

A movie poster for the film 'Phantom Pain'. The main image shows a man and a woman in a mountainous landscape. The man is wearing a brown fur hat and a patterned shawl, looking off to the side. The woman is leaning her head against his, looking towards him. They are both wearing patterned shawls. In the background, there are green hills, a winding road, and a few cyclists. The title 'phantom pain' is written in a large, white, distressed font at the bottom. The text 'tiff. toronto international film festival' is in the top right, and 'OFFICIAL SELECTION 2009 GALA PRESENTATION' is below it. At the bottom right, it says 'a film by MATTHIAS EMCKE'.

tiff. toronto
international
film festival

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2009
GALA PRESENTATION

phantom pain

a film by **MATTHIAS EMCKE**

synopsis

Short:

A passionate cyclist and urban slacker who avoids work and responsibility sees his life change from one moment to the next when he loses his left leg. He can wallow in self-pity – or tackle the beast called life with the help of love, willpower and his own two feet ...

Long:

Marc is a lucky beggar. He is good-looking, charming and an educated storyteller that women are fascinated by. If he is not doing any odd jobs to get by, he is on the road with his bike, with which he has traveled the world. Marc's other side is less flattering. He is always broke, a constant heart-breaker, an unreliable drunkard refusing to take responsibility for anything. But one can't really be mad with him. Not even his daughter Sarah, the offspring from a long failed relationship. Then comes the day that changes Marc's life, he loses his left leg in a hit-and-run accident. But barely out of the hospital, Marc rushes back into his old life, joking, flirting and behaving as if nothing had happened. He tries to repress his blow of fate, until he meets Nika and he falls in love.

'Phantom Pain' is a thought-provoking, yet light and upbeat look at an urban slacker who's forced to turn his life around. Starring international star Til Schweiger ('Rabbit Without Ears', 'Jailbirds') alongside Stipe Erceg ('The Edukators', 'The Baader Meinhof Complex') and Jana Pallaske ('Love in Thoughts', 'Engel & Joe').





director's statement

'Phantom Pain' is based on a script I wrote, which in turn is based on events in the life of one of my best friends, Stephen Sumner.

In June 2004, Stephen lost his left leg in a hit and run motorcycle accident on a country road outside Siena, Italy. Right then, I somehow knew that I wanted to make a movie inspired by my friend's life. Not because the event itself makes for 'a good story' – but because I immediately knew what dangers that event would pose for this specific character: an irresponsible, good-looking, sportive drunk. A story-telling, well-read cyclist. A charmer, a fisherman, construction worker, English teacher, ex-model, loser. A love and attention needing, smooth talking no-good.

When the accident occurred, I immediately thought that it would force Stephen to change his life and become more responsible. But as I watched him recover, I also realized that my expectation was a cliché. Maybe the result of books I read, movies I saw.

Because Stephen didn't really change much – while I thought he should.

I find that fascinating. How much can we really change, no matter how significant the events are that happen to us. How much are we victims of our genes determining our behavior?

'Phantom Pain' is about that. It's about a man – I called him Marc Somner – played by Til Schweiger, who is not affected by losing his leg. But he is affected by reading a little poem his daughter wrote. That little four-line poem makes him look deep inside. A place where the key to the door of a different Marc Somner lies.

| Matthias Emcke |

bio- and filmography: matthias emcke – writer and director



Matthias Emcke received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Architecture from Parson's School of Design in New York City. Straight out of college he worked for Herbert Kloiber's Tele-München Gruppe, first as a sales executive and later as a producer. In 1994, he relocated to Los Angeles, where he still resides today with his wife Katja and their children Karla (11), Emilia (9) and Luis (5).

He is the founder of Key Entertainment, which financed and produced a great number of independent films, among them Evan Dunsky's 'The Alarmist' with Stanley Tucci, Kate Capshaw and David Arquette ('Lions Gate', 1997); Sebastian Gutierrez' 'Judas Kiss' with Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Til Schweiger and Carla Gugino (Buena Vista, 1998); Colette Burson's 'Coming Soon' with Mia Farrow, Ryan O'Neal, Spalding Grey and Peter Bogdanovich (Fox Searchlight, 1999); Melanie Mayron's 'Slap Her, She's French', based on a script by Alan Ball ('American Beauty') (Intermedia, 2002); and Michael Petroni's 'Till Human Voices Wake Us' with Guy Pearce and Helena Bonham Carter (Paramount Classics, 2002).

In 2005 Matthias Emcke wrote and directed the 15-minute short film 'I spy with my little eye' with Stipe Erceg in the lead. The film received the 'Best Short Film' award at Worldfest Houston and was invited to numerous prestigious festivals in Dresden, Hongkong, Palms Springs, St. Petersburg, Los Angeles, Montreal, Chicago and São Paulo.

'Phantom Pain' is Matthias Emcke's feature film debut. He wrote and directed the film.

director | screenwriter

- 2009 Phantom Pain – Feature Film | Screenwriter and Director
- 2005 I spy with my little eye – Short Film | Screenwriter and Director

producer (selection)

- 2002 Till Human Voices Wake Us | Screenplay and Director: Michael Petroni with Guy Pearce und Helena-Bonham Carter (Paramount Classics)
- 2002 Slap Her, She's French | Screenplay: Alan Ball | Director: Melanie Mayron with Piper Perabo (Intermedia)
- 1999 Coming Soon | Screenplay and Director: Colette Burson with Mia Farrow, Ryan O'Neal, Spalding Gray und Peter Bogdanovich (Fox Searchlight)
- 1998 Judas Kiss | Screenplay and Director: Sebastian Gutierrez with mit Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Carla Gugino (Buena Vista)
- 1997 The Alarmist | Screenplay and Director: Evan Dunsky with Stanley Tucci, Kate Capshaw und David Arquette (Lions Gate)

biography: til schweiger – marc

Tilman Valentin Schweiger was born on December 19, 1963, in Freiburg. He studied German Literature, intending to become a teacher, but segued into acting, taking classes in Cologne. Soon after he made his first appearances on stage and, in 1991, took on the role of Jo Zenker in the tremendously successful television series 'Lindenstraße'. Other television roles followed, such as in the widely popular series 'Die Kommissarin', and in 'Lemgo', 'Adrenalin', 'A Girl Called Rosemarie', and 'Die Halbstarcken'.

'Manta Manta' marked his first foray onto the big screen, and his performance in 'Ebbies Bluff' won him the coveted Max Ophüls Award in the category Best Newcomer. The smash hit 'Maybe ... Maybe not' made Til Schweiger a star and garnered him his first Bambi Award. Ever since, one hit has followed the other: 'Jailbirds' (second Bambi), 'The Super-Wife', 'Knockin' on Heaven's Door' (Acting Award, Moscow) and 'Der Große Bagarozzy'. His first English-language performance in the feature film 'Brute' was recognized with an award at the Polish Film Festival, which marked the first time this honor was bestowed on a 'foreigner'.

By then the German superstar had also made his mark in Hollywood: After 'Replacement Killers' came 'Judas Kiss' alongside Emma Thompson, 'SLC PUNK', 'Magicians', Alan Rudolph's 'Investigating Sex' and Renny Harlin's racecar driver film 'Driven' with Sylvester Stallone and Burt Reynolds. In Steve James's television movie 'Joe & Max', Til Schweiger portrayed boxing legend Max Schmeling. Then came 'Lara Croft Tomb Raider – The Cradle of Life', 'In Enemy Hands', 'King Arthur', 'Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo', and his performance as the legendary Lucky Luke in 'Les Dalton', as well as 'Body Armor', 'Already Dead', and 'Far Cry'. Most recently, Til Schweiger appeared alongside Brad Pitt in Quentin Tarantino's 'Inglorious Basterds'.

Back at home he enjoyed another great success playing the space cowboy Rock in Bully Herbig's 'Dreamship Surprise – Period 1', receiving another Bambi Award as well as the German Comedy Award. Other films followed, including 'Was tun, wenn's brennt?', 'Where is Fred?' and 'The Red Baron'. He also lent his voice to the little tiger in 'Oh, wie schön ist Panama', the animated Janosch film.

In 1998 Til Schweiger directed himself in the feature film 'The Polar Bear'. His sophomore outing as a director, 'Barefoot', starring Johanna Wokalek, was another success and garnered Til Schweiger yet another Bambi Award. In 2007 he co-wrote, directed and starred in 'Rabbit Without Ears', which, with 6 million viewers, was another box office hit for him. He also produced Thomas Jahn's 'Auf Herz und Nieren', Lars Büchel's 'Jetzt oder nie – Zeit ist Geld' and 'Erbsen auf halb 6', Reto Salimbenis 'One Way', in which he also plays the lead as well as the adventure comedy '1½ Ritter – auf der Suche nach der hinreißenden Herzlinde'.





cast

Marc Til Schweiger ('Rabbit Without Ears', 'Jailbirds', 'One Way', 'Lara Croft Tomb Raider')
 Nika Jana Pallaske ('Love in Thoughts', 'Engel & Joe', 'alaska.de', 'Happy As One')
 Alexander Stipe Erceg ('The Educators', 'Baader Meinhof Complex')
 Sarah Luna Schweiger
 Anna Julia Brendler ('Deeply', 'Dolphins', 'Moondance')

crew

Screenplay & Direction Matthias Emcke
 Producers Film 1:
 Sebastian Zühr,
 Henning Ferber,
 Marcus Welke
 Co-producers Warner Bros. Film
 Productions
 Barefoot Films:
 Til Schweiger,
 Tom Zickler
 Neue Bioskop Film:
 Dietmar Güntsche
 Ngo The Chau
 DoP Martin Todsharow
 Music Stefan Soltau,
 Patrick Veigel
 Sound Artists Ralf Kufner
 Production Designer Beate Scheel
 Costume Designer Henny Zimmer
 Make Up Artist Martina Matuschewski
 Editing Warner Bros.
 German Distributor Entertainment

technical details

98 min, 35mm, 1:2.35, Dolby Surround
 Release date in Germany: April 30th, 2009

international press

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BAVARIA FILM INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS A
 FILM1 PRODUCTION IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH WARNER BROS. FILM PRODUCTIONS GERMANY BAREFOOT FILMS AND NEUE BIOSKOP FILM WITH TIL SCHWEIGER JANA PALLASKE STIPE ERCEG LUNA
 SCHWEIGER JULIA BRENDLER "PHANTOM PAIN" CASTING SIMONE BÄR MAKE-UP HENNY ZIMMER COSTUMES BEATE SCHEEL PRODUCTION DESIGN RALF KÜFNER SOUND STEFAN SOLTAU PATRICK VEIGEL
 SOUND MIX RICHARD BOROWSKI PRODUCTION MANAGER CHRISTIAN SPRINGER MUSIC MARTIN TODSHAROW EDITORS MARTINA MATUSCHEWSKI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY NGO THE CHAU EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
 MATTHIAS EMCKE CO-PRODUCER TIL SCHWEIGER TOM ZICKLER DIETMAR GÜNTSCHE PRODUCER HENNING FERBER MARCUS WELKE SEBASTIAN ZÜHR WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MATTHIAS EMCKE