

Exposé

OTTO TEUFEL

From APO-Activist to Care Patient

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Template: Screenplay, 90 pages, German
Format: TV feature film 90 minutes
Genre: drama; social satire
Theme: Back then: 1968, APO, Kommune 1, terrorism
Today: Aging, Illness, Loneliness, Poverty
Playtime: 1968 & Present
Location: Berlin Marzahn; apartment, bank, police station, prison
Logline: Poor, old, sick, what to do? Prison instead of nursing home?
Storyline:

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Otto Teufel, the younger brother of Fritz Teufel, was born on July 7, 1945. Like Fritz, he was a political activist of the 1968 movement. However, unlike his brother, Otto never achieved anything significant - not even as a terrorist. Always too stoned, he often overslept when attacks were being planned, perpetually arriving too late.

He repeatedly borrowed money from his brother Fritz and Rainer Langhans to fund his drug-fueled rejection of bourgeois society. Otto's disdain for society was so radical that he even stole from the residents of Kommune 1 to buy marijuana. When the commune expelled him by committee decision, Otto's career as a political activist came to an end. From then on, he became the responsibility of social welfare.

Now, Otto is a 69-year-old pensioner and former APO-Activist suffering from arthritis. He is single, utterly destitute, and dependent on medical care due to his illness. Facing a grim and lonely demise on the streets, he cannot afford even the dreariest nursing home. However, Otto sees humane incarceration as a real alternative: free meals and lodging, a single room with a television, medical care, and supervised outdoor time.

This line of reasoning leads Otto to consider robbing a bank. His rational thinking boils down to three simple outcomes:

- 1) He successfully escapes with the money and enjoys a carefree life.
- 2) He gets caught by the police and is sent to prison, where he is assured of a secure and worry-free old age.
- 3) He is shot by the police while fleeing.

All three options seem far better to Otto than the lonely, agonizing decline he is currently facing. However, events take an unexpected turn. The bank Otto chooses to rob is being targeted simultaneously by "real" bank robbers. Otto cleverly outsmarts the robbers, enabling the police to overpower them. In the process, Otto unexpectedly gains possession of the robbers' loot.

At the police station, Chief Inspector confronts Otto. She quickly realizes that he is merely a desperate old man seeking help and develops an understanding and sympathy for him. Otto confesses that his intention to rob the bank stemmed from his desire to escape his helpless existence.

This encounter unexpectedly leads to a philosophical discussion about the concept of freedom. Most people associate freedom with the ability to move freely and consume as they wish. But when someone is old, sick, and destitute, such freedoms lose all meaning.

Intention:

Society is heading toward disaster. Everyone sees it. No one can do anything about it. Everyone looks away, hoping it won't turn out so bad. But it turns out much worse. An entire generation of aging people faces poverty and isolation in old age.

What could be the solution? Isn't a prison essentially the same as a nursing home? Isn't freedom merely an illusion - at best, a sensation tied to movement and consumption, but never inclusive of thoughts, which are always free anyway?