



Drama



# Christmas Phobia



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Christmas or not, this guy just doesn't like people. Robert Lahnstein, the dreaded TV commentator, is a major scrooge. To him, Christmas is just as fake and phony as politics, and when the holidays roll around he would much rather disappear than have to see anyone - including his son Martin, a pianist, who he sees as a complete failure. So packing up his SUV with a frozen goose and a small Christmas tree, Robert retreats to his lonely mountain cabin to stew in his own gloomy wretchedness. Yet fate has other plans in store for the grouchy hermit. On the way to his cabin, his SUV gets stranded in a snow-storm. With the frozen goose and his little tree in tow, he plows through the snow in an attempt to make it the rest of the way on foot. Just as the last of his strength ebbs, he stumbles upon an abandoned barn... and finds that despite all his efforts, he's not alone after all... The blizzard has forced an assortment of characters to take refuge in the barn on Christmas Eve. There's the tramp Konrad Neuberger, whose poetic soul barely insulates him from the daily conspiracies

of life, the heavily pregnant Simone Jacob, who has just separated from her married lover, Thomas Sattler, a money courier hiding a guilty secret who is traveling with his son Moritz, and Felicitas Fernandez, a beautiful exotic dancer, whose morals are far more intact than her appearance might suggest. Thrown into the midst of this eclectic group of misfits, the egocentric, arrogant and gruff Robert is soon to discover that there's life beyond his self-serving contempt for the goodness of humanity...

Robert's metamorphosis as he is forced to accept life-saving help from those he most despises is both humorous and dramatic. In order to survive, Robert must reevaluate his beliefs. In the end, the spirit of Christmas - through the actions of this extraordinary group of people - finds its way into Robert's heart. He enjoys the most memorable Christmas he's ever had. Even his son Martin manages to make his way through the snow to his father, just as Robert finally realizes how lucky he is to have one...



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Movie, 1 x 90'

Directed by Joseph Vilsmaier

Starring Fritz Wepper, Ruth Drexel, Michael Roll, Gerd Silberbauer, Kristina Sprenger

Produced by Graf Filmproduktion GmbH for ARD/ORF in association with SevenOne International

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