

Nina Franoszek (National Geograhic California Special)

From Berlin; roles among others in "Mad Men," "The Brink," "The Pianist"

You are from Berlin and were very successful in Germany. Why did you go to Hollywood?

That unfolded gradually. First of all, I experienced Hollywood as an expansion of my playing field, not as a rejection of Germany. But then I noticed how quickly I felt at home in L.A. And at the same time I was somewhat shocked: Why here, in this infinite maze of a city?

And what was the reason?

Particularly people's tolerance and this fundamental optimism, the positive attitude. I still find that very refreshing compared to the rather critical approach which somewhat belongs to many artists in Germany. And the light, the sun, the proximity to an insanely beautiful nature. The beaches of the pacific ocean, the blooming desert, snow-covered mountains — it's just phenomenal.

Have you come to appreciate the city L.A. in the meantime? Yes. I'm always fascinated by the multicultural presence of film, literature, music, architecture, spirituality and lifestyle - at each corner, always different - and of the permanent innovations in film and new media which give me the feeling to have my finger on the pulse of time and I'm grateful to be part of it.

Nina Franoszeks Tipps für L.A.

Farmers Market

The most beautiful market in L.A. with speciality from around the world. And a place with history: This is where the German-Jewish immigrants met. Today you can hear old movie directors debate in the cafes.

6333 W 3rd St., open daily, www.farmersmarketla.com

Schindler House

To me this bungalow is the quintessence of Californian architecture: the play with interior and exterior, with sliding walls and glass - amazing. Built in 1922 by an Austrian, today field office of the Austrian Museum of applied Arts.

835 North Kings Rd., closed mondays, tuesdays, phone 001-323-651 1510, www.schindlerhouse.org

The Rose Café

My favorite cafe - and probably the last relict from the times when Venice was still a kind of Kreuzberg by the sea.

220 Rose Ave, Tel. 001-310-399 0711, www.rosecafe.com