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nollendorfstrasse 1
10783 berlin

0049 178 653 35 60

mailme@jozopr.com
www.jozopr.com

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Biography

Ursula Strauss

Actress

Ursula Strauss was born in Melk an der Donau, the daughter of a mayor and a housewife. She led a very sheltered childhood. Early on, she recognized the essence of the actress deep within herself, yet abiding by reason, she completed educational training as a Kindergarten teacher before she began studies at the acting school of the Volkstheater in Vienna. Already during her studies, she was engaged at the Schauspielhaus Kiel. After graduation, engagements followed at the Theater in der Josefstadt in Vienna, the Ensembletheater, and the Vienna Volkstheater. Very early in her career, she met author, director and actress Michaela Scheday, who recognized and supported the performing power and the fearless nature of Ursula Strauss' dedication. From her mentor, she learned precisely how to leave the audience its own space without losing her stance as a character. At the same time, she developed her special talent of making the moment her own, to thus encounter its essence, and to draw upon the clarity of what is within.

Over the years, Ursula Strauss fine-tuned her acting talents at various theaters in Germany and Austria until directors Barbara Albert and Götz Spielmann discovered her special talent of being able to abandon herself unconditionally to stories for their films. The actress is keenly aware of the humanity, the vulnerability, the fragility of a person. With deep empathy, she understands this and uses this energy in her performances, which she understands as part of our culture of storytelling and communication. The actress understands herself as a storyteller, as a mediator of our humanity. She always strives to give the emotions and motives of her characters a truthfulness, and she always succeeds. The Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper wrote about this special talent: 'A large part of the stories' credibility is not least due to Ursula Strauss.'

Ursula Strauss refines her performing consistently and across genres, and this has been rewarded and honored many times. For this, she seeks collaboration with directors who continually expand the societal context, such as Barbara Albert, David Schalko, Elisabeth Scharang, Götz Spielmann, Lisa Bierwirth, Lars Becker, Nikolaus Leytner, Nils Willbrandt, Stefan Krohmer and Wolfgang Murnberger. The actress is always interested in showing people who clearly and powerfully experience their own existence within the boundaries of their own lives. Her special talent of being able to abandon herself to the service of the stories has made her one of the most sought-after actresses in the German-speaking world, one who can bring women and their living situations sincerely and maturely to life.

Ursula Strauss works as an actress in the German-speaking world and lives in Vienna. Since 2017, she has successfully curated her own festival 'Wachau in Real Time'. Ursula Strauss was president of the Academy of Austrian Film for seven years.

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Press Reviews | Selection

'A large part of the stories' credibility is not least due to Ursula Strauss.'
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany

'The magnificent Ursula Strauss mesmerizes.'
Kronenzeitung, Austria

'A pearl in the narrative flow - Ursula Strauss shines in films such as 'Revenge', but also in her own series 'Fast Forward'.'
Kurier, Austria

'Ursula Strauss performs grandiosely in all of her facets.'
Osnabrücker Zeitung, Germany

'A look at the list of awards that Ursula Strauss has amassed in the past years for her work as a film and television actress makes all the more clear how multifaceted the native Austrian is. She is - as is beautifully said, and in this case, truly apt - a darling of the public.'
Schaufenster, Austria

'Ursula Strauss can be seen in countless TV and feature films. Bad works are hardly to be found among them - that is true of only very few actors. Her performances are natural, confident and precise.'
Stern, Germany

'Ursula Strauss should not be missed. The Austrian actress is grandiose.'
Tagesspiegel, Germany

'Utterly fearless and wonderfully mutable: Austrian darling Ursula Strauss easily masters the balancing act between motion picture film and weekly series.'
TV Spielfilm, Germany

'Whether as chief inspector Angelica Fast in 'Fast Forward', farmer, or 'Lena' in 'My Friend, the Enemy', Ursula Strauss shines in every female role.'
Vormagazin, Austria

'In any case, we should be thankful for every film honored by Ursula Strauss - outstanding in drama as well as comedy.'
Weser Kurier, Germany

'The most popular series star.'
Wiener, Austria

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Film

(Cinema | Television)

2024

Altweibersommer | 'Indian Summer'
Pia Hierzegger | Austria

Biester | 'Beasts' - Season I.
Andreas Kopriva and Miriam Unger | Austria

Gina
Ulrike Kofler | Austria

Schnell ermittelt - VII. Staffel | 'Fast Forward' - VIII. Season
Andreas Kopriva, Gerald Liegl and Michael Riebl | Austria

2023

Herrhausen - Der Herr des Geldes | 'Herrhausen - The Lord of Money'
Petra Strietmann | Germany

Neue Geschichten vom Franz | 'New Stories of Franz'
Johannes Schmid | Austria and Germany

Schnell ermittelt - VII. Staffel | 'Fast Forward' - VII. Season
Gerald Liegl and Michael Riebl | Austria

Was zählt | 'What Matters' - I. Season
André Erkau | Germany

2022

Das rote Tuch - Helen Dorn | 'The Red Cloth' - Helen Dorn
Friedemann Fromm | Germany

Die Geschichten vom Franz | 'The Stories of Franz'
Johannes Schmid | Germany and Austria

Euer Ehren - I. Staffel | 'Your Honor' - I. Season
David Nawrath | Germany and Austria

2021

Le Prince
Lisa Bierwirth | Germany

Maria Theresia - III. Season
Robert Dornhelm | Austria and Czech Republic

2020

Wischen ist Macht - I. Staffel | 'Wiping is power' - I. Season
Gerald Liegl | Austria

2019

Das verschwundene Kind | 'The Disappeared Child' - Sarah Kohr
Christian Theede | Germany

Es wird besser | 'It gets better'
Adi Wojaczek | Germany

Liebermann
Robert Dornhelm | Austria

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- 2018 Ich töte niemand - Tatort | 'I Do Not Kill Anyone - Tatort'
Max Färberböck | Germany
- Schnell ermittelt - VI. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - VI. Season'
Gerald Liegl and Michael Riebl | Austria
- 2017 Das Sacher - In bester Gesellschaft | 'The Sacher - In the Best of
Company'
Robert Dornhelm | Austria and Germany
- Maikäfer flieg! | 'Fly Beetle!'
Mirjam Unger | Austria
- Meine fremde Freundin | 'My Strange Friend'
Stefan Krohmer | Germany
- MindGamers
Andrew Goth | Austria
- Schnell ermittelt - V. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - V. Season'
Gerald Liegl and Michael Riebl | Austria
- Schnell ermittelt - Einsamkeit | 'Fast Forward - Lonliness'
Andreas Kopriva | Austria
- 2016 Die Stille danach | 'The Quiet Afterward'
Nikolaus Leytner | Austria
- Margarethe Ottilinger - Die Frau, die zu viel wusste | 'Margarethe
Ottilinger - The Woman Who Knew Too Much'
Klaus Steindl | Austria
- Mein Fleisch und Blut | 'My Flesh and Blood'
Michael Ramsauer | Austria
- Mein fremde Frau | 'My Foreign Wife'
Lars Becker | Austria
- Mörderisches Tal - Pregau | 'Deadly Valley - Pregau'
Nils Willbrandt | Austria and Germany
- 2015 Altes Geld | 'Old Money'
David Schalko | Austria
- Blockbuster: Das Leben ist ein Film | 'Blockbuster: Life is a Film'
Vlado Priborsky | Austria
- Drei Eier im Glas | 'Three Eggs In a Glass'
Antonin Svoboda | Austria
- Käthe Kruse
Franziska Buch | Austria and Germany
- Mein gebrauchter Mann | 'My Used Man'
Lars Jessen | Germany

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- 2014
- Abwärts - Polizeiruf 110 | 'Downhill - Polizeiruf 110'
Nils Willbrandt | Germany
- Bösterreich | 'Nastria'
Sebastian Brauneis | Austria
- Oktober November | 'October November'
Götz Spielmann | Austria
- Schuld - Der Bergdoktor | 'Guilt - The Mountain Doctor'
Felix Herzogenrath | Germany
- Mutterseelenallein - Unter Verdacht | 'All Alone - Under Suspicion'
Martin Weinhart | Germany
- Schnell ermittelt - Leben | 'Fast Forward - Life'
Andreas Kopriva | Austria
- 2013
- Alles Schwindel | 'It's All a Swindle'
Wolfgang Murnberger | Austria and Germany
- Die Spätzünder 2 - Live is Life - Der Himmel soll warten |
'Late Bloomers 2 - Live is Life - Heaven Can Wait'
Wolfgang Murnberger | Austria and Germany
- Lost & Found
Wolfgang Murnberger | Austria
- Schnell ermittelt - Erinnern | 'Fast Forward - Remembering'
Michael Riebl | Austria
- Tod in den Bergen | 'Death in the Mountains'
Nils Willbrandt | Germany
- 2012
- Hatch
Christoph Kuschnig | Austria and USA
- Michael
Markus Schleinzer | Austria
- Ruhm | 'Fame'
Isabel Kleefeld | Germany, Austria and Switzerland
- Schnell ermittelt - IV. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - IV. Season'
Andreas Kopriva and Michael Riebl | Austria
- Schnell ermittelt - Schuld | 'Fast Forward - Guilt'
Andreas Kopriva | Austria
- Spuren des Bösen - Racheengel | 'Traces of Evil - Avenging Angel'
Andreas Prochaska | Austria and Germany
- Vielleicht in einem anderen Leben | 'Maybe in Another Life'
Elisabeth Scharang | Austria, Germany and Hungary

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- 2011 Die Abstauber | 'The Cadger'
Wolfgang Murnberger | Austria and Germany
- Mein bester Feind | 'My Best Enemy'
Wolfgang Murnberger | Germany and Luxembourg
- Schnell ermittelt - III. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - III. Season'
Andreas Kopriva and Michael Riebl | Austria
- 2010 Aufschneider | 'Braggart'
David Schalko | Austria
- Die Spätzünder | 'The Late Bloomers'
Wolfgang Murnberger | Austria and Germany
- Schnell ermittelt - II. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - II. Season'
Andreas Kopriva and Michael Riebl | Austria
- Willkommen in Wien | 'Welcome to Vienna'
Nikolaus Leytner | Austria and Germany
- 2009 Die Geschworene | 'The Jurors'
Nikolaus Leytner | Austria
- Ein halbes Leben | 'A Half Life'
Nikolaus Leytner | Austria and Germany
- Kinderwunsch - Tatort | 'The Child Wish - Tatort'
Walter Bannert | Germany
- Revanche | 'Revenge'
Götz Spielmann | Austria
- Schnell ermittelt - I. Staffel | 'Fast Forward - I. Season'
Andreas Kopriva and Michael Riebl | Austria
- 2008 Die Liebe ein Traum | 'Love is a Dream'
Xaver Schwarzenberger | Austria
- Fallen | 'Falling'
Barbara Albert | Austria and Germany
- Die Hanno-Herz-Story - Trautmann | 'The Hanno Herz Story - Trautmann'
Thomas Roth | Austria
- 2007 Krankheit der Jugend | 'The Sickness of Youth'
Alex Trejo, Henning Backhaus, Henri Steinmetz, Peter Brunner, Karl Bretschneider and Tobias Dörr | Austria
- Partnerinnensuche - Novotny und Maroudi | 'Looking for Girlfriends - Novotny and Maroudi'
Hanno Maurer | Austria
- Rochade - Novotny und Maroudi | 'Change Position - Novotny and Maroudi'
Hanno Maurer | Austria

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2006	Kotsch Helmut Köpping Austria
2005	Blattschuss - Soko Kitzbühel 'Heart Shot - Special Commission Kitzbühel' Georg Schiemann Austria Crash Test Dummies Jörg Kalt Austria Kampl Herbert Föttinger Austria Von bis 'From To' Peter Jaitz Austria Zwei Weihnachtshunde 'Two Christmas Dogs' Lenard Fritz Krawinkel Austria and Germany
2004	Die Leiche lebte noch - Kommissar Rex 'The Corpse Was Still Alive - Commissioner Rex' Peter Hajek and Peter Moser Austria
2003	Böse Zellen 'Free Radicals' Barbara Albert Germany, Austria and Switzerland
2001	Gelbe Kirschen 'Yellow Cherries' Leopold Lummerstorfer Austria

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Theater

2018	Siegfrieds Erben 'Siegfried's Heirs' - Feridun Zaimoglu and Günter Senkel as Brunhild Roger Vontobel Nibelungen Festspiele Worms Germany
2012	Iba de Gaunz Oamen Leit - Anatole Sternberg as Woman Anatole Sternberg Theater Rabenhof Wien Austria
2007	Jedem das Seine 'To Each His Own' - Peter Turrini and Silke Hassler as Szusza Michael Sturminger Stadttheater Klagenfurt Austria
2006	Nibelungen as Kriemhild Alexander Hauer Sommerspiele Melk Austria
2004	Kampl - Johann Nestroy as Netti Herbert Föttinger Theater in der Josefstadt Austria
2003	Götz von Berlichingen - Johann Wolfgang Goethe as Adelheid Alexander Hauer Sommerspiele Melk Austria
2003	Leonce and Lena - Georg Büchner as Valerio Michaela Scheday Ensembletheater Wien Austria
2002	Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh 'Above All Summits There is Peace' - Thomas Bernhard as Fräulein Werdenfels Wolf-Dietrich Sprenger Theater in der Josefstadt Austria
2002	Viel Lärm um Nichts 'Much Ado About Nothing' - William Shakespeare as Margarete Marcello de Nardo Theater in der Josefstadt Austria
2001	Das Käthchen von Heilbronn - Heinrich von Kleist as Rosalie Stephanie Mohr Stadttheater Klagenfurt Austria
2001	Glaube, Liebe, Hoffnung 'Faith, Love, Hope' - Ödön von Horvath as Elisabeth Michaela Scheday Ensembletheater Wien Austria
2001	Heimliches Geld, heimliche Liebe 'Secret Money, Secret Love' - Johann Nestroy as Leni Karlheinz Hackl Theater in der Josefstadt Austria

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| 2000 | Die Mitschuldigen 'The Accomplices' -
Johann Wolfgang Goethe
as Sophie
Inka Neubert Inteata Köln Germany |
| 1999 | Der Diener zweier Herren 'Servant of two Masters' -
Carlo Goldoni
as Beatrice and Federigo
Michaela Scheday Ensembletheater Wien Austria |
| 1997 | Der zerbrochne Krug 'The Broken Jug' - Heinrich von Kleist
as Eva
Michaela Scheday Ensembletheater Wien Austria |
| 1996 | Die lustigen Nibelungen 'The Merry Nibelungen'
as Mrs Vogel
Alexander Hauer Theater Kiel Germany |
| 1994 | La Donna Di Garbo - Carlo Goldoni
as Beatrice
Michaela Scheday Volkstheater Wien Austria |

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Music

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|------|---|
| 2022 | Oame Söö
Ernst Molden and Ursula Strauss Bader Molden Recordings |
| 2020 | Wuednis
Ernst Molden and Ursula Strauss Bader Molden Recordings |

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Awards

2021	German Film Prize (Nomination) as Best Actress in 'Le Prince'
2021	Preis der Deutschen Filmkritik als Beste Schauspielerin in 'Le Prince'
2020	Grand Diagonale Acting Award for services to Austrian film culture
	Leopold Media Prize for services to the Austrian culture
	Romy as Most Popular Actress in 'Wiping is Power'
2018	Fipa d'Or of the Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels 'FIPA' - Biarritz as Best Actress in a Drama for 'My Strange Friend'
	Mario-Adorf-Award for Outstanding Acting Performance in 'Siegfried's Heirs'
2017	Romy as Most Popular Actress in 'The Sacher', 'The Quiet Afterward' and 'Fly Beetle'
	Seoul International Drama Awards (Nomination) as Best Actress in 'The Quiet Afterward'
2016	Diagonale Prize as Best Actress in 'Fly Beetle'
	Romy as Most Popular Actress in 'My Foreign Wife'
2014	German Acting Prize (Nomination) as Best Actress in 'Death in the Mountains'
	Austrian Film Prize (Nomination) as Best Actress in 'October November'
2012	Golden Rooster Festival China as Best Actress in 'Maybe in Another Life'
	Austrian Film Prize as Best Actress in 'Maybe in Another Life'
2011	Romy as Most Popular Actress in 'Maybe in Another Life'
2010	Romy as Most Popular Actress in 'Fast Forward'
2009	Oscar (Nomination) Best Foreign Language Film for 'Revenge'

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2008

Special Prize of Diagonale as Best Actress in
'Revenge'