



Arriving on set was like stepping into the world of our great-grandfathers; no SUVs or electrical advertisements or pizza shops, instead horse-drawn coaches and passers-by in elegant costumes strolling through the clean city of wealthy Munich in 1872, a time when promenading was a solemn way of killing time, as people had neither cinema nor television. It would all look like times long past if not for the dolly's circle with the ARRI 416 mounted, DOP Phillip Timme instructing his Gaffer, and the First ADs giving silent but determined directives to the men and horses.

We are in the middle of a historical movie set. The courtyard of the Munich Residenz, a historical

building from around the turn of the 20th century that was carefully renovated after the war, provides the setting for the story of Doctor Hope Bridges Lehmann (1855–1916), one of the leading pioneers of the women's rights movement in Germany on the verge of the new century. She was the first woman to accomplish medical examinations by overcoming the resistance of a male-dominated world.

The story of Hope Bridges Lehmann, played by Heike Makatsch, a TV event movie on ZDF ("Second German Television", the public-service television channel), tells in two 90-minute episodes the story of a courageous doctor who not only tried to

establish and uphold women's rights, but who also attempted to bring hygiene, contraception, and public healthcare into families at the turn of the century. She lived in a time when disease and a lack of hygiene caused many deaths and where a cough could easily prove to be fatal. She sacrifices not only her own health but also her marriage to Otto, played by Justus von Dohnányi, in her attempt to create a better world. At one point she falls in love with an assistant doctor Carl, played by Martin Feifel, from her own lung sanatorium and leaves for a new life in Munich with him. ■

Dr. Hope (AT)

—A Historical TV-Movie

Dr. Hope Adams Bridges Lehmann – Hoffnung kann nicht sterben (AT)

Martin Enlen, Director, Philipp Timme, Director of Photography

Germany

Synopsis >>

Part 1

After the death of her father, 17-year old Hope and her mother are forced to move from London to live with their relatives in Germany. Even though the liberally raised Hope is searching for a job rather than a husband, she encounters Friedrich von Arnstetten (Torben Liebrecht), who presents her to his parents.

At a dinner party matters come to a head as Hope dares to contradict the patriarchal viewpoint of Friedrich's father Ludwig (August Zirner). She doesn't realize that by doing so she has made herself an enemy for life. By chance she meets a group of young politically active students, among them the young doctor Otto Walther (Justus von Dohnányi) and Clara Eissner (Inka Friedrich), who in later life as Clara Zetkin becomes a women's liberation activist. Clara encourages Hope's interest in medical care and takes her to university, where Hope runs again into Professor Ludwig von Arnstetten, who is head of the Medical Department.

Almost everywhere Hope encounters social and political boundaries. But she never accepts no for an answer, and finds a way to obtain help from the German Empress (Kyra Mladeck) who arranges for Hope to be accepted for examinations against the will of Ludwig. Hope passes the examinations, completes her probationary period and is licensed to practice medicine within the office of her husband Otto in Frankfurt. Soon she starts caring for the poorest patients and works much harder than she should. Caught between her dedication as doctor and as a wife and mother of young daughter Mara, she contracts life-threatening tuberculosis.

Part 2

After a long illness, Hope is convalescing thanks to a new tuberculosis therapy that she tried on herself which contradicted conventional medicine; lots of fresh air, sun and a little exercise. In a small guesthouse in the Bavarian Alps life comes back to Hope and she decides, together with Otto, to build a sanatorium for lung diseases.

Carl Lehmann (Martin Feifel) is one of the newly employed assistant doctors whom Hope had met briefly during her studies in Leipzig, and who had fascinated her even then. Hope falls in love with Carl, and Otto, who has fought for Hope's love for a lifetime, realizes that he has to let her go with Carl. Hope leaves the Sanatorium and Mara to Otto and joins Carl in a new life in Munich.

Although private life between them goes well, Hope, who now specializes as a gynaecologist, also takes care of abortions. With her new ideas regarding medical care, sex education and contraception, as well as running a modern women's institution, Hope comes up against the midwives' association. First of all Barbara Helbing (Monika Baumgartner), in the company of Ludwig von

Arnstetten, who in the meantime has become head of the largest and best hospital in town, do whatever they can to make Hope's life difficult.



My Great Challenge in Playing Hope Bridges Lehmann in *Dr. Hope* Heike Makatsch

Hope Bridges Lehmann fought throughout her life for her beliefs without compromising her stance against the socially accepted consensus to improve the position of women in public healthcare. In her work, she set a course that even now still characterizes health reality. There are always figures in time who promote great developments in the history of mankind, realizing changes only due to their visionary ideals.

To represent such an extraordinary woman was a great challenge for me in performing this part, particularly as we are now living in a time of change where new paths have to be walked. A figure like Hope Bridges Lehmann inspires people with hope to develop the future, both on the large and small scale.

Dr. Hope Adams Bridges Lehmann – Hoffnung kann nicht sterben (AT)

PRODUCTION

Production Company	ZDF, Hofmann & Voges Entertainment GmbH
Producer	Claudia Rittig (Pinguin Film GmbH) ARTE and the FFF Funds Bavaria
Executive Producers	Caroline von Senden, Esther Winkler

CREW

Director	Martin Enlen
Screenplay	Katrin Tempel, Torsten Dewi, Christoph Callenberg
DOP	Philipp Timme
Production Manager	Rolf Wappenschmitt (Pinguin Film GmbH)
Production Design	Su Pröbster

PROJECT INFORMATION

Duration	Two 90 minute episodes
Locations	Munich and Bavaria
Mainly Filmed at	Bavaria Studios Munich
Program Type	Family Entertainment
Principal Photography	September–December 2008
Main Cast	Heike Makatsch, Martin Feifel, Justus von Dohnányi, August Zirner, and others
Raw Stock	ETERNA 250, ETERNA 500 (16mm)
Broadcast Date	Fall 2009 on ZDF

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STOCK USED : ETERNA 250, ETERNA 500 (16mm)