



**Erdoğan Atalay in
"DAS!"
on the 20th of February,
aired by the NDR (Northern-German Broadcast)
Presentation: Hinnerk Baumgarten**

**Greeting
Feature: Cobra11-montage**

Part 1

Hinnerk: Do you know what I am wondering already all day long?

Erdoğan: Do I? No. *(laughs)*

Hinnerk: How would this man actually behave on the highway? If he is just going on holidays for once, with his wife and having his child on back seat of his car.

Erdoğan: Well, actually I am driving rather anticipatory, as I have to say. I am driving fast while using my own car - my wife has got another one - but I take care not to endanger anybody. I drive fast only when it is alright. Otherwise I don't. I neither tailgate nor appreciate to be tailgated. Well, indeed very, very anticipatory.



Hinnerk: Has "Alarm für Cobra 11" slightly influenced your driving manners?

Erdoğan: It did indeed, since I do know what can happen. I know how cars can get pushed together because we really do that on a daily basis. As well I know the consequences of a lorry hitting the last cars in a traffic jam, being driven at the speed of only 40 or 50 mph. That leaves you hardly a chance. I am simply talking about the chance of surviving. And this is always in the air, going with you. That's why I am always watching out. I drive very, very foreseeing. I actually drive my car kind of in the same way one rides a bike.

Hinnerk: So you're always aware what possibly could happen.

Erdoğan: Exactly... I always consider what ideas drivers of the three cars in front of me could get and how they would react.

Hinnerk: I've prepared a sentence and I am going to try to deliver it properly...

*This is followed by something in Turkish, rectified by a graduate translator.
Erdoğan looks to the ceiling, apparently not comprehending.
Being asked what it was supposed to mean, Erdoğan doesn't know what to say.*

Hinnerk: You've got a Turkish name, but in fact you are only a half-blooded Turk.

Erdoğan: Actually yes. So, I've got a German mother and a Turkish father und unfortunately I've never learned speaking Turkish. At the time my father busy with a lot of political commitments. He founded the first Turkish community in the Hanover of these days. And of course it made sense to learn German in the first place, instead of Turkish. According to that we wouldn't speak Turkish at home. My mother wasn't speaking Turkish anyway. That's why I never really learned it.

Hinnerk: So, basically I am nearly supposed to say that instead of a half Turk, you are a half Geman

Erdoğan: *(laughs)* That's up to you.



Hinnerk: That's what we are still going to talk about later on. Also about your past in Lower Saxony's Hanover. There are things due to discuss...

Erdoğan: *(smirking)* Oh dear...

Hinnerk: In particular for the both of us. But beforehand the our Breaking News

Feature: Regional Breaking News

Part 2

Hinnerk: Erdogan, now it is due for the both of us to take up the cudgels...

Erdoğan: I see...

Hinnerk: ... for Hanover...

Erdoğan: Yes, of course.



Hinnerk: You've been raised in Hanover too.

Erdoğan: Yes, I was raised in the surroundings of Hanover. I mean I was born in Hanover, but I was raised in the suburb. Berenbostel it was in particular, which happens to be between Engelbostel and Heitling.

Hinnerk: I am indeed as well from Hanover, that's why I am familiar with that area. And your first juvenile experiences... discotheques and so on...

Erdoğan: Rainbow, Kuhdorf...

Hinnerk: But of course...

Erdoğan laughs out loud



Hinnerk: Yes, absolutely, I do know them... And in spite of that people keep on telling that there was nothing up in Hanover

Erdoğan: There's a lot of of going on. But when it comes to this city, you have to... you need to have been living there for quite a while before you've learned to love it. This city was as a matter of fact... very severely destroyed subsequently to the Second World War. And it is still visible how much harm has been done to it. The architecture which came afterwards, hasn't been really beautiful, but there are some really very beautiful quarters... South City is a really very beautiful part of the city... and among our assets there are our shipyard and the "Masch Sea". That's really beautiful.

Hinnerk: And an immense amount of good things have happened in Hanover subsequently to the EXPO too. A lot of traffic planning and management... so, the city has beome much more beautiful. As well the city centre.

Erdoğan: Yes. For example the gangway, this certain former underground construction, was allegedly completely renewed. But I haven't been there for a long time.

Hinnerk: Yes, that has worked out beautifully indeed. Also there is a huge shopping center by now, well, directly... Well, we could keep on advertising for Hanovover ceaselessly. But that is not what this is about. We are gong to talk now about the Staatstheater (officially state-supported theatre) of Hanover.

Erdoğan: (*elated*) Oh yeah ...



Hinnerk: How did you actually arrive there?

Erdoğan: Well... arrived - I just did it. I entered the building and said: "A very good afternoon, I've watched yesterday's production, liked it pretty well, and therefore I'd like to join.."

Hinnerk: How old were you?

Erdoğan: At that time I was 18 years old.

Hinnerk: And it was just like that?

Erdoğan: What do you mean?

Hinnerk: How you really arrived there.

Erdoğan: Yes-yes, I simply entered. I didn't have much of a clue, I had the idea you go there and take part and everything. But then it was explained to me it wouldn't work that way, and I couldn't join straight away. It required training. So I said "Well, sorry, I didn't know that" and headed already for the exit. But then they called me back and told me they could offer me "something for an extra. Afterwards I started working as an extra... I impersonated the ghost in "Aladdin And His Wonderlamp" and such. That were the times when Alexander Mai still was the manager. And, that was really amusing: when I came in and got in contact for the first time - I'd been only once in theatre when I'd visited it with my school class and barely knew anything about it... And then there was *the* Alexander Mai - May God rest his soul...

Hinnerk: He died only two or three months ago...

Erdoğan: And he stood over there, shouting terribly at an actress because she was supposed to cry for help but her "Help" wasn't good enough for him. I stood there at a higher place and watched him telling this actress off. And she was always crying "Help, help" und he always "Help! Help!" (re-enactment) and I was thinking "Dear me, so that's what acting is like.

Hinnerk: That's what it is like...

Erdoğan: Yes, that's how it is at the theatre... He was a theatre workoholic. An unbelievable personality, this man Alexander Mai.



Hinnerk: But then you went to Hamburg and had yourself trained correctly. You also did study, didn't you?

Erdoğan: Yes. I was then in Hamburg, at the university and studied for four years. But before that I'd acted already in Hanover, also bigger roles... no, one single big role was among them... And then I made up my mind, hey man, now I should learn it properly for once and subsequently I attended an acting school.

Hinnerk: Soon we are going to talk about "Alarm für Cobra 11". But beforehand I'd like to know for once, if you... You seem to be in relatively good shape. If you sit up, can you contract your chest muscles?

Erdoğan: Well, in comparison to the Chippendales I look very skinny.

Feature: A film on the Chippendales

Part 3

Hinnerk: Apropos Chippendales... since I've looked at the pictures of these bodies one more time-how well are you in shape?

Erdoğan: How well am I in shape? Well, of course I keep myself a little in shape. Because my work demands a kind of basic fitness after all. But it isn't tremendously much. I do certain exercises, some situps, a little boxing and things like that. But since we are doing so amazingly many things while we are filming, being in effort all the time, we are kept in shape anyways. I don't have the stamina for a long run, but I can run a hundred metres easily three, four, five or ten times easily, albeit then I am also "knackered".

Hinnerk: Beautiful expression... "I am knackered..." (Note: colloquial for "exhausted")

Erdoğan: *(laughs)* But of course, yes... *(both are laughing together)*

Hinnerk In order to make it all clear, let's watch for once at "Alarm für Cobra 11", starring Erdogan Atalay, and the range of action it shows. Here is a scene which belongs to the coming season.

Teaser for "Cobra 11: The Bride"

Hinnerk: Oh dear, there is indeed always heavy action on the TV screen.

Erdoğan: That's true. That one didn't necessarily require extraordinary fitness, because you're only sitting in the car. But the other things, which are physically demanding, they require indeed more.



Hinnerk: Always on Thursday at our RTL, a quarter past eight p.m., the new season - I believe it is already the 23rd season, and it starts on the 5th of March

Erdoğan: To be honest: I haven't got a clue.

Hinnerk: You are all the time involved, aren't you?

Erdoğan: That's right. But I don't get the feeling. I am now part of it for already nearly 13 years, but I use to say, it feels like only, perhaps, five. Well, I don't know neither why that is, but perhaps also because I simply love this series.

Hinnerk: One is wondering of course whether a part of the highway is blocked up for thus scenes?

Erdoğan: Nope, we've got our own highway. We've built our own highway in Aldenhoven and you can watch occasionally, in case you're interested. You are very welcome. But it takes very long, much longer than the scene. A scene of two minutes might take in the end 14 hours of filming. But that's rather interesting. That way we're always having a location - we're not bound to any periods of time, since the people always want to get home after all. When we were on the highway, destroying things - the highway had to get riddened of all the mess, otherwise the traffic can't take place any more. That is by now of course much better because we have our own highway and there we can work sort of as long as it takes.

Hinnerk: It looks pretty dangerous after all. Have there been already some incidents during the filming?

Erdoğan: Yes, true incidents... of course every now and then there are incidents. You mustn't forget, we're doing unbelievably much and in relation to that there are only very few incidents. But it is implicit that there are accidents, due to the nature of this craft. That doesn't concern us that much, but the fall guys and fall girls have incidents from time to time, despite they are really very belaid. You can't exclude risks completely after all. But they are aware of that. It's their risk, they are living with it, it is their job.

Hinnerk: Apropos stunts- what was the most dangerous stunt you ever carried out yourself?

Erdoğan: *(laughs)* The most dangerous on my own... very often it is the small things you have to do. For example did I find it totally silly, to run 14 metres above the ground on some containers while it was raining and they were wobbling. And then you jump from one container to another, where actually nothing can happen. At least if everything is normal. But since I am on rumshackle ground, I tend to feel more inquiet as if I am 80 metres high and I'm jumping backwards from a building. That appears then easier, I feel.



Hinnerk: Well, but do you really do that? Jumping from a building from 80 metres.

Erdoğan: Yes, I really did carry that out for once. But you're not flying all the time, but only...

Hinnerk: ... 70 metres... ?

Erdoğan: ... exactly, 79.5 metres *(laughs)* ... no, you are flying for 15 or 20 metres and then you're withhold by a certain system, so that you don't fall completely and fly back instantly like in bungee jumping. You are sort of slowed down. You only have to look out not to crash into the wall, subsequently to the swing, which is depending on how far you'd jumped.

Hinnerk: Quite right, every Thursday at a quarter past eight p.m., you can watch it all then. Very, very thrilling, "Alarm für Cobra 11"



Feature: Film about (the famous German comedian) Heinz Erhardt

Part 4

Hinnerk: Have you still been growing up with Heinz Erhardt? Seeing him on TV when you were a child?

Erdoğan: Yes, certainly, I know him.

Hinnerk: He is really an archetype, isn't he?

Erdoğan: He is an icon, so to say. Really kind of an evergreen. Well, he really achieved a lot. His films were funny. I've always liked his films very much.

Hinnerk: And his slogans that we hear now a lot, subsequently to his 100st birthday, we've heard them a lot, haven't we?

Erdoğan: Yes.

Hinnerk: If life really sucks, I drink a schnapps.

Erdoğan: And then another one... exactly:

Hinnerk: And if life is still no fun, I just drink another one

Erdoğan laughs

Hinnerk: That's just the way it was. How does your daughter... she's six years old, isn't she?

Erdoğan: Yes.

Hinnerk: ... how does she like you actually on TV?

Erdoğan: Well, she doesn't watch everything, she is not allowed too, since sometimes there are elements involved that are not appropriate for children's eyes. And in case I've done an episode which, as I know, is almost in order, and that goes also for the grade of violence, then we sometimes watch it all together and then she gets up and says "Yes, quite well" and leaves. And besides... she considers me brave, which is very funny. She thinks I am very brave.

Hinnerk: Well, actually your series would be more fitting for a boy. *(laughs)*



Erdoğan: *(laughs)* Jes, in a sort of way. But my – our – daughter is very much a girl. I sometimes try to get her interested in cars like "just have a glimpse at this- remote control" and such, but not at all, she rather like to have a doll after all.

Hinnerk: Oh, look at that, the tower crane!

Erdoğan: Yes, just like that. But unfortunately I haven't succeeded yet. *(smirks)*

Hinnerk: What about your wife? Has she also played in the series yet?

Erdoğan: Yes.

Hinnerk: Astrid Ann Marie Pollmann is also an actress.

Erdoğan: Yes:

Hinnerk: So you did indeed the one or the other episode... besides, an attractive woman...

Featuring a photograph of Ann and Erdogan (© DWDL)



Hinnerk: Moreover you wrote once a scenario for “Alarm für Cobra 11”

Erdoğan: I've written a scenario once, that's true. But she had nothing to do with that. It was a long time before we met, the scene I wrote and such. But she also acted in another film I made once: “Maximum Speed”. An actioner on inline skates, there she was part of it. At “Cobra” she's also taken part once. And now she is just slowly starting over again. Of course, once a child has passed the period when it needs the utmost care, you can think of indulging yourself, if I may put it that way.

Hinnerk: How do you actually manage it all? You do live in Berlin but the locations are in Cologne.

Erdoğan: Cologne is the location. I am just always in a plane, either flying in the one or the other direction. I'd love to film in Berlin, no question. But that has become impossible since a lot of people involved have their centre of live in Cologne or the surroundings. It was a little awkward then, if everything was transferred because of me, but that, I believe, is not going to happen.

Hinnerk: How many days of filming do you have every week? Do you have a typical week end relationship?

Erdoğan: In a nutshell. “I am going to work offshore”... that are five days where I am not present, then I fly back and have two days off. And between the seasons, like now for example – otherwise I couldn't be hear at all – we have a little leisure. Meanwhile they prepare the next episodes. At least that. Well, there are always some breathers, but we stay busy all the year.



Featuring: Documentation on carnival

Part 5

Hinnerk: You have just told me that you've even once caught a horse?

Erdoğan: Yes, that was then in Easter Forest. I was just riding out. I'd seen a girl that had looked a little troubled by her horse. She had been riding alone into the countryside, something you actually don't do on your very own but only accompanied by at least one other rider. As I am riding into the direction of the forest, the horse confronts me in a breakneck speed. Obviously it didn't carry the blond on its back anymore. And it was heading for the highway.

So me and my little Babode – who by now has reached the age of 33 years and receives therefore her bread of charity – had to go at galloping speed after her and I had to bend down to the ground in order to pick up the reins and I eventually brought the horse again to a halt. That was rather troublesome because we were following the horse on a very narrow path and it took a big deal of time to catch up. But Babode became very eager and went really fast, and that was that...

Hinnerk: So the action star in you took over!

Erdoğan: Well, it was necessary, because otherwise the horse would have... you never know... outraged... and when the stirrups swing freely and keep on hitting more and more violently into its flanks, this is not exactly supposed to calm it down. So, before they lose their mind completely and try to cross the highway, you should catch them...

Hinnerk: We still have to talk about this book...

He presents the book "How do you live?" [Was lebst du ?] for the camera.



Erdoğan: Right.

Hinnerk: Very well. You contributed a terrific article about different views. It is about the relationship between Germans and Turks. How is it to you?

Erdoğan: In which kind of way?

Hinnerk: So, how do you feel about it... how are you perceived as a man in Germany and in Turkey?

Erdoğan: Well, I believe in Germany I am ... in Germany I am perceived as a Turkish German, but in Turkey I am of course a Turk, because there you are regarded you as such already if you've got any Turkish blood inside of you. That makes you a Turk. In Germany it is more ambiguous, for example because most people presume I would speak Turkish which I actually comprehend only partly. And for that matter... I believe there is a little incertitude. And I play indeed a Turkish role and believe that has really started something.

Hinnerk: We have to talk this over once again later on. A very interesting matter.

Featuring: A documentation on cooking

Part 6

Hinnerk: And who had thought of that? Erdogan Atalay is not only a good actor, but also a connoisseur of salads. And when it comes to refine them by balsamic vinegar...

Erdoğan: Yeah, I came across something and that's balsamic creme, available in shops that are specialised in organic products. They've composed it. Normal vinegar always brings too much acid to it, unless you buy ancient one which is very expensive. But now they've invented this creme... I don't know who did it, but nowadays you can buy it everywhere... and it is very, very delicious. If you take properly roasted pine nuts and rocket and distribute cherry tomatoes and matured, crumbled parmesan onto it, and then you add this very creme and cold-pressed oil... accomplished!

Hinnerk Regarding Turkey one more story, which is very interesting- at school you were once excluded from lessons in religion. Why was that?

Erdoğan: That came because they were thinking I was a muslim. I didn't know at that time what that meant. But they'd jumped to conclusions, since I had a Turkish father and a Turkish name, and so you had to be a muslim, you are actually not associated with christianity, cheers, take care, have a nice evening... or rather: Have a nice day. I went then to my father and informed him that I wouldn't be allowed to join the religious lessons at school, because I am a muslim. What is that supposed to mean? And he said, yes indeed, what is that actually supposed to mean? Of course you can. He went to my school and made clear, that that was not relevant if only I was interested, I subsequently must be allowed to join. My father is and was always very open-minded. And so I did participate.

Hinnerk: And moreover you achieved a very good grade...

Erdoğan: An A.



Feature: Information on internet and weather

Part 7

Both have left the couch. Demonstration of a film scene.

Hinnerk: Erdogan Atalay, action star, today at "DAS!". And it is implicit that as an action star you ought to deliver fights.

Erdoğan: *(laughs)* Right, you ought to be able to do that, but of course not as intense as it looks. Instead we use certain knacks. If you jump away from a lorry or something, the wide angle let it appear as if you were very close but in fact there is a bigger distance and the chance to elude remains. The same goes for a punch.



Hinnerk offers himself as baddie.

Erdoğan: So, if you were a bad guy You are bad, sir, you are bad, man... *(smirks)*... you are bad, man, and I would hit you, then it looked in the end like this... as close as possible. Important is the reaction that you deliver.

Hinnerk: Okay.

Both pretend that Erdogan would deck Hinnerk with a hook to his chin.

Erdoğan: And here you could recognise easily from the angle of the camera that I don't touch you at all. That's why we often do an "over-shoulder", sort of crosswise from behind, because I am standing like this... you actually ought believe that it is for real.

Erdogan tries to check out whether the take was in order while Hinnerk checks his hands. Erdogan laughs.



Hinnerk: How does it really work, if somebody's head seems to hit the desk...

Erdoğan: Well, we like to pretend things like that too, only...

Erdogan grabs Hinnerk's collar from behind.

Erdoğan: The point is that you push back with your head. In fact you do it on your own and I only support you. Three, two, one...

They demonstrate the trick and have a lot of fun. But the end of the show approaches...

Hinnerk: Erdogan Atalay, thank you very much and enjoy "Cobra 11".

Erdoğan: Thank you.



THE END

+++++

Minutes and screenshots by webmaster Barbara Fuckner
for non-commercial fan information.

Translation by Joachim Schulz
- so many thanks ! -

Pictures and trademarks in courtesy of NDR

All other use is permitted only with naming of the fan page !