

PRECIOUS GIFT - AUTHOR'S / DIRECTOR'S NOTE

by Andreas Reisenbauer

Precious Gift was a strange project from the beginning.

Usually I start writing a film script with the theme in mind and mostly I start from the end of the story. But this time I wanted to try what David Lynch calls the transcendental meditation. The topic of surviving a suicide attempt came during that process. Viewers should decode the film's theme as late as possible (a strategy which I had previously used in the feature film „Catharsis“). While writing the short script I noticed some parallelisms to Dante Alighieri's „Divine Comedy“. Few months before, I had to read this epic poem to prepare for a theatre piece of Dante's „Inferno“. I had been surprised how modern it was. Without regarding the religious and historic aspects, the last part („Paradise“) describes a scenery which our generation knows more from science fiction films like Stanley Kubrick's "2001" or Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar". Dante's „Paradise“ depicts a philosophy of forgiving. To be brought back from death is for me the highest level of god's forgiving in the christian context. Transferred to Dante's „Divine Comedy“: a survived suicide attempt could be very similar to the whole journey which Dante is going through in that poem. Upside down pictures, backward running music and sounds are some of the stilistic elements which could be derived from Dante's divine universe. A modern Dante would maybe have a female main hero, thus we interchanged Dante and Beatrice. We wanted Alix (Martin) to play Beatrice very unsecured, like not knowing what comes next, like Dante. In a world becoming more capitalistic, one reason of suicide can have to do with one's working situation. While shooting that movie, the reports of the crash of German Wings 4U9525 preyed on our minds, the victims didn't have an angel to save them.