



NOT MY FILM: Artistic Research Project on Aging and Later Life

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ACADEMIC-ARTISTIC PROJECT

- ▶ Analyze character, narrative and social stereotypes about older people in 100 most watched German-language fiction films (2009-2018) in cinema. Research for the arts.
- ▶ Documentary NICHT MEIN FILM / NOT MY FILM
Research in the arts.

The aim of this academic-artistic research is to encourage a critical discussion about the representation of older people in popular film.

THEORETICAL PART

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What kind of social, character, and narrative stereotypes about older people are present in the typical scenes with older characters in popular German-language fiction films? How do these stereotypes confirm, legitimate, reproduce, or challenge relations of power dominance in the society?

100 most-watched German-language fiction films
(2009-2018) in cinema

CHARACTERS

- ▶ 77 out of 100 films portray 178 older characters
- ▶ 6 protagonists
- ▶ 14 other main characters (helpers, antagonists)
- ▶ Mostly as secondary and minor characters

INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

- ▶ Gender
- ▶ Migration status
- ▶ Sexual minorities

TYPICAL SCENES

- ▶ Helping and opposing scenes
- ▶ Suffering scenes
 - Aging body, illness, death, discrimination, loneliness and nostalgia
- ▶ *'Out of Norm' scenes*
 - Naivety and foolishness, spying and desiring, an older couple in love, enjoying (dance)

HELPING AND OPPOSING



DIE KLEINE HEXE
by Michael Schaerer, 2018



HEXE LILLI 2
by Harald Sicheritz, 2011

HELPING AND OPPOSING



RICO, OSKAR UND DAS HERZGEBRECHE
by Wolfgang Groos, 2015



DIE VAMPIRSCHWESTERN
by Wolfgang Groos, 2012

HELPING AND OPPOSING



VATERFREUDEN
by Matthias Schweighöfer, 2014



AUS DEM NICHTS
by Fatih Akin, 2017

SUFFERING



GRIßNOCKERLAFFÄRE
by Ed Herzog, 2017



HONIG IM KOPF
by Til Schweiger, 2014

SUFFERING



WILLKOMMEN BEI DEN HARTMANNS
by Simon Verhoeven, 2016



WILLKOMMEN BEI DEN HARTMANNS
by Simon Verhoeven, 2016

'OUT OF NORM'



PETTERSSON & FINDUS
by Ali Samadi Ahadi, 2014



HANNI & NANNI 3
by Dagmar Seume, 2013

EXCEPTIONS



TONI ERDMANN
by Maren Ade, 2016



WIR SIND DIE NEUEN
by Ralf Westhoff, 2014

ARTISTIC PART



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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How are stereotypical scenes with older characters from popular German-language fiction films (2009–2018) experienced by older people after re-performing them? (How) do the older participants of the project criticize the social stereotypes about older people in the re-performed scenes? Do they offer any alternatives?

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- ▶ Six participants
- ▶ Six re-performed scenes
- ▶ Qualitative interviews
- ▶ Self-reflectivity

RE-PERFORMANCES

- ▶ I draw on the concepts of Judith Butler, who writes about gender performativity, and agree with authors like Anne Basting that these concepts can be applied to age performativity.
- ▶ Re-performance vs. reenactment

NICHT MEIN FILM

▶ Illness

▶ Witch

▶ Wise man

▶ Sex

▶ Death

▶ Dance

▶ My Film



**I would wish for new images for sexuality,
particularly at an old age.**

CONCLUSIONS

THANK YOU!