



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

Two to One (15)

Director: Natja Brunckhost

Starring: Sandra Hüller, Max Riemelt, Ronald Zehrfeld

Germany, 2024, German/French + English Subtitles

One of Germany's picks for their entry in the Oscars Best International Feature Film category, this comedic look at quickly changing times in 90s Germany delivers fun with heart. 1990 Germany, the country is just about to be unified, a group of friends find millions of East German banknotes. Due to the unification they're soon to be useless, but Maren (Sandra Hüller), Robert (Max Riemelt), and Volker (Ronald Zehrfeld) decide to take as much as they can regardless.

Director Natja Brunckhorst started her career in the German film industry as an actor. At the young age of 15 she starred in Uli Edel's *Christiane F* (1981), the next year working with Reiner Weiner Fassbinder in his last film *Querelle* (1982). She transitioned to writing for TV and film during the mid-90s and eventually into directing with her debut *Everything is Fine* (2021). While Natja didn't grow up in East Germany, residing in Berlin, she still delivers a personal touch in her screenplay, saying: *"I feel like I dedicate each of my films to a relative, and in this case it would be my father, because money was always a big issue for him."* Natja returns to this period in German history after writing *Never Mind the Wall* (2001), the story of two lovers who lived across divided Germany. This time she focuses more on community and friendship.

In Germany the film has received some controversy, in part due to the fact that Brunckhorst lived in Berlin during the FRG/GDR divide, whilst this film is about people on the other side of the wall (on the GDR/East side). Some historical mistakes as to what the characters would or would not know have been pointed out. To counter this, the main cast is made up of people who were raised on the GDR side. Frank Brenner of *Choices* praised the film, saying *"Natja Brunckhorst manages to enter this absurd story with both suspense and humour", "...the film is quite enjoyable – especially with Sandra Hüller, it is clear how much enjoyment she had in getting involved in this story after her serious roles in The Zone of Interest and Anatomy of a [Fall]"*.

Quotes from Director Natja Brunckhorst about "Two to One" – Interview about the film 07/24, by Frank Brenner, published in *Choices*, 2024

Notes compiled by Stuart Newnham (The Courtyard/Radix Film Club)

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