



A FILM BY PIERRE-HENRY SALFATI

MARIO
ADORF

HANNELORE
ELSNER

DER LETZTE MENSCH

ATLAS INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS AN ELSA FILM PRODUCTION IN COPRODUCTION WITH FAMA FILM AG, SEGURA FILMS, MARIO ENTERTAINMENT, WESTDEUTSCHER RUMFUNK UND SCHWEIZER RUMFUNK. FERNSEHEN STARRING MARIO ADORF, KATHARINA DEER, HANNELORE ELSNER. DIRECTOR PIERRE-HENRY SALFATI. DOP FELIX VON MURALT. SCREENPLAY PIERRE-HENRY SALFATI, ADAMT ZETTO. EDITOR PEGINA BARTSCH. HAARE/HAAR: WISSERICH. PRODUCTION DESIGN JUTTA FREYER. COSTUME DESIGN RIMY REINFELD. MAKE UP IRIS JORDAN, ANJIE HUEBEL. CASTING NINA FRIEDRICH. SOUND DESIGN KARL ARTHELM. ORIGINAL SOUND HEIK THIESE. SOUND MIX TILD BOSCH. ORIGINAL MUSIC DORBECK, G. DÖRNER. PRODUCTION MANAGER CHRISTIAN FÜRST. LINE PRODUCER URSULA DAV. CO-PRODUCER ROLF SCHMID, SYLVAN BURSTEIN, NO. DREHER, MARTIN LUDWIG. PRODUCER ANITA ELSAN.

DER LETZTE MENSCH

MENA'HEM TEITELBAUM, A SURVIVOR OF NAZI'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS, HAS BEEN RUNNING FROM HIS EXPERIENCE ALL HIS LIFE. BUT INSTEAD OF RUNNING AWAY FROM A PLACE, HE HAS BEEN RUNNING AWAY FROM HIMSELF. WHAT THE NAZI-SYSTEM AND GAS CHAMBERS DID NOT BRING TO AN END, HE HAS COMPLETED. HE HAS KILLED THE JEW INSIDE HIM. THIS WAS FOR HIM THE ONLY WAY TO FORGET ABOUT THE HORROR, THE TORTURE, THE DRAMA. HIS NEW PERSON, MARCUS SCHWARTZ, MOVES TO COLOGNE WHERE HE IS FREE TO BECOME A "NORMAL" GERMAN. WITH NO JEWISH FRIENDS, NOR FAMILY, NOR WIFE, NOR SYNAGOGUE. THIS IS HIS WAY OF OUT-FLANKING HIS OWN FATE: PRETENDING THAT NOTHING HAPPENED, WHEN EVERYTHING HAPPENED, WHEN THE WORST HAPPENED.

AFTER YEARS OF WORKING AS A TRANSLATOR, HE NOW IS AN OLD MAN. ONE DAY, AS HE STROLLS ALONG A JEWISH GRAVEYARD, ALL HIS PAST UNEXPECTEDLY BEFALLS HIM. BETWEEN THE GRAVES, SUDDENLY A MOMENTOUS WISH IN HIM ARISES: WHEN HE DIES, HE WANTS TO BE BURIED THERE. BUT IN ORDER TO BE BURIED THERE, YOU HAVE TO BE JEWISH AND, MUCH TO HIS SURPRISE SIMPLY BEING JEWISH IS NOT ENOUGH. A RABBI POINTS IT OUT CLEARLY TO HIM: "IF YOU SAY YOU'RE JEWISH, YOU HAVE TO PROVE IT!"

BUT HOW COULD HE, WHEN ALL THE LAST TRACES HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED MANY YEARS AGO? HOW CAN HE MAKE THE SHOA INSTITUTIONS BELIEVE THAT HE IS MENA'HEM TEITELBAUM, WHO HAS BEEN DEPORTED FROM HUNGARY IN 1942 TOGETHER WITH ALL HIS FAMILY? HE SHOWS THEM HIS TATTOO, BUT THIS IS NOT A PROOF. "HOW MANY NAZIS HAVE HAD THEIR VICTIMS' NUMBERS TATTOOED ON THEIR ARMS TO ESCAPE PROSECUTION?", THEY ASK. AND BESIDES, A JEW ALWAYS HAS FAMILY FRIENDS... HIS SYNAGOGUE..." THEY SAY. "WHY HAVE YOU NEVER CLAIMED COMPENSATION?" THEY ASK. WITHOUT FAMILY OR OTHER WITNESSES, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HELP HIM.

THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR MARCUS IS TO GO BACK TO HIS HOMETOWN, VÁC, TO FIND EVIDENCE OF HIS JEWISH BIRTH. FOR SOLIDARITY AND CERTAINLY A GREAT DEAL OF RASHNESS GÜL, A YOUNG GIRL HE MEETS BY ACCIDENT, SUGGESTS DRIVING MARCUS TO VAC WITH "HER" CAR. SHE IS DEEPLY MOVED BY HIS STORY, AS SHE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS TO FEEL LOST AND UPROOTED.

TOGETHER, THE TWO TAKE OFF FOR THE HEART OF OLD JEWISH EUROPE AND AS TWO WORLDS, TWO VISIONS AND TWO ERAS MERGE, AN UNEXPECTED BOND EVOLVES.

