

# Revival Paradise

by Frédéric Moser and Philippe Schwinger

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## Film selected for



58. festival internazionale del film Locarno.

3-13 agosto 2005.

## Film data

**Year:**  
2005

**Original format:**  
Beta sp 16/9 colour

**Duration:**  
55 minutes

**Language:**  
Polish speaking with English subtitles

## Synopsis

The story is about a young woman who travels to Warsaw from a poor region in eastern Poland to find a job. Her cousin takes her in, letting her stay in his tiny apartment. He introduces her to a friend of his with whom he devises various schemes that allow them to survive. The woman first attempts to become accepted within this closed circle, and later leaves for a different city in search of work. After a while, she is rejoined by her two friends, and the three of them travel to the seaside.

## Artists' statement

Based on the framework of Jim Jarmush's "Stranger than Paradise", we imported this story of exile to Poland twenty years later. We followed the original film's scheme in order to better expose the historical shift which has taken place. In the 1984 film, a Hungarian woman discovered the American way of life as she stayed with her cousin in New York; this time, a young woman from a village in Eastern Poland comes to Warsaw in search of work and resides with her cousin. The schism between two divergent cultural models now plays itself out within one society. The scenes – autonomous, but chronological sequence shots – are set in today's Poland, echoing the original settings in New York, Cleveland and Florida: a modest apartment in the Foksal district, a few streets in the suburb, the countryside flashing by during a car trip, and the Baltic Sea. Societal mutations are revealed to us in snatches, as we stay close to the three protagonists, who live in a closed circle even though they pretend to be part of the surrounding reality. In Jarmush's film, the plot was already an alibi to reflect upon a model of life as a threesome. Importing this model into the present context of a former Soviet bloc country, even asking our actors to take on postures similar to those of the anti-heroes of "Stranger...": this was our gamble, for we wished to sow confusion as to the need for defining oneself through an identity. We aimed at an improbable road movie in which the escapade to the sea is by no means a fruitful dream and in which the intimacy shared by three, portrayed as a non-prescriptive model, exposes each character's reluctance to break away from pre-established roles. With "Revival...", we pursue our critique of the myth of authenticity, with just the slightest air of tenderness rising above reference models

*Frédéric Moser and Philippe Schwinger*

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## Cast & credits

<b>Kuba</b>	Robert Wrzosek
<b>Monika</b>	Joanna Laskowska
<b>Kamil</b>	Kacper Kuszewski
<b>Jacek</b>	Maciej Zielinski
<b>The Worker</b>	Adam Falkiewicz
<b>Aunt Ela</b>	Walentyna Sienkiewicz

### Written, directed and edited by

Frédéric Moser & Philippe Schwinger

<b>Music by</b>	Adam Falkiewicz
<b>Guitars, Live electronics by</b>	Adam Walicki
<b>Camera</b>	Frédéric Moser
<b>Sound</b>	Justyna Musialska Leszek Freund
<b>Gaffer</b>	Philippe Schwinger
<b>First Production Assistant</b>	Anja Rosinska
<b>Second Production Assistants</b>	Ulrike Mantel Arletta Wojtala
<b>Set Assistant</b>	Ewa Pawlak
<b>Translators</b>	Ania Stepien Arletta Wojtala

### Produced by

a-i-r laboratory, Centre for Contemporary Art,  
Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw  
(<http://csw.art.pl>)  
Fine Arts Unternehmen Film  
([www.fineartsunternehmen.com](http://www.fineartsunternehmen.com))

### Curated by

Ika Sienkiewicz-Nowacka, a-i-r laboratory

### Supported by

Arts Council of Switzerland, Pro Helvetia  
Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing  
The Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music, Warsaw  
Gazeta Wyborcza, Aktivist, Independent, WIK  
The Warsaw Voice

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## Artists' info

Frédéric Moser & Philippe Schwinger were born in 1966/61 at Saint-Imier (Switzerland). From 1988-91 they are co-directors of "l'atelier ici et maintenant", an independent theatre company based in Lausanne. From 1993-98 they study at the High School for Visual Arts in Geneva. They win the "Swiss Art Award" 3 times in a row (in 98-99-2000) and the Providentia "YoungArt 2000" prize. In 2001 they are invited for 6 month at the Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart. In 2002 they receive the One Year Scholarship & Studio in Berlin of the Swiss Federal Office of Culture. In 2003 they are invited to the first residence program at the Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle in Warsaw. In 2004 they represent the Swiss Contribution at the 26th International Biennial of Contemporary Art of São Paulo. They presently live and work in Berlin.

### filmography

**2006** Schwejk Perspektiven, Time flies, Donnerstag, Alles wird wieder gut / **2005** Revival Paradise / **2004** Unexpected Rules / **2003** Capitulation Project, Acting facts / **2002** Internment Area / **2001** Affection riposte

### solo exhibitions

#### 2006

Amanda, Gallery Arndt & Partner, Zürich  
Farewell Letter to the Swiss Workers, Kunsthaus Zürich

#### 2005

Revival Paradise, Kino Lab, Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw  
Play gallery for still and motion pictures at MACO, Mexico-city

#### 2004

Non chiamateli civili, Associazione Prometeo, Lucca  
Capitulation Project, Cornerhouse, Manchester  
NB - Bob Gramsma / Frédéric Moser & Philippe Schwinger, Kunstmuseum PasquArt, Biel

#### 2003

ARTissima 10, Play gallery for still and motion pictures, Torino  
Capitulation Project, Play gallery for still and motion pictures, Berlin

#### 2002

Internment Area, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart  
Affection riposte, Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart

#### 2001

Affection riposte, Centre for Contemporary Images, Saint-Gervais Geneva  
Embrigadés, Galerie Skopia, Geneva

#### 2000

Lux Gallery, London  
Galerie Institut - Horten, Düsseldorf  
Dose miracle, Musée des beaux-arts, La Chaux-de-Fonds

#### 1999

Auf den Höhen, Museum zu Allerheiligen, Kunstverein, Schaffhausen

### selected group exhibitions and festivals

**2006** Protections, Kunsthaus Graz / 59. festival internazionale del film, Locarno / 35. International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam / Multiple Versions : cinema and contemporary visual art, 4th. Magis Spring School, Udine / 41. Solothurn Film

Festival, Solothurn / Trieste Film Festival, 17a edizione, Trieste  
**2005** Contemporary Swiss Art Show in Japan, Chiba City Museum of Art / 58. festival internazionale del film, Locarno / Contenance, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart / 49th London Film Festival, the British Film Institute, London / Helden Heute, Kunsthaus PasquArt, Biel / 11th Biennial of Moving Images (Focus), Centre for Contemporary Images, Saint-Gervais Geneva / Contrabanditas de Imágenes, Seleccion 26 Biennial de São Paulo, Museum of Contemporary Art, Santiago de Chile  
**2004** 26th International Biennial of São Paulo, Swiss official Contribution, São Paulo / The 3rd Seoul International Media Art Biennale, Museum of Art, Seoul / So wie die Dinge liegen, Hartware Medien Kunstverein, Dortmund / Play at Cirrus, Cirrus gallery, Los Angeles / Video lobby, Contemporary Art Center, Vilnius  
**2003** Remakes, CAPC- Musée d'art contemporain, Bordeaux / Shifting time/space, Kunstraum Walcheturm, Zürich / 10th Biennial of Moving Images (Intramural exhibitions), Centre for Contemporary Images, Saint-Gervais Geneva / Peripheries become the Center, Prague Biennial / Flux, Musée des beaux-arts, La Chaux-de-Fonds / Arco 03, Galerie Skopia, Madrid  
**2002** Another Swiss Version, AR/GE Kunst Galerie Museum, Bolzano / Videomathon, Centrul pentru Contemporana, Chisanau / VideoRom, Gian Carla Zanutti Gallery, Milano / Showroom, Galerie Skopia, Geneva / Lange Nacht der Museen, Projektraum Römerstrasse, Stuttgart / Shrink to fit, www.xcult.org et Musée de la communication, Bern  
**2001** VideoROM, Valencia Biennial, Valencia / Art 32 Basel, Galerie Skopia, Basel / Swiss Videos, Galerie Barbara Thumm-Angelika Richter, Rosso Bar, Venezia / Analogue-Dialogue, Musée jurassien des Arts de Moutier-Kunstmuseum Solothurn  
**2000** No vacances, Internationale Videoausstellung, Berlin / Screening, Artjunky, Leicester Square, London / Out of Space, Kunstmuseum Thun / Paroles, paroles, Kunsthalle Palazzo, Liestal / Prix fédéraux des beaux-arts, Fri-art, Fribourg / Dans le domaine du possible III, Centre PasquArt, Bienne / L'art dans le monde, Beaux-Arts Magazine-Parkett, Pont Alexandre III, Paris  
**1999** Prix fédéraux des beaux-arts, Kunsthalle, Zürich / #1, Espace croisé, Lille / Habiter le monde, Alliance française, Montevideo / Another Swiss Panorama, Centre for Contemporary Images, Saint-Gervais, Geneva / 3 ème festival de l'art en vidéo (section swiss video), Musée d'art contemporain, Lyon  
**1998** Dog Days Are Over (video lounge), Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris / Prix fédéraux des beaux-arts, Museum zu Allerheiligen, Schaffhausen / Videostore, Bricks & Kicks, Wien / Freie Sicht aufs Mittelmeer (video lounge), Kunsthaus, Zürich and Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt / Not strictly private, Shed im Eisenwerk, Frauenfeld / Video Exhibition, Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi

### selected bibliography

Frédéric Moser Philippe Schwinger: Unexpected Rules, [texts: Alessio Moretti and Stefan Schoettke], Swiss Federal Office of Culture, Berne; Revolver, Archiv für aktuelle Kunst, Frankfurt a. M., 2004.  
ISBN 3-937577-80-7  
Frédéric Moser Philippe Schwinger, [editor: Andreas Münch], Swiss Federal Office of Culture, Bern; Centre PasquArt, Biel; Edition Fink 2004.  
ISBN 3-906086-62-3 ([www.editionfink.ch/presse.html](http://www.editionfink.ch/presse.html))

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