SWEET SURVIVAL

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

SWEET SURVIVAL
short film

Technical Specifications

Running Time - 14:20
Genre - Thriller
Country of origin - AUT/UK
Aspect Ratio - 16:9
FPS - 24
Sound Stereo

Credits

Directed by Katharina Gerlich
Co-Directed by Luna Herruzo
Written by Katharina Gerlich & Hella Stichlmair
Produced by Ewa Habdas & Julia Stipsits
Production company Verein Kunst und Musik

Contact Information

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Logline

Sweet Survival is a female driven thriller set in a dystopian future, where a group of women deal with the unlucky bastard who tries to rob them.

Synopsis

On a cold afternoon in a dystopian future, a group of women go about their daily business at an abandoned compound when a hungry young man tries to rob them. They quickly overpower him and to his surprise invite him to join them for dinner. As they sit together at the kitchen table it slowly dawns on the loner that these women do not just sell goods. After his discovery the situation quickly gets out of control.

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The story behind this production

In 2017, just before the #metoo movement started, Hella and Katharina, like so many female actors, were sick of the roles they were being offered. They had recently worked with a group of fantastic female artists and wanted to continue working with them. So they set out to write “something for five actresses, that can be shot over a weekend”.

Four years, several changes of plans, a pandemic and multiple emotional meltdowns later we had to admit that this project was no longer a quick and easy shoot. It had grown beyond our wildest expectations, and we were now facing a much larger, more ambitious production.

After changing shooting location several times we finally decided to settle in Austria, where we managed to fly in our international team and completed our crew with Austrian filmmakers. We wrapped up post production in 2023 adding yet more nationalities to the list. Yes, we are a competitor of the UN.

Though it may have taken longer than just “a weekend”, we are proud of the result - a playful, genre-bending mix of western, sci-fi and thriller that far exceeded our original plans.

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Valerie Bolzano is an actress and comedian born and raised in Austria. She trained, worked and lived in the U.S.A. and Frankfurt, Germany and is now back in her beloved Vienna.

IMDb

Kudra Owens, is an actress and singer from Seattle WA., who attended The William Esper Studio in NY. Credits include Netflix ‘s “Berlin Station”, film “Thank You, For Bombing” and a Disney Gala celebrating Alan Menken. Other work includes Mrs. Corry in “Mary Poppins” & Camae in “The Mountaintop”.

IMDb Instagram Website

Anna Tucci is an Italian actress, producer and acting coach based in London. After attending the National Film School in Rome, she has been working in theatre and film with directors such as David Warren and Silvio Castiglioni. With Paolo Sorrentino she worked on the Oscar winning movie The Great Beauty.

IMDb Instagram

Marta Carvalho is a Portuguese actor based in London. Among her credits is the female co-lead in the feature film “The Advices of the Night” (Portugal). Stage credits include “Ready, steady, go!”, nominated for OffieAwards (London) for Best Production of Theatre for Young Audiences.

IMDb Instagram

Ingo Paulick is a Vienna-based actor. After his studies in Hamburg, he made guest appearances at numerous theatres in Germany and Austria and played in various film and television productions. Most recently in the SKY series "Me and the Others".

IMDb Instagram Website

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Katharina Gerlich

DIRECTOR, WRITER, ACTRESS, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Katharina Gerlich is an Austrian actress, director and writer. She self-published her very first book - featuring a cherry searching for freedom - at the tender age of 8 using her parents' printer, crayons and loads of staples. Later, she followed her passion for storytelling and trained to become an actress in Vienna and London. Katharina also works as a voice over artist and continuously broadens her repertoire training in Dramatic Combat and Motion and Performance Capture as well as different styles of dance. She has directed theatre as well as multidisciplinary performances and in 2016 was given the Cultural Award of the City of Baden, Austria, in the category of performing arts.
'Sweet Survival' is her debut short film, a female driven thriller set in a dystopian future.

IMDb Instagram Website

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The focus of Sweet Survival are clearly the unusual and contrasting female characters that have to navigate a dystopian world. The story is driven by the individuals and the tensions between them and the outside world.

Each character in the film has their own addiction, a longing that they seek to fulfil. While some of these desires are easily satisfied, others present greater challenges.

Our intention was to create an ensemble piece that would delve into these complex characters and their struggles, prompting the audience to question their assumptions and contemplate the grey areas between good and bad. We aimed to foster discussion around themes of morality, justice, and empathy, urging individuals to engage with and consider these concepts in a more nuanced way.

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Luna Herruzo
CO-DIRECTOR, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Luna is a bilingual film director with a focus on the unexplored female experience. Her films feature nonconformist characters discovering the power of vulnerability.

With a background in Media and Arts Technologies research, Luna is a skilled storyteller who excels at working with international teams and adapting creatively to unforeseen constraints. She is a meticulous "keeper of the story" who never loses sight of important details.

Her QMUL student documentary film "Retroism now. Vinyl revival in the digital age" was selected for best short documentary at MK2CORTOFEST 2019. Her Super 8 short film “The Great Debate” was selected among the top 25 films of the Straight 8 Competition of 2022, and has been screened at BFI Southbank, LSFF and Picturehouse cinemas.

When this Madrid-based Andalusian isn’t crafting films, you can find her at dancing lessons or listening to history podcasts with a cup of “Earl Grey” tea.

IMDb Instagram Website

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Julia Stipsits PRODUCER

Julia Stipsits is an Austrian born actress, writer and producer. Her passion for English literature and drama brought her to London, where she graduated from The Drama Centre. Before coming on board of "Sweet Survival" Julia co-produced "The Secret Box", an award-winning fantasy trilogy of writer-director G.S. Leitgeb.

IMDb Instagram Website

Ewa Habdas PRODUCER

Ewa Habdas is a Polish - British director and producer based in London. She produced over 13 short films that were shown at over 80 festivals. In 2021 she directed her debut short film Azrael.

IMDb Instagram

Hella Stichlmair WRITER

After working in film extensively in various departments on German TV, feature films and Hollywood productions, Hella Stichlmair trained to become an actress and writer in London and Mumbai. She wrote the feature film script Water on my Skin, the web series Revolt and the guide book Mumbai by bus and train.

IMDb Instagram

Núria Pérez CINEMATOGRAPHER

Nuria Perez is a cinematographer living in between London and Barcelona, working internationally. Her experience in the film industry has led her to work with internationally renowned DPs (Haris Zambarloukos bsc, Robert Schaefer asc). Committed to each project, Núria is dedicated to pursue the director's vision and deliver work that is beautifully crafted. She enjoys shaping emotions by creating images that tell the story.

IMDb Instagram Website

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PRODUCTION STATEMENT

With over fifteen nationalities involved, our project embraces cultural diversity as an opportunity to learn from each other. We strongly believe that international cooperation can result in something special and unique by drawing upon our diverse experiences.

As filmmakers, we acknowledge that there is still work to be done in achieving gender equality within the industry. To address this, we filled as many roles as possible with female creatives. By working with a predominantly female crew, we aimed to create a more balanced and generous working environment.

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FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

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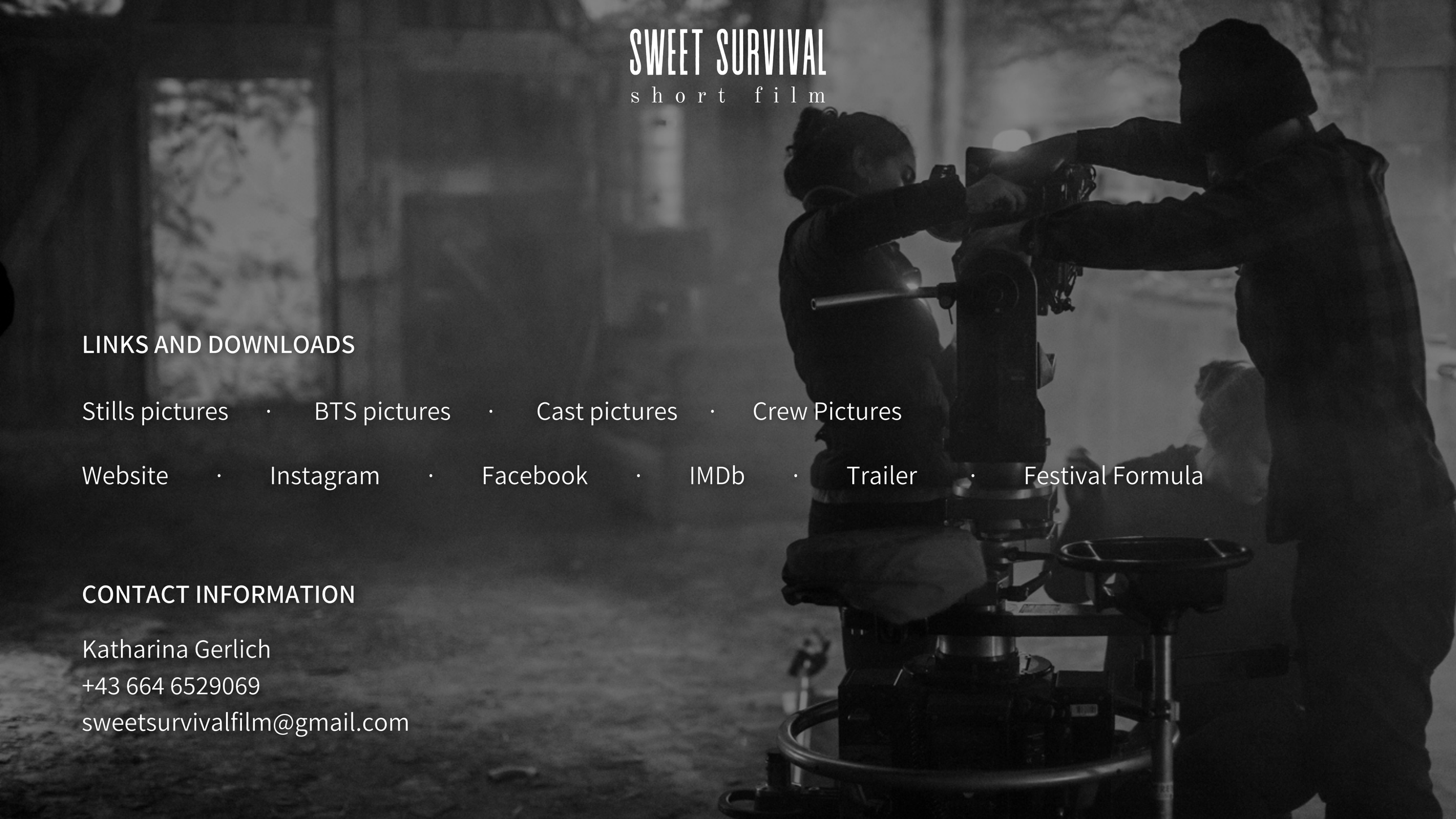

LINKS AND DOWNLOADS

Stills pictures · BTS pictures · Cast pictures · Crew Pictures

Website · Instagram · Facebook · IMDb · Trailer · Festival Formula

CONTACT INFORMATION

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