

## Press release

# World premiere of "LAKE OF DREAMS": Art film about desire in the natural scenery of Lake Woerthsee

- **Music and ballet film stages romance at Lake Woerthsee**
- **After more than 80 awards a new art project of Axel Werner**
- **World premiere with invited guests in the Lago mio**

**Wörthsee (Starnberg county, [www.lake-of-dreams.art](http://www.lake-of-dreams.art)), 3.7.23. Composer and director Axel Werner releases his new art project LAKE OF DREAMS on July 6, 2023 and celebrates the world premiere at lake Woerthsee.**

The underlying theme of this work is longing and desire. Between thunderstorms and sunset, Sava Milojević and Melissa Chapski (both Bayerisches Staatsballett, Munich) are dancing a romantic short story, embedded in the beautiful natural scenery of the lake Woerthsee. A young man (Sava) suffers from the fixed idea of his dream woman. He tears himself away from his demons (Mari Yumoto and Rara Kurokawa) and heads towards his vision (Melissa) with the boundless power of desire.

"The idée fixe is a profoundly romantic motif that was already musically treated by Hector Berlioz in the Symphonie fantastique," says Axel Werner. "Our native nature provides a magnificent setting for this subject. It is a precious privilege that we must preserve."

Born in 1967, the composer has been writing piano pieces since his early youth. During his career as an advertising executive, he directed a variety of productions and trained his eye for recipient impact. Since 2018, he has been refining the "Blue Hour Collection," a collection of 20 jazzy-romantic piano pieces whose style the Süddeutsche Zeitung locates "between Erik Satie and George Gershwin." The new piece is also from this collection. After recording it in his studio in Woerthsee, Axel Werner collaborated with choreographer Gonzalo Galguera to translate the music into a dance story.

Galguera was ballet director at the Theater Magdeburg for 17 years. During this time, the company won numerous awards with his productions, which brought the house great international attention. At the beginning of 2023, the internationally sought-after choreographer turned to a new creative period to experiment with other formats and traditions. He is currently working with the Peruvian National Ballet in Lima. In May, he traveled to Munich for three weeks to work with Axel Werner and the dancers on LAKE OF DREAMS.

"The project was fascinating to me from the beginning," says Galguera. "I interpreted the passionate despair, which is finally tamed by complete composure, with the means of contemporary ballet. For example, the symbolism of the pointe shoes emerged as a romantic quotation." Axel Werner's method is artistically very demanding, the choreographer continues, "because it works differently than anything I had experienced before. From the formal structure of the music, we developed dance stylistic elements that form a great unity." At the same time, he said, the fact that he had to align his choreography not with the conditions of the theater, but with a camera that moves along from different perspectives, was fascinating. That alone, he says, is a great creative experience.

Peter Mang (production) and Ralf Schweinböck (camera) share the same opinion. "This project was another incredible adventure," says Peter Mang. "Field shoots always have an unplannable element. That's why it's important to work with top professionals. They turn chance into creative fireworks when it counts." Maximilian Koch, who plays a ferryman in the film with his original Venetian cult gondola, adds "in 20 knots of wind we had to get to safety, but the turbulent surface of the lake provided dreamlike images. You can see and feel the forces of nature."

Melissa Chapski, an American ballet dancer with a career in New York and Amsterdam, did not look at all like the ice-cold wind at 6° C in the early morning. Sava Milojević, born in Serbia and trained at the John Cranko School in Stuttgart, also endured the strain with confident elegance. "I am very grateful to the dancers for their incredible performance," says Axel Werner, who directed the film. "We wanted to open up perspectives for the ballet audience that go far beyond the world of theater. The demand on body and mind was incredibly high under these extreme conditions."

Axel Werner and his team celebrate the world premiere of LAKE OF DREAMS with a sundowner at the Lake of Woerth. In addition to the presentation of the three-minute film on the open-air screen, there will be fascinating insights into its creative world. In front of the glittering Lake Woerthsee, the Lago mio team opens its sundowner bar at the idyllic boat harbor of the sailing school. Christine Rose, well-known voice from Bayern 3 and Bayern 1 radio stations, interviews artists and makers about their backgrounds and adventures at Wörthsee.

Photos of the premiere can be viewed from the following day. Afterwards, the film will travel to various film festivals around the world. Learn more at [www.lake-of-dreams.art](http://www.lake-of-dreams.art)

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## **LAKE OF DREAMS**

### **Cast**

Melissa Chapski (Dancer), Sava Milojević (Dancer), Maximilian Koch (Gondolier), Mari Yumoto (Dancer), Rara Kurokawa (Dancer), Axel Werner (Piano)

### **Production**

Axel Werner (composition, screenplay, direction), Peter Mang (realization), Gonzalo Galguera (choreography), Ralf Schweinböck (camera), Stefano Ferrara (1st AC), Chris Kröck (photography), Reinhold Binder (recording & sound engineering), Stefan Stanisic (costumes), Beate Heinsius (Fitting), Michael Augustin (editing), Frank Meyer (color grading), Tim Kreitzkamp (VFX), Sabine Werner (catering & feelgood management).

### **Special Thanks**

Martin Frey (carpentry), Plabst Family (forestry), Philipp Müller (Lago mio), Matthias Huber ( camera boat), Municipality of Inning a. A. & associated authorities, H.E. Graf zu Toerring-Jettenbach and team, Christian Mohr (Erholungsflächenverein e. V.), Günter Lohr (intonist & piano technician Munich), Roland Braun (agency Flavour Kommunikation), Kumiko Noshiro (Munich International Ballet School), Audio & Videoproduktionen Mang and Maren Martell Kultur-PR.

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### **More information**

<https://lake-of-dreams.art>

<https://coloryourmind.org>

<https://come-closer.org>

### **Portrait and film photos**

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are available free of charge under

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7mc8swtnapbt251/AADqLS2p4dNwpGLTsGOOKTk2a?dl=0>

Photo credits: lake-of-dreams.art

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