

PICASSO film

presents



JACK THE WRITER

The Charm of Evil

„A true crime documentary series that reveals new and previously unknown aspects of the alleged serial killer, ultimately raising the question: Was Jack Unterweger possibly innocent?“

4 x 42-min

PICASSO Film

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Story

The story revolves around the unique manhunt for Jack Unterweger, an Austrian convicted murderer and alleged serial killer who was suspected of multiple prostitute murders in both Europe and the United States. Unterweger gained significant international attention because, after serving a 15-year prison sentence for the murder of 18-year-old Margret Schäfer in 1974, he was released on parole in May 1990 and achieved fame and recognition as a writer and a successful case of rehabilitation before falling under suspicion for the serial killings of prostitutes.

His crimes and his apparent ability to lead a double life and manipulate others made him one of the most fascinating and disturbing personalities in criminal history.



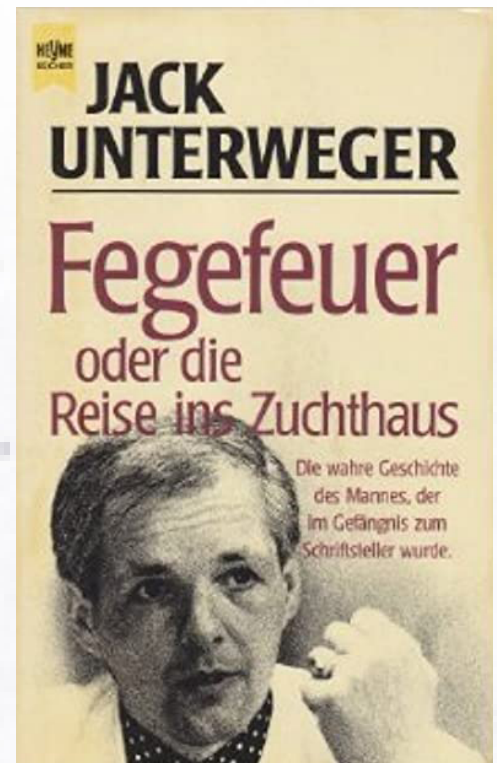
Overview

No one suspected Jack Unterweger when a series of prostitute murders kept the police on their toes in Graz, then Bregenz, and later in Vienna in the early 1990s.

The story of how Jack Unterweger eventually fell into the clutches of justice through ingenious traps set by a resourceful detective is a thrilling cross-continental manhunt, an unparalleled breathless thriller.

We let the viewers experience the deceptions, false leads, and ambushes that Unterweger and the criminal police set for each other. Unterweger maintained close proximity to the police and played with them, which ultimately became his downfall.

With high tension, utilizing original footage, witness testimonies, letters, interviews with those involved, and dramatic reenactments, the story unfolds. It culminates in the dramatic end of the „manhunt“ with Unterweger’s arrest in Miami. After being extradited to Austria, the loose chain of circumstantial evidence had to be solidified with proof: the hunt for evidence, fragments of Unterweger’s scrapped cars, and the introduction of DNA analysis, a technique applied forensically for the first time in Europe. A single hair with a root became Unterweger’s undoing: he was convicted and committed suicide on the same day.



How was it possible?

A celebrated author, a sadistic murderer who instinctively recognized the signs of the times, used the public to his advantage, and was ultimately executed by it. A killer as a pop star and darling of the elite, hailed as a hero by the cultural elite of the German-speaking world, and hailed as the epitome of successful rehabilitation, only to be found guilty of nine serial murders by a lay judge panel.

How was it possible for an entire nation to release a murderer from prison, cheer for him, and ultimately drive him to death?

Did the public fall victim to a master manipulator?

Or did Unterweger fall victim to his own naivety, believing that society would truly forgive him for a heinous murder?

From today's perspective, both scenarios seem bizarre: the idea that a person as socially and psychologically damaged as Unterweger could pull himself out of the mire, as well as Unterweger's belief that society would grant a convicted child murderer his grandiosity, fame, wealth, and the many women. All of these things were bestowed upon Unterweger, and in his naive attitude, he greedily accepted them. Unaware that he had become a political pawn, being used and then discarded, and further exploited as a media spectacle.

Shortly before his suicide, he realized, as written in his prison diary, „My crimes after my release? Perhaps the only one is that I was not humble enough, not humble...“

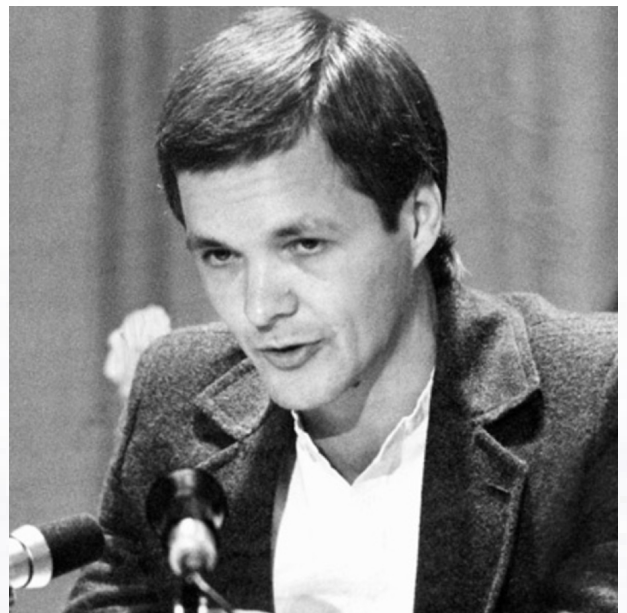


The socio-historical background

After the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Iron Curtain, a belief in the future, in a just society, in humanity, and in the fundamentally positive nature of all people became widespread. It was a time of groundbreaking reforms in the justice and education systems in Austria, which had already begun in the late 1960s and continued during the four socialist governments under Bruno Kreisky and his Justice Minister, Christian Broda. Broda paved the way for the abolition of the death penalty in the National Council in 1968 and successfully implemented it. As Justice Minister, Christian Broda was a visionary who believed in the possibility of improving individuals through **humane imprisonment** and did not dismiss the idea of a society without prisons as mere utopia.

The 1970s and 1980s in Austria were marked by a spirit of left-wing intellectual awakening. The green movements emerged, and groundbreaking reforms aimed at achieving equality for all people regardless of birth, race, social status, gender, or sexual orientation were implemented. The fall of the Iron Curtain generated unprecedented political and societal optimism. This optimism included a belief in the potential for improvement in every individual. Everything seemed possible.

Hofrat Schreiner, the director of Austria's largest high-security prison for serious offenders, Stein, spent his entire life advocating for the humanization of imprisonment. When Unterweger, the convicted murderer, obtained his high school diploma while in Stein prison, became the prison librarian, and transformed from an illiterate individual to a successful writer with a bestselling book, „Purgatory or the Journey to Penitentiary,“ written while still in prison, Schreiner and like-minded intellectuals of the country's left-wing elite saw their efforts vindicated. Jack Unterweger personified the fruits of their labor and was, in a sense, living proof of the righteousness of their beliefs. However, this was a source of frustration for the opposing conservative forces, who had little influence at that time. Not yet, anyway...



At the time of his release, there was indeed a prevailing wind that wanted to believe in Unterweger. It believed in the reformability of individuals, in humanism as a whole. With great pride, Prison Director Schreiner said upon Unterweger's release, „Never before has a murderer left prison better prepared for freedom than Unterweger.“

Why now?

On June 29, 1994, Jack Unterweger was sentenced to life imprisonment and hanged himself in his cell on the same night. This date will soon mark the **30th anniversary** of that event.

What is new?

After their retirement, the lead investigators in the Unterweger case are impartial and reveal new backgrounds, key figures, and details.

In return, former lovers provide new insights in retrospect. A young law student at the time, now an attorney, can freely recount the challenges she faced when advocating for justice and a fair trial for Unterweger. She sheds light on the dangers posed by a police force under pressure to succeed for anyone who becomes a suspect.

A former stalking victim, who was previously an intimate pen pal of Unterweger, appears on camera for the first time, as do former „accomplices“ of Unterweger.

We have exclusive access to previously unreleased 70-page letter material written by Unterweger, as well as an unpublished 120-minute private video.

Unlike the existing documentaries about Jack Unterweger, this series attempts, for the first time, to showcase exonerating evidence, contradictions, and abuses of power within the judicial system. Through careful research and organization, these facts could also suggest the following: Jack Unterweger is innocent!

We have several folders full of counter evidence, witness statements, and expert opinions at our disposal, which were compiled by one of the highest-ranking police officers on behalf of the defense. However, **these documents were NOT admitted by the court for Unterweger's defense.**

(Due to the competitive nature of the media market regarding this topic, specific details and information about the mentioned key figures cannot be disclosed here.)



New Insights

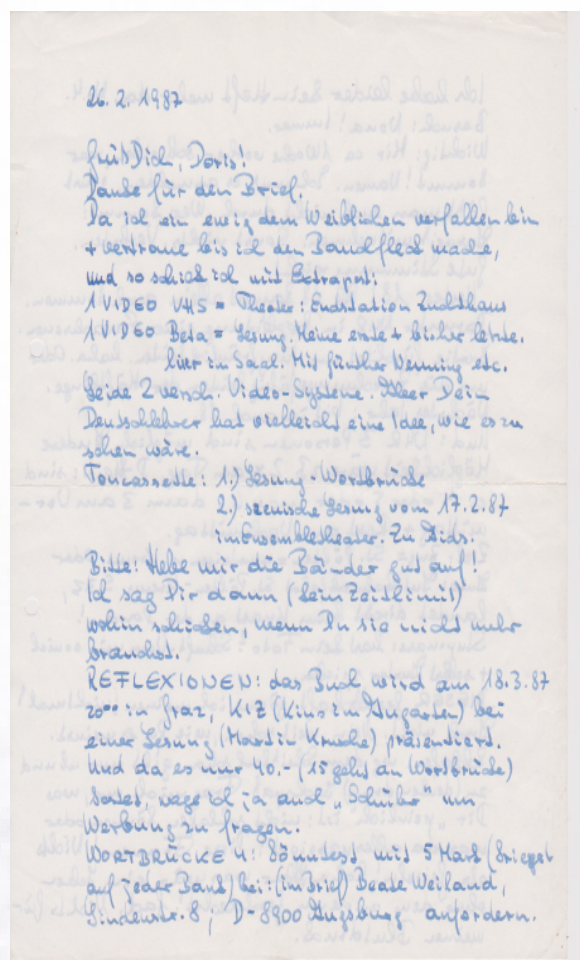
Newly surfaced letters and video documents provide surprising insights into this unique manhunt and shed light on a police and justice system that was both pressured by the media to produce results and, in turn, fed the media and shaped a certain public opinion prior to the trial. **A fair trial with unbiased jurors had become impossible.**

The outcome of the trial seemed predetermined for the police, the justice system, and most mainstream media long before the proceedings began. The trial against Unterweger and Unterweger's subsequent suicide marked the culmination of a development that began with the police's setbacks in solving a series of prostitute murders in the early 1990s. The investigations were at a dead end at that time. Jack Unterweger, the convicted murderer who had been released after 15 years, seemed to offer a potential way out.

The application of completely new investigation methods, such as comparative DNA analysis and profiling, both of which were in their infancy in Austria at the time and used for the first time, is told in a highly suspenseful manner until Unterweger's arrest in Miami and his trial in 1994.

New witnesses and Unterweger's lovers, appearing on camera for the first time, allow us to recognize the societal extent of this case, involving embarrassed politics and judiciary, media ruthlessness, and an agitated, incited population driven to hunt him down. The notions of good and evil were turned upside down. Unterweger not only publicly divided opinions like no other in post-war history, but also internally divided everyone involved. Former lovers and friends who believed in Unterweger's claims of innocence and supported him appear on camera for the first time, as do bitter opponents who called for the reinstatement of the death penalty for Unterweger in front of the courthouse.

During the trial, a bombing attack was carried out on the courthouse building. Fortunately, no one was injured.



Letters as a Manipulation Tool:

Jack Unterweger was a diligent letter writer and maintained numerous correspondences with women during his prison stays. The letters captivated them all, reflecting empathy and genuine love. However, it was all calculated to gain supporters first for his application for early release and later for financial contributions and his trial, right?

Successful petitions with prominent supporters such as Milo Dor, Elfriede Jelinek, Günther Grass, Günther Nenning, Erika Pluhar – just to name a few – paved the way for Unterweger's release from prison in 1990. And after his release, thanks to his numerous lovers acquired through letter contacts while in prison, he was well taken care of, both emotionally and financially, including a downtown

„Natural Born Killer“ or Societal Failure?

With an expert in psychology, we aim to examine Unterweger's impact, particularly on women, based on these letters. We want to explain the journey of a master manipulator from the fringes of society, whose mother herself was in prison and was released only because of Jack's impending birth. She was soon imprisoned again, and Jack had already experienced four different foster mothers before being taken in by his alcoholic, cattle-thieving grandfather when he was two and a half years old.

Additionally, we want to analyze Unterweger's autobiographical novel „Purgatory or the Journey to Prison“ with this expert.

Insights into the Art of Profiling in Quantico, Virginia, USA

Colleagues from the FBI Academy in Quantico, the same academy from which the legendary fictional FBI trainee „Agent Clarice Starling“ in the movie „The Silence of the Lambs“ originates, supported the Austrian police even before it was known that Unterweger might have also committed murders in Los Angeles.

The Austrian authorities were overwhelmed. How could murders at different locations be connected? The method is called „profiling“ and was developed at the FBI Academy in Quantico. The way Austrian investigators interpreted and applied this method in the Unterweger case will be explained.

Unterweger was the first (alleged) serial killer in Austria since the post-war period (since Gufler in the 1950s). He was also set to become Austria's first case to utilize DNA evidence as material evidence. The Austrian lead investigator, Dr. Geiger, received training in Quantico and, following the FBI's recommendations, established a special investigative unit („SOKO“) for the murder investigation in the Unterweger case, which was completely new territory in Austria.

We will speak with retired profilers who were involved in solving the Unterweger case in Austria, as well as FBI specialists who will provide us with the latest insights into this field of criminal science.

Directors `s View

My particular interest lies in the question of which myth it was that managed to divide the population so deeply in the Unterweger case, causing his opponents to vehemently argue for his guilt and his supporters to equally vehemently argue against it. It is fascinating to explore the clash of worldviews that occurred in this case.

Specifically, I am interested in the numerous indications that pointed to Unterweger's culpability but could also be easily refuted, as they were by the press and his supporters. The interplay of indications and counter-indications and the fierce battles that took place in the media shed light on the social consciousness of the early 1990s. It compels us to take a deep look at the societal development since then and encourages a comparison with the present, allowing us to assess the progress of society. The way in which the media dealt with „guilty parties“ reveals the state of a democracy like no other aspect.

Topics

In addition, interviews with representatives from their respective fields.

The dangers of a police force under pressure to succeed combined with media chasing ratings.
The influence that media has on jury trials.

What influence does media pretrial conviction (or exoneration) have on a trial?

Unterweger, the manipulator: Was he able to deceive people from all walks of life?

Were Unterweger's murders sexually motivated? Was Unterweger a narcissist?

What is narcissistic injury? (In relation to Unterweger's alleged declining career as a motive for murder)

What societal circumstances contribute to the emergence of a sexually motivated serial killer?

What medical factors - if known - contribute to the emergence of a sexually motivated serial killer?

The handling of guilt in our society.

Was the Unterweger case politically exploited to overturn judicial reform?

Storytelling style

The **interviews** will be presented in a „talking heads“ style, with the interviewer not being visually or audibly present.

A **narrator's voiceover** will be used sparingly, with the stories primarily told through the interviews.

Reenactments will be used to create tension and evoke emotions.

CGI will be utilized to better illustrate spatial and temporal connections.

Whenever possible, **locations and crime scenes will be visited with the protagonists**, who will then describe what took place on the spot.



Throughout the series, there will be flashbacks to Unterweger's childhood and youth. These insights will be accompanied by excerpts from **existing films** about him, adding context and supplemented with background information from the **producers** and **directors** who had direct involvement with Jack Unterweger at that time.



The Director

Dr. Barbara Gräffner
Director & Screenwriter

Education

- 1996 Admission exam at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, department Film and TV
- 1995 Scientific Collaboration at the department for internal medicine and Oncology at the hospital Rudolfsstiftung, Listing as a trainee medical doctor
- 1995 **Doctorate as Dr. Med. (M.D.)** at the University of Vienna / Austria
- 1984 - 1995 Study of medicine and architecture at the University of Vienna, **advanced education in med. psychology** majoring in psycho-oncology
- 1964 Born in Vienna / Austria

AWARDS

- 2017 1st Price TV Series Festival Berlin
„Pitch your Pilot“ for a TV Series Script („Blue“)
- 2015 Romy for best production „Der Blunzenkönig“
- 2005 Romy for best documentary „Unterwegs nach...Heimat“ / “The Way Home”
- 2002 Golden Bobby for best shortdocumentary „P.S. Matouschek“
- 2002 Max Ophüls Award for „Mein Russland“ / “My Russia”

Films

(excerpt)

- 2022 „The Secret Of The Kenyan Runners“; Documentary 4x60min
- 2022 „Karl Mekat, vom Tischler zur Ikone“, , 47min, TV-Doc, Servus TV
- 2021 „Unser Immunsystem, die letzte Rettung in der Pandemie“, 47min, TV-Doc, Servus TV
- 2020 „Viren - Fluch oder Segen“, 47min, TV-Doc, Servus TV
- 2014 „Rise Up!“ Feature Film 90 min (Dancemovie, Coming of Age)
- 2012 „Endlich Weltuntergang“ / “How To Survive Doomsday” Feature Film 90 min
- 2010 „Echte Wiener – Die Deppat’n und die G’spritz’n“ ”Austria Ticket” AWARD
Feature Film 120 min.
- 2004 „Unterwegs nach Heimat“ / “The Way Home”
ROMY 05 - Best Documentary, Documentary 90 min.
- 2002 „Mein Russland“ / “My Russia”
Max Ophüls Preis 2002 for best Feature Film, 91 min Feature Film

Episode 1 Phoenix from the ashes

INTRO: Viennese Culture - High Society in 1990

Jack Unterweger, a handsome, dandy-dressed 40-year-old author and journalist, is the darling of the high society. He wears extravagant primarily white silk suits, with a red flower in his lapel, drives a white Ford Mustang with a special license plate - „W-Jack 1“ - and enjoys being photographed with celebrities at parties and trendy venues. He poses professionally for magazine covers, often with his bare torso, proudly displaying his muscles and tattoos. Jack has refined features with a hint of violence, just enough to make him seemingly irresistible to women. As a successful writer with a bestseller, numerous plays, and a collection of poetry, he maintains the aura of someone who stirs female hormones. He meticulously keeps track of his affairs with women of all ages, tallying over two dozen every month, as if trying to make up for lost time. Who is this enigmatic man?

Jack Unterweger is a former inmate from the country's toughest correctional facility, now rehabilitated as an intellectual.

Flashback to Unterweger's conviction 15 years ago

October 1976, Salzburg Regional Court:

The 26-year-old Jack Unterweger stands trial for the robbery and murder of 18-year-old Margret Schäfer in 1974. Unterweger receives a life sentence, while his accomplice in the robbery, Barbara Scholz, 19, is given a suspended sentence. In Austria, a life sentence carries a minimum imprisonment term of 15 years.

Reenactment: The Crime in 1974

In December 1974 in Germany, Unterweger and his girlfriend Barbara Scholz, 19, leave a party and go to Scholz's home. They proceed to rob and kidnap Scholz's neighbor, 18-year-old Margret Schäfer, who is alone in her house. They take Schäfer bound in their car. In a wooded area, Unterweger leaves with the bound Margret Schäfer while Scholz waits in the car. He returns alone to Scholz after hours, claiming he had to kill Schäfer, as she would have otherwise betrayed them.

Psychological expert witness Dr. Klaus Jarosch characterizes Unterweger as a public menace: highly dangerous, manipulative, sadistic.

Flashback to Unterweger's time in prison from 1976 until his release in May 1990:
Diligence and intelligence pave the way to freedom and society:

When Jack Unterweger enters prison at 18, he is illiterate. Thanks to the humane penal system, Unterweger can make up for lost time: he learns to read and write, earns his high school diploma, becomes the prison librarian, devours books from the prison library, takes creative writing courses in prison, and starts his own literary magazine called „Wortbrücke,“ where he publishes young writers. Alongside this, he writes tirelessly: plays, poetry, short stories, and his first novel, „**Purgatory or the Journey to Prison.**“

The social atmosphere in the country at that time is one of change and transformation.

Historical Overview:

Following the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Iron Curtain, there is a widespread belief in the future, a just society, humanity, and the fundamentally positive nature of all people. It is a time of groundbreaking reforms in the justice and education systems, which began in the late 1960s and continued under the four socialist governments led by Bruno Kreisky.

In 1968, the death penalty was abolished in Austria by the National Council through the initiative of Christian Broda. Broda, who came from the communist resistance during the Nazi era, served as the Minister of Justice under Kreisky. During the four socialist governments led by Bruno Kreisky from 1970 to 1983, Broda spearheaded the most significant post-war reforms, including gender equality, decriminalization of homosexuality, legal abortion, humane penitentiary measures, and much more. An anti-authoritarian, left-liberal spirit pervades the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s. New political parties are formed, the Green movement emerges, and thanks to substantial cultural support, art and music flourish. **Jack Unterweger fits perfectly into this zeitgeist.**

Unterweger's Prison Career:

One could say that he catered to the spirit of the times. The scientific exploration of the effects of early childhood experiences and traumas had just begun to establish itself, thanks to John Bowlby's and Mary Ainsworth's attachment theory, and Unterweger was aware of these findings.

„I didn't mean the victim with the murder, but rather my mother,“ he said in an interview about his murder of Margret Schäfer.

In prison, Unterweger writes the series „When Children Live Love“ for the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation. Fifty bedtime stories for the children's program „The Dream Man Comes.“ Children up to the age of five listen to the radio broadcast in their beds before falling asleep.

Unterweger literally writes his way out of prison: his autobiographical novel, „Purgatory or the Journey to Prison,“ detailing his traumatic early childhood and his path to prison, becomes a hit while he is still incarcerated and is even adapted into a film in 1989. Unterweger is perhaps the only convicted murderer who ever attended the premiere of his own film under guard and in handcuffs.

At this point, Unterweger is a celebrity and a darling of the cultural elite.

Unterweger's Release:

Although Unterweger was due for release after serving 16 years in prison, thanks to numerous petitions by prominent supporters such as Ernst Jandl, Günther Grass, Elfriede Jelinek, Milo Dor, to name a few, he was granted early release after 15 years. He became a shining hero and exemplar of a society determined **to prove the triumph of humanity over evil through art and culture.** Jack Unterweger embodied the living proof of humanism's victory.

Unterweger's Release from Prison:

Dr. Michaela Hapala, the young prison psychologist at Stein Penitentiary, advocates for Unterweger's conditional release in her report: „Severe neglect and emotional deficits in childhood are significant causes of Jack Unterweger's antisocial behavior, which culminated in the murder of a woman. Through a successful rehabilitation program during his incarceration, he now channels all his energy into his creative work. Jack Unterweger has processed his past through writing, **leaving no room for criminal activities within him.**“ The psychological evaluation does not require further therapy.

May 23, 1990: The court decision for conditional release is made.

Cheers among the left-liberals. The words of prison director Hofrat Karl Schreiner at Unterweger's release: „We will never find a murderer so well prepared for freedom again,“ he proudly tells journalists. Unterweger is the shining example of successful rehabilitation in humane penitentiary measures and the declared darling of the cultural scene.

Flashback:

1949, post-war period in Graz:

The population is impoverished, and the Allies distribute food. Women engage in relationships with occupation soldiers in exchange for food and other daily necessities. This includes Theresia Unterweger, Jack Unterweger's mother, who works as a waitress. She is in prison for theft when she realizes she is pregnant. She is released from prison to take care of her child. However, just two months later, the infant ends up in foster care. He has four foster mothers before being taken in by his grandfather in Carinthia before he is even three years old.

Unterweger's Childhood and Youth:

A daughter of Jack Unterweger's elementary school principal reports: „My father was the principal, and my mother was his class teacher. Unterweger's grandfather, Ferdinand Wieser, with whom the boy grew up in Wimitzgraben, was known as a drunkard and gambler. He was violent, even towards the many women who came and went from the small shack. The child increasingly deteriorated. My father taught him how to use toilet paper, something he had not known before. Unterweger regularly wrote to my father, his elementary school principal, from prison because my father often defended him, especially against the biased priest.“

Unterweger's Criminal Career:

Up until the age of 18, he had five prison stays for burglary and a trial for rape, as well as reports of attempted rape and coercion involving four women, and ultimately, the murder of 18-year-old Margret Schäfer. Unterweger also falls under suspicion for another murder, which will later play an important role in his arrest: the murder of Marica Horvath.

Flashback: Reenactment

The murder of Marica Horvath in Salzburg in 1973:

The victim, a 23-year-old prostitute from Yugoslavia, is beaten, bound, gagged, and thrown alive and tied into the Salzach River, where she drowns.

Investigating police officer August Schenner in 1973 at the banks of the Salzach River. He and his colleagues are horrified when they realize the sadistic manner in which the perpetrator acted: The bandage used as a gag covered almost the entire face of the victim, with only the nose intentionally left free to let the victim drown agonizingly. Schenner instructs a colleague to verify the alibis of various suspects, including Jack Unterweger. Jack Unterweger has an alibi; he was sleeping at his girlfriend's house.

At the time of his release at the age of 40, Unterweger had only spent 12 years in freedom. A background and childhood that, as depicted in his autobiographical novel, brought him fame, also destroyed him. Nevertheless, he seemed to rise from the ashes, thanks to the tireless efforts of a circle of intellectuals, artists, politicians, and a prison director who unwaveringly believed in the possibility of complete rehabilitation even for the most difficult cases.

Reenactment

Vienna, December 1990:

Unterweger has sex with a mature lady of society. She tells him that she wouldn't appreciate it if he brought other lovers to the apartment she bought for him.

Unterweger shows outrage at the suspicion that he might have other lovers. As soon as he is alone, he writes in his diary about how tiresome the sex with the old hag is. He calls another lover, asking if she wants to come over because he has free time.

Unterweger gets into his dream car: a white Ford Mustang with leather seats. One of Unterweger's lovers pays the car dealer.

Flashback

Stein Prison on the Danube, 1983:

August Schenner, the former investigator in the case of the drowned Marica Horvath from 1973, visits Unterweger in prison with two colleagues. He confronts him with his suspicion that Unterweger also killed Marica Horvath. This suspicion arises because the father of Unterweger's girlfriend at the time, who had provided him with an alibi, visited him to inform him that his daughter had lied. Jack Unterweger was not at his house on the night of the murder.

Unterweger mocks him, calling his witness a drunkard, and says that without evidence, Schenner can't do anything to him. He claims to have protection from high-ranking individuals. Schenner promises Unterweger that he will put him back in prison if he ever gets released.

Episode 2 The fear of whores

Unterweger as a journalist after his release:

As soon as the Iron Curtain fell, sex tourism to the formerly communist neighboring countries began to boom. Prague became a sought-after destination. Unterweger receives his first assignment as a journalist: to research for a magazine about the nightlife in Prague. Together with a friend and an interpreter, Unterweger spends two days in Prague and completes a photo reportage for an Austrian magazine.

Shortly thereafter, he receives more assignments: **he is tasked by the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation and a magazine to report on the red-light district in Graz, where the police are in the dark about a series of murders of prostitutes.**

The titles of the reports are „Red Lanterns in Graz“ and „The Fear of the Prostitutes.“

From the highest ministerial level, an instruction is given to the Graz Gendarmerie (former police force) to accompany Jack Unterweger on patrol with the group of prostitutes to provide him with the opportunity for photos and interviews on-site. This order came from the highest level, from the ministry, with the goal of offering Unterweger professional opportunities for rehabilitation. This decision also sparked protests, albeit unheard, as some local politicians doubted Unterweger's suitability and integrity.

Unterweger interviews prostitutes, asks them if they are afraid, takes photos, and completes several reports for radio and two magazines.

The Graz Murder Series:

1987: Ingrid Tschreschnig goes missing.

1988: Sylvia Kohlhauser goes missing.

1989: Gertraude Seger is strangled, Gerlinde Rosenkranz is stabbed.

1990: Brunhilde Masser goes missing.

Reenactment

Blanka Bockova is found murdered in Prague in 1990:

One September morning in 1990, a naked female body is found in a stream bed near Prague. It is the body of 20-year-old Blanka Bockova from Prague. She worked as a saleswoman and was seen the previous evening in a pub on Wenceslas Square in Prague, where she had been visiting with friends. The friends said goodbye around midnight, and Blanka Bockova wanted to stay longer. That is the last thing witnesses remember. The victim has multiple injuries to the head and neck, and the cause of death is strangulation. There are no other traces on the body, and the Prague police are completely in the dark.

Unterweger's career in freedom does not go as planned:

In early December 1990, Unterweger is in Bregenz, Vorarlberg, negotiating with an Austrian local broadcaster. Unterweger has a film project and wants to sell it. The negotiations turn out negatively, and the broadcaster implies that they believe Unterweger's popularity will not last long, as he was naturally more interesting as a „prison poet“ than in freedom. Unterweger's own insecurity and patterns from his past begin to haunt him.

Unterweger becomes so angry that he has a fit of rage in the underground parking garage where he parked, kicking the car doors. He drives out of the garage, where the prostitute Heide Hammerer has her spot. Unterweger rolls down the window and asks her about the price.

A horrific murder in Bregenz:

On December 31, 1990, the body of Heidi Hammerer is discovered in a remote forest near Bregenz. A walker and his dog stumbled upon the body by chance. The dog had sensed the smell of death and pulled on the leash.

The investigators found fibers on the body that could potentially provide a crucial clue to the perpetrator. It was evident that Hammerer had been brutally murdered. Her underwear had been stuffed into her mouth before she was manually strangled. She died from asphyxiation.

The disappearance of the prostitute Elfriede Schrempf:

On March 7, 1991, Jack Unterweger had planned a poetry reading in Köflach near Graz. However, the event was a flop, with only a few people showing up. Frustrated and disappointed, Unterweger called his girlfriend Margit H., a publisher, and complained about the lack of interest from the audience.

On the same night, the Graz street prostitute Elfriede Schrempf disappears after getting into a car with a client at half past ten at night.

A few hours later, Margit H. receives a second call, this time from a cheerful Jack Unterweger, who talks about his future and career plans.

Murder series in Vienna as well:

The Austrian murder series is no longer limited to Graz. At the end of May 1991, the bodies of Sabine Moitzi and Karin Eroglu are found in the Vienna Woods. In total, four murdered prostitutes are discovered. The parallels between the murders in Graz and Vienna are unmistakable, and journalist Hans Breitegger writes a speculative newspaper article. **It is the first time since Max Gufler, so since the post-war period, that Austria is confronted with a serial killer.**

Breitegger notices a „red line“ in the murders: the bodies were found face down, their keys and clothing were missing, but jewelry was left behind. It is a disturbing pattern that puzzles the investigators.

Reenactment:

The anonymous tip and the investigation against Jack Unterweger:

On May 31, 1991, a letter reaches the Federal Police Directorate in Vienna. The sender claims that a certain Jack Unterweger had murdered two prostitutes in Salzburg some time ago and had now been released. Although there were some inaccuracies and errors in the letter, such as the fact that Margret Schäfer was not a prostitute and Unterweger had already been released the previous year, it attracts attention because it comes from retired Salzburg detective August Schenner, **Unterweger's archenemy** (see end of Episode 1).

This tip is a turning point:

In June 1991, Jack Unterweger is secretly observed, and investigations are carried out in the Vienna prostitute milieu to determine if Unterweger has any contacts there. However, the results are negative, and the police find themselves in an apparently hopeless situation.

The suspicion is reinforced:

In June 1991, Jack Unterweger receives a call from Max Edelbacher, the head of the Vienna Security Office. Edelbacher informs Unterweger about the tip from Salzburg stating that Unterweger had murdered two prostitutes in the past. Unterweger explains that he has been receiving anonymous calls for weeks, with the caller, an older sounding man, threatening him and announcing his intention to send him back to prison. Now he realizes who the anonymous caller is.

Edelbacher and Unterweger arrange an interrogation appointment in September to clarify the allegations. But before that happens, Unterweger uses his position as a journalist to question the Vienna police chief in an interview for the radio show „Journal Panorama“ about the prostitute murders. The program is titled „The Fear of the Whores,“ and Unterweger openly asks Edelbacher if he is not frustrated by the lack of success the police have achieved so far.

Jack Unterweger's research in Los Angeles:

In the summer of 1991, Unterweger is in Los Angeles for work, researching for two magazines. He focuses on topics such as the „murder capital Los Angeles“ and the „glamour and misery in Hollywood.“ With his press credentials, he approaches the local police and requests to ride along on patrol for research purposes to get to know the drug scene. **The American police grant his request, and Unterweger joins them on patrol.**

During his time in Los Angeles, Unterweger is mainly interested in the drug scene and never inquires about prostitutes. A patrol officer who was with Unterweger on patrol later reports on his interest in the drug scene and mentions that it is widely known that the street prostitution is located near drug hotspots.

The press reports:

On September 1, 1991, the press first learns about Schenner's tip on Unterweger through indiscretion. A major Austrian newspaper reports on the „hot tip“ in the search for the prostitute killer. Speculation arises whether the „strangler“ could be a former convict, and **at the end of the article, the serial killer is referred to as „Jack the Struggler.“**

The publication of the article creates a stir and links the name Jack Unterweger to the prostitute murders. Public perception and pressure on the investigators increase as the hunt for the suspected perpetrator gains momentum.

The interrogation and the uncertainty:

After Jack Unterweger's return from the USA in the fall of 1991, he voluntarily attends an interrogation appointment at the Vienna police headquarters with Police Chief Max Edelbacher and the detectives Inspector Gary and Inspector Hoffmann. Unterweger reports an increase in anonymous calls since his return.

Inspector Hoffmann reassures him and informs him that he personally traveled to Salzburg to speak with Schenner. The result is that they do not take Schenner „seriously“

The gruesome discovery in Graz:

In October 1991, the missing prostitute Elfriede Schrempf is found in a forest near Gratkorn (Styria) by a mushroom picker. The body is naked except for the socks, skeletonized, and in a prone position. It is loosely covered with leaves and soil and already in an advanced stage of decomposition, making it impossible to determine the cause of death.

As a result, another voluntary interrogation appointment is scheduled for November with Unterweger. He assures that he is always available to the police.

Investigations and further interrogation:

On November 4, 1991, the Vienna Security Office (Vienna Police Headquarters) receives the files on the murders of Margret Schäfer from Germany and Maritza Horvath from Salzburg. The report states, „After thorough examination, no connection to the prostitute murders in Vienna and Graz can be found.“ The Security Office has no evidence of Unterweger’s possible involvement.

On November 13, 1991, Jack Unterweger is interrogated again by Inspector Hoffmann, this time in connection with the prostitute murders in Graz.

Because:

The Graz police also received a tip from August Schenner, as he was dissatisfied with the response of the Vienna police.

This finally sets things in motion:

The Styrian police make their first inquiry to the Vienna police.

Reenactment:

The inconclusive interrogation, during which Polaroid photos of Jack Unterweger are taken.

Jack Unterweger is observed again, and his latest photos are distributed in the red-light district. The police also inquire about his car with the license plate W-JACK 1. However, all investigations yield no evidence against Jack Unterweger.

The investigations are at a dead end, and uncertainty and fear spread in the red-light milieu.

Chief investigator Geiger states in an interview, „Unterweger was able to control his impulses. Once we had him in focus, he stopped killing.“

Former pimp king and escape artist Freddy Brand begins to help the police: He distributes photos of Unterweger in the milieu in Vienna and Graz, collects statements from prostitutes who encountered Unterweger.

Episode 3

Catch me if you can

New acquaintance and changes in the investigation:

In late November 1991, Jack Unterweger meets his future lover, the 17-year-old student Bianca Mrak, at the disco „Take Five.“ Bianca finds a sympathetic listener in Jack Unterweger. She often experiences conflicts at home, doesn't get along with her parents, and wants to move out. Jack Unterweger offers her to move in with him, initially just as friends. The two share a special attraction, while in the background, the unresolved murder series continues to cause unrest.

In December 1991, Dr. Ernst Geiger emerges as the new head of the Vienna Homicide Commission. Gary and Mahringer, who had been investigating the prostitute murders, are removed from the case and replaced by new investigators. Originally intended as the head of the counterterrorism department, Dr. Geiger is now appointed as the lead homicide investigator to push forward with the mysterious case.

Initial findings and a nationwide search:

In mid-December 1991, the first testimonies from prostitutes emerge, claiming to have recognized Jack Unterweger. Dr. Geiger contacts Franz Brandstätter, the head of the Graz Criminal Investigation Department's murder unit, to discuss the suspicion against Unterweger. All criminal investigation departments across Austria are now informed about the suspicion against Jack Unterweger.

As a result, the investigation into the Heidi Hammerer case in Bregenz against a previously highly suspected individual, who was related to the client stabbed to death by Heidi Hammerer's husband, is dropped. **The focus is now solely on Jack Unterweger.**

Interrogation and a temporary break:

In early January 1992, three prostitutes come forward claiming to have recognized Unterweger. One of them, Gerda G., allegedly escaped from him narrowly after he bound her and nearly strangled her to death in his car. Only because a passerby approached, he let her go and forced her to promise to keep silent about the incident.

Reenactment:

On January 17, 1992, Jack Unterweger is interrogated in Graz. He complains about an old, stubborn man, August Schenner, who he claims is responsible for trying to pin murders on him. He talks about his stay in Los Angeles, where he went on patrol with the police and helped a desperate mother find a hospital for her seriously ill child.

After the interrogation, Jack Unterweger, together with his girlfriend Irene, continues their ski vacation to take a break and distance himself from the emerging suspicions. However, the investigations continue, and the indications of his potential involvement in the crimes become stronger.

The Revelation and the Arrest Warrant:

In January 1992, Dr. Ernst Geiger in Vienna files a criminal complaint against Jack Unterweger for murder and submits it to the prosecutor's office. He emphasizes that it is highly likely that all the prostitute murders in Bregenz, Graz, and Vienna were committed by the same perpetrator.

Reenactment:

On January 24, 1992, a drunken magazine editor boasts in the Flamingo Bar in Vienna that he has insider knowledge about Jack Unterweger and that he is the sought-after serial killer. The rumor quickly spreads and causes a sensation.

On February 10, 1992, an internal meeting takes place in Vienna with State Attorney Dr. Scharf and Dr. Ernst Geiger. Geiger tries to convince the state attorney of the urgency of issuing an arrest warrant against Unterweger, but the state attorney refuses, as there is no concrete physical evidence. The case file only contains Geiger's hypothesis of a lone perpetrator and some statements from street prostitutes.

New Findings and Publication:

On February 13, 1992, police reporter Breitegger from a local Styrian newspaper in Graz conducts research and finds a reading event by Jack Unterweger in Köflach, only 40 km away from Graz, on the night of March 7-8, 1991. This is the night Elfriede Schrenpf disappeared. It turns out that Unterweger was not in Vienna, as he claimed, but in close proximity to the crime scene. Breitegger passes this information to Inspector Franz Brandstätter of the Graz Criminal Police. Brandstätter has good contacts with Graz examining magistrate Dr. Wladkowski, **who immediately issues an arrest warrant against Jack Unterweger on grounds of urgent suspicion of murder.** Brandstätter had better contact with the prosecutor's office in Styria than Geiger in Vienna. The justification is that Jack Unterweger lied about his alibi for the night of Elfriede Schrenpf's disappearance. Instead of being in Vienna, he was at a reading event in Köflach.

At that time, Astrid Wagner, a legal intern in Graz and Unterweger's later lover, conducts her own research and discovers that Unterweger immediately drove back to Vienna after the reading event on March 7th, there is a witness to that, namely the night shift waiter at Café „Floranihof.“ However, Unterweger's invoice from his bed and breakfast in Köflach also states March 8th. The booking was originally for two nights, but Unterweger did not spend a night there. It also turns out that the start time of the reading event was incorrectly stated by the police, so the actual time of the crime does not fit within the timeframe.

Nevertheless, the arrest warrant is issued.

Journalist Breitegger prepares an editorial titled „Arrest Warrant against Jack Unterweger“ and promises Chief Inspector Brandstätter to publish it later. **However, the article is printed on the same night, February 15th.**

The Escape and the Investigations:

On February 15, 1992, Jack Unterweger travels to Gossau in Switzerland to visit his lover Bianca, who is working there as a waitress during her vacation. He deceives his other girlfriend Irene, telling her that he will be working alone in his apartment for the weekend. In reality, he plans to meet Bianca. He is unaware of the events unfolding in Austria. At 6 o'clock in the morning, the headline „Arrest Warrant Issued for Jack Unterweger!“ appears in a Styrian newspaper, even before the Vienna police become aware of it. **The press is better informed than the police.** As a result, Interior Minister Löschnak imposes a news blackout, leading to confusing press articles and prompting journalists to conduct their own investigations.

Reenactment:

While Jack Unterweger is unsuspectingly sitting in his car on the way back from St. Gallen after visiting Bianca for the weekend, **he receives a call on his car phone from an anonymous caller who informs him about the arrest warrant.** It is speculated that it could be a reporter trying to instigate Unterweger to flee in order to have a sensational story for the press. Another hypothesis suggests that one of his many girlfriends who had read the newspaper headline informed him.

Jack Unterweger then calls Margit H., who advises him not to take any action. But immediately afterwards, Jack Unterweger calls the country's largest daily newspaper and complains about having to live in fear, not only from the police but also from a pimp who threatened him with a knife. He claims to have changed his license plate and car to prevent his car from being damaged.

Additionally, Jack Unterweger calls the police in Graz and Vienna and **states that he would surrender if granted safe passage**, as he couldn't bear being in investigative custody. However, this assurance is not given to him. As a result, he promptly turns around and drives back to St. Gallen to Bianca in his green VW Passat.

Upon arrival in Gossau, Jack Unterweger is beside himself, has a nervous breakdown, and tells Bianca that he wants to commit suicide. Bianca takes the initiative. „We'll get through this together!“

Escape to Miami, Bonnie and Clyde-style:

Bianca takes the money from her previous waitressing job - 10,000 schillings - and together they go on the run. They initially head to Paris. At Orly, they park the car in a junkyard and remove the license plates, assuming it will soon be scrapped. Spontaneously, they decide to fly to Miami since Bianca loves „Miami Vice.“

Meanwhile, Dr. Ernst Geiger informs the Ministry of the Interior about the arrest warrant against Jack Unterweger. A briefing takes place at the Vienna Security Office, where Austria's first special commission, led by Geiger, is established. The special commission (SOKO) is tasked with searching for Jack Unterweger and conducting further investigations.

The Search:

The headline „**Hello! - It's me, the serial killer!**“ from Unterweger's call to the police shakes the public. Jack Unterweger's apartment is broken into with the active presence of the media and the public. Private photos, texts, clothing, letters, and an address book are secured. The police contact all individuals mentioned in the documents, which has embarrassing consequences for many, especially married women who had affairs with Unterweger. Amidst the commotion, Jack Unterweger's diary is discovered, and the absence of certain pages is seen as evidence against him. In particular, the pages covering the days when the murders were committed are missing. While Dr. Ernst Geiger, the head of the special commission, views this as incriminating evidence, Astrid Wagner believes that Unterweger only started keeping detailed records after his return from Los Angeles in 1991 when the murder allegations became concrete.

The Pursuit Begins

The police not only secure personal belongings but also gasoline receipts, which help them create a timeline and search for potential victims, even in neighboring countries. The investigators come across a promising case in Prague: **Blanka Bockowa was murdered on the exact night when Jack Unterweger was in Prague researching.**

Unterweger's escape gives the police valuable time to gather evidence sufficient for the trial. If the police had arrested him before his escape, the evidence might not have been strong enough. During the search of his residence, investigators also find a red scarf whose fibers match those found on the clothing of a victim: Red fibers from Unterweger's scarf were found on Heidi Hammerer's body. A breakthrough.

The Hunt for Unterweger's Cars

Auto parts from cars that Unterweger had scrapped after using them are traced and seized. However, his getaway car, the green Passat, remains missing. At this point, the police have no idea where Unterweger is.

When it becomes known through a missing person report that he must be accompanied by Bianca, it triggers hysterical headlines: „Eighteen-year-old Bianca in Danger!“

The Search Leads Nowhere

Despite intensive efforts, the search for Jack Unterweger remains unsuccessful. The trail of the fugitive murderer is lost in Gossau, St. Gallen.

The Media Manhunt

February 1992 was marked by an unparalleled, unprecedented media frenzy surrounding Jack Unterweger. The media jumped on the case and fueled public excitement.

Newspapers published appeals for information, and hundreds of tips flooded the police. A doppelgänger of Unterweger caused a major operation in Salzburg, which ultimately turned out to be a false alarm. The same happened with reported sightings of his car.

As the investigation progressed, more and more prostitutes emerged who knew Unterweger as a perverse client.

Rudolf Prem, the husband of the murdered prostitute Regina Prem, spoke out publicly.

Cadillac-Freddy, a former pimp kingpin, collected incriminating testimonies from prostitutes. The police diligently recorded everything.

Meanwhile, in Miami

On February 17, 1992, Jack Unterweger, together with his companion Bianca, rented an apartment in Miami. He bought a used typewriter and began writing an extensive defense speech. He sent this 27-page speech to authorities, politicians, and celebrities who had once supported him, hoping to convince them of his innocence.

TV Appearance and a Trap

On February 20, 1992, Jack Unterweger called into a live television show called „Inlandsreport.“ He was put on air immediately. Unterweger stated that he did not want to flee and would voluntarily come to Vienna for questioning if granted safe passage. On national television, before a stunned nation, he vehemently proclaimed his innocence.

Episode 4

Happy End with consequences

Unterweger had an informant, his former lover Irene, who regularly kept him informed about everything, including the date and phone number of „Inlandsreport.“

In the search for Unterweger's vehicle parts throughout Europe, the investigators seemed to have a breakthrough: The French police informed the Austrian authorities that they had seized a green Passat without license plates at a scrapyard near Orly.

Dr. Geiger and his team traveled to Orly themselves to secure the evidence. In total, seven hairs that did not belong to Unterweger were collected and painstakingly compared to the victims' hair through keratin analysis. **The result: Negative. None of the found hairs belonged to any of the victims.**

Trap and Arrest

Unterweger's former but still affectionate lover Irene works as a secretary at a magazine publisher, and her boss Gerdt Schmidt wants to use her for a trap to catch Unterweger. Schmidt believes that Unterweger must be in financial need, and they can offer him money through Irene P., whom Unterweger trusted.

This trap would prove fatal for Unterweger.

Miami

Financial difficulties become acute, and Jack Unterweger gets Bianca a job as a pole dancer at Club Miami Gold.

Meanwhile, in Vienna

Publisher Gert Schmidt hands over a package at the main train station to the criminal police that he was supposed to send for his employee Irene P. The contents: medication and some banknotes. The recipient: Jack Unterweger in Miami.

Jack Unterweger has given Irene an address to which she should send a package containing his thyroid medication and money. After that, she is supposed to send him more money to an American Express branch in Miami. For this as well, Jack Unterweger provides her with a specific branch location.

The criminal police arrange for a receipt of the package that Schmidt is supposed to give to Irene P. so that she doesn't suspect anything and doesn't warn Jack Unterweger.

The Viennese special commission, led by Ernst Geiger, works closely with the FBI and informs the FBI about Unterweger's suspected location. The FBI then monitors potential currency exchange offices and post offices. Irene is unaware that she is luring Jack Unterweger into a trap.

Only Bianca senses something fishy: „You can't give your address as a wanted person...!“ she says to Unterweger.

On February 27, 1992, Jack Unterweger is finally arrested in Miami:

Unterweger sends Bianca to the American Express branch while he waits outside. Bianca notices an unusual gathering of people on a hotel terrace next to the bank, reading newspapers or smoking.

Upon leaving the branch, Bianca suddenly sees the crowd starting to move towards her. Jack shouts for her to run, but she only manages to reach the next corner where she is stopped by the FBI.

Jack Unterweger is arrested, and he cries continuously during the ride in the police car.

Gert Schmidt, the initiator of the trap, receives a sensational story, and he himself is hailed as the hero. Even Interior Minister Löschnak wants to be seen as a hero and tells the newspapers that it was a successful search due to persistent investigative work.

Whereabouts and Charges

Unterweger's lover Bianca is sent back home on the next flight.

Jack Unterweger is not extradited to Austria but held in the USA due to several prostitute murders committed in the summer of 1991.

This was initiated by Ernst Geiger, and the police were supposed to search for matching murders during Unterweger's stay in Los Angeles. Three prostitute murders were considered a match: the murder of Shannon Exley, the murder of Sherry Ann Long, and the murder of Irene Rodriguez.

Flashback

The grim reality of Los Angeles in the 1990s, known as the „murder capital.“ The city had one of the highest murder rates in the world, with around 1,500 murders annually, about 300 of which were prostitutes.

Jack Unterweger must now also face the consequences of his actions in the USA.

Bianca

After being deported from Miami, she is alone in Unterweger's apartment, going through the chaos left behind by the officers during the search. In the process, she finds Unterweger's police file with records of his first murder in 1974 of Margret Schäfer. Shocked, the 18-year-old reads how cruelly Unterweger tortured and killed Schäfer. She is horrified. Unterweger had never told her the truth about this murder, dismissing it as a loss of control under the influence of drugs. Bianca begins to distance herself from Unterweger, with the active participation of well-paying media.

Extradition and Pretrial Detention

In March 1992, an extradition hearing takes place in the USA, and Jack Unterweger is eventually extradited to Austria. He spends two years in pretrial detention, during which time further expert reports, including DNA analysis and knot analysis, are prepared. Many of his former friends distance themselves from him, and Unterweger faces increasing rejection.

Successful Investigations

Based on a sales advertisement in a car magazine, the police find the seats of Unterweger's car, which had been scrapped years ago. Three hairs, not belonging to Unterweger, are secured. The keratin comparison indicates that they could belong to Blanka Bockova. The scientific DNA comparison analysis is still in its early stages and requires at least one intact cell nucleus. And it is found because one of the hairs still has part of its root. For the first time in Austria, a DNA report is accepted as evidence. A hair found on the sold seats of one of Unterweger's scrapped cars can be linked to Blanka Bockova, the murder victim in Prague.

The Trial and Verdict

In April 1994, the trial against Jack Unterweger begins in Graz. To establish a better connection with the audience, he is assigned a second lawyer, Dr. Zanger, who is considered more relatable than Unterweger's defense attorney.

During the trial, Unterweger is charged with a total of eleven murders. **Astrid Wagner, who has now become Unterweger's lover in prison** and openly professes her love for him, researched Unterweger's whereabouts on the night of Elfriede Schrempf's disappearance. Unterweger himself prevents her from testifying, although every voice that speaks in his favor would be important. But he does not want her to testify, claiming that he is afraid she could be socially destroyed by the media like many of his other supporters.

On June 29, 1994, Jack Unterweger is finally convicted. He is found guilty of nine out of the eleven murders. In two cases, Unterweger is not found guilty: in the case of Schrempf, there are witnesses who saw Unterweger in Köflach at the suspected time of the crime, and the body of Elfriede Schrempf was already decomposed when found; and in the case of Regina Prem, the condition of the body prevented any determination of the cause and time of death.

The verdict brings some peace to the population, but questions about the extent of his guilt and the motives behind his actions continue to linger.

Suicide and the End

On the same day the verdict is announced, Jack Unterweger commits suicide in prison. He hangs himself with the shoelaces and drawstring from his sweatpants. There are speculations about whether his suicide was intentionally facilitated, as it would be in accordance with the regulations to remove such items from a prisoner after such a verdict.

Astrid Wagner expresses her sorrow over the incident, especially because the tracksuit he used to end his life was a gift from her.

With the tragic suicide of Jack Unterweger, the story of a murderer who became a dark legend through his actions and the subsequent media attention comes to an end.

Contradictions

On the following pages, background information and contradictions are presented that question Unterweger's guilt. These discrepancies are woven into the respective murder cases in each episode and especially in Episode 4, which focuses on the search for truth in court.

Brunhilde Masser

Disappeared on October 26, 1990 from her location, Entenplatz, in Graz.

Found on January 5, 1991 in a forest (stream bed) 8km away from the place of disappearance.

Highly decomposed, no conclusions regarding the cause of death.



No clothing, but a hairbrush with hair not belonging to Masser was found. They were examined in the laboratory, and the hairs did not belong to Unterweger. Was there an investigation in this direction? Whose hairs are they?

A Graz entrepreneur was suspected and visited, known for engaging in choking games with prostitutes. He was not further bothered. Why?

Sigrid M. becomes a victim of a brutal attack in Graz on January 26, 1991 (tied up, dragged into a car, taken 8km away, choked, and left for dead at a forest edge). She survives. The perpetrator was Wilfried F. (who turned himself in after being implicated in another case, a robbery). He confesses but denies the intent to murder. Couldn't he be just as strongly considered as a suspect?

On October 26, Unterweger left Vienna at four o'clock in the morning in a BMW (confirmed by a waiter at Florianihof) and arrived at his pension in St. Veit an der Glan at eight o'clock in the morning, where he had breakfast. He then went to put up posters for his play „Kerker,“ which would be performed in Villach on November 15. It is theoretically possible that he briefly visited Graz, but then he would hardly have had time for a murder. Was Unterweger's BMW seized? Were there any traces?

The reservation at the pension was from October 25 to 27, and the invoice was presented during the trial as a false alibi.

Contrary to the original autopsy report, which stated that the cause of death could not be determined due to decomposition and animal predation, the „comprehensive report“ by Dirnhofer states, „Death most likely occurred due to strangulation.“ Did this correction occur to fit the murder of Masser into the Unterweger series?

Elfriede Schrempf

Disappeared on March 7, 1991, at 10:15 PM from Volksgartenstraße in Graz.

Found on October 5, 1991, in a remote woodland area 20 km south of Graz by a mushroom picker.

The body was found in a prone position, skeletal, and covered loosely with leaves and soil, except for socks. Cause of death could not be determined.

She got into a white Golf with red side stripes that drove out of a parking space without lights and nearly caused an accident. There are eyewitnesses, such as Helmut H., the owner of two Bobtails. District Inspector Hoffmann questioned all car rental companies in Vienna and its surroundings. 1000 cars matching the description were investigated, but without results. Hans M., a captain in the Austrian Armed Forces, had previously tied up and abused Schrempf. **He committed suicide in April 1991.** Can he be ruled out as the perpetrator? Unterweger had a reading in Köflach, 40 km away from Graz, on March 7. According to the poster, the reading was scheduled to start at 8 PM, followed by a discussion with the audience. Could Unterweger have been in Graz at 10:15 PM?

What were the confusions surrounding the start time of the reading? A fellow stand colleague received obscene calls referring to the murder of Schrempf. In December 1991, Geiger took over as the lead investigator in the cases. Was he convinced from the beginning that Unterweger was the perpetrator? Why wasn't his predecessor?



Blanka Bockova

She was a saleswoman, not a prostitute. Why was she referred to as a prostitute in the indictment to the district court? (Suspicion: to make her fit into the series?)

She was last seen on the evening of September 14, 1991, at 11:45 PM.

Her body was found the next morning, on September 15, 1991, in a streambed near a highway, 20km west of Prague. She was naked, her clothing was missing, and she was lying on her back.

The autopsy conducted by the Prague forensic pathologist revealed that she had been strangled with a thin cord.

The body showed stab wounds, bite marks, and abrasions. There were no signs of being bound. She put up a strong fight.

Not in the woods? Not strangled with clothing? Does this fit the pattern?

Underweger was driving a dark gray BMW on the A1 motorway on October 31, 1991. He called a mechanic from the Ansfelden service station due to an engine failure. Underweger gave the broken vehicle to the mechanic and was picked up by a friend.

The mechanic dismantled the car and sold the parts, including the seats.

Approximately 2 years later, the Styrian Criminal Police managed to secure the seats in Hörsching, Upper Austria, after passing through 3 intermediate owners and being installed in another BMW.

The vehicle, along with the seats, was confiscated and taken to the Vienna Security Office. There, the seats were examined for traces (vacuumed). Three of the hairs found could be attributed to Blanka Bockova. The 3 hairs, along with comparison hairs from Blanka Bockova, were handed over to the expert Dr. Dirnhofer.

Dirnhofer found three hair roots, but they were too damaged for further forensic examination. Therefore, in Dirnhofer's comprehensive report a year later, the hairs were no longer mentioned.

Why did Geiger personally go to Prague to obtain additional comparison hairs? Was it promising to do so two and a half years after Blanka Bockova's death? Dr. Geiger obtained the comparison hairs from Blanka Bockova's parents, who had taken them from her pillow. Hair still present on the pillow after three years?

In Dirnhofer's report dated July 2, 1993, it was stated that no conclusive association with the victim could be made. How did the hair gain evidential value then?

In the supplemental report by Dirnhofer in September 1993, it was concluded with a probability of 1:13 that the hair from Blanka Bockova came from Jack Unterweger's BMW. Why were the car seats destroyed in September 1993? (Before the trial in April 1994)

In the supplemental report dated February 2, 1994, just before the start of the trial and in time for the bail hearing, it was stated in the second supplemental report that there were 6 matching characteristics, indicating a 99.96% match between the hair from the car and the comparison hair from Blanka Bockova.

The third supplemental report confirmed a match with the hairs of Blanka Bockova's parents.

At that time, this DNA report served as the only physical evidence. However, a few years later, several countries deemed it insufficient to reach a verdict based solely on a DNA report.



Heidi Hammerer

Disappeared on the night of December 5, 1990.

Found in a forest 4 km from her last known location on December 31, 1990.

Found lying face down, clothed, with no injuries except for redness on the left wrist. A slip was stuffed into her mouth, and she was manually strangled. Cause of death was asphyxiation.

Does this fit the pattern?

Many hairs were found on the body, but none belonged to Unterweger or his dog.

Biological traces on tissues from a trash can did not match Unterweger.

Unterweger himself requested the collection of his biological material (hair, etc.) for comparison purposes. Doesn't this exonerate him?

In Unterweger's seized car, there were no traces of Hammerer. Perhaps he did not use his own car? White paint traces were found on the heels of Hammerer's boots, indicating contact with a car. It could suggest a struggle. The paint was forensically examined and did not match the paint from Unterweger's car.

Isn't it a mitigating factor that no dog hairs were found on Hammerer? Unterweger should have had dog hairs on his clothing due to his long-haired shepherd. His car was certainly full of them.

Fibers as a trace: The expert report on the red fibers found on the body, which allegedly matched fibers from Unterweger's red scarf, was controversial. According to expert Professor Bruscheiler, the fibers were mass-produced and did not conclusively indicate a direct transfer between the perpetrator and the victim. Despite this, the fibers were considered as a trace.

What other traces were there?



Silvia Zagler

Disappeared from her regular spot on Hütteldorferstraße in Vienna on April 8, 1991, around 22:45.

Found on August 4, 1991, in a forest 22 km away from Vienna.

Unclothed, in a prone position, cause of death undetermined.

The witness who had lengthy phone conversations with Unterweger on the night of Zagler's disappearance was ridiculed during the trial as having an „alibi out of love.“

What indications were there that pointed to Unterweger in this case?



Sabine Moitzi

Last seen alive officially on April 16, 1991, in Johnstraße, her regular spot.

On May 8, a woman identified as Moitzi is searched at the Flash nightclub, according to her ID card! - The time of death is therefore unclear.

On May 21, 1991, a body is found in a parking lot in Vienna's Hernals district (8km from Johnstraße).

In a prone position, unclothed, strangled with her pantyhose tied around her left neck area.

No injuries, clothing, handbag, or ID card scattered in the vicinity. Inside Moitzi's body: Morphine. Moitzi was involved in the drug scene.

In her stomach: a meal she had consumed after her disappearance, as a witness stated that they had eaten something different with her shortly before she disappeared. This indicates that she survived for a while after her disappearance. The time of death is therefore uncertain.

What evidence pointed to Unterweger's involvement in this case?



Regina Prem,

from Vienna, disappeared on April 28, 1991.

Her body was found nearly a year later, on April 16, 1992, in a meadow in the 19th district.

The remains are skeletal, the skull is missing, the cause of death is unknown, and identification was made through a jewelry pendant and dental prosthesis.

What evidence points to Unterweger's involvement in the case of Prem? Unterweger, as a journalist, was working on the topic of prostitute murders on June 3, 1991, for the Journal Panorama. During this time, he met Rudolf Prem, the husband and pimp of Regina Prem, at the „Club 28“ in Felberstraße. Unterweger approached him and invited him to a discussion program on his radio series „Zick Zack.“ Unterweger even gave him his business card. This interview was also featured in the Journal Panorama. Why did Rudolf Prem claim that Unterweger was the murderer of his wife, Regina Prem, after Unterweger's arrest? Could it have been related to the child support payment he demanded for his son?



Karin Eroglu

was last seen at her stand in Linzerstraße on May 8, 1991, at 12:30 am.

After two weeks, her body was found in a forest near Gablitz.

She was naked, strangled with her own bodysuit, which was knotted in the left side of her neck. There were multiple injuries from a blunt object, and her belongings were scattered.

A part of a bumper was found, but it did not belong to Unterweger's car. Was this lead pursued? Why not?

Semen stains exonerate Unterweger, according to the expert opinion of Prof. Dirnhofers. Was this semen stain investigated? Why not?

Body hair, which did not belong to Unterweger, was found in the victim's hand. Was this lead followed?

Isn't it exonerating if all biological evidence leads away from Unterweger?

What evidence suggests Unterweger's involvement in the case of Eroglu?

Alibi: Unterweger was in Munich with his mother for Mother's Day at that time. However, his mother did not testify and claimed that she didn't remember exactly when he was there.



Shannon Exley

She was last seen on June 20, 1991, when she got into a truck. The driver was a regular customer.

Later that same evening, her body was found on a meadow near a parking lot. She was only wearing a shirt and socks. There were bruises and welts indicating a struggle. She was strangled with her own bra, which was knotted in the right side of her neck.

Semen samples found in Shannon Exley's body were compared to Unterweger's DNA in the United States. The results, forwarded to the Austrian expert in biological evidence, Professor Dirnhofers, indicated that 20.6% of the male population could be the source of the samples. However, Dirnhofers forwarded to the Austrian investigating judge Wladkowski the conclusion that Jack Unterweger was 99.6% the source of the samples.

As a result, Wladkowski called a press conference, stating that Jack Unterweger was 99.6% guilty. The long-awaited material evidence had finally arrived. Nearly all Austrian and a large part of the German tabloid press carried this news with the 99.6% probability as their headline.



Consequence: Unterweger's suicide attempt (see page 32)

Irene Rodriguez

Last seen by her landlord on June 28, 1991, on her way to work.

Two days later, her naked body was found under a truck trailer on an industrial site. She was lying on her back with signs of bruising and welts, indicating a struggle. She was strangled with a bra and belt knotted around her neck.

Hair traces and scalp residues were found that did not belong to Rodriguez. DNA comparison in America: 100% NOT from Unterweger. However, this information was not mentioned in the trial; instead, it was stated that these traces „could not be attributed.“

What indicates Unterweger as the perpetrator in the case of Rodriguez?



Sherry Ann Long

Last seen on July 3, 1991.

Found after a week in the undergrowth of a hill. Fully clothed. No visible injuries.

Cause of death: Strangulation using her bra knotted around her neck.

Could Unterweger have driven his car up the steep hill without a four-wheel drive? (According to LA Detective Knudson, no). Tire tracks were found at the scene of Long's murder that did not match Unterweger's Toyota Corolla. Was this lead followed up on? Why not?

Were Unterweger's hotels located near the prostitutes' work areas?

What indicated Unterweger as the perpetrator in this case?



More contradictions and suicide attempts

After the newspaper falsely reported the 99.6% DNA evidence (see page 32), Unterweger attempted suicide by cutting the veins in his right elbow.

His diary entry regarding this incident reads: „My last hope was a fair examination conducted by foreign experts. The only explanation for the 99.6% report is a manipulation of the reference material I provided, meaning foul play. How can I defend myself against this?“

Questions :

1. Why did examining magistrate Wladkowski say, „I know what I'll get from Dirnhofer,“ when he appointed Prof. Dirnhofer from Bern, who is originally Austrian, as the expert?
2. Why did an examining magistrate convene a press conference?
3. Why was there no mention of the 99.6% in the final expert report submitted to the court, which was justified by examining magistrate Wladkowski as a „translation error at the time“?
4. Why was this never communicated to the press, that the American report implicated nearly a quarter of the male population as possible sources of the DNA evidence?
5. Why was this report still presented as „one of the two pieces of material evidence“ during the trial?

Abuse and Further Suicide Attempts:

This first suicide attempt made it to the press: a major Austrian newspaper headlines, „Unterweger Fakes Suicide Attempt to Have Escape Option during Hospital Transport.“

After only one day in Graz Inquisitorial Hospital, Unterweger is interrogated again. From Unterweger's diary: „Wladkowski's question dripping with sarcasm: So, are you finally confessing?“

As punishment for the suicide attempt, he is placed in a solitary cell, his hands bound, without access to washing or showering facilities, and no means to clean himself after using the toilet due to his bound hands.

This is followed by Unterweger's second and third suicide attempts, of which the public and his lawyer are not informed. Unterweger tries to hang himself using his bandages. The guards untie him. However, Unterweger had managed to hide shoelaces in the toilet hole. On the same day, he tries to hang himself with the shoelaces. He is found by the guards, nearly suffocated, with the shoelace ripped from the swollen groove in his neck, and Unterweger is kicked in the face and stomach. They say, „Not with us anymore.“

His lawyer, unsuspecting, only learns about the last two suicide attempts during his visit. He sees the swellings on Unterweger's face and body from the kicks. In the meantime, **Unterweger has gone on a hunger strike**. He wants to be returned to his normal cell. The lawyer takes matters into his own hands, files a torture complaint. As a result, Unterweger is transferred back to his cell, but only on the condition that the lawyer withdraws the complaint of mistreatment. In the end, Unterweger, advised by his lawyer, does withdraw the complaint. The lawyer only says, „He has to live with them there.“

Jacks Process Diary

From Unterweger's trial diary:

„Police trickery. Officers incited against me in the red-light district. Envy consumed all reason. The hunters never saw me, never spoke to me, didn't know me, but they hunted me as a serial killer.“

„No one asks the question of whether I am the serial murderer anymore; they only theorize about whether they can prove and pin these murders on me. The seeds, especially sown by the ‚Kronen Zeitung‘ and its lackeys, have taken root. Anger, I, a burning hot spittoon of the nation.“

„Five o'clock. Awake. World news; no world of peace. Six o'clock. Three more hours. Body wash. Nervous? Listening inward, brain, stomach, something unsettled. Nine o'clock. Entering the courtroom. Cruel. Roman arena, enclosed by iron bars, for my protection. Reporters, cameras, their shouts nauseating: ‚Jack here, Jack there!‘“

„All my motions denied. Losses. Total. Coincidences? No more, everything coordinated. Witnesses who don't consider me guilty are not brought forth. But tomorrow, Geiger is coming, who managed to bring all his experts into the trial.“

„Until the end, I am a guest at the feast of beautiful emotions. Because I see you. In the end, death always awaits. Has this destiny reached me?‘“

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The Charm of Evil

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