

PRESS BOOK

BONJOUR SWITZERLAND





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## BONJOUR SWITZERLAND – Synopsis

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A crazy referendum throws Switzerland into a state of emergency. By the acceptance of the initiative “No Bilangue” there should be from now on only one national language: French. Many German-speaking Swiss are therefore having a crisis. Including fifty-six-year-old Walter Egli, who works for the Federal Police and must ensure that the transition to monolingualism is carried out properly. Although he hardly speaks any French himself, he is sent to Ticino with a French-speaking partner to uncover a Ticino resistance group that is fighting the new law by all means necessary. A comedy by Peter Luisi.



## BONJOUR SWITZERLAND – Director’s statement

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### The idea:

What if there was a popular initiative to abolish the different national languages - and it was accepted! Beat Schlatter made this joke at a dinner we were at together. I called him the next day and said we should make a movie out of this idea. Our last collaboration on FLITZER (2017) was a lot of fun and was artistically and commercially successful. Therefore, we both felt like working together again on a new project. We developed the story together. I then wrote the screenplay. What I particularly appreciate about Beat Schlatter is that he is not only an excellent comedian and actor, but also creative and has a great understanding of storytelling.

### On the subject:

Basically, it's funny that, as one of the smallest countries in Europe, Switzerland has the most official national languages. What's even funnier is that there is latent antagonism between the different regions of the country (keyword: "Röstigraben") and all sides are loaded with clichés. However, the separate regions of Switzerland are indeed quite different, which is expressed not only in their own language, but also in the prevailing mentality. This is also reflected in national election results. Nevertheless, Switzerland would not be Switzerland without precisely these differences. Switzerland not only needs the different national languages and the different national regions; it is what makes it so unique!

PETER LUISI

**Beat Schlatter** was born in Zurich in 1961. He played drums in various punk bands for several years and became well known in 1983 when he founded the cabaret Götterspass. Schlatter's greatest works to date are the films "Katzendiebe" (1996), "Komiker" (2000) and "Flitzer" (2017), in which Schlatter is co-screenwriter and actor. Katzendiebe won the Prix Walo, Komiker the SSA prize for best screenplay. In 2012, Schlatter was honored with the Prix Walo 2011 in the actor/actress category for his play "Seegfrörni 2012" and the film "Hoselupf"



**BEAT SCHLATTER** as Walter Egli

**Catherine Pagani** was born in 1978 in the canton of Ticino. The talented actress, singer and dancer is best known for various stage plays at the Schauspielhaus Zurich ("Das Doppelte Lottchen", "Viel Lärm um nichts"), as well as musicals ("Alperose", "Heimweh-Fernweh") and numerous appearances in children's theater ("Der Froschkönig", "Der gestiefelte Kater"). So far she has only appeared in front of the camera for numerous commercials and short films. This is her first leading role in a feature film.



CATHERINE PAGANI as Francesca Gamboni

**Vincent Kucholl** (1975) studied new media at the École cantonale d'art de Lausanne. He then graduated from the Serge Martin Theater School in Geneva. As an actor, he has taken part in several theater productions. He has worked for RTS since 2000 and is the author and performer of the satirical program "120 Secondes", which was broadcast daily on Couleur 3 between 2011 and 2014. From 2015, this became the weekly satirical program "26 Minutes", which was transformed into the monthly "120 Minutes" in 2017 and the bimonthly "52 Minutes" in 2020. He played a leading role in the series "Quartier des Banques" (2017 - 2019).



VINCENT KUCHOLL as Jonas Bornand



**PETER LUISI, Director, Screenwriter & Producer**

Peter Luisi was born in Switzerland in 1975. He studied Film at the University of California, Santa Cruz. His first feature VERFLIXT VERLIEBT (2004) won the Zurich film Prize and was awarded at the Max-Ophüls Film festival. He co-wrote VITUS (2006) which was a box office success and was shortlisted for an Oscar. His films THE SANDMAN (2011) and UNLIKELY HEROES (2014) won numerous prizes including the Audience award at the Locarno Film festival. STREAKER (2017) was a commercial success and was sold to over 50 territories. His newest film BONJOUR SWITZERLAND (2023) is the most successful Swiss film at the box office in 8 years.

**Filmography (selection)**

2023 **BONJOUR SWITZERLAND** | Director, Screenplay & Producer

2021 **PRINCESS** | Director, screenplay & producer

2017 **STREAKER** | Director, Screenplay & Producer

2014 **UNLIKELY HEROES** | Director, Screenplay & Producer

2012 **BOYS ARE US** | Director, Screenplay & Producer

2011 **THE SANDMAN** | Director, Screenplay & Producer  
2006 **LOVE MADE EASY** | Director,  
Screenplay & Producer

2006 **VITUS** | Co-author

2004 **VERFLIXT VERLIEBT** | Director, Screenplay & Producer



**DAVID LUISI, Producer**

#### Filmography (selection)

2023 **BON SCHUUR TICINO** | Producer

2021 **PRINCESS** | Producer

2020 **ADVENT, ADVENT** | Producer

2016-19 **DEVILLE LATE NIGHT** | Producer

2017 **FLITZER** | Producer

2012 **BOYS ARE US** | Producer

2011 **DER SANDMANN** | Producer





**Cast**

Beat Schlatter

Vincent Kucholl

Catherine Pagani

Silvia Jost

Leonardo Nigro

**Production**

Spotlight Media Productions AG

**Crew**

Director

Peter Luisi

Screenplay

Peter Luisi

Co-author

Beat Schlatter

Producers

David and Peter Luisi

Production manager

Katinka Kocher

D.O.P.

Raphael Kistler

**Distributor (Switzerland)**

DCM Film Distribution



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