



# DOUGLAS SIRK - HOPE AS IN DESPAIR

by Roman Hüben



## SYNOPSIS

Douglas Sirk was the master of cinematic melodrama. This fascinating, emotional portrait reveals that the ultimate melodrama was Sirk's own life. It is the key to understanding his work. He discovered Zarah Leander and made her a star in the mid-1930s. Later, in the USA, he catapulted Rock Hudson from no-name to screen icon. And in the 1950s Douglas Sirk reinvented the melodrama. But who was the man who suddenly left Hollywood at the height of his fame and moved to Switzerland? In interviews with among others Todd Haynes and hitherto unpublished excerpts from his wife's diaries, the film gets closer to this mysterious genius. We discover a life story marked by hope, disillusionment, love and death. [FFHH22]

## FESTIVALS

2022

75 Locarno FF – Retrospective: Homage  
FFHH22, 30 Filmfest Hamburg  
FF Gent  
doc edge

## CAST AND CREW

**DIRECTOR** Roman Hüben · **PRODUCER** Nicola Genni (PiCfilm),  
Christophe Gougeon (Acqua Alta), Stefan Pannen (Berlin  
Producers), Fabrizio Polpettini (La Bête) · **SCORE** Martin Perret ·  
**SOUND** Camille Bonard, Timothée Zurbuchen · **EDITOR** Marylou  
Vergez · **DOP** Mathieu Gaudet · **SOUND DESIGN** Riccardo Studer  
· **PROTAGONIST** Hanna Schygulla, Todd Haynes, Jon Halliday,  
Bernard Eisenschitz, Denis Rossano

2022

76 min

### FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait, History,  
Arts/Culture, Theater

### ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

English, German, French

### PREMIERE

Locarno, Switzerland (2022)

### COPRODUCTION COMPANY

[berlin producers Media GmbH](#)  
Prenzlauer Allee 36G  
10405 Berlin  
Germany  
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### LINKS / REFERENCE

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<https://labete.fr/>  
Acqua Alta  
<https://www.acquaalta.fr/>  
**PRODUCTION**  
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