

EXPOSE

MEMPHIS GETTMARK

Heaven over Hell Earth

Written by: Ruby Con, Phone: +49 171 4980909, rubycon@mail.de, www.screencreator.de
Template: Screenplay, 140 pages, Vers.1 German language / Vers.2 English language
Format: Cinema or TV movie (three-parter), approx. 140 minutes
Genre: Drama; Aviation Adventure and Love Story
Theme: Love, friendship, loyalty; pioneers of aviation, Dornier DO-X
Playtime: 1920 - 1933, 1945, 1965
Location: Variable; Berlin, North Pole, African West Coast



OVERVIEW

Memphis Gettmark faces a choice: love or freedom - and for him, freedom means flying. Heartbroken, Memphis plunges from one adventure to the next - and yet he still can't forget Masha, who no longer wants to know anything about him. Memphis has no idea he is the father of Masha's son until fate brings father and son together.

Between the world wars, pilots were both circus attractions and heroes of civil aviation. But in the end, humanity's greatest

achievement lost its innocence - pioneering pilots mutated into terrorist pilots.

Torn between the world at an altitude of 5,000 meters and the brutal reality on Earth, Memphis Gettmark finds his way back to Mascha and their son after a long odyssey around the world in the midst of the chaos of World War II.

STORYLINE

Memphis lost his friend, Günter, during a dangerous flying maneuver. His girlfriend, Mascha, dumped him. She fears that Memphis, too, will eventually die in these flimsy vehicles. An unbearable feeling for her.

While society dances on the volcano, Memphis, long since addicted to alcohol, ends up as a circus pilot. He risks daring stunts in old World War II biplanes for a few marks, while the audience craves spectacular disasters. To them, these flying gladiators are merely doomed men risking everything.

Further adventures follow: Memphis flies a Dornier Wal flying boat to the North Pole. Shortly before reaching their destination, an emergency landing forces the crew to abandon their mission. During this 21-day emergency, Memphis has only one thing to keep him alive: the memory of Masha. Her photo helps him save himself and the entire crew from certain death.

Eventually, Memphis becomes commander of the legendary DO-X. On a trip to South Africa, Memphis meets Masha again by chance - after 12 years. She is a passenger with her husband and their son, Günter. When they are forced to land on a shore, Masha and Memphis inevitably become closer. Memphis gets to know his son without knowing that he is his son. Masha continues to keep the secret that Memphis is her son's true father.

Exhausting repair work dominates the days. Tensions arise between Memphis, Masha, and her husband. Memphis is torn between his undying love for Masha and his duty as commander to save the passengers.

After accomplishing the impossible, Memphis lands the repaired DO-X in Lüderitz Bay in South West Africa. There, Memphis and Mascha are forced to part ways again. It breaks Memphis's heart once again.

With the outbreak of war, Memphis was drafted into service as a naval aviator and flight instructor. During flight training in a Dornier DO-24 flying boat, Memphis accidentally encountered his son Günter. It was then that Memphis began to suspect Günter's true paternity.

Before Memphis can further investigate his suspicions, his flying boat is shot down over Malta and taken prisoner by the British. He is taken to a German passenger ship, of all places, on which Masha is also. Masha and her husband were on a business trip to India. Her husband was held there as a spy, and Masha was forced to leave. However, the voyage ended in the Mediterranean because the British detained the ship.

Now Memphis finally learns the truth: that he is Günter's real father. His world collapses, as he believes that Günter, as a fighter pilot, has little chance of survival. But Memphis doesn't give up. Tearfully, he promises Masha that he will find their son. Unexpectedly, Memphis and Masha escape under cover of night on an English flying boat. Memphis lands off Sicily. There, Memphis is separated from Masha again and is interned as a suspected English spy.

After his release and return to Wilhelmshaven, Memphis learns that Günter's fighter plane has been shot down over the English Channel. Memphis immediately launches a sea rescue mission. He steals a DO-24 and embarks on a nearly hopeless search for Günter. Günter is floating on an inflatable boat in the vast ocean. With desperate hope, Memphis finds his son. At that moment, the DO-24 is tracked down by two English fighters, preventing Memphis from landing. Memphis then demonstrates all his flying skills, outmaneuvering the English fighters until they are forced to abandon their aircraft due to lack of fuel. Memphis lands and pulls his son aboard. In the hospital, love and suffering between father and son collide with full force. Finally, after 21 years, the three find each other. For Mascha's sake, Memphis gives up flying. But from now on, Memphis feels like a completely useless person.

At the beginning of 1945, Memphis became technical director of the Aviation Museum in Berlin, where his DO-X was on display. He often sat in the cockpit of the "Old Lady" and reminisced about the old memories of soaring above this world with her. In February, the great air raid on Berlin took place. The museum and the DO-X were destroyed. Memphis' Old Lady was "killed" - by terror planes. Memphis would have been broken by this if Masha hadn't been by his side, reawakening his love of flying. Masha realized that a Memphis Gettmark who didn't fly was not the man she loved.

Epilogue. In 1965, Memphis ended his flying career with one final flight. He piloted a Lufthansa passenger plane, a Lockheed Super Constellation, from Berlin to New York. Along for the ride were Mascha and Günter.

INTENTION

Germany was a leader in aviation between 1920 and 1933. Masterpieces of engineering were created, yet they remain completely forgotten. This story is dedicated to the pilots and designers of that era, such as Claude Dornier, Willi Messerschmitt, Hugo Junkers, Ernst Heinkel, and many others. They and their ingenious technology are worthy of rediscovering and taking their true, native place in German history. And no other symbol represents this claim more than the Dornier flying boats, or rather the unique DO-X!

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