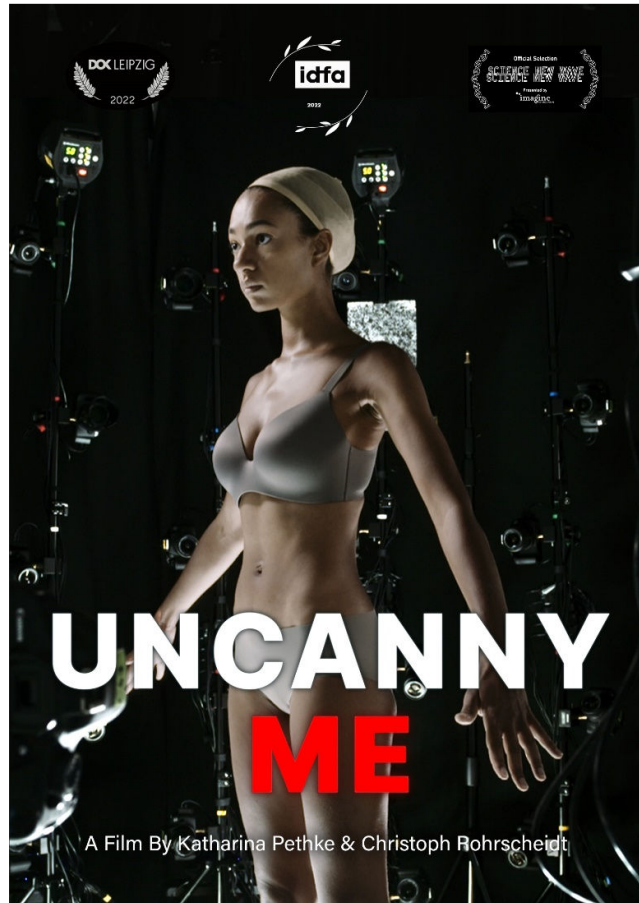


UNCANNY ME



A FILM BY
KATHARINA PETHKE

45 mins / 2022 / German, English, English Subtitles / Germany



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FILM FESTIVALS

IDFA International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands
Theme-Sensitive-Award – Science New Wave Festival, US
International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, Germany
Beyond Borders International Documentary Festival, Greece
Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival, Germany
CPH:DOX, Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival, Denmark
Crossing Europe Film Festival, Austria
Karlsruhe Documentary Festival, Germany

SYNOPSIS

Lale is a hard-working photo model. Now she's discovered a way to get more freedom. She can get her body scanned to create a digital clone that can also become a model, in the virtual world. Before leaping into the abyss, she decides to find out more about the implications. The tension between reality and illusion keeps returning at various levels throughout this explorative merging of documentary and science fiction. Is reality still important?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I met Lale for the first time, she told me that she wanted to stop modelling after eight years and that she was thinking of getting herself an avatar that could work for her. Listening to her ideas, I vacillated between disbelief and fascination: on the one hand I thought the whole thing was morally highly questionable and on the other hand I immediately wanted to know how it could work, what it would look like and whether it would work at all: A digital clone that moves and acts like its human model.

The ensuing discussions were all hypothetical at first. Our concerns, but also possible advantages, could only be examined if the idea was also put into practice.

So Christoph and I decided to make a film about it - and luckily Lale was also keen on the experiment.

In order to get to know her at all and to get an insight into her reality, we gave her a camera - with the assignment to create a video diary. The result surprised us: it was honest and reflective, open and exciting, and quite the opposite of the polished world in which Lale moves professionally.

On the production side, it was a bit more complicated: what had previously been a play of ideas suddenly had to be realised in reality. What interested me most was the fundamental question of what is "real" (even without an avatar) about Lale: Did all of those images in magazines and ads represent the person Lale at all?

The next question was: If it really should soon be the case that everyone creates their own avatar of themselves (which is Mark Zuckerberg's vision for his "Metaverse") - what do the "source", i.e. the actual person, and the depicted avatar person, who will soon be acting independently, have in common - and doesn't a distinction necessarily have to be made?

At this point, there are more open questions than answers: the philosophical body-mind question is juxtaposed with the very concrete ethical and legal problems that still need to be solved.

Katharina Pethke

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Katharina Pethke studied German language and literature, art history and visual communication in Hamburg before moving to the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne. Her films and projects have won numerous prizes, awards, artist-in-residencies and grants (including the Golden Dove in the German Competition at DOK Leipzig 2011 and the Golden Lola at the German Short Film Award 2011 for Louisa, as well as three awards with the FBW's rating of especially valuable for Anophtalmus, Louisa and Jedermann).

From 2012 to 2019, Katharina Pethke was professor in film at the Hamburg University of Fine Arts. The film ELSA-IN BETWEEN (2019), produced for ZDF/3sat, was nominated for the Grimme Award 2020. Her film EVERYMAN & I (2021) celebrated its world premiere at DOK Leipzig 2021 in the German Competition and was shown at international film festivals (Doc Aviv 2022). Currently Katharina Pethke is working on her feature documentary debut with the working title REPRODUCTION (production: Fuenferfilm).

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director	Katharina Pethke
Script	Katharina Pethke
Cinematographer	Christoph Rohrscheidt
Editor	Daniela Kinateder
Producer	Christoph Rohrscheidt, Sven Michael Otto
Co-Producer	ZDF / 3sat
Sound	Michael Thäle
Sound Design	Kuan-Chen Chen, Christian Riegel
Animation	Vinzent Britz
Broadcaster	ZDF / 3sat
Commissioning Editor	Udo Bremer