973 in Cologne Old Town. Timm started with early juvenile Photography and shooting Short Films. Followed by Internships @D.o.P David Watkin @Panavision U.K. @DeLuxe London Film Laboratory and about five Years as a 2<sup>nd</sup> AC on international Feature Films and Commercials, these camera training years was sealed with a diploma of cinematography @University of applied Sciences Dortmund. Since he worked on numerous Film, TV, Music Videos and commercial Projects as DoP and directing DoP.



## MARTIN HILLEBRAND

### PRODUCER / COMPOSER

**MARTIN HILLEBRAND** was born in 1972 in Gelsenkirchen. His love for music flared up early on, so that he bought his first synthesizer (Roland JD-800) with his community service pay at 19 and signed his first record contract at 21. He remained faithful to the audio-visual industry in the years that followed and after years as a self-employed editor, he co-founded the Cologne production company Neue Panorama Film in 2012, of which he was managing director until 2022. Since 2022 he has been working again as a freelance producer and editor. But music remains Martin's first great love.

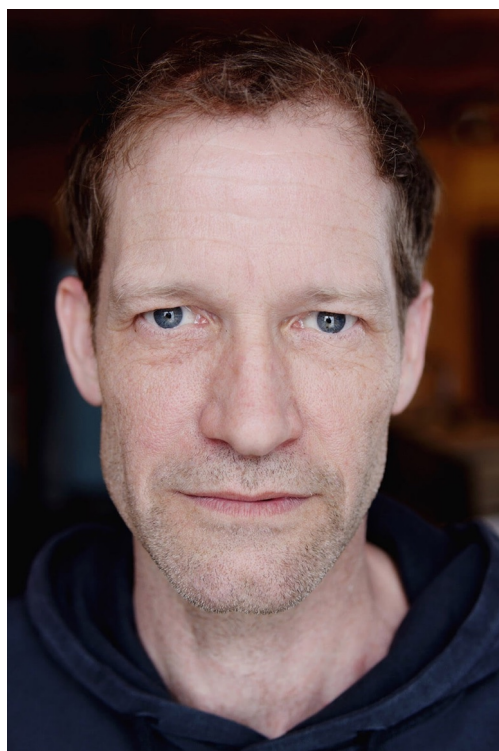
And so Martin is not only the musical head of the German electro band AFFENTANZ, but also composes music and scores for film and television.



## FRITZ FENNE

### LEADING ROLE: *The Hunted*

**FRITZ FENNE** completed his drama studies at the SCHOOL OF DRAMA HAMBURG in 1999 and gained experience at the SCHAUSPIELHAUS HAMBURG and in TV series during his training. He later worked at the SCHAUSPIELHAUS ZÜRICH and the BREMER THEATER. After five years in Bremen, including a notable Hamlet performance, he moved to the THEATER ESSEN and then back to the SCHAUSPIELHAUS ZÜRICH for another five years, collaborating with renowned directors. In 2018, he earned a nomination as ACTOR OF THE YEAR for his role in HUNDEHERZ. From 2019 to 2021, he participated in LUZERNER THEATER productions and appeared later in feature film projects, i.e. THE CITY AND THE CITY or BROTHERS. In 2023, Fritz appears in HUNTER by AFFENTANZ, showcasing his physical prowess and receives a BEST ACTOR AWARD at the MUNICH MUSIC VIDEO AWARDS. The film "BROTHERS" with Fritz as MAJOR VOPO, is nominated for the 2024 OSCARS.



## THOMAS BRANDLMEIER

### SUPPORTING ROLE: The Hunted

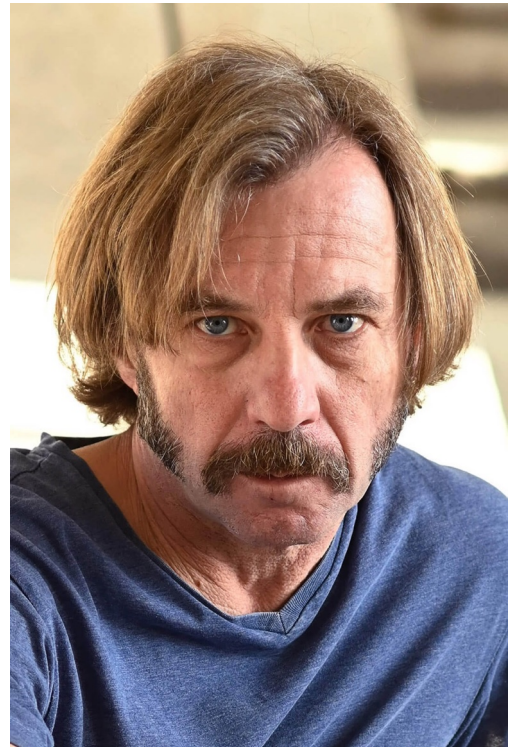
**THOMAS BRANDLMEIER** was born 1964 in Geisenhausen near Landshut, Lower Bavaria. Abitur 1984 at the grammar school in Landshut, studied German, art history, philosophy and law (1-2 semesters each) 1986 – 1990.

Various jobs as warehouse worker, letter carrier, medical bath attendant and masseur, supplier at organic farm, nude and portrait model.

From 2004 private acting lessons, from 2007 various engagements at theatres in Germany and Austria.

In 2019, participation in an advanced training course for film and television (acting for film) in Munich.

Participation in several short films and music videos.



## FACTS & TRIVIA

- AFFENTANZ - HUNTER is a film produced entirely independently and with the director Cyprian Hercka's own funds, without any external financial support.  
With more than 20 years of experience in the media and film industry and countless commissioned works that were always tied to compromises, Cyprian finally wanted to realize a project that was entirely his own and that he could realize without restrictions.
- AFFENTANZ - HUNTER is a kind of chimera in his form. On the one hand a horror short film with a socially critical undertone, on the other a music video.  
The film was officially released as a music video for the second single by the German electro band Affentanz. But both classifications are correct. And so it's no wonder that the film ended up in both the music video selection and the short film selection at various festivals. And has already collected various awards in both categories.  
Although the director himself says that he sees Hunter as a short film with a very present soundtrack.
- Cyprian originally wanted to create a video for the first single. But the ideas for the video, which were to be strongly oriented towards his artwork - a very colourful kind of Orwellian neo dystopia - were very elaborate. So after initial builds for costume elements and digital sets, he realised it would take either a much higher budget or much, much more time to realise if produced independently. And since he didn't want to spend the next 1.5 years on an extremely ambitious music video, he came up with an easier to realise but still unconventional idea for HUNTER. At least he thought it would be easier. But the months taught him better.
- It took 9 months from the script to the final completion of HUNTER. A long time for a music video/horror short film that is just 9 minutes long. But given the budget constraints and self-financing as an indie project, that's not surprising when you still want to create a very high quality product. So a lot of the work had to be done either in personal union or by waiting for the crew members who had time off for part of their usual salary in between normally budgeted projects.  
In addition, there were unforeseeable and countless hurdles that the project had to overcome at all stages of production.
- Speaking of hurdles:
  - The director Cyprian was about to give up and wanted to cancel the project because he simply couldn't fill the important position of the DoP. All the DoPs approached were seriously interested. But none of them had time. Or some had already accepted, but had to drop out because a more lucrative request came in. Three weeks before the start of shooting, still without a DoP, Cyprian had to make a decision. He had - and this is no dramatization - the phone in his hand and was just about to call the lead actor's agency to tell him that the project was dead for the time being when the phone rang in his hand. On the other end of the line was Timm. From then on, it was all HUNTER history - with Timm, the important backbone of this project came on board and the project was finally realized after all.
  - One of the main characters is certainly the forest. Due to the intense heat in August and September 2022, it was almost impossible to obtain a filming permit due to the risk of forest fires in a public forest, in addition to the budgetary impossibility. So the team had to shoot in a private forest, which they found and which ended up being lucky.

- Due to problems in assembling the crew, filming was postponed from the beginning of September to the last week of October in cold Europe. Of course, this made the challenge for the actors, who were required to put in an already physically demanding performance, even more impressive when you consider that they had to act naked for several days in the deepest autumn forest.

It was precisely here that Fritz's decades of involvement on the theater stages of Europe and his physical mastery and expressiveness paid off.

- In the middle of the post, the CGI artist suddenly lost the sight in one eye. Fortunately, it was only a temporary health restriction that was cured after a few days. But the personal horror was deep-seated. And from then on, the post-production had to be done with a little more rest, breaks and time, so as not to risk anything.

• The animal heads are a mix of real masks and CGI. As a lover and fan of analogue make-up art, Cyprian originally wanted to have all the animal heads built in real life so that he could photograph them in real life. But here too, budget and time thwarted the plan, because the heads alone would have cost twice the total budget. Not to mention that it would have taken months to complete due to the long waiting lists. Which would have meant that filming would have had to be postponed until next year. And so Cyprian built the stag himself, but due to the lack of time in pre-production, decided to have the other animals created using CGI. At least the post-production team now had a real reference for the other CGI elements to be replaced.

• The question of the movie's intention will certainly come up often.

The director certainly had his own thoughts and intentions, but he joins other artists when he says that in the end it's up to the audience what they read into or how they read the story.

For some, it may be pure entertainment, a pure genre film. For others, it is a parable in which the reversal highlights injustices in the treatment of nature and animals.

For still others, it is a commentary on general social injustices.

Some may interpret the uniforms and the unmistakable militarisation of the hunters differently. For others, the physicality alone and the maltreated, hunted body in its unprotected nakedness, hunted by a small, faceless crowd, may open up another level of interpretation.

Everything is allowed. Everything is legitimate. There is certainly plenty of symbolism to stimulate thought and interpretation. But what exactly, whether and how much you read into it is up to the viewer.



AFFENTANZ  
**HUNTER**

SET FOTOS & BEHIND THE SCENES



Director **CYPRIAN HERCKA** (left) discusses the first scene with actor **THOMAS BRANDLMEIER** (right).



MakeUp Artist **STEFANIE WEINDL** at work - with actors **THOMAS BRANDLMEIER** and **FRITZ FENNE**. (set: forest & manor)



AFFENTANZ  
**HUNTER**



DoP **TIMM LANGE** on one of the Hunter sets. With actor **FRITZ FENNE** and with director **CYPRIAN HERCKA**.



Key Cast **FRITZ FENNE** on green screen set.

AFFENTANZ  
**HUNTER**



Meticulous planning had to be made for part of the film, as this part was shot entirely in green screen and the world around it was created on the computer. For this purpose, every single shot was drawn in detail beforehand. Here is a comparison between the storyboard drawing/design of the LSD forest and the finished set in the film.

AFFENTANZ  
HUNTER



Different stages of the stag head.  
Starting with the first clay model through the resin cast to the final and finished head with fur on the set.

„Directed by Cyprian Hercka, "Hunter" by Affentanz is a music video that takes viewers on an unexpected journey deep into the heart of the forest, where the line between prey and predator blurs. This captivating piece of art is a perfect example of how music videos can transcend their traditional boundaries and become immersive cinematic experiences. The plot of "Hunter" is a rollercoaster of suspense and intrigue. It starts with the hunter on the prowl, setting the stage for a classic hunting scenario. But then, the unexpected happens. The hooded figure's attack takes the story in an entirely different direction, plunging our protagonist into a nightmarish ordeal. From that point forward, the video keeps viewers guessing and on the edge of their seats.

One of the standout features of "Hunter" is its remarkable use of music. Affentanz's haunting and evocative soundtrack serves as the perfect companion to the visuals, enhancing the tension and atmosphere throughout the video. The combination of the music with the creative directing creates a synergy that elevates the entire viewing experience.

Cyprian Hercka's direction is nothing short of brilliant. The cinematography is striking, with clever lens choices that add depth and intensity to the scenes. The use of color correction helps create an otherworldly atmosphere, making the forest feel both beautiful and foreboding. The visual effects are seamless and enhance the sense of mystery and danger.

The costumes and acting are top-notch, immersing us further into this strange and perilous world. The nakedness of the characters serves to underscore their vulnerability and the bizarre nature of their situation. The cast delivers solid performances, capturing the fear, confusion, and ultimately, the determination of their characters.

While "Hunter" straddles the line between a music video and an artistic short film, it's this very ambiguity that makes it so compelling. In this sense, the video's identity crisis challenges us to interpret the narrative and symbolism.

As the video reaches its conclusion, it leaves us with a sense of optimism. The resolution, while unexpected, adds depth to the story and leaves a lasting impact on the audience. It's a reminder that sometimes, what we perceive as hunters may have a more profound purpose, and our own roles in life can shift unexpectedly.

In the end, "Hunter" by Affentanz is a visual and auditory masterpiece. It's a testament to the power of music and film to transport us to new and uncharted territories. So, the next time you find yourself in the forest, remember that the line between hunter and hunted is not always as clear as it seems."

*Review by ATHENS INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY ART FILM FESTIVAL, Sept. 2023*

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„(...)The mention for best feature film goes to "La Espera" directed by F. Javier Gutiérrez and starring Víctor Clavijo, both present at the festival. The Best Short Film Award goes to "Ratón de Biblioteca" by Javier Yáñez.

In addition, the Isla Calavera Fan Club wishes to highlight the excellent reception of the voting results in the official section of feature films in competition, especially to 'La mesaita del comedor' (2022) by Caye Casas. We highlight its ability to subvert the genre, fulfilling the maxim that the genre must be transgressive, and for the courage and unclassifiability of its proposal.

Similarly, a special mention in the official section of short films in competition, in this case, to 'Hunter' (2023) by Cyprian Hercka, praising its intelligent, shocking and transgressive proposal, which leaves a lasting impression with indelible images.

*Culturamanía (Canarian cultural magazine) about the best 4 films of the Isla Calavera FilmFestival 2023*

Cyprian Hercka's "Affentanz - Hunter" is not just a music video; it's a cinematic marvel that stands as one of the most impressive and innovative works in recent years. Born in Katowice and raised in an environment steeped in artistic influence, Hercka has evolved into a filmmaker of extraordinary talent, and this latest project is a testament to his exceptional abilities.

The video is a masterclass in cinematography and staging. Timm Lange's cinematography is breathtaking, capturing the surreal and dark narrative with a meticulous eye for detail. Each frame is a carefully crafted composition, blending light and shadow to create a hauntingly beautiful visual tapestry.

Hercka's direction is a showcase of his artistic versatility. His staging is meticulous, with every element, from the actors' performances to the camera movements, orchestrated to perfection. The narrative unfolds with a rhythm and precision that is mesmerizing, drawing the viewer into its twisted tale.

"Affentanz - Hunter" transcends the traditional confines of a music video, melding the narrative depth of a short film with the auditory and visual impact of a music video. This fusion creates an immersive, unforgettable experience that is both unsettling and captivating.

In summary, "Affentanz - Hunter" is a remarkable achievement in the world of music videos. It's a work that exemplifies the potential of the medium when helmed by a visionary like Hercka. The video sets a new standard for what can be accomplished in this genre, showcasing Hercka's incredible talent and the power of visual storytelling in music.

*Review by Lonely Wolf International Film Festival 2023, Dec. 2023*

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Cyprian Hercka's "Affentanz 'Hunter'" redefines the music video genre with its cinematic storytelling.

*MovieMaker about Lonely Wolf International Film Festival 2023 Lineup, Dec. 2023*

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AFFENTANZ – HUNTER, directed by Cyprian Hercka, plunges us into a forest teeming with suspense, dark humor, and surreal twists. This unique film flirts with the conventions of music videos and horror shorts, creating an engaging narrative that upends the usual hunter-and-hunted dynamic. The journey oscillates between the "civilized world" and the depths of untamed nature, creating a beautifully haunting experience.

Hercka, a Katowice-born director who later settled in Germany, infuses AFFENTANZ – HUNTER with his extensive artistic pedigree. His career, rich with diverse media projects over two decades, culminates in this film, which showcases his flair for blending unnerving elements with surreal humor. This mix crafts an experience that grips the audience with its unique storytelling.

The making of AFFENTANZ – HUNTER is as much a story of determination and creativity as the film itself. As an independent project, Hercka navigated the challenging struggles of budget limitations and logistical dilemmas. The crucial addition of Timm Lange as the Director of Photography was a turning point for the film, which was teetering on the edge of being shelved. The production team's grit in dealing with environmental challenges and adapting to a secluded forest setting amid adverse weather highlights their unwavering commitment to this artistic endeavor.

In a stroke of creative ingenuity, Hercka blended practical effects and CGI to bring the film's characters to life. This fusion elevated the film's realism and enriched its visual storytelling. Intricately woven into the narrative, the film's soundtrack deepens the story's emotional resonance and beautifully complements the visual journey.

AFFENTANZ – HUNTER offers an open canvas for interpretation, inviting viewers to see it as a study of human and nature relationships, a social critique, or an exploration of vulnerability and aggression. This multifaceted approach widens the film's appeal and sparks varied dialogues among its audience.

The most extensive critique I can give is the pacing for the 9-minute film; so much time was spent laying out the core elements relative to the story itself expanding, which happened so quickly at the end. This could be due to budgetary constraints, but I was left wanting more of this world. I want to see why, how, and what's next for this flipped upside-down world!

AFFENTANZ – HUNTER is a brilliant showcase of Hercka's storytelling skill and artistic vision. The film boldly steps away from traditional narratives, urging viewers to delve into themes of vulnerability, societal dynamics, and introspection. The story of the film's creation, marked by Hercka's dedication and resilience, is as captivating as the film itself. AFFENTANZ – HUNTER goes beyond being a mere film; it serves as a platform for broader social and artistic discourse.

While watching this, I couldn't help but think of one of my favorite film quotes!

"Beware the beast, Man, for he is the Devil's pawn. Alone among God's primates, he kills for sport or lust or greed. Yea, he will murder his brother to possess his brother's land. Let him not breed in great numbers, for he will make a desert of his home and yours. Shun him; drive him back into his jungle lair, for he is the harbinger of death."

– ***The Lawgiver (as spoken by Cornelius in Planet of the Apes)***

*Overly Honest Movie Reviews about AFFENTANZ -HUNTER at Slamdance 2024, Jan 2024*

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Hunters wake up naked in the forest....

Wickedly wonderful horror film mashed up with a music video. It's a film that will make you wince and make you smile.

Because of the nature of the story I can't say too much, however I can say that this film is an absolute blast. It's a glorious little film.

I want to see what director Cyprian Hercka does next because this little film is one hell of a calling card.

See this.

*Unseenfilms.net about AFFENTANZ -HUNTER at Slamdance 2024, Jan 2024*

## CREDITS

**Directed and Written by**  
CYPRIAN HERCKA

**Cast**

FRITZ FENNE (Leading Role)  
THOMAS BRANDLMEIER (Supporting Role)  
PAWEŁ PROCEK  
GEORG WEBER  
MAXIMILIAN SCHNEIDER  
MORITZ ZIELKE  
MARTIN HILLEBRAND

**Cinematography / DoP**

TIMM LANGE

**Produced by**  
CYPRIAN HERCKA

**Producer**  
CYPRIAN HERCKA  
MARTIN HILLEBRAND

**Assistant Director**  
ALEX ROTTMANN

**First Assistant Camera**  
ZACHARIAS BÜRCK

**Clapper Loader**  
LEON PIEPER

**Gaffer**  
JONAS BRANS

**Set Decoration by**  
JOHANNA JAWOREK

## **Makeup Department**

STEFANIE WEINDL

## **Editing by**

CYPRIAN HERCKA

## **Music**

AFFENTANZ

## **Visual Effects by**

KILLIAN KWASNY

CYPRIAN HERCKA

## **Colorist**

lookDNA – RAINER BÜLTERT



(From left to right) PAWEŁ PROCEK, GEORG WEBER, MORITZ ZIELKE, MAXIMILIAN SCHNEIDER, ZACHARIAS BÜRCK, ALEX ROTTMANN, STEFANIE WEINDL, JOHANNA JAWOREK, LEON PIEPER, JONAS BRANS on Set.



**TECHNICAL SPECS**

<b>PROJECT TYPE</b>	Shortfilm / Music Video
<b>GENRE</b>	Horror, Mystery
<b>RUNTIME</b>	9 minutes 4 seconds
<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>	May 25, 2023
<b>PRODUCTION BUDGET</b>	10,000 EUR
<b>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN &amp; FILMING</b>	Germany
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	English
<b>SHOOTING FORMAT</b>	ALEXA Mini LF
<b>ASPECT RATIO</b>	2.39:1

**SOME LAST WORDS**

Director **CYPRIAN HERCKA** about **AFFENTANZ – HUNTER**

„What was created here is a short that breathes more of the spirit of a music short film, which is certainly not for everyone.

However, it is a work that is an absolute passion project for me, into which I was able to put all the energy and passion without restrictions or limitations, which is otherwise not possible with many commercial projects. This is without reservation my visual and content world - for some this might be a disturbing or provocative roller coaster ride, but for me the true way of telling interesting and unconventional stories and to surprise.“

