

## Points Of You - multilingual Web Comedy Series

- Series launch: 10th November 2013 on <http://www.youtube.com/poycomedy> and [www.pointsofyou.eu](http://www.pointsofyou.eu)
- 8 Episodes, airdate: Sundays
- Last episode of the first series on 29th December 2013
- Average episode length: 10 mins

## About the production

- Directors: Kerstin Ahlrichs, Florian Gottschick, Félix Koch, Christopher Naumann
- Producers: Sebastian Hasse, Ryan Wichert, Kathrin Benoehr
- Creative-Producer: Ryan Wichert
- Script: Ryan Wichert, Nikolaus Buchholz
- Idea: Sebastian Hasse, Ryan Wichert
- Main Cast: Ryan Wichert, Sebastian Hasse, Sara Manni-Malas, Kim Zarah Langner
- 18.5 shooting days in 10 locations
- 4 main protagonists and 20 supporting actors
- Subtitles available in eight languages: German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Polish

## Trivia

- 120 people from 14 different countries involved since the series started
- Approx. 9000 e-mails sent during the production process
- Consumption on set: 7.2 kg cookies, 23.4 litres of energy drinks and 4736 cigarettes

# POY - The Protagonists

## Bastian

Bastian is a 25 year old neurotic IT student from Germany. He has a crush on his French flatmate Élodie. He is intimidated by Sofia and him and Ryan connects a very deep but slightly odd friendship. Despite his reluctance, his flatmates manage to drag him away from his computer again and again. Bastian has an almost childlike fascination for details and he owns a plant named Flora.



Bastian's perspective is held in natural colours and the cinematic style is heavily influenced by his own nervousness.

## Élodie

Élodie is a 22 year old French girl, who studies European Law in Berlin. She is very romantic and idealistically inclined. Élodie is on a constant mission to find Mr. Right, but with her strong temper, this proves to be a challenge for the male world. She has decided to ignore Bastian's feelings for her, but nevertheless she holds him dear as a friend. Sofia poses a big mystery for Élodie, while Ryan is at least on the same energy level.



Élodie's perspective is characterised by a romantic cinematic style with pastel colours and soft contours.

## Ryan

Ryan is a 24 year old British actor. He is desperately trying to get a foot in the door in the acting world. To achieve this he is happy to accept dubious roles and he does everything to get a little bit of attention. Ryan is extremely hyperactive and extrovert. Bastian and he share a longstanding friendship and he is kind of an anchor in Ryan's unstable life. With his chaotic mentality, Ryan is also the antipole to the order-loving Sofia. His propensity to hysteria is something he's got in common with Élodie.



With dynamic images and canned laughter, Ryan's perspective is reminiscent of a typical sitcom.

## Sofia

Sofia is a 24 year old Italian physics student. She is conservative, very controlled and slightly obsessive. She is the pragmatist in the group. She has her own, deeper understanding of right and wrong and in her thoughts often discusses this directly with God. The motivational force for Sofia is scientific discovery! Sofia maintains a caring and maternal relationship with the other characters. However this doesn't stop her from utilising them for her purposes when necessary. Especially Bastian is frequently called upon and plays a key role in Sofia's experiments. Élodie's idealistic attitude sometimes really gets under Sofia's skin! Ryan however has the ability to make her laugh (for whatever reason) - a rare sensation in Sofia's life. Sofia's perspective is black & white and has a smooth camera style. Objects or people that have triggered an emotional response in Sofia are colourised.



# POY - The history

Four young friends from four European countries - living in Berlin! Together they experience absurd situations that test their friendships and magnify their cultural and national differences. Each episode is available in two different narrative perspectives with one of our four friends being the protagonist. Due to the fact that the series is multi-lingual subtitles are available in 8 different languages.



**Episodes 1-2:** Sofia is in need of new bras! Outside her lingerie shop of choice she encounters Ryan. Little does she know that he is about to meet a very important director for a casting for the role of a transvestite - in the lingerie shop. While Sofia is conducting scientific tests on some bras Ryan tries to avoid being spotted by her in full drag! Finally Ryan finds the courage to face Sofia. If that was such a good idea?

**Episodes 3-4:** Bastian joins Sofia in the woods of Berlin for some top secret experiments involving trees and resin. Unfortunately they run into Élodie who has come to the forest to meet her newest crush Paul - the leader of a group of over eager tree huggers. While Élodie gets closer to Paul, Sofia and Bastian accidentally „injure“ a tree during their experiments and experience the wrath of the tree huggers. The only solution seems to be some tree surgery!

**Episodes 5-6:** Élodie takes Bastian to a flower shop to meet her friend „Flora“. Bastian however thinks she wants him to choose a new plant for his room. Bastian's subsequent interview with Flora makes Élodie despair. There's simply no way of making Flora fall for Bastian. Unless of course a "Passion Plant" were to be involved...

**Episodes 7-8:** Ryan has convinced his friend Rob to let him help out as a waiter in an Italian restaurant where the famous movie director Sofia Coppola is rumoured to be dining that evening. Little does he know that Sofia has persuaded Bastian to act as her fiancé in front of her family and has chosen the same restaurant to meet the in-laws! The Italian temperament of Sofia's family proves too much for Bastian's tender soul and Ryan is forced by Sofia's brothers to perform "something funny" to celebrate the event. Is that his chance to impress Sofia Coppola with his acting abilities? And what effect will numerous glasses of Italian red wine have on Bastian?

# POY - Behind the scenes



„Points Of You“ takes place in present day Berlin - a city that boasts a highly multi-cultural population. Especially young Europeans find their way to Berlin and - just like our 4 friends - have to cope with personal, cultural and linguistic challenges to get on with life! Our main protagonists stand for that challenge and show how people in Europe come and live together thus allowing our international audience to identify with their situation. This is why “Points Of You” is not made merely for a national audience, but finds its viewership beyond national frontiers offering 4 spoken languages and subtitles in 8 languages.

The pan European concept of „Points Of You“ is mirrored in the production process. Since the start of the project in 2009 over 120 people from 14 countries have been part of the journey and have given their time, skills and talent to realise the series. Despite the high production values “Points Of You” is a No-Budget Project, reliant on the help and support of all involved.

The challenging financial framework of the series coupled with the increasing number of participants delayed the completion of the first series thus showing that “Points Of You” in itself is a prime example for the difficulties when working internationally and collaborating with team members in other countries! This however adds to the authenticity of the final series and its international feeling. A truly European venture!

The creative leadership is taken by Ryan Wichert and Sebastian Hasse. Together with Kathrin Benoehr they form the core of the production team. All three met at a youth drama school in Germany and subsequently worked together on the feature film project „Siblings“ (2006).

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**Sebastian Hasse** holds a National Diploma in Computer Sciences and started building a prototype online platform for interactive film content during his studies. He produced two interactive feature films “Your Truth” (2003) and “Siblings” (2006). From 2007 - 2009 he attended the drama school “Schauspielschule Charlottenburg” in Berlin.

**Ryan Wichert** is a professional actor of British/German heritage. He grew up bilingually and graduated from the prestigious Drama Centre London with a BA (Hons) Acting in 2010. Ryan lives and works from London and has just finished the Austrian feature film „HI FONYÓD“ and the short comedy „TO LEECH“ had its premiere at the 57<sup>th</sup> BFI London Film Festival in October 2013.

**Kathrin Benoehr** studied Film & Broadcast Production at the London Metropolitan University and graduated with a First class degree in 2012. She won an internship at the BBC straight away and has since worked on numerous international feature films and TV productions.

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# POY - Interview

*On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013 you're launching the Web Comedy Series "Points Of You" on YouTube. How much work and time has gone into the project to date?*

**Ryan:** Too much!! Seriously though: a project like this is extremely demanding, especially when everything is done on a No-Budget basis.

**Sebastian:** In total we're looking at about 4.5 years of planning, development and actual production involving over 120 people from over 14 different countries.

*Not bad! After so much work I'm sure you have high hopes for the series. How many YouTube views are you aiming for?*

**Ryan:** That's difficult to say, but definitely more than Lady Gaga! Honestly we'd love to get somewhere in the region of 20K. We need those clicks to attract more attention to the series!

**Sebastian:** It's our aim to build a fan community for POY, to be able to produce a second series in the long run. Without any form of marketing budget that's the actual challenge.

*There are no hobbits, no vampires and certainly no zombies in POY. How are you planning on reaching your audience?*

**Ryan:** Well, there are no hobbits per se, but I'm rather short, so maybe that qualifies? We have a very visual style of comedy with absurd nuances and employ a more random tone of humour than most comedies. We really wanted to create characters that are likeable and have a unique charm. That's basically how I survived puberty - with my unique charm. Where reach is concerned we're hoping that people out there are happy to like, share and recommend the series on social networks or even send messenger pigeons with the POY logo.

**Sebastian:** Also, we have the different narrative perspectives! The feedback so far has shown that audiences have their favourite perspectives and characters!

*What's the basic idea behind POY in a few sentences?*

**Ryan:** „Points Of You“ shows Sebastian's and my fascination with Europe and Comedy! The series plays with prejudices and national clichés and utilises these as a source of comedy!

*Is the idea based on your own experiences?*

**Ryan:** Absolutely! Maybe! Totally! As a man of dual citizenship I'm used to co-existing in two different cultural worlds.

**Sebastian:** I spent 6 months in a multi-national student house in France. So almost every day I experienced similar situations and challenges!

*For POY you're active in front and behind the camera. Additionally, you were in charge of the production aspects and even co-wrote the scripts. Who do you have a go at when things on set aren't going according to plan?*

**Sebastian:** Ryan has a go at me, I have a go at Kathrin, Kathrin has a go at the dog and the dog then bites Ryan in the hand.

**Ryan:** Next time we're getting dog food as part of the catering - that'll save my hand!

*What does a day on a POY set look like? Did you just get a camera man and sound engineer, go to a local pizza place and start filming?*

**Kathrin:** It did involve a bit more than that. During principal photography for the first season we had about 30 people on set throughout. Due to the availability and accessibility of certain

# POY - Interview

locations most shoots were night shoots! That involves meticulous planning, coordination and some prayers!

*How many plates of spaghetti had to die during the making of the series?*

**Kathrin:** We didn't use any spaghetti, not even during the shoot at the Italian restaurant, but we did use large quantities of pizza! We were very lucky and received generous support from some fantastic restaurants in Berlin so the catering for our cast & crew was of a very high standard given we're a No-Budget production.

*POY is a No-Budget production that is dependent on the work, passion and commitment of all involved! Is that a viable concept for a potential second series?*

**Sebastian:** No. Work, passion and commitment are great, but only get you so far. It sounds harsh, but it's simply too much work to ask everyone back again without any funding.

*Have you got any concrete plans yet? For example, scripts, for a second series?*

**Ryan:** Yes! I don't want to give anything away, but a second series would see us delve into the world of karaoke and Bastian would go up against Sofia in a Chilli-Eating-Contest!

*Are you involved in any other film projects at the moment?*

**Ryan:** As an actor I'm shooting 3 feature films in 2014 and I'm producing a short comedy. In between all that I might get some sleep.

**Sebastian:** I have multiple ideas that emphasise the interactive aspects of filmmaking, but haven't settled on my next project - yet.

*Two typical film questions at the end: What film would you have liked to produce?*

**Sebastian:** Citizen Kane. That's my main inspiration for different perspectives in films.

**Ryan:** Last Action Hero with Schwarzenegger - but let's not go into the details!

*And finally: What film would you produce if money was no obstacle?*

**Sebastian:** "Points Of You - the Movie" - Sofia has some scenes on the moon, Ryan appears opposite Cate Blanchett, Élodie saves the rain forest and Bastian gets to play with a super computer.

**Ryan:** "Points Of You - the Movie" - Ryan plays Hamlet in Turkey, Bastian follows him over and loses his shoes, Sofia meanwhile blackmails Google and Élodie gets to know Jude Law's "botanical" side.