

**T & C F I L M A G**

presents

**BAD BOY  
KUMMER**

a film by

**Miklós Gimes**

Switzerland 2010 / 92 minutes / Stereo Digital 5.1 / HD CAM

**PRODUCTION COMPANIES**

**T&C Film** Seestrasse 41a 8002 Zurich/Switzerland  
Phone +41 44 208 99 55 tcemail@tcfilm.ch

**busse & halberschmidt** Kai Strasse 14a 40221 Dusseldorf/Germany  
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**DISTRIBUTION SWITZERLAND**

**Columbus Film** Seestrasse 41a 8002 Zurich/Switzerland  
Phone +41 44 462 73 66 info@columbusfilm.ch

**WORLD SALES**

**T&C Edition** Seestrasse 41a 8002 Zurich/Switzerland  
Phone +41 44 208 99 55 edition@tcfilm.ch

Information & photographs, see [www.kummer-film.ch](http://www.kummer-film.ch)

**World Premiere: Festival International du Cinéma, Visions du Réel Nyon 2010**

**Release Switzerland: 21 October 2010**

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

Tom Kummer is still considered to be the king of faked interviews and his specialty was Hollywood. He met Sharon Stone, Sean Penn and Bruce Willis for long, sincere talks – which all turned out to have been invented. For four years, until he was exposed, Kummer supplied reputable publications in Germany and Switzerland with his stories.

Today, he earns his living as a tennis coach in Los Angeles. Kummer tricked everyone: the media, the celebrities – and possibly, even himself. A movie on the wasted life of a major talent - and on the question of truth.

## **BAD BOY AND ME – DIRECTORS STATEMENT**

### **Why and how I made this film by Miklós Gimes**

In the nineties, Tom Kummer, one of the biggest tricksters in media history published a series of invented interviews with film stars and rock musicians such as Sharon Stone, Sean Penn, Nicholas Cage or Courtney Love. He talked with them about sex and drugs, boredom and loneliness, and supplied these sensational stories to such renowned publications as the "Süddeutsche Zeitung Magazin" or the "Tages-Anzeiger Magazin" of Zurich.

Kummer's interviews were iconic and his best stuff went on to be published as a pocket-book. But then Kummer was exposed, and his book had to be taken off the shelves.

When Kummer began to write for us at the "Tages-Anzeiger Magazin", I was the Deputy-Editor-in-Chief. My boss was René Bortolani. In 1997, Roger Köppel took over the management of the magazine. Two years later, Kummer was exposed. There were no consequences for us to bear at the "Tages-Anzeiger Magazin", but Ulf Poschardt and Christian Kämmerling, the two Editors-in-Chief of the magazine of the "Süddeutsche Zeitung", were fired.

Since then, Kummer has been finished as a journalist. Today, he earns his living as a tennis coach in Los Angeles where he lives with his wife and two children. (Or to be more precise: He coaches paddle tennis, only played in California as an exercise to stay fit.)

After his fall from grace, I lost sight of Kummer and only became curious to learn more about him when in 2007 his autobiography "Blow up" appeared. He showed no regrets - not even regarding the two colleagues who had been fired because of him. In Kummer's opinion, he was the one who had been let down.

I asked myself: Who is this person? Is he your classic conman or is he a tragic figure? Did he destroy his own career out of an inner drive that is stronger than him? These are the questions that I attempted to address in this movie.

Tom Kummer grew up in the sixties in Berne/Switzerland, in a middle-class environment. His father passed away early. When Kummer was twenty, he emigrated to Berlin where he discovered writing. He was hired by "Tempo" - the trendiest magazine of the early nineties - which is where he launched a fulminant journalistic career. He engaged in extreme activities - always on the front line - researching in slum areas and in the drug milieu.

In 1993, Kummer and his girlfriend emigrated to Los Angeles - where he began to write his infamous celebrity interviews. Reading them now, you realize that they are about his loneliness and his search for the meaning of life. Over the course of time, his stories became increasingly daring, bold, and out of touch with the real world. He began to invent everything - even portraits and reports - until he was exposed due to his own carelessness.

That is the course of Kummer's life, as paced in the film, in Berne, Zurich, Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, and Los Angeles. I realized that the Kummer case remains a minefield up until today. His former bosses no longer want to be reminded of him. In their eyes, Kummer is a notorious crook or, in the best case, a nutcase who lost his grip and footing.

On our journey into the past, time and again, I confronted Tom Kummer with my questions and made the classic journalistic experience: It's hard to unveil the final truth - but it's worth it.

## **DIRECTOR MIKLÓS GIMES**

Born in 1950 in Budapest, since 1956 living in Switzerland (Zurich), Swiss citizen.  
School in Zurich, licentiate of Economic Science University Zurich

Journalist for "Tages-Anzeiger" since 1985  
until 1990 film critic in the culture edition  
after 1990 editor for "Magazine"  
1994 till 1997 deputy chief editor, today editorial contributor

Zurich Prize for Journalism (2000)

### **Filmography**

2010 BAD BOY KUMMER, cinema documentary, 92 minutes

2002 MOTHER, cinema documentary, 95 minutes

1998 ELEVEN FRIENDS (*ELF FREUNDE*), Co-director of director Michele Andreoli,  
TV Documentary DRS/Arte, 52 minutes

## PRODUCTION TEAM

<b>Director</b>	Miklós Gimes
<b>Cinematography</b>	Filip Zumbrunn
<b>Sound</b>	Kai Lüde
<b>Editing</b>	Barbara Landi
<b>Sound Design &amp; Editing</b>	SoundVision GmbH, Cologne
<b>Grafic Design</b>	Elefant Studios, Zurich
<b>Postproduction &amp; Grading</b>	Andromeda Film, Zurich
<b>Editor SF</b>	Urs Augstburger
<b>Editor RBB</b>	Dagmar Mielke (ARTE) Birgit Mehler
<b>Production Manager</b>	Nicole Barras Katrín Böhringer
<b>Co-Producer</b>	Markus Halberschmidt Marcelo Busse
<b>Producer</b>	Marcel Hoehn
<b>A production of</b>	T&C Film, Zurich Busse & Halberschmidt Filmproduktion, Dusseldorf
<b>In co-production with</b>	Schweizer Fernsehen SF SRG SSR idée suisse Teleclub Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg RBB
<b>In cooperation with</b>	ARTE
<b>With the support of</b>	Swiss Federal Office of Culture (FDHA, Switzerland) Zürcher Filmstiftung Kulturfonds Suissimage Succès Cinéma Filmstiftung Nordrhein-Westfalen

## **TECHNICAL FACTS & FIGURES**

Shooting format	HD CAM
Archive material	Digibeta, Beta SP, MiniDV, VHS, 8mm/Super8mm
Format	Digital / HD CAM / Stereo Digital 5.1 / Format 1:1.78 (16:9)
Length	92 minutes
Original version	Swiss-German, German, English with german subtitles
Subtitle versions	german, french, english
Shooting location	Los Angeles, Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, Zurich, Berne
Shooting period	April – June 2009
Editing period	June 2009 – February 2010

## T&C FILM – FILMOGRAPHY

### Cinema Features and Documentaries (selection)

- 2010 BAD BOY KUMMER *Documentary by Miklós Gimes*
- 2010 DANIEL SCHMID – LE CHAT QUI PENSE  
*Documentary by Pascal Hofmann and Benny Jaberg*
- 2009 JULIA'S DISAPPEARANCE *Feature by Christoph Schaub*
- 2008 HAPPY NEW YEAR *Feature by Christoph Schaub*
- BIRD'S NEST - HERZOG & DE MEURON IN CHINA  
*Documentary by Christoph Schaub and Michael Schindhelm*
- 2006 JEUNE HOMME *Feature by Christoph Schaub*
- 2005 NÄKKÄLÄ *Documentary by Peter Ramseier*
- REMEMBER *Documentary by Bruno Moll*
- 2004 DIMITRI — CLOWN *Documentary by Friedrich Kappeler*
- MONTE GRANDE what is life? *Documentary by Franz Reichle*
- 2002 MOTHER *Documentary by Miklós Gimes*
- 2001 SECRET LOVE *Feature by Christoph Schaub*
- 1999 BERESINA or THE LAST DAYS OF SWITZERLAND (CH/D/A) *Feature by Daniel Schmid*
- SANTIAGO CALATRAVA'S TRAVEL *Documentary by Christoph Schaub*
- 1998 FULL MOON (CH/D/F) *Feature by Fredi M. Murer*
- BRAIN CONCERT *Documentary by Bruno Moll*
- 1996 THE KNOWLEDGE OF HEALING *Documentary by Franz Reichle*
- 1995 THE WRITTEN FACE (CH/J) *Documentary feature by Daniel Schmid*
- 1992 HORS SAISON (CH/D/F) *Feature by Daniel Schmid*
- 1987 THE WAY THINGS GO *Shortfilm by Peter Fischli and David Weiss*
- 1985 AFTER DARKNESS *Feature by Dominique Othenin-Girard and Sergio Guerraz*
- 1984 IL BACIO DI TOSCA *Documentary feature by Daniel Schmid*
- 1983 THE RIGHT WAY *Short feature by Peter Fischli and David Weiss*
- 1982 HÉCATE (CH/F) *Feature by Daniel Schmid*
- 1981 THE LEAST RESISTANCE *Feature by Peter Fischli and David Weiss*
- 1978 SWISSMAKERS *Feature by Rolf Lyssy*



## Co-Productions (selection)

- 2010 IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY MANSIONS *Documentary by Hajo Schomerus*
- 2001 MOSTLY MARTHA (D/CH/A) *Feature by Sandra Nettelbeck*
- 2001 LA STRADA DEL MARMO (D/CH) *Documentary by Michael Trabitzsch*
- 1998 SECRET DEFENSE (F/CH/I) *Feature by Jacques Rivette*
- 1997 LA TREGUA (I/F/CH/D) *Feature by Francesco Rosi*
- 1996 LE CRI DE LA SOIE (F/CH/B) *Feature by Yvon Marciano*
- 1993 BARNABO DELLE MONTAGNE (I/CH/F) *Feature by Mario Brenta*

## In production

THE FLOWERS OF KIRKUK *Feature by Fariborz Kamkari* (co-production)

THE GUANTANAMO TRAP *Documentary by Thomas Selim Wallner* (co-production)

## CONTACTS

### Production

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### Distribution Switzerland (theatre)

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### Theatrical release Switzerland: 21 October 2010

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