

Encounter with Mehmet Kurtulus Actor / Film Producer

Between Worlds and Roles

From the cult film *Short Sharp Shock* to Hollywood: Mehmet Kurtulus bridges Turkish roots with German discipline. Known from *Tatort*, Netflix productions such as *Into the Night*, and acclaimed Turkish films, he most recently appeared alongside Anthony Hopkins in the feature film *Mary*.

Conversation rather than Interview

When we met, the actor had just come from swimming—energized, composed, with an aura that instantly created a sense of closeness. Already in the first moments of greeting, his openness was palpable. I had prepared ten questions, but they soon gave way to a free-flowing conversation about art, theater, film, and life. It was this blend of charisma and calm that made him immediately approachable. Perhaps it also stemmed from the fact that I have known the Kurtulus family for many years and feel a personal connection.

by Elke Lina Krüger

Between Two Cultures

Speaking of his identity as an actor, Kurtulus reflects:

"I place my Turkish heart on the table—and with German discipline I keep the wheel turning."

It is, as he emphasizes, not always an easy combination, but certainly an exciting one. He discovered the stage while still in school, trained with Anne Marks-Rocke, and gained his first experiences at the Staatstheater Braunschweig. Larger roles soon followed, most notably his milestone performance in *Tatort*: for four years he portrayed undercover investigator Cenk Batu—a figure with profound significance for many viewers.

"With Tatort you have to deliver," he recalls. *"And the Turkish community, too, was watching very closely."*



Theater as Mother, Film as Wife

When Kurtulus speaks about his craft, his language becomes vividly metaphorical:

"Theater is like your mother—you are born and shaped there. Film is your wife. She knows you, she sees through you. The camera catches everything. Beauty can suddenly turn ugly—and the ugly can become beautiful."

In addition to acting, he also works as a producer.

"That means more responsibility—but also more freedom." Today, he can consciously choose which roles to accept, a privilege he values deeply: *"I am fortunate now to decide for myself which roles I take on."*



Versatility and New Directions

International productions such as *Big Game* and *Mary*, German films like *Der Tunnel* or *Mordach – Tod in den Bergen*, Netflix series including *The Protector*, and major Turkish projects such as *Muhteşem Yüzyıl Kösem* all testify to the versatility of an actor who moves effortlessly between cultures and genres. His career is a kaleidoscope of roles, each revealing new facets of his talent.

An Intriguing Project Ahead

When asked about future plans, Kurtulus speaks with careful restraint. He reveals only this:

"It's about Yılmaz Güney. A fascinating man—actor, director, screenwriter, writer. His story has long accompanied me, and it will be an exciting project."

Passion and Lightness

Throughout our conversation, one thing became clear: Mehmet Kurtulus is a citizen of the world—passionate, serious, yet full of humor. He values his achievements without ever losing his lightness of being. At times he speaks with deep earnestness about responsibility, only to break into a hearty laugh the next moment. This duality makes him tangible: a man who never forgets his roots, yet feels at home in the world.

As we parted, he laughed:

"It was a pleasure to take part in your international art platform lumenart.gallery."

For me, as co-founder of lumenart.gallery, it was a gift to meet such a multifaceted actor and to share in a conversation that continues to resonate.

Instagram @mehmetkurtulusofficial

This meeting and conversation with
Actor Mehmet Kurtuluş
remains a memorable encounter that continues to
resonate

by Elke Lina Krüger

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