

GOING PRIVATE

(SWITZERLAND)

A Look Now! Filmverleih release of a Dschoint Ventschr Filmproduktion production, in association with SF DRS, Teleclub. (International sales: Dschoint Ventschr, Zurich.) Produced by Karin Koch, Samir.

Directed by Stina Werenfels. Screenplay, Petra Lueschow, Werenfels. Camera (color), Piotr Jaxa; editor, Isabel Meier; music, Winfried Grabe; production designer, Nicolas Imhof; art director, Isabel Robson; costumes, Monika Goerner-Vogt. Reviewed on DVD, Berlin, Jan. 30, 2006. (In Berlin Film Festival — Panorama.) Original title: *Nachbeben*. German dialogue. Running time: 98 MIN.

With: Michael Neuenschwander, Susanne-Marie Wrage, Bettina Stucky, Georg Scharegg, Olivia Frolich, Leonardo Nigro, Mikki Levy, Selma Jamal Aldin, Luca Luedi, Pierre Gueniot.

A summertime barbecue ends up with the host on the grill as tempers fray and secrets are exposed in "Going Private," an entertaining, though fairly standard, knife in the ribs of the Swiss

super-rich story. Good performances make this solid festival filler with some small-screen potential within Europe.

Self-consciously cool dude "HP" (Michael Neuenschwander), an investment banker, hosts a get-together at his Lake Zurich villa for his boss, Philip (Georg Scharegg), and Philip's wife Sue (Bettina Stucky). Philip has brought along Gutzler (Leonardo Nigro), a cocky trainee, whom HP takes an instant dislike to. But Gutzler becomes the least of HP's problems. HP's alky wife, Karin (Susanne-Marie Wrage), hits the bottle; Birthe (Olivia Frolich), their Danish au pair, threatens to disclose her affair with Philip; and Philip, who hints he's disappointed with HP's recent performance, tells him to fix the Birthe problem pronto. Desperate to keep his job — and his parlous finances a secret — HP goes into meltdown. Dramatically, more could have been made of HP's fat, slightly backward son (Mikki Levy) silently observing all the shenanigans.

— Derek Elley



Fighting breaks out during a leisurely dinner in "Going Private."