

STORMTROOPER

A historical drama by Mario Rivas

“There are none so blind as those who cannot see”



EMIGRANT MEDIA



OVERVIEW

- ❖ I'm Mario Rivas, an optioned screenwriter, USC film grad, and current editor at NBCUniversal. I wanted to address the resurgence of nationalism, intolerance, and xenophobia around the world. The result is "**STORMTROOPER**," which is an Austin Film Festival Second Rounder, an Emerging Screenwriters Drama quarterfinalist, and a finalist in both WeScreenplay's Diverse Voices and LiveRead L.A.
- ❖ Inspired by true events, "**STORMTROOPER**" uses the origins of the *Sturmabteilung* (SA)--the Nazi Party's paramilitary army that helped in its rise to power--to examine the kind of young men who join fringe movements--sometimes at great personal cost.
- ❖ *Logline: Struggling to survive in 1930s Berlin, an alienated gay youth falls under the spell of a Stormtrooper commander who promises he'll help make Germany great again, but ultimately pays a high price for siding with the Nazi's dangerous, hate-fueled ideology.*





SYNOPSIS

Berlin, 1933. World War II is still six years away, but Nazism is on the rise, thanks in part to the terror sown by the Party's paramilitary army, the Stormtroopers--or the SA. This is where we meet **Adolf Kordt**, a young gay man hustling in bars. Uncomfortable with his sexuality, it's nonetheless the only way he can make a living.

One night Adolf is caught by a group of Stormtroopers and is stunned to learn they count many homosexuals in their ranks including **Wolfgang Halder**, an older trooper who entices Adolf to join them, promising food, a roof, and a purpose: To make Germany great again. Despite the warnings of his only friend **Hartwin Oster**, Adolf slowly embraces the Nazi's ideology, participating in book burnings and the destruction of gay landmarks around the city, while thinking the SA uniform will protect him from their homophobia.

As the Nazi Party tightens its grip around Germany, Adolf and Wolfgang struggle to find their place in the new order and to make sense of their growing feelings. When a day of reckoning finally catches up to them, Adolf makes a fateful decision that forever changes the lives of everyone around him.

CHARACTERS

- ❖ Adolf Kordt: Early 20s. A lost soul searching for an identity and willing to do anything to survive. Handsome and athletic.
- ❖ Wolfgang Halder: Mid-40s. An SA *truppführer* loyal to the cause. Laconic demeanor hides the fire in his heart. Burn scars from the war mar his face and body.
- ❖ Hartwin Oster: Mid-30s. Middle class and educated. The voice of reason in a world going slowly mad.



Und Ihr habt doch gesiegt!



THE WRITER

Mexico City transplant Mario Rivas is an endlessly curious fella who marries a love of art, science, and philosophy with his restless, creative spirit. Mario's passion for film brought him to Los Angeles, CA, where he received a BA in Film Production from USC's prestigious School of Cinematic Arts.

As a writer, Mario's scripts traverse genres and subvert conventions. They've found success in the industry's top contests, including the Nicholl Fellowship (twice), the Austin Film Festival, Shore Scripts, Filmmatics, WeScreenplay, Stage 32, and American Zoetrope to name a few; and his short plays have been produced in San Pedro, CA and Durango, CO.

In a prior life as an entertainment journalist, Mario covered dozens of film events, including the Golden Globes and the Academy Awards, while also producing and editing a TV show for Starz Encore called "CIneNews." He currently lives in Pasadena and, in addition to writing and drawing, works as an editor for NBCUniversal.

THE ARTWORK

- ❖ The images used in this deck were made by Wilhelm Emil ("Elk") Eber (1892-1941), a former member of the SA who used his art to support the fascist cause. He provided drawings for Nazi newspapers, and Hitler reportedly bought one of his paintings.
- ❖ I designed and created the poster for "STORMTROOPER" to mimic the style of Nazi propaganda artwork.





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