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1_9))))

Biography

Ursula Strauss **Actress**

Ursula Strauss was born in Melk an der Donau, the daughter of a mayor and a housewife. She led a very sheltered childhood. Early on, she recognized the essence of the actress deep within herself, yet abiding by reason, she completed educational training as a Kindergarten teacher before she began studies at the acting school of the Volkstheater in Vienna. Already during her studies, she was engaged at the Schauspielhaus Kiel. After graduation, engagements followed at the Theater in der Josefstadt in Vienna, the Ensembletheater, and the Vienna Volkstheater. Very early in her career, she met author, director and actress Michaela Scheday, who recognized and supported the performing power and the fearless nature of Ursula Strauss' dedication. From her mentor, she learned precisely how to leave the audience its own space without losing her stance as a character. At the same time, she developed her special talent of making the moment her own, to thus encounter its essence, and to draw upon the clarity of what is within. Over the years, Ursula Strauss fine-tuned her acting talents at various theaters in Germany and Austria until directors Barbara Albert and Götz Spielmann discovered her special talent of being able to abandon herself unconditionally to stories for their films.

The actress is keenly aware of the humanity, the vulnerability, the fragility of a person. With deep empathy, she understands this and uses this energy in her performances, which she understands as part of our culture of storytelling and communication. The actress perceives herself as a storyteller, as a mediator of our humanity. She always strives to give the emotions and motives of her characters a truthfulness, and she always succeeds. The Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper wrote about this special talent: 'A large part of the stories' credibility is not least due to Ursula Strauss.'

Ursula Strauss refines her performing consistently and across genres, and this has been rewarded and honored many times. For this, she seeks collaboration with directors who continually expand the societal context, such as Barbara Albert, David Schalko, Götz Spielmann, Nikolaus Leytner, Nils Willbrandt and Wolfgang Murnberger. The actress is always interested in showing people who clearly and powerfully experience their own existence within the boundaries of their own lives. Her special talent of being able to abandon herself to the service of the stories, have made her one of the most sought-after actresses in the German-speaking world, one who can bring women and their living situations sincerely and maturely to life.

Ursula Strauss works as an actress in the German-speaking world and lives in Vienna. Since 2017, she has successfully curated her own festival 'Wachau in Real Time'. Ursula Strauss is president of the Academy of Austrian Film.

((((j o z o)))))
people relations
2_9))))

Press Reviews | Selection

'A large part of the stories' credibility is not least due to Ursula Strauss.'
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany

'The magnificent Ursula Strauss mesmerizes.'
Kronenzeitung, Austria

'A pearl in the narrative flow - Ursula Strauss shines in films such as 'Revenge', but also in her own series 'Fast Forward.'
Kurier, Austria

'Ursula Strauss performs grandiosely in all of her facets.'
Osnabrücker Zeitung, Germany

'A look at the list of awards that Ursula Strauss has amassed in the past years for her work as a film and television actress, make all the more clear how multifaceted the native Austrian is. She is - as is beautifully said, and in this case, truly apt - a darling of the public.'
Schaufenster, Austria

'Ursula Strauss can be seen in countless TV and feature films. Bad works are hardly to be found among them - that is true of only very few actors. Her performances are natural, confident and precise.'
Stern, Germany

'Ursula Strauss should not be missed. The Austrian actress is grandiose.'
Tagesspiegel, Germany

'Utterly fearless and wonderfully mutable: Austrian darling Ursula Strauss easily masters the balancing act between motion picture film and weekly series.'
TV Spielfilm, Germany

'Whether as chief inspector Angelica Fast in 'Fast Forward', farmer, or 'Lena' in 'My Friend, the Enemy', Ursula Strauss shines in every female role.'
Vormagazin, Austria

'In any case, we should be thankful for every film honored by Ursula Strauss - outstanding in drama as well as comedy.'
Weser Kurier, Germany

'The most popular series star.'
Wiener, Austria

((((j o z o)))))
people relations
3_9))))

Film (Cinema | Television)

- 2018 Meine fremde Freundin | 'My Foreign Girlfriend'
Stefan Krohmer | Germany
- 2017 Das Sacher. In bester Gesellschaft | 'The Sacher: In the Best of Company'
Robert Dornhelm | Austria and Germany
- Maikäfer flieg! | 'Fly Beetle!'
Mirjam Unger | Austria
- MindGamers
Andrew Goth | Austria
- 2016 Die Stille danach | 'The Quiet Afterward'
Nikolaus Leytner | Austria
- Margarethe Otfillinger - Die Frau, die zu viel wusste | 'Margarethe Otfillinger - The Woman Who Knew Too Much'
Klaus Steindl | Austria
- Mein Fleisch und Blut | 'My Flesh and Blood'
Michael Ramsauer | Austria
- Mein fremde Frau | 'My Foreign Wife'
Lars Becker | Austria
- Mörderisches Tal - Pregau | 'Deadly Valley - Pregau'
Nils Willbrandt | Austria and Germany
- 2015 Altes Geld | 'Old Money'
David Schalko | Austria
- Blockbuster: Das Leben ist ein Film | 'Blockbuster: Life is a Film'
Vlado Priborsky | Austria
- Drei Eier im Glas | 'Three Eggs In a Glass'
Antonin Svoboda | Austria
- Käthe Kruse
Franziska Buch | Austria and Germany
- Mein gebrauchter Mann | 'My Used Man'
Lars Jessen | Germany
- 2014 Abwärts - Polizeiruf 110 | 'Downhill - Polizeiruf 110'
Nils Willbrandt | Germany
- Bösterreich | 'Nastria'
Sebastian Brauneis | Austria
- Oktober November | 'October November'
Götz Spielmann | Austria
- Schuld - Der Bergdoktor | 'Guilt - The Mountain Doctor'
Felix Herzogenrath | Germany

((((j o z o))))
people relations

4_9))))

- Mutterseelenallein - Unter Verdacht | 'All Alone - Under Suspicion'
Martin Weinhart | Germany
- Schnell ermittelt - VI. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - VI. Season'
Andreas Kopriva and Michael Riebl | Austria
- 2013
- Alles Schwindel | 'It's All a Swindle'
Wolfgang Murnberger | Austria and Germany
- Die Spätzünder 2 - Live is Life - Der Himmel soll warten |
'Late Bloomers 2 - Live is Life - Heaven Can Wait'
Wolfgang Murnberger | Austria and Germany
- Lost & Found
Wolfgang Murnberger | Austria
- Schnell ermittelt - V. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - V. Season'
Andreas Kopriva and Michael Riebl | Austria
- Tod in den Bergen | 'Death in the Mountains'
Nils Willbrandt | Germany
- 2012
- Hatch
Christoph Kuschnig | Austria and USA
- Michael
Markus Schleinzer | Austria
- Ruhm | 'Fame'
Isabel Kleefeld | Germany, Austria and Switzerland
- Schnell ermittelt - IV. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - IV. Season'
Andreas Kopriva and Michael Riebl | Austria
- Spuren des Bösen - Racheengel | 'Traces of Evil - Avenging Angel'
Andreas Prochaska | Austria and Germany
- Vielleicht in einem anderen Leben | 'Maybe in Another Life'
Elisabeth Scharang | Austria, Germany and Hungary
- 2011
- Die Abstauber | 'The Cadger'
Wolfgang Murnberger | Austria and Germany
- Mein bester Feind | 'My Best Enemy'
Wolfgang Murnberger | Germany and Luxembourg
- Schnell ermittelt - III. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - III. Season'
Andreas Kopriva and Michael Riebl | Austria
- 2010
- Aufschneider | 'Braggart'
David Schalko | Austria
- Die Spätzünder | 'The Late Bloomers'
Wolfgang Murnberger | Austria and Germany

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people relations

5_9))))

- Schnell ermittelt - II. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - II. Season'
Andreas Kopřiva and Michael Riebl | Austria
- Willkommen in Wien | 'Welcome to Vienna'
Nikolaus Leytner | Austria and Germany
- 2009 Die Geschworene | 'The Jurors'
Nikolaus Leytner | Austria
- Ein halbes Leben | 'A Half Life'
Nikolaus Leytner | Austria and Germany
- Kinderwunsch - Tatort | 'The Child Wish - Tatort'
Walter Bannert | Germany
- Revanche | 'Revenge'
Götz Spielmann | Austria
- Schnell ermittelt - I. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - I. Season'
Andreas Kopřiva and Michael Riebl | Austria
- 2008 Die Liebe ein Traum | 'Love is a Dream'
Xaver Schwarzenberger | Austria
- Fallen
Barbara Albert | Austria and Germany
- Die Hanno-Herz-Story - Trautmann | 'The Hanno Herz Story - Trautmann'
Thomas Roth | Austria
- 2007 Krankheit der Jugend | 'The Sickness of Youth'
Alex Trejo, Henning Backhaus, Henri Steinmetz, Peter Brunner,
Karl Bretschneider and Tobias Dörr | Austria
- Partnerinnensuche - Novotny und Maroudi | 'Looking for Girlfriends -
Novotny and Maroudi'
Hanno Maurer | Austria
- Rochade - Novotny und Maroudi | 'Change Position - Novotny
and Maroudi'
Hanno Maurer | Austria
- 2006 Kotsch
Helmut Köpping | Austria
- 2005 Blattschuss - Soko Kitzbühel | 'Heart Shot - Special Commission Kitzbühel'
Georg Schiemann | Austria
- Crash Test Dummies
Jörg Kalt | Austria
- Kampl
Herbert Föttinger | Austria

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people relations

6_9))))

Von bis | 'From To'
Peter Jaitz | Austria

Zwei Weihnachtshunde | 'Two Christmas Dogs'
Lenard Fritz Krawinkel | Austria and Germany

2004 Die Leiche lebte noch - Kommissar Rex | 'The Corpse Was
Still Alive - Commissioner Rex'
Peter Hajek and Peter Moser | Austria

2003 Böse Zellen | 'Free Radicals'
Barbara Albert | Germany, Austria and Switzerland

2001 Gelbe Kirschen | 'Yellow Cherries'
Leopold Lummerstorfer | Austria

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people relations
7_9))))

Theater

- 2012 Iba de Gaunz Oamen Leit - Anatole Sternberg
as Woman
Anatole Sternberg | Theater Rabenhof Wien | Austria
- 2007 Jedem das Seine | 'To Each His Own' - Peter Turrini
and Silke Hassler
as Szusza
Michael Sturminger | Stadttheater Klagenfurt | Austria
- 2006 Nibelungen
as Kriemhild
Alexander Hauer | Sommerspiele Melk | Austria
- 2004 Kampf - Johann Nestroy
as Netti
Herbert Föttinger | Theater in der Josefstadt | Austria
- 2003 Götz von Berlichingen - Johann Wolfgang Goethe
as Adelheid
Alexander Hauer | Sommerspiele Melk | Austria
- 2003 Leonce and Lena - Georg Büchner
as Valerio
Michaela Scheday | Ensembletheater Wien | Austria
- 2002 Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh | 'Above All Summits There is Peace'
- Thomas Bernhard
as Fräulein Werdenfels
Wolf-Dietrich Sprenger | Theater in der Josefstadt | Austria
- 2002 Viel Lärm um Nichts | 'Much Ado About Nothing' -
William Shakespeare
as Margarete
Marcello de Nardo | Theater in der Josefstadt | Austria
- 2001 Das Käthchen von Heilbronn - Heinrich von Kleist
as Rosalie
Stephanie Mohr | Stadttheater Klagenfurt | Austria
- 2001 Glaube, Liebe, Hoffnung | 'Faith, Love, Hope' -
Ödön von Horvath
as Elisabeth
Michaela Scheday | Ensembletheater Wien | Austria
- 2001 Heimliches Geld, heimliche Liebe | 'Secret Money, Secret
Love' - Johann Nestroy
as Leni
Karlheinz Hackl | Theater in der Josefstadt | Austria
- 2000 Die Mitschuldigen | 'The Accomplices' -
Johann Wolfgang Goethe
as Sophie
Inka Neubert | Inteata Köln | Germany
- 1999 Der Diener zweier Herren | 'Servant of two Masters' -
Carlo Goldoni
as Beatrice and Federigo
Michaela Scheday | Ensembletheater Wien | Austria

((((j o z o)))))
people relations

8_9))))

- 1997 Der zerbrochne Krug | 'The Broken Jug' - Heinrich von Kleist
as Eva
Michaela Scheday | Ensembletheater Wien | Austria
- 1996 Die lustigen Nibelungen | 'The Merry Nibelungen'
as Mrs Vogel
Alexander Hauer | Theater Kiel | Germany
- 1994 La Donna Di Garbo - Carlo Goldoni
as Beatrice
Michaela Scheday | Volkstheater Wien | Austria

((((j o z o)))))
people relations
9_9))))

Awards

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|------|---|
| 2017 | Romy as Most Popular Actress in
'The Sacher', 'The Quiet Afterward' and 'Fly Beetle' |
| 2016 | Diagonale Prize as Best Actress in
'Fly Beetle' |
| | Romy as Most Popular Actress in
'My Foreign Wife' |
| 2014 | German Acting Prize (Nomination) as Best Actress in
'Death in the Mountains' |
| | Austrian Film Prize (Nomination) as Best Actress in
'October November' |
| 2012 | Golden Rooster Festival China as Best Actress in
'Maybe in Another Life' |
| | Austrian Film Prize as Best Actress in
'Maybe in Another Life' |
| 2011 | Romy as Most Popular Actress in
'Maybe in Another Life' |
| 2010 | Romy as Most Popular Actress in
'Fast Forward' |
| 2009 | Oscar (Nomination) Best Foreign Language Film for
'Revenge' |
| 2008 | Special Prize of Diagonale as Best Actress in
'Revenge' |