

24/7 - The Passion of Life

Review by **Thomas Engel** (programmokino.de)

Through a motorcycle accident, the hotelier's daughter Eve coincidentally meets the „sociologist“ Magdalena, who works as the dominatrix „Lady Maria“ in an S&M Studio. The two women become friends. Magdalena takes Eve with her to her S&M Studio. To Eve, this opens up a new, until then hidden world. Eve starts to get a different relationship to sexuality, which was until then marked by the common moral norms. She visits, at first out of curiosity, swingers clubs, striptease bars and similar establishments.

Now Eve woke up, so to say, from her sexual sleep. She now separates Love and Sex – Mike , who falls in Love with her, repudiates her. Now she wants to experience what pure Lust is. She knows that Lust and Sex can also be joined by pain and shame. Things get deeper. How much tragedy was connected to the moral norms prevailing here! Who put them up? Christianity? Which are the historical links? All this is raised explicitly. Magdalena (Lady Maria) is the main theoretician. The theories and depictions are surrounded by spiritual music (Laudate dominum, Mozart's Requiem, Ave Verum, Messias, Ave Maria, Schubert's church songs). Suited? Question of taste. It is also surrounded by poetry. There are some very lyrical and very beautiful sequences. Far more problematic are the religious, directly clerical references. They lack the necessary clarity and depth. Here the fantasy of the pictures abandons the theory and leaves it behind. Not few will rightly speak of blasphemy.

The two leading actresses are doing good work. But cinematically and sexually there are no boundaries. Many taboos are broken – most strongly by showing a “pervert” at the cross.

Wonderful is the camera work. Many light effects are first rate. And altogether the film provides hot subjects to discussion, despite the uncommon, from time to time even dangerous and voyeuristic grounds it moves on. Even in art house theatres.

(source: www.programmokino.de)