

SAARLÄNDISCHER RUNDFUNK
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FILIZ IN FLIGHT

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1. RAILWAY STATION – EXT/DAY

The sky, mountains in the background. A fly is buzzing, and the sun is shining. Clouds of dandelions are floating through the hot air. A red balloon appears in the picture. It sways in the wind, held by a string. In, out, in and out. (Opening credits, music)

The camera cautiously follows the string. CEM (7, wears professor-style glasses) comes into the picture. He's holding the balloon in his hand. Hops from the bench onto the platform, gets back up, hops down again. We hear a train arriving, hear the announcement of the station attendant. Cem stops jumping up and down.

The small boy's look (close-up, semi-close-up) is searching, excited... Then he sees what he's been looking for, calls out happily: "FILIZ!" and runs towards the camera, out of the picture.

The platform; a train in a small mountain village in Thuringia. FILIZ (9) is standing on the platform. She's wearing a red, Mexican-style summer dress and an Indian headband, and carrying a small red suitcase. Cem runs into the picture, runs towards her.

(Camera follows)They shake hands, at least five times, say "Hello" five times. They laugh.

Cem gives Filiz the balloon. She leaves Cem standing there with her suitcase, and runs off...

Cem watches her. He sighs. He drags her red suitcase along behind her, though it is much too heavy for him.

Lateral dolly shot, semi-close-up: Filiz is running with her arm outstretched, yelling like an Indian, looking upwards.

Above: the balloon, high up in the air.

(Main title, end of opening credits, music continues.)

2. TAKEAWAY STAND – EXT/DAY

Close-up: Fingers on the strings of a baglama, a Turkish lute. We hear a bicycle horn.

Uncle MUSSA is sitting in front of the Takeaway stand and playing the baglama. In front of the entrance to the kebab stand there are a sun shade and lawn chairs. The floor is covered with green artificial turf. Balloons, swaying in the summer wind, decorate the facade. A ladder is leaning against the wall.

Behind the big display window, inside the takeaway stand, we see MELANIE (9) and her FRIENDS eating French fries. They are watching Filiz and laughing their heads off.

Close-up: Filiz stumbles over the open Velcro straps on her shoes

Filiz races tempestuously out of the takeaway stand with a bicycle, boisterously honking its big horn. She stumbles over the steps out the door...

In the foreground a red balloon looms large at right; it is being blown up. (Full shot of the balloon)

UNCLE MANIS (36, wears the same style of glasses as Cem) climbs up the ladder and ties the blown-up balloon above the door.

Close-up: The bicycle clanks over the steps.

Filiz has not fastened her backpack properly. She loses her towel, swimsuit... everything falls out of the bag.

Close-up: Hand towel and swimsuit falling out. Cem gathers everything up.

Cem comes into the picture from below, the collected things in his hands. He shakes his head, putting on a wisdom far beyond his years, and groans:

CEM
Women!

Filiz proudly climbs onto the bicycle, honks once more.

3. FOREST - EXT/ DAY

Lateral dolly shot: The sunlight is shining through the trees. Forest branches. Filiz on her bike. Cem is on the back of the bike, riding on the luggage carrier. Her small cousin is bouncing up and down on the luggage carrier.

Close-up: Cem's bottom is bouncing (ouch!) up and down on the luggage carrier.

Camera shot from Filiz' point of view: Death-defying downhill ride...bumpity bumpity bump. (We hear: a horsey atmosphere, galloping, whinnying, Indians, pistol shots)

Filiz (from the front) inebriated by the speed. Then the sun blinds Filiz. Filiz brakes sharply (directly in front of the camera), kicking up an enormous cloud of dust. Full frame of dust. (Wide angle, worm's eye view, flour and sand, glass pane to shield camera)

Filiz' glance moves up the hill - to the mountains. The sun blinds Filiz with its LIGHT, like the angels and shepherds. She holds up her hand protectively to shade her eyes, trying to focus her vision. (Morricone/Wagnerian music)

Camera shot from Filiz' point of view: The sun flickers; a surreal picture. In the distance: A few BOYS wearing strange, gleaming suits and carrying enormous skis. Extra-terrestrials? Spacemen?

Magically drawn to them, Filiz follows the beings into the light. Cem is right behind her. Onwards and upwards, up the mountain, into the sun. The beings disappear behind the mountaintop. What's on the other side of the mountain?

4. FOREST/HUNTER'S LOOKOUT EXT/ DAY

On the ridge there is a hunter's lookout. The sun is shining brilliantly. Filiz comes into the picture from below, climbing up the mountain on foot. Cem is following behind her.

The camera follows Filiz; we see the last step taken by Filiz over the ridge. The camera turns to the lateral view, semi-close-up – follows her look: what does she see? Cem comes up beside her – both of them spellbound – what are they looking at?!

Camera shot from Filiz' point of view: View of the valley. A ski jumper flies past us at eye level (from below/above into the picture). Filiz sees a ski jump for the very first time - hanging down the side of the mountain like a giant dragon. Sublime. (Music continues) The boys are jumping, flying, landing..

Filiz' jaw drops. It's simply incredible. Cem is beside her.

Filiz climbs up a few rungs on the ladder of the lookout. Fascinated, she imitates the jumps.

FILIZ
Filiz will fly like a bird, too.

Cem looks at her and shakes his head.

CEM
Squaws can't go ski jumping.

FILIZ
Little man talk like drunken warrior.

Filiz looks up into the heavens. A bird flies through the clear blue sky.

5. TAKEAWAY STAND/BACK ROOM - INT/DAY

Close-up: A paper collage of Indians in a science fiction city.

Cem is sitting at the table and cutting out photos of people, houses, cars, etc. from old newspapers, then pasting the figures on a sheet of paper - creating his own little world. Analogous to SIMS, so to speak. His bicycle helmet is hanging on the back of the chair.

The table is in the back room of the takeaway stand. Through a beaded curtain we can see Uncle Manis serving two customers in the takeaway stand. The back room is divided by half-timber beams. Spirit wind chimes made of glass elements, through which the light is refracted, are hanging on the beams and in the window. A fan creates a slight breeze.

Filiz is talking on the phone. She is standing in a resilient crouch on a chair and imitating the ski jumpers.

FILIZ

Yes, mama. This time I'm behaving properly.

She pushes off and jumps from the chair, the chair falls over noisily. Cem is startled.

CEM

I already explained it to you: Ski jumping is only for men.

Filiz gets up, rubbing her sore knee.

Cem brings a book: The yearbook of the ski jumping association.

He leafs through the pages for Filiz, pointing: Men, boys, men ...

CEM

Have you ever seen a girl doing ski jumping?

Montage: Women in dresses and skirts on skis and posing with skis; their pumps don't fit in the ski bindings. Audio montage: Cem (OFF, echoing): "Only for me, only men..."

6. OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL – EXT/ DAY

MELANIE (9, pink, blond) on the lawn with another girl (fat) looking towards FILIZ

MELANIE

Josy; don't you notice that it stinks abominably of kebab stand?

JOSY

The stench is nearly unbearable.

FILIZ, furious

You stink yourselves - of stupidity!

Close-up of Filiz – how hurt she is, her powerlessness. She runs away to the pool, jumps into the water, gets out of the water again, showers. Stares with wide eyes, as she returns dripping to her blanket on the lawn.

Filiz' look: slight panic.

Camera shot from Filiz' point of view: The blanket is empty. Her clothes are gone!

FILIZ

Oh no! The stupid cow has stolen my things!

7. OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL/POOL ATTENDANT – – EXT/ DAY

Filiz is standing, shivering, in front of the pool attendant's office.

The pool offers a box with found articles: Diving goggles, rubber ducks, sunscreen. Among all this, he finds boy's, a muscle shirt, boys' trainers too large for her, a baseball cap and a silk flight training jacket.

Filiz takes the things and disappears behind the door of a lady's locker room. As she comes out again, now dresses in boy's clothes, a little boy looks at her reproachingly

BOY, pointing to the gents' locker room

You're a boy and not a girl. You have to go in here and not there.

6. MEADOW/FOREST/PRETTY AREA – EXT/ DAY

Close-up: Filiz in the grass with her eyes closed. (in focus/out of focus, zoom-out shot). Audio montage continues: "Ski jumping is only for men, only for men ..."

Cem and Filiz are lying on their backs outdoors. Filiz suddenly sits up and opens her eyes.

FILIZ

Then it's simple - I'm a man.

Filiz binds wreath, throws it away, wreath flies away (slow motion)

8. TAKEAWAY STAND – INT/ DAY

At the counter. A song is playing on the radio: "Free to Move". Uncle Manis is singing along, and calculating his earnings in an accounts ledger.

In the guest area of the kebab stand: Under Cem's direction, Filiz is practicing walking like a man. Both of them make sure they are not being observed by their uncle. They always sing the refrain to cover their activities.

Filiz walks with her legs wide apart, her hands in her pockets, sits down on a stool, her arm supported casually on her thigh.

Cem nods: not bad. He demonstrates once more.

CEM

And it's always good to spit once in a while.

Uncle Manis comes around the corner with a packet of serviettes. Filiz and Cem stop what they're doing immediately. Filiz fills up the serviette holders and Cem buries himself in a book about Indians. Both of them sing along with the radio.

Uncle Manis disappears again: the children take up where they left off. Cem shows Filiz various male gestures, which she practices. Macho high-fives with the boys, jostling each other. Boxing one's own palm with the fist.

The chimes on the door ring. Melanie and her two friends come into the takeaway stand and order döner kebabs from Manis. Cem and Filiz stop their activities in a flash. They all stop singing. The radio sings on alone.

Cem continues filling the serviette holders on the high tables, while Filiz wipes off the ketchup bottles. She's whistling while she works.

Melanie looks directly at Filiz, trying to provoke her, and intentionally spills ketchup on the table. Oops.

Before the whole thing escalates, one of Melanie's friends takes a paper serviette and wipes away the mess. We see that the group is ashamed of Melanie's behaviour.

Filiz – brief, direct look at the group, who leave.

Cem pounds Filiz on the shoulder. (Music begins – something like "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?")

CEM

Five more.

Filiz groans, but obeys: she gets down and does 5 push-ups.

9. FOREST /IN FRONT OF THE HUNTER'S LOOKOUT - - EXT/ DAY

(Music continues)

Cem is sitting in a slightly elevated position on a tree trunk. Filiz is standing below at the lookout. Cem is holding a sheet of paper in his hand and quizzing her.

CEM
What do you like the most?

FILIZ
Sports, computers and 50 Cent.

Filiz climbs onto the first rung of the lookout ladder.

CEM
What do you like the least?

FILIZ
Girls, vegetables and Tokio Hotel.

Filiz climbs another rung ...(etc.) (Do not give Filiz the answers immediately: warning - this is not in the regular screenplay)

CEM
Name three football stars.

FILIZ
Ballack, Beckham, ummm ... Ronaldo.

CEM
Burp.

Filiz takes a deep breath and burps.

CEM
How much horsepower does the BMW Z4 Roadster have?

FILIZ
(thinks about it) BMW Z4 ... The Roadster?

Cem nods.

FILIZ
343 HP?!

CEM
Correct.

Filiz climbs the next to the last rung.

CEM

How do you get a blonde to laugh on Monday morning???

FILIZ

Tell her a joke on Friday evening.

Filiz has now arrived at the lookout. (Music ends, Filiz has "made her million".)

Filiz, close-up - she's extremely tense but proud of herself at the same time.

Cem looks up at her, gives her a thumbs-up. Then he nods to Filiz.

Filiz disappears into the lookout.

10. FOREST/LOOKOUT - INT/ DAY

Sunbeams shine through the cracks in the wood. Filiz in the hunter's lookout. Dark, damp, expressive lighting. Filiz is changing her clothes, hides her female clothing up there and puts on the male gear. She smooths back her hair with gel.

POV: During this process she observes Cem through a crack; he is peeing on a tree.

Filiz, close-up: uncertainty shows in her face.

Filiz takes a balled-up sock and stuffs it into her underpants, then lovingly folds up her red dress.

11. FOREST/LOOKOUT - EXT/ DAY

The door of the hunter's lookout opens: Filiz – now in boys' clothing, with gell in her hair, sits down wide-legged on the top rung, and spits casually.

Cem stares at her, impressed, adjust his glasses. Wow!
(we hear Indian drumming and chanting)

Filiz glances downwards - it's a long way down.

CEM
(lifts up his arms, like a shaman) Filiz
will fly like white eagle.

Filiz, close-up: The last bit of hesitancy, one last moment of doubt: Then she shrugs, and jumps ...
(slow motion)

12. SKI JUMP – EXT/ DAY

... Filiz lands in a mountain of foam rubber.

She's on a training jump; the COACH is at the top. He nods, acknowledging her skill.

COACH

Skis and helmets are up there.

The coach signals Filiz to climb up.

13. SKI JUMP/LOCKER ROOM – INT/ DAY

Filiz enters the locker room hesitantly – the other BOYS are already there, already changed. The ski-jumping suits are hanging down from their hips, leaving their upper bodies bare. They are exchanging football cards on a bench. The boys check out the newbie.

Filiz nods to the group: Hi!

Filiz undresses. Uncertainty strikes again. She turns her back to the boys, hurries to change.

She's standing in her underpants and undershirt when a boy brings her a helmet. Filiz crosses her arms in front of her chest, startled. The boy looks at her, annoyed. Filiz notices her error, relaxes, takes the helmet and thanks the boy.

14.1. SKI JUMP – EXT/ DAY

Filiz looks up at the ski jump – from down here, even the small ski jump looks dizzyingly high.

Filiz goes - shyly. Uncertainty strikes again. She turns around, wants to go back. She overcomes her fear. Filiz continues bravely onwards, climbing the steps to the jumping platform.

Below: the steep curve of the jump.

Filiz swallows. Fear is visible in her face.

14. 2 SKI JUMP - EXT/DAY

Montage: Training, initial drills. Music. A small hill, a ramp, Filiz becomes part of the clique, exchanges football cards with them ... then the little jumps. Filiz is getting better and better ... flying ...

Close-up of Filiz during a jump (a small jump): she's flying! What joy. This is exactly how she'd imagined it - FLYING! Slow motion. Filiz in flight ... accompanied by a high, flickering sound, which transitions into ...

MELANIE (9, pink, close-up) is singing a long, high note and dancing like the costumed parade dancers during carnival.

Melanie's FRIENDS are singing and dancing with her. The girls have gathered on the park bench at the bottom of the ski jump. MELANIE is wearing (as usual) a glitter pen on a neon band around her neck and trying to attract the attention of the ski jumpers – particularly that of Filiz,, ...

... who is just landing safely in the outrun directly beside the park bench. She completes a well-executed telemark. Victory pose.

Brief exchange of glances between Filiz and MELANIE. Filiz turns away quickly. The girls giggle.

MELANIE
So sweet and so shy!

Over the shoulder. Melanie: Filiz, shouldering her skis, exchanges high fives with the boys.

We see Melanie sitting on the bench (close-up), shaking a glitter pen and drawing a heart on an envelope with it.

15. SKI JUMP/LOCKER ROOM – EXT/ DAY

Filiz with the other boys in the locker room. Everyone is getting changed. Loud yelling and shoving. A helmet is kicked through the locker room. Filiz tries to keep up, uncertain, jostles with the others.

Among her things, Filiz finds – to the general interest of everyone present - a letter... a love letter. The heart on the envelope is instantly visible.

Filiz opens the letter. All the boys crane their necks to read it. In the middle there is a photo of Melanie, and below that:

FILIZ (VOICE-OVER)
(reading) You're the sweetest guy in the world. I love
you!

Loud catcalls. Filiz looks at the photo, raises her eyebrows sceptically. Photo of Melanie, close-up.

Silence - everyone is waiting: what will Filiz do?!

FILIZ

Pen!

FILIZ

Pen!

One boy brings her a pen – go on, answer her:

FILIZ (VOICE-OVER)

(Writing on reverse side of Melanie's letter)

Hey, you bleached-out skeleton, you're much too stupid and ugly for me.

Pounding of shoulders, laughing.

16. VILLAGE / BUS STOP (rain o.k.) – EXT/ DAY

Close-up of Melanie's face; she is crying.

The camera moves back. We see Melanie on the park bench, the love letter in her hand. She is sobbing.

On either side her friends are trying comfort her. (The camera keeps moving further away)

The camera stops (thriller music): Melanie pauses, stops sobbing briefly, blows her nose, looks up.

Filiz is racing on her bike downhill through the village ... and races at a murderous speed into the picture. She's forgotten once again to close up her backpack properly. She passes the bus stop. We see something (her wallet) fall out of the backpack. We hear the noise it makes as it hits the ground. Close-up of the lost wallet.

Melanie stops for a moment, looks more closely, stands up, runs toward the camera. Her two friends remain behind.

Mid-shot/semi-close-up: Melanie picks up the wallet, searches through it - and finds (close-up) Filiz's pupil ID card. She recognizes the photo ... but it's a girl!

(Thriller music continues)

17. FOREST/HUNTER'S LOOKOUT (rain o.k.) – EXT/ DAY

Seen through branches: Filiz climbs down from the lookout (dressed as a girl).

Camera shot from Filiz' point of view: Forest wherever we look. No sign of Cem.

Filiz searches. "Cem!" No Cem. We see a piece of forest moving.

Close-up: Cem has decorated his bicycle helmet with branches and feathers, thus turning himself into a bit of the forest.

Filiz is looking for him, calling his name. Just as she moves right next to him, he jumps up and pulls her down - Filiz screams, frightened. Then they laugh with relief. Crazy fellow.

Camera from above: Both of them are lying on their backs in the forest, out of breath.

CEM
Did my brother fly like a bird?

FILIZ
Yes. Flew like a white eagle.

We hear crackling in the forest. Filiz and Cem are startled, look around them, can't see anything.

She cycles home through the forest with Cem behind her on the luggage rack.

Hidden in the forest: Melanie, who has followed Filiz and is now watching her.

Melanie tastes revenge; she has a mean smile on her face.

A butterfly flies through the picture.

Melanie climbs up to the lookout.

17.1. FOREST/LOOKOUT - INT/ DAY

Melanie climbs up to the lookout seat, grabs Filiz' training jacket, shakes her glitter pen and writes on the back of the training jacket: I'm a girl.

MELANIE (voice-over)
I'm a girl.

Melanie smiles smugly.

18. SKI JUMP - EXT/ DAY

Atmosphere of a David Lynch movie. Filiz arrives for training at the bottom of the ski jump., passes Melanie and friends sitting on a bench filing their nails and pretending not to notice Filiz.

Her ski-jumping buddies are standing at a fence near the bench. They've all got their backs to her. and are obviously peeing collectively on the fence. It's a bit strange, doing it right next to the girls.

Filiz, close-up: wondering what's going on. We hear giggling. Filiz turns around.

Behind her, two SMALL CHILDREN are giggling and pointing at her.

Filiz turns around.

The ski jumpers still have their backs to Filiz. Now they all jump around at once, calling out "Filiz" and wagging their index fingers through their open flies.

Melanie and her friends laugh heartily.

Filiz senses that something is on her back, takes off her jacket and reads it ... and blushes bright red. Filiz drops the jacket and runs off.

19. FOREST – EXT/DAY

Filiz in the forest. She is climbing uphill through the brush, off the paths. Fast.

She falls. Pause. She's out of breath. Silence. Filiz is lying on the ground in the forest.

A noise comes from the forest. Filiz looks up.

A deer. She briefly exchanges glances with the animal. Then it springs away.

Filiz watches it go. Sinks down. Sits in the forest, crying.

20. TAKEAWAY STAND/BACK ROOM - INT/DAY

A pair of boys' underpants is being ironed. The iron is maneuvering around the small fly.

Mid-shot: Filiz is ironing. Tears roll slowly down her cheeks onto the ironing board, which she quickly irons away with a puff of steam.

Close-up: The torn ironing board cover is neatly mended, as if it had a scar down the middle.

A large sheet of paper is now pushed onto the ironing board. The ski jumpers have been cut out of the yearbook and pasted onto the sheet of paper. Girls' clothing has been drawn over them or they are decorated with cutouts of women's dresses – a collage.

Cem is standing in front of Filiz, who looks at his work with enthusiasm and smiles at her cousin. Cem points to one area in particular:

Close-up: He has glued Filiz' face onto a jumper who is just taking off from the platform.

CEM

Girls can do ski-jumping after all.

Filiz smiles. The camera moves slowly towards Filiz:

FILIZ

Exactly. Girls can do ski-jumping.

She isn't giving up so quickly.

Music: Fast cuts, close-up: She folds up the ironing board decisively.

Close-up: She picks up her backpack - and carefully fastens it shut.

Close-up: She firmly fastens her Velcro closures on her shoes.

21. TOP OF THE SKI JUMP – EXT/ DAY

(Music continues)

Worm's eye view, from the slope: The ski-jumping boys have super soakers and are spraying Melanie and her friends with them; the girls are running away laughing. The boys run after them. They are directly below the BIG ski jump.

Filiz comes from behind the camera into the picture. She's carrying skis and her ski-jumping suit. She is wearing her hair in a feminine style. She passes the group, who see her now.

They notice Filiz. Tense silence.

Malicious looks from Melanie; uncertain glances from the boys; Melanie's friends are waiting to see what happens.

Filiz looks assertively at the crowd. With confidence.

Filiz continues on her way, up to the BIG ski jump. The others stare at her: that's suicide. Filiz climbs up.

Now Cem appears in the picture as well. He has a red balloon in his hand. We see that he's following Filiz, and can barely keep up.

Wordlessly, Filiz climbs up to the big ski jump. Complete silence. Cem is following behind her.

Now Filiz is climbing the stairs to the jumping platform. Cem waits below. "The others have followed. Everyone is staring upwards – will she do it? Has she gone crazy?"

Filiz stares down the ski jump. Frighteningly steep and high.

Filiz, close-up: Her courage is disappearing.

Subjective camera treatment: She sees the others down below, waiting expectantly or maliciously like Melanie. She has to show them - and herself.

Filiz on the platform. It's a long way down. She breathes deeply, concentrating.

Cem is standing below with the red balloon, observing the wind. He raises his arm, signals: Go!

Filiz jumps ---- and - Slow motion: flies ... and flies ... and flies --- and lands beautifully.

Filiz raises her arms in celebration – what a jump!

Cem applauds ... and lets go of the balloon, which flies away.

Everyone is applauding – except Melanie and the coach. Melanie hisses at her friends - how dare they applaud?! She grabs their arms, tries to restrain them. But her friends shake her off and continue

applauding. Filiz beams. High fives with the ski-jumping boys. Respect.

The coach approaches Filiz. Melanie is right behind him, her arms folded across her chest. The other children gather round, too. They form a circle around Filiz.

COACH

Can you explain what this means?

Silence. Filiz swallows, defiant. She looks around.

Everyone begins to chant: Filiz! Filiz!

The COACH looks around, doesn't really know what to do ...

... The children are clapping rhythmically, continuing their chant.

The coach is helpless ... produces an agonised smile... is finally forced to decide:

COACH

... Simply not showing up for workouts for two days?!

Shouts and cheers. Filiz smiles.

22. SKI JUMP - EXT/ DAY

Montage, music, closing credits:

Melanie's friends in ski-jumping suits with helmets, ski-jumping. Ski-jumping girls. Blue sky. Filiz jumps and ... flies. A red air balloon flies off. Close-up of the balloon. Mountains in the background. A fly is buzzing, and the sun is shining.

THE END.

23. Text

At the next Olympic Games in Vancouver in 2010, women will participate as ski jumpers for the first time in the history of the sport.