



TANIA

Feature Film

Based on a true story

Co-funded by the
Creative Europe **MEDIA** Programme
of the European Union



enigma film GmbH
München Berlin NRW

www.enigmafilm.de



A young idealist

An undercover agent on two fronts

The German fighter at Che Guevara's side

GDR 1961: The young Tamara Bunke, daughter of Jewish exiles from Argentina, falls for the political goals of the stirring revolutionary Che Guevara during a state visit. She also meets the charismatic, dark-skinned commandant Ulises Estrada. Kindled by the fire of the revolution, she strikes a devilish espionage deal with the Stasi to cheat her way out to Cuba.

There she finally falls between all fronts: under the observation of the Stasi, who expect results from her, Tamara is trained as a double spy by Che's troops. At the same time, her deep love for Commandante Ulises grows. He eventually gives her the choice to follow her personal fortune and go into hiding, instead of following Che's plans to liberate South America, which he now considers a suicide mission. An insoluble, tragic conflict ends fatally for Tamara in the battle of Bolivia's Rio Grande...



“I want to be where it's burning, where the revolutionary struggle is hardest.”

Tamara Bunke, from a letter to her parents

Facts

Genre: Feature film, based on a true story
Language: german / spanish
Lenght: 100 min
Production: enigma film GmbH, near future films
Co-Production: Sur Film (Canary Islands)
Broadcaster: WDR

Director: Elmar Fischer
Writer: Tobias Stille
Co-Writer: Elmar Fischer, Jörg Tensing

Cast (confirmed): Mala Emde,
Karoline Schuch, Claudia Michelsen,
Tom Wlaschiha, Richy Müller

Producer: Fritjof Hohagen, Nicole Swidler
Co-Producer: Andreas Wentz
Commssioning Editor: Caren Toenissen
Funding: Medienboard Berlin (Development)
Creative Europe Media (Development)

Production Design: KD Gruber
Editor: Eva Lopez Echegoyen
Casting: Stefany Pohlmann
Production Manager: Thomas Rohde

Locations: Germany, Canary Islands, Cuba





The Project TANIA

A young woman, almost a girl, who fights against all odds for her political dreams. She travels halfway around the world to break down corrupt structures and really make a difference.

It's not Greta Thunberg, but Tamara Bunke, and the story takes place almost 60 years ago.

In the GDR, she was considered a German hero alongside Che Guevara. An NVA battalion was named after her, and from Rostock to Zittau, as well as every third youth club. In East Germany, 50 years after her death, she is still as well known as the Rotkäppchen sparkling wine: Tamara Bunke.

Born in 1937 to Jewish parents from Berlin, she was killed in guerrilla warfare in Bolivia in 1967, before reaching the age of thirty. A bright star that quickly burned out. And a life path of wonderful clarity and consistency, dedicated to the struggle for the poor and disenfranchised.

Tamara's idol and political mentor is arguably one of the greatest Pop stars politics has ever produced: Ernesto Che Guevara. Even today - more than 50 years after his death - his likeness adorns advertising campaigns, T-shirts, posters, walls, buttons.

Tamara goes to Cuba in 1961 in her early 20s to fight with Ernesto Che Guevara for the liberation of South America. She becomes an agent - combat name TANIA.

TANIA



Our film tells her life as a passionate love story and exciting historical agent thriller at the time of the Cold War, against the exciting adventure backdrop of the Cuban Caribbean.

Renowned director Elmar Fischer will realize the story of TANIA together with producers Fritjof Hohagen and Nicole Swidler. Our joint political thriller UNDER THE RADAR has won numerous national and international awards, including the INTERNATIONAL EMMY AWARD 2016 for Christiane Paul in the leading role.

German shooting star Mala Emde (German Oscar-entry „And tomorrow the entire world“) has signed on for the role of TANIA. German top stars such as Caudia Michelsen, Karo Schuch, Richy Müller and Tom Wlaschiha have already signed on for other roles.



TANIA

TANIA - Mala Emde



Filmography (Selection):

2019	UND MORGEN DIE GANZE WELT	Julia von Heinz
2019	SHADOWPLAY	Måns Mårland, Björn Stein
2017	LARA	Jan-Ole Gerster
2017	BRECHT	Heinrich Breloer
2016	KATHARINA LUTHER	Julia von Heinz
2015	303	Hans Weingartner
2014	MEINE TOCHTER ANNE FRANK	Raymond Ley

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HANNAH - Karoline Schuch



Filmography (Selection):

2017	BALLON	Michael Bully Herbig
2016	KATHARINA LUTHER	Julia von Heinz
2015	I'M OFF THEN	Julia von Heinz
2013	WIR SIND DIE NEUEN	Ralf Westhoff
2012	HANNA'S JOURNEY	Julia von Heinz
2005	RABBIT WITHOUT EARS 2	Til Schweiger

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BARTSCHKE - Tom Wlaschiha



Filmography (Selection):

2018	IN LOVE & WAR	Kasper Torsting
2017	DAS BOOT	Andreas Prochaska
2016	BERLIN FALLING	Ken Duken
2012 - 16	GAME OF THRONES	(HBO), var. Directors
2015	CROSSING LINES	(NBC), var. Directors
2013	RUSH	Ron Howard

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NADJA - Claudia Michelsen



Filmography (Selection):

2017	THE SAME SKY	Oliver Hirschbiegel
2017	MACK THE KNIFE	Joachim A. Lang
2016	FOUR AGAINST THE BANK	Wolfgang Petersen
2016	BERLIN STATION	(Netflix) var. Directors
2014	HEAD FULL OF HONEY	Til Schweiger

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LEO SCHWARZ - Richy Müller



Filmography (Selection):

2017	SO VIEL ZEIT	Philipp Kadelbach
2013	GAMING INSTINCT	Gregor Schnitzler
2012	THE BLACK BROTHERS	Xavier Koller
2012	THE PURSUIT OF UNHAPPINESS	Sherry Hormann
2007	TATORT - IN EIGENER SACHE	Elmar Fischer
2002	XXX TRIPLE X	Rob Cohen

TANIA

Team

Elmar Fischer (Director, Script Supervisor)



- 2019 UNSERE WUNDERBAREN JAHRE
(TV, WDR 3 x 90min)
- 2016 GÖTTER IN WEISS (TV, NDR)
- 2015 UNTERM RADAR (TV, WDR, Degeto)
- 2015 DIE DIPLOMATIN (TV, ARD)
- 2010 OFFROAD (Kino)
- 2010 IM DSCHUNGEL (TV, WDR)
- 2009 FREMDER FREUND (Kino)

Fritjof Hohagen (Producer)



- 2020 ZERO (TV, WDR)
- 2019 NO NAME RESTAURANT (Kino)
- 2016 HANNAS SCHLAFENDE HUNDE (Kino)
- 2015 UNTERM RADAR (TV, WDR, Degeto)
- 2014 DIE SCHWARZEN BRÜDER (Kino)
- 2008 LAUF UM DEIN LEBEN (Kino)
- 2007 FATA MORGANA (Kino)

Nicole Swidler (Producer)



- 2020 ZERO (TV, WDR)
- 2019 NO NAME RESTAURANT (Kino)
- 2016 MEHR ALS LIEBE (Doku, Kino)
- 2015 UNTERM RADAR (TV, WDR, Degeto)
- 2012 AWAKE (Doku, Kino)
- 2010 BOXHAGENER PLATZ (Kino)



Between Love and Revolution

The Story

Having grown up in Buenos Aires, where her parents settled when fleeing from the Nazis, the young Tamara Bunke always felt strange and misunderstood during her return to the GDR. This changed in 1961 when she was allowed to translate for the Cuban delegation during a state visit by Ernesto Che Guevara, then head of the Cuban State Bank. Her charm, wit, and especially her courage and wittiness impressed the young revolutionary. At this time Che Guevara was receiving as much admiration worldwide as the Beatles would a few years later. After meeting Che she also met the charismatic dark-skinned commandant in Che's staff with whom she soon falls in love: Ulises Estrada.

Against the expressed wishes of her parents, Tamara manages to convince the GDR authorities of her journey to Cuba. The only condition: she has to report regularly on Che to East Berlin. Almost immediately she forgets her work as an IM when the streets of Havana cast their spell on her. Sharing an apartment with the young East German documentary filmmaker Hannah, who films for the DEFA in Cuba. These two young ladies become best friends.

Then Tamara meets again the two men who would define her fate: Che and the attractive Ulises in his entourage. Tamara wants to serve the revolution and finally gets training as an undercover agent. Her nom de guerre Tania. At first, Tania is fighting the mutual attraction, but then she and Ulises become a passionate couple. Ulises dreams of a life together with Tamara, somewhere by the sea, beyond Che's political plans and intrigues. He becomes a burden for Tamara: She wants to keep fighting for the liberation of South America, especially her native country Argentina.

TANIA

Meanwhile, the STASI are breathing down Tamara's neck. An East German agent shows up in Havana - he finally wants results and relevant information about Che's plans. He threatens to send Tamara back to Berlin if she doesn't deliver. Finally Tamara manages to free herself from the danger with the help of Ulises, who makes the agent "disappear".

Soon Tamara receives the order from Che to become an undercover agent to prepare the way of revolutionaries to Bolivia. Ulises is trying to keep her from this suicide mission, but she decides for the political mission - and against living with Ulises in Cuba. He is seriously offended and refuses to say goodbye when she first returns to Germany where she will collect details and impressions for her new identity. She is appalled to find that she is pregnant with Ulises's child! She can't tell him the truth on the phone. Instead, she has an abortion in West Berlin.

Now lonely and sad, she goes back to the GDR against Che's orders with her foreign identity and meets her mother Nadja there again. Their time together is short-lived, as the STASI soon find them. In the interrogation room she finds her roommate Hannah, who has spied on her the whole time in Cuba. She accuses Tamara of being responsible for the agent's death in Cuba. However Tamara has also become smarter: she convinces her commanding officer to send her to Bolivia for first-hand information from Che.

She is stationed in La Paz to prepare the Bolivian revolution for a guerrilla battle in support of Che Guevara. Indeed, the attractive young woman, who lives here under the German-Argentinean alias Laura Guiterrez-Bauer, soon has access to society's highest circles. She knows the president, sleeps with high-ranking military personnel and works for the government press office all in the service of the revolution. She collects important information and soon her dream seems to be coming true: Che Guevara secretly arrives in La Paz. The liberation of South America can now begin.

She is the only woman in the guerrilla troupe to join them in the jungle, and she wants to fight with the males' weaponry. Suddenly Ulises appears. The old conflicts between them are forgotten and love burns stronger than ever. One last time Ulises tries to convince Tania to go back to Cuba with him. Ulises has quarrelled with Che, whose guerrilla plans he sees as the last, desperate gamble. So Ulises asks Tamara the question which defines her life: Is there a bigger idea than love?

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FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

2020	ZERO	WDR TV-Event-Movie Director: Jochen Freydank Cast: Heike Makatsch, Ken Duken, Axel Stein
2018-2019	NO NAME RESTAURANT	Distributor: Alpenrepublik In Co-production with Bayerischer Rundfunk, Studio Babelsberg Director: Stefan Sarazin, Peter Keller Cast: Luzer Twersky, Haitham Omari, Makram J. Khoury LOLA "Best unfiled Screenplay" 2011
2016	HANNAS SCHLAFENE HUNDE	Distributor: Alpenrepublik, Picture Tree In Co-production with Provinzfilm, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Mixtvision Director: Andreas Gruber Cast: Hannelore Elsner, Franziska Weisz, Nike Seitz, Rainer Egger Bavarian Film award 2016 „Best Music“ Gert Wilden; „Golden Goblet Award“ Best Screenplay Shanghai International Filmfestival 2016; Runner Up Youth4German Cinema 2017; Berlin & Beyond Film Festival San Francisco
2015	UNTERM RADAR	WDR / ARD Degeto TV-Event-Movie Director: Elmar Fischer Cast: Christiane Paul, Heino Ferch, Fabian Hinrichs, Inka Friedrich 3. Preis „Prix Europe 2015“; Nominated „Prix Europe 2015“; Nominated „Cologne Conference Top 10“ 2015; Special Prize „Best Actress“ Filmfest Baden Baden 2015; „Gold Medal“ New York Film & TV Festival 2016; Nominated Grimme-Preis 2016; International Emmy Award 2016 „Best Performance by an Actress“ Christiane Paul Nominated JUPITER AWARD - Best TV Film (2016)
2014	DIE SCHWARZEN BRÜDER	Distributor: Studio Canal In Co-production with Bayerischer Rundfunk, arte, Dschoint Ventschr Filmproduktion, Starhaus Film Director: Xavier Koller Cast: Moritz Bleibtreu, Fynn Henkel, Richy Müller, Ruby O. Fee 3x Golden Sparrow Spatz 2014: „Best Film“, „Best Director“, „Best Actress“; Prix Walo 2014 „Best Production“; Kids and Youth award, 7. Filmfest Krakau 2014; „Best Film Molodist“, 44 KIFF, Molodist; Nominated for Swiss Film Award 2014; Nominated Grimme Preis „Best unfiled Screenplay“ for Fritjof Hohagen
2014	DAWN	Distributor: Aardvark Film Emporium In Co-production with Dschoint Ventschr Filmproduktion Lama Films Director: Romed Wyder Cast: Sarah Adler, Joel Basman, Jason Isaacs
2013	PUPPE	Distributor: W Film In Co-production with Bayerischer Rundfunk, arte, Dschoint Ventschr Filmproduktion Director: Sebastian Kutzli Cast: Corinna Harfouch, Anke Retzlaff, Sara Fazilat Leo 2014 for „Best Youth film“ – Filmfest Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
2011	HOMIES	Distributor: Kinowelt In Co-production with Starhaus Film, Kinowelt Director: Adnan G. Köse Cast: Jimi Blue Ochseneknecht, Günther Kaufmann, Detlef Soost
2008	LAUF UM DEIN LEBEN	Distributor: Kinowelt, Beta Cinema In Co-production with Odeon Pictures, Neue Kinowelt Director: Adnan G. Köse Cast: Max Riemelt, Jasmin Schwiers, Uwe Ochsenknecht, Axel Stein
2007	FATA MORGANA	Distributor: Stardust, Beta Cinema In Co-production with Bayerischer Rundfunk, arte Director: Simon Gross Cast: Matthias Schweighöfer, Marie Zielcke, Jean-Hugues Anglade Förderpreis German Film „Best Director“ 2007

