

## ***HOUNDED (Verfolgt)***

**by Anglina Maccarone**



**In an obsessive sexual encounter with a sixteen-year-old boy  
Elsa is exposed to the relentless revelation of her own desires.**

Elsa Seifert (MAREN KROYMANN) is a successful probation officer, completely immersed in her work. She lives with Raimar (MERKUS VÖLLENKLEE), the father of their daughter Daniela. Triggered by the fact of her daughter leaving the parental home, cracks start to appear in Elsa's daily routine. Compromises which, for decades, had stood the test of time, no longer seem to occur to her, she is no longer prepared to toe the line. Instead, she becomes extremely receptive to anything which appeals to her intensity of feeling.

Jan (KOSTJA ULLMANN), her new probation candidate, tempts Elsa out of her shell. His gauche devotion, his undisguised offers to sexually subjugate himself to her, produce in her a maelstrom effect from which she does not wish to extricate herself. Elsa enters willingly upon this risky venture with Jan. She desires that which is not permissible, and yet which is there. Jan and Elsa celebrate, even stage their desires, developing their own entire sexual cosmos. In the process of doing so, her life visibly slips out of joint ...

The director Angelina Maccarone succeeds, in ***HOUNDED***, in drawing a vivid picture of two persons who face up to their deep desires, fears and lust. Social propriety is no longer of consequence and the frontiers between love and pain, surrender and independence are blurred.

"To Maccarone's credit she steers clear of any cheap psychological analysis, telling the facts without interference through photography and editing and allowing the audience to draw its own conclusions.

But Maccarone's strongest asset are her two actors. Kroymann's unadorned performance, in which her naked face reflects wide run of emotions through a minimum of means, is remarkably complemented by Ullmann. A natural for the part, he allows his eloquent physiognomy to replace words in most of the scenes he plays: as such *Hounded's* presentation of sado-masochism, so often used to generate repulsion or derision in films, takes on a different, painful and tormenting dimension.

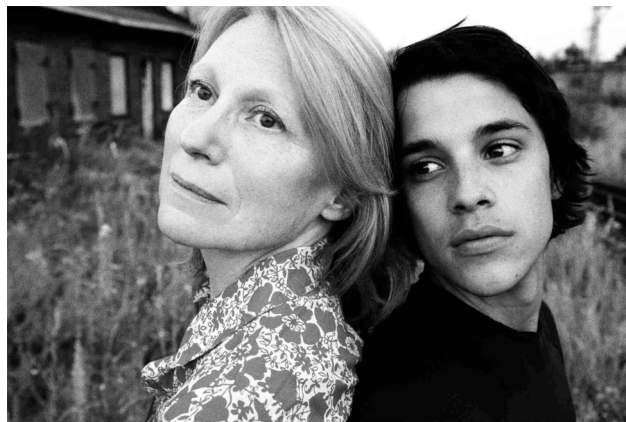
Bernd Meiner's camera revives faith in black-and-white photography, enhanced through the accuracy of its framing, while efficient cutting never lets the story flag."

**SCREEN DAILY**

"...a small but single-minded drama that sticks to the ribs.(...) "Hounded" has an attractively perverse take on sexual desire that's boosted by resonant B&W lensing and Maren Kroymann's no-nonsense perf as the transgressive mom (...) With its gritty, chiaroscuro photography, and low-budget feel, film is very different (...) There is a tight, focused, forward momentum to "Hounded," with no backstory or psycho-babble, that leaves little time for the viewer to question it in "realistic" terms. (...) Choice to shoot in B&W seems absolutely right, both visually (in Bernd Meiner's contrasty lensing) and dramatically."

**VARIETY**

**HOUNDED (Verfolgt)** was supported by the FilmFund Hamburg, Kuratorium junger deutscher Film, FFA, MEDIA MFI, and made possible by the financial participation of both cast and crew.



**HOUNDED (Verfolgt)** is, after Unveiled (Fremde Haut) the second film which MMM Filmproduktion has made with Angelina Maccarone. Ulrike Zimmermann (producer): "What a luxury it is to have success with films of substance in which the subject matter is of crucial importance and for which we are willing to take substantial risks. And this is the precipitous, radical way in which I'll be carrying on too. "

Last year "Fremde Haut" ("Unveiled") brought a host of successes for director **Angelina Maccarone**, amongst them the Hessen Film Award for "Best Feature Film of the Year 2005". "Fremde Haut" was also given a Lola Nomination (best female lead) as well as several international festival awards such as the "Great Jury Prize" of the Image Nation Film Festival Montreal and the prize for "Best Narrative Feature" at the Seattle Film Festival.

**Maren Kroymann**, extremely well-known both as a comedy actress in TV productions (including her own) and onstage ("Nachtschwester Kroymann", "Mein Leben und ich", "Nicht ohne meine Schwiegereltern"), gives an excellent performance in "Hounded" as the highly sensitive and courageous Elsa Seifert. Alongside her, **Kostja Ullmann**, who at the age of 22 can look back on such successful films as "Sommersturm" (cinema, 2003), "Schliemann und Sophie" (TV 2006). In 2005 he won the Studio Hamburg Newcomer Prize for the TV production "Heimliche Liebe" (TV, 2005).

## CAST

### in order of appearance

JAN  
ELSA  
FRIEDER  
SONNUR  
MANUELA  
RAIMAR, ELSA'S HUSBAND  
DANIELA  
BABETTE  
TV NEWS SPEAKER  
SHOP-ASSISTANT  
JUDGE  
RALF

KOSTJA ULLMANN  
MAREN KROYMANN  
MORITZ GROVE  
SILA SAHIN  
ADA LABAHN  
MARKUS VÖLLENKLEE  
STEPHANIE CHARLOTTA KOETZ  
SOPHIE ROGALL  
SUSANNE BILLIG  
KATHARINA PICHLER  
MICHAEL PINK  
FRANK MEYER-BROCKMANN

## CREW

DIRECTOR  
WRITER  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY  
EDITOR  
PRODUCTION DESIGN  
COMPOSERS

SOUND RECORDING  
MAKE UP  
COSTUMES  
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
PRODUCER

ANGELINA MACCARONE  
SUSANNE BILLIG  
BERND MEINERS  
BETTINA BÖHLER, B.F.S.  
BERNARD HOMANN  
JAKOB HANSONIS  
HARTMUT EWERT  
DIRK HOMANN  
AXEL WILMS  
INGER-SOFIA FRERICHS  
TINA DUPUY  
ULRIKE ZIMMERMANN

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87 min, German with Engl. subt., 35mm, b/w, 1:1,85, Dolby Digital 5.1.  
DVD available in PAL, with Engl. subt.

**WWW.MMM-SHOP.COM**

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