

## **24/7 - The Passion of Life**

Review by Michel und Geli, Schlagzeilen ([www.schlagzeilen.com](http://www.schlagzeilen.com))

“Probably the first German movie, that bothers of showing S&M like it is. But it is not a mere S&M film. But a film about how society is handling sexuality itself. A film about religion, moral and double-moral...

In 24/7 The Passion of Life, S&M is not shown as something outside, perverted, but as a natural part of the spectrum of sexuality. Lady Maria answers to a guest of the S&M Studio, who asks her whether she thinks S&M is sick: “NO, it’s just a part of you. If you don’t accept and live it, it will haunt you. Day by day. You’d become sick of that. Sick isn’t what you do, but maybe the feeling of guilt which was drummed into you. The feeling of guilt might be sick”

That S&M is shown so authentically and naturally in the film, is due to the good research of the film team. They did not only read a lot or question people, but also tried out. Mira Gittner for example, who plays the dominatrix Maria, assisted as 2<sup>nd</sup> dominatrix in an S&M Studio for a few days. And for professed non-sadomasochists, the makers of the film did understand a great lot!

Much of it also seems so realistic because it simply is real. Many of the smaller parts of the cast are real S&Mers, swingers or strippers, who just perform themselves. No actor would probably have managed to perform a person like Elfriede, the male maid of Lady Maria, or Rubber Pig N° 3, a regular, who slips into the role of a pig in the S&M Studio, in such a persuading and human way. Also the S&M Studio, the swingers club and the striptease bar are real. As well as some of the S&M Sessions.

The film has a great lot of very beautiful S&M scenes. But it lives more on words than on pictures. The monologues and dialogues are about the real purpose of the film: about how society deals with sexuality. About the bonds, made of religion, the constraint to standardization and double-morals, that society puts onto lust. And with which it strangles it. “Society”, explains Maria, who is writing her thesis in sociology besides her working as a dominatrix, “likes to have standardized people. They obey more easily. But can emotions be standardized?”

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The film has its German Premiere in October this year at the Film Festival in Hof. In January it will be released in the art house cinemas. We will publish the dates here. And we hope to see it on television within the next years. For example on ARTE – because that’s where it ought to be!  
(source: [www.schlagzeilen.com](http://www.schlagzeilen.com))