

Structure & Synopsis Luc Joosten

TOCCATA

After World War II Northern France

Max Aue, manager of a lace factory and a cultured man, reflects on his life during the war, and his and our guilt.

ALLEMANDE I & II

1941 Berlin / Babi Yar (Ukraine)

Aue meets Dr. Mandelbrod, who will assist him throughout his career. The Gestapo catch Max in a compromising situation with a young man. SD member Thomas Hauser takes an interest in Max's fate and sends him to the Ukraine with an Einsatzgruppe. There Max witnesses and takes part in the mass murders at Babi Yar.

COURANTE

1942 Berlin / Stalingrad

Max meets his twin sister Una and recalls their incestuous relationship. He also meets Una's husband - the composer Berndt von Uxkull. As part of his 're-education' for suspected homosexuality, Max is sent to Stalingrad, where he takes part in the terror inflicted during the seige of the city.

SARABANDE

1942 Berlin / Antibes

Max is seriously wounded and with Thomas's help returns from Stalingrad a hero. While convalescing he visits his mother in Antibes, where she lives with her new husband and twin children. That night, mother and husband are murdered.

MENUET

Auschwitz

Max at Auschwitz extermination camp.

Structure & Synopsis Luc Joosten

AIR

West Pomerania; present-day Poland

Fleeing from the advancing allies, Max reaches the Uxhull family villa. In a drunken fantasy, he enjoys a last, perverse union with Una. The detectives Clemens and Weser are in pursuit of Max for the murders in France.

GIGUE

1945 Berlin

Max again flees to Germany and on the way witnesses the horrors perpetrated by the Russian army. Back in Berlin, he is decorated by Hitler. However, an incident forces him to flee once more, pursued by Clemens and Weser. In the chaos surrounding the fall of Berlin he manages to escape.