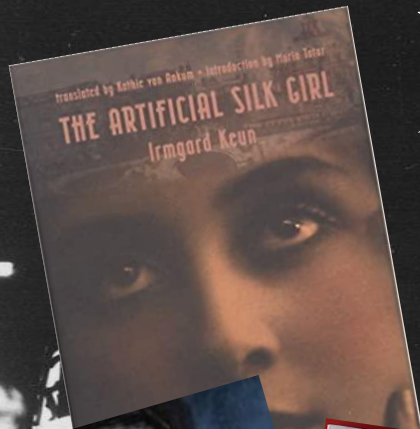




The Summer Before the Dark

Story by Volker Weidermann, Produced by Johannes Rexin and Mike Ryan

Writer, Irmgard Keun, is living in exile because the Nazis have burnt her bestselling books.



Keun goes to write
in Ostend in the
summer of 1936,



“the summer before
the dark...”

... Ober Viscose Française einen gewissen Vorrang hat, aber andererseits wohl Givet-Izieux aktienmäßig Viscose Française beherrscht. Wie innerhalb dieses Verkaufskartells das Geschäft geführt wird, eine Spezialisierung und Rationalisierung vorgenommen wurde ist nie bekannt.

Im Hinblick die „Agéfi“ damit hauptstärke der essieren braten Einblick ergibt sich.

in Mill. Fr. Viscose Française Givet-Izieux ... Nationale de la Viscose ... Albigeoise de la Viscose ... Text. Artif. Besançon ...

die führende Spalte angibt, andelt es sich um die auch übrigen men beteiligt ist d. um Lieferante

Frage d

Auf der HV der ... Berlin, wurden glieder des Aufs zers des Aufsichts apitalberichtigung rücksichtigen sei, daß die Gesellschaft habe und auch die Tochtergesellschaften vor man einen Ueberblick über diese Frage bei dem Gesamt- nehmen erhalten könne. Erst seien die rechtlich

Ostende Le Bain.

getreide kommen t unterschiedlich. Neben verregneten Partien waren auch solche höherem Hektolitergewicht festzustellen. Das Angebot hat n keine nennenswerte Zunahme erfahren. Es wurde vor allem Mate zur Septemberlieferung aufgenommen. Die Mehlabrufe aus den Aug Verpflichtungen waren gut. Mit der Herausgabe neuer

... AG. Niederschn erhöhte Mill. RM ... und Industrie, B Gesellschaft Zinse (0,46) und Provis) Mill. RM Absch 5200 (31 962) RM erhöht. Die HV Mannheim. Da ationen Reihe IV d. J. und bietet d XIII zu 100%. schläge Marklissa und B bei Mittweida: 32 RM für das Zw er 1941 (I. V 6%)

... Aktienkapital von 632 000 RM Familienbesitz befindet, weist für 1940 einen Rohüber 0,60 (0,66) Mill. RM aus. Nach Verrechnung aller Unb Vornahme von 70 791 (65 596) RM Anlageabschreibun sich einschließlich 43 965 (12 936) RM Vortrag ein von 89 392 (43 965) RM. In der Bilanz steht das mögen mit 0,21 (0,22) ...

Buch. Unter der betragen Vorräte (rtpapiere 0,12 (Andererseits erhö ie Gesamtverbind



On the beach in Ostend, the dark storm clouds of the coming war become impossible to ignore...

...despite best efforts to enjoy the
peace of the ocean:



Keun struggles with her personal account of Hitler's rise to power and what it means for the common people, and her work.

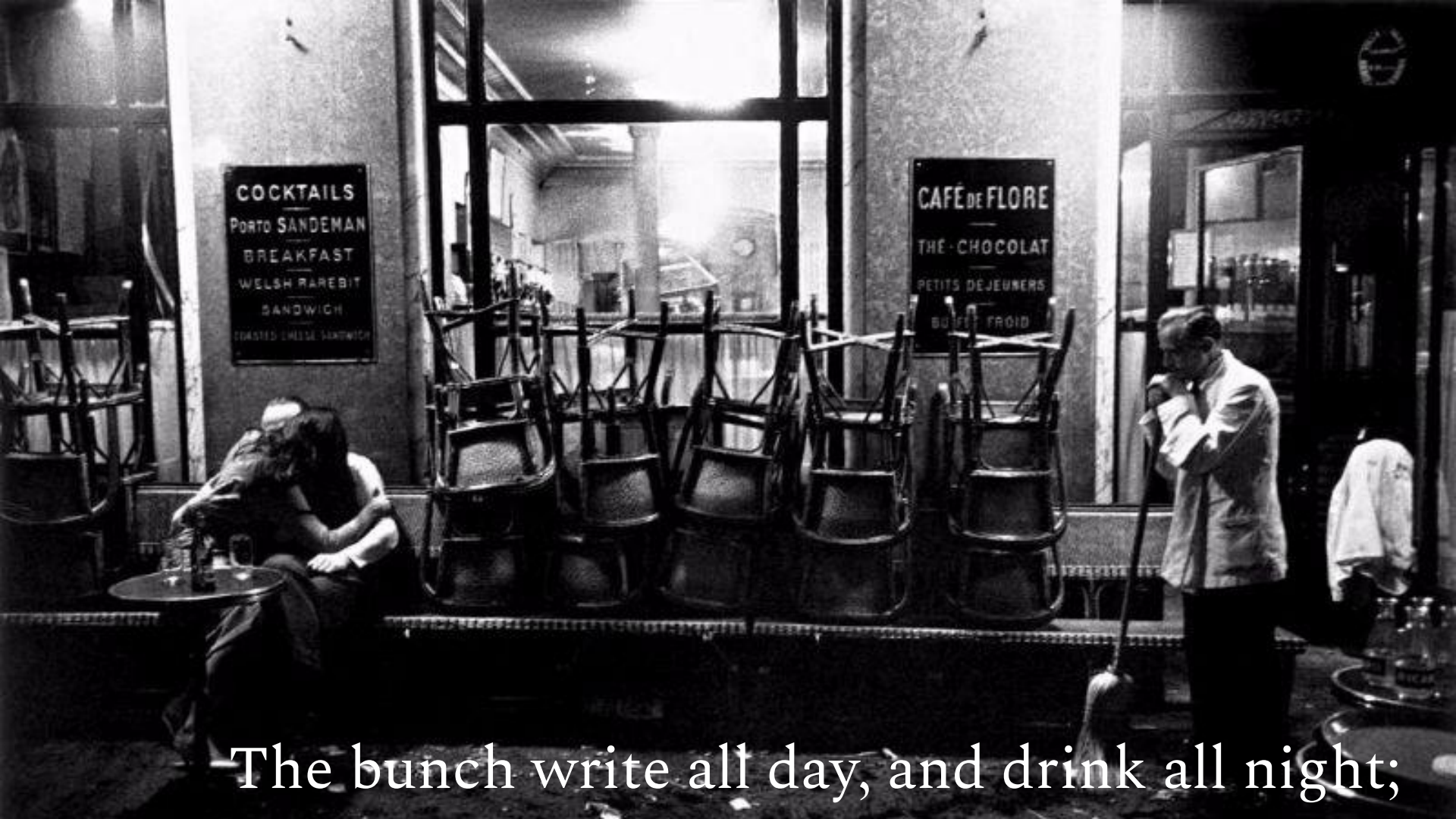


But when Keun meets authors Joseph Roth
and Stefan Zweig...



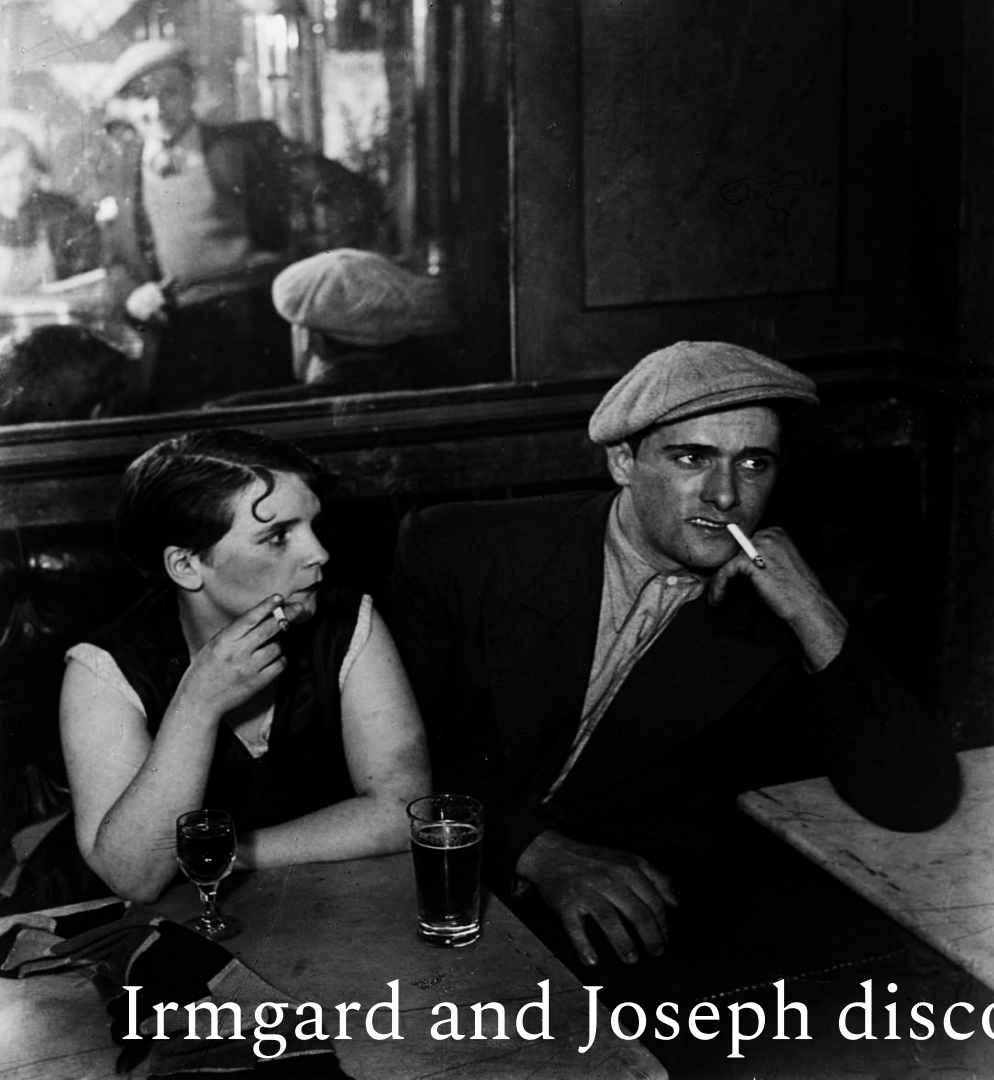


...their special chemistry drives them all to productive highs.



The bunch write all day, and drink all night;



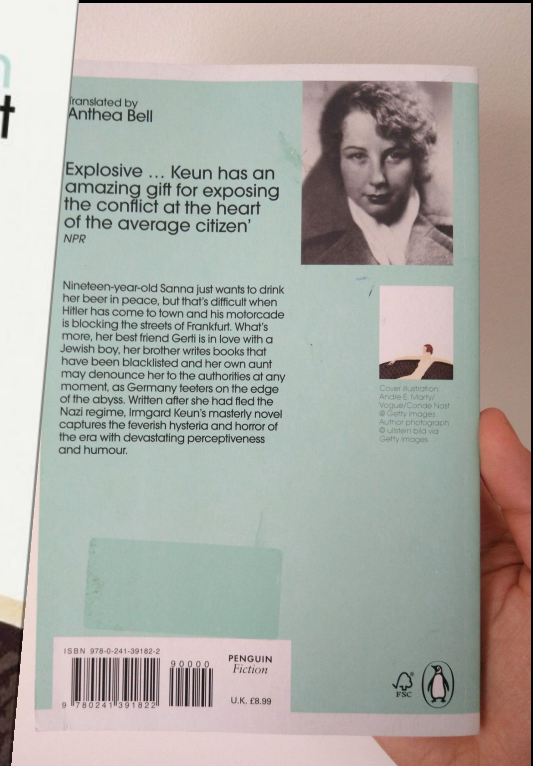


Irmgard and Joseph discover they are soulmates.

Meanwhile, the world faces
threats of global war...



Keun manages to complete her testimonial novel, “After Midnight,” about the universal paradigm shift of the Nazi’s rise to power through the help of her companion Joseph Roth.



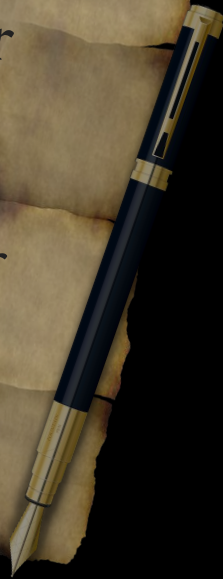


Keun and Roth find drunken joy before their world crumbles.



Irmgard will later
write about their
relationship:

*“He was the love of
my life.”*



Keun is a whirlwind, hungry-for-life independent woman. She has gained access to all levels of society by leaving her family behind and by being able to drink with just about anybody.



Irmgard Keun, Writer

Irmgard has great sensitivity for bourgeois conventions and for male expectations, she can play with both. This woman is a survivor, she speaks the language of many tongues, the language of the heart.

Persecuted for political reasons, she wants to fight back by writing.

Suffering from difficulties like Stefan, she is interested in Joseph.

This “master linguist” evokes something special in her.





She forms her own opinion by looking at how things are. Her position comes out of a natural understanding of right and wrong. Later decades could have called such a woman a “misfit.”



Joseph Roth, Writer

Roth drinks too much to forget his demons, recent disasters have taken their toll, he is on a journey for redemption but he has not reached the state of blissful forgetfulness yet.

Then Irmgard bursts right in, their connection is no questions asked.

Her fresh hunger in search of a sparring partner refreshes his spirits, makes him flourish once more, and gets her going, reassuring herself she still has an impact.



The tragic love of his life is beautiful, mentally confused Friederike, his wife, who lives in a mental hospital. He pays his guilty feelings with recurring nightmares as well as the monthly paycheck for her clinic.

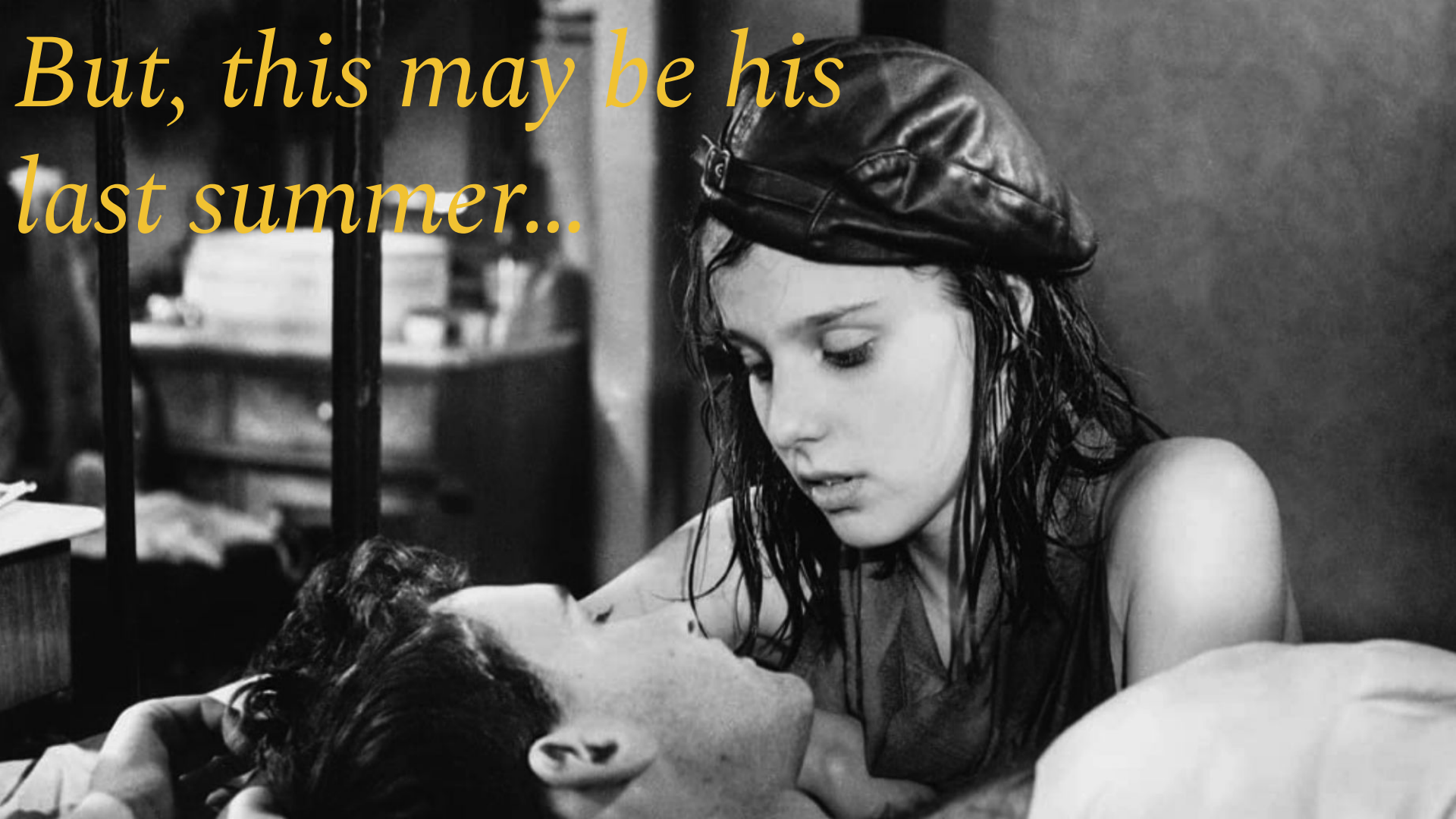


With all that Roth sees ahead,
with all he has been through, he
needs no more hide-and-seek.



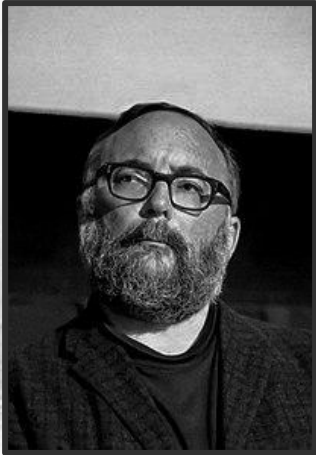
He can write anywhere, the noisier, the
better, it helps him to the clarity he
needs. He writes page after page
shedding the fog of confusion,
pinpointing the essence of things.

*But, this may be his
last summer...*



PRODUCER, MIKE S. RYAN

BIO: Mike S. Ryan is a distinguished New York-based film producer with tremendous indie industry experience and a strong transatlantic link.



Through his Irish citizenship, he has been involved in many EU film projects, among them, *GRAIN*, produced by Johannes Rexin and filmed in Detroit. Mike's films have garnered numerous nominations and awards, from the Academy Awards, Independent Spirit Awards, Gotham Awards. Among the vast amount of credits to his name, *PALINDROMES* and *LIFE DURING WARTIME* by Todd Solondz, *THE TURIN HORSE* by Béla Tarr, *JUNEBUG* by Phil Morrison, and *OLD JOY* and *MEEK'S CUTOFF* by Kelly Reichardt stand out.

In 2020, Mike released three pre-pandemic movies including *THE ARTIST'S WIFE* starring Bruce Dern and Lena Olin, and *REUNION*, by Jake Mahaffy, featuring Julia Ormond and shot in New Zealand.

MIELLEN
CIN. 0
36-38

From Bowl garden!





PRODUCER, JOHANNES REXIN

BIO: Johannes Rixin is a Berlin/Cologne-based producer with 30 years experience in the European film industry. Johannes has worked with distinguished directors on, among others, POKOT by Agnieszka Holland, HANNAH ARENDT by Margarethe von Trotta, ELLES by Malgoska Szumowska starring Juliette Binoche, BAL and GRAIN by Semih Kaplanoglu, and ANTICHRIST by Lars von Trier, starring Charlotte Gainsbourg. QISSA with Irrfan Khan was the first official European-Indian coproduction ever. His awards as producer, among many others, include a GOLDEN BEAR and a German Oscar (SILVER LOLA) for BEST FILM. Each of the films he entered at the Berlin International Film Festival won in their respective competitions.

In development and production, Johannes focuses on cooperation with select partners distinguished by their love for cinema and filmmaking.

Johannes is currently working on OBJETOS by Jorge Dorado, starring Alvaro Morte.

Author, Volker Weidermann

BIO: Volker Weidermann covers literature for newsweekly "DER SPIEGEL" and hosts the famous German TV show "Literarisches Quartett." For his novel "Ostende 1936," Sommer der Freundschaft," ("Summer before Dark"), Weidermann has done profound research, immersing himself deeply into the individual fates of Stefan Zweig, Joseph Roth and Irmgard Keun beyond the twenty days of seaside summer heat which make up the novel, and the film.

In his novel, Volker Weidermann connects contemporary history with the depiction of an unusual, passionate love and a similar friendship. He does so by condensing a panorama of each of the protagonists' lifelines into three weeks of their staying together at Ostend.





PRODUCERS NOTE,

“Summer Before The Dark” is full of fine humor and comic elements, a film about love and creativity, the characters being the “burnt poets”, more relevant today than ever, deprived of their home, their language, and their hope.

Today in Europe, we have to again face reactionary nationalist movements in many countries.

Our film will focus on Irmgard: born in Berlin, a Cologne girl from Braunsfeld, her books were burnt, and she was banned from writing. Undeterred, she sued for compensation and professional recognition. After her father ransomed her from a Gestapo prison, she fled to exile when Hitler invaded the Rhineland...



PRODUCERS NOTE,

The result, Keun's sharp observation, "After Midnight," authentically reported from her own experience after 1933, is a merciless account of how authoritarian society destroys human relationships.

"After Midnight" is a masterpiece of maturity in expression evoked by the school of life. Our protagonists have to realize that neither their abilities nor their talents can help them deal with the menacing development in Europe.

And they have to digest the double defeat of being existentially helpless and worrying sick about the future.

We want to create a strong film, a film that respects the dark moments of the individual fates in the novel as well as the dramatic conditions of creativity in exile yet never denies the sometimes absurd lightness of existence.

- Johannes Rexin







*The
End.*

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Lookbook by Chantel Stelliga (cstelliga@gmail.com)

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REXINFILM