





## **From the Würmtal to New York**

**To realize her dream, Clarissa Hoffmann moved to the States in 2013. For two years she attended the "Stella Adler Studio of Acting". She was on stage with Maria Furtwängler, shot a film in a confessionary and met Leonardo DiCaprio. And now she would like to encourage others to follow their dreams.**

**By Peter Seybold**

### WÜRMTAL

"Dream job wanted. Anything, but it should be related to a detective, homeopath (or similar), actress (preferably with option to win an Oscar) or psychology."

As far back as her high school graduation from the Feodor-Lynen-Gymnasium this is how Clarissa Hoffmann's class mates characterized the then 19-year old in their school magazine. At that time acting was already her dream. "But my fear to present myself on stage in front of a huge audience was bigger", says Hoffmann. "I was very shy when I was a kid, I lacked self confidence. I thought I had to do something important. In my family there were only doctors, lawyers or business people."

So Hoffmann, who was raised in Planegg and Gräfelfing and attended the Volksschule Planegg before the FLG, started with an internship at a hospital. She later worked at an event agency, learned Spanish in Chile and earned a degree in tourism and international business. Even after all this Clarissa deep inside held the wish to become an actress: "I wanted it so

badly, but at the same time I was so afraid of the audience." In 2011 she realized her dream and began studying at an acting conservatory in Munich. In January of 2012 she took over an assistant job at the Theater am Kurfürstendamm Berlin. When an actress opted out, Hoffmann was offered the role. Her work was so strong the director recommended her to apply to drama schools in New York. A few weeks later she was accepted to the "Stella Adler Studio of Acting".

"It's like people say, in New York you have the feeling that everything is possible. Broadway is around the corner, I have great teachers with a lot of experience and you are surrounded by a lot of positive, inspiring people who encourage you instead of complain about the hard everyday life of an actor" Hoffmann remembers. Voice training, singing, dance, movement, acting technique - the classes were various. In the evening Clarissa Hoffmann danced next to R&B singer Usher and met actor Leonardo DiCaprio. Little by little she discovered that she loved theater and not only film acting. "You feel the audience's energy immediately, which carries you through the play, and you can act for one and a half hours without a cut." Her previous fear of the audience was rapidly disappearing.

Hoffmann likes to play strong women, who fight for a cause. Ones who are ambitious, smart and want to achieve something "Impossible", she says. After graduating from the Stella Adler Studio in 2015 Clarissa acted in an Off-Broadway theater and was in the comedy "Tango Shalom" in which an orthodox Jew wants to become a tango dancer. She acted in a promotional video for the new "One World Trade Center" which was produced on the 65th floor. She then acted in a confessional of a Catholic church for her own short film. "A secret agent blames a priest of being part of a female trafficking gang and

wants him to confess to her ", she says about the plot. In the upcoming weeks she'll go to Los Angeles.

"Many experienced actors suggested I go to LA, because it's still the centre of the film industry". Clarissa is poised to audition and establish herself in Hollywood just as she did in NY.

"I feel I can do everything I want to do. I can play a doctor, a detective or a psychologist", she reflects once again as she did at 19. "And now I want to do films that will encourage others to follow their dreams just as I have."