

ORIGINAL BLISS

Karlovy Vary: Sven Taddicken on Adapting A.L. Kennedy's 'Original Bliss'

Variety speaks with German director Sven Taddicken about his latest feature, "Original Bliss," an adaptation of Scottish author A. L. Kennedy's 1997 work, which has its international premiere in competition at Karlovy Vary Film Festival.

The film, which stars Martina Gedeck and Ulrich Tukur, revolves around a woman in a failing marriage who embarks on an unlikely romance. "Original Bliss" is produced by Frisbeefilms, Cine Plus Filmproduktion and Senator Film. Picture Tree Intl. is handling world sales.

Taddicken's works include "Getting My Brother Laid," his debut feature, and "Emma's Bliss." When he's not making films, Taddicken teaches directing and writing at the Met Film School Berlin. He has also taught in Kenya as part of fellow German filmmaker Tom Tykwer's One Fine Day film-training initiative in Nairobi.

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'Original Bliss' ('Gleissendes Glueck'): Munich Review

'The Lives of Others' co-stars Martina Gedeck and Ulrich Tukur headline Sven Taddicken's German-language adaptation of a short story collection by A.L. Kennedy. The rapprochement of two lost souls is traced with slow-moving precision in *Original Bliss* (*Gleissendes Glueck*), Sven Taddicken's German-language adaptation of the eponymous short-story collection by esteemed Scottish writer A.L. Kennedy. The decidedly adult-targeted drama stars *The Lives of Others* co-stars Martina Gedeck and Ulrich Tukur in the kind of complex and risky roles that are rarely taken on by famous actors anymore — call it their *Eyes Wide Shut* — and this alone should ensure a level of curiosity among the arthouse cognoscenti when it opens locally in October after premiering at the Munich Film Festival last week.

[\(THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER\)](#)

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'Original Bliss': Karlovy Vary Review

Loss of faith, domestic abuse, paraphilia and pornography: it doesn't seem feasible to assign these themes to a romance, not least one that challenges the viewer to both believe a match between a painfully inhibited suburban housewife and an urbane psychologist and occasionally find it sweet.

[\(SCREEN INTERNATIONAL\)](#)

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Original Bliss: A powerful psychological drama

The new film by German director Sven Taddicken, presented in competition at Karlovy Vary, gives an insight into the spiritual abyss. After his adventurous foray into the pirate-film genre with *12 Paces Without a Head*, in his latest drama, *Original Bliss*, in competition at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, German writer-director Sven Taddicken addresses issues such as unusual romantic encounters, as well as discovering one's sexuality.

[\(CINEUROPA\)](#)

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Film Review: 'Original Bliss'

An elegantly disquieting investigation into the interrelation of faith, violence and sexual degradation, held together by a rivetingly sure-footed performance by German star Martina Gedeck ("The Lives of Others"), recent Munich Film Festival premiere "Original Bliss" might be most impressive for how much it resembles its lead character: calm and orderly on the surface, but roiling with inchoate perversities underneath. There are times in director Sven Taddicken's film when, were it not for the fixity of Gedeck's stare, her absolute intensity of purpose, we might mistake the drama for a straightforward tale of a beaten wife's escape from her abusive partner, and her reclamation of her sense of worth in the arms of another man. But "Original Bliss," adapted from Scottish author A.L. Kennedy's 1997 short story collection of the same title, is much more unsettling, and much more original, than that.

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