

Berlin: Moritz Bleibtreu Plays the Devil in Picture Tree's 'Heart of Stone'



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Berlin-based Picture Tree Intl. has taken world sales rights to dark fairy-tale “Heart of Stone,” which stars Frederick Lau (“Victoria”), Henriette Confurius (“Beloved Sisters”) and Moritz Bleibtreu (“Woman in Gold,” “Run Lola Run”), who plays the devil.

The film, which is helmed by Johannes Naber (“Age of Cannibals”), is based on Wilhelm Hauff’s 1827 love story set in a rigid, rural community in the Black Forest.

It centers on poor charcoal burner Peter (Lau) who needs to become rich in order to marry Lisbeth (Confurius), and makes a pact with the devil (Bleibtreu). Hauff’s tale was conceived of as a criticism of men’s greed for power and the exploitation of nature and people.

The film is the second collaboration between Schmidt Katze Filmkollektiv and Studio Babelsberg after “In Darkness,” which was Oscar nominated in 2012. It is a co-production with SWR, ARD Degeto and MDR. Visual effects are by Chimney Germany (“Her”).

Weltkino Filmverleih releases the pic in Germany in October.