



German native

One of Germany's busiest young actors, Elyas M'Barek is currently shooting two films at the same time: "The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones" and historical drama "The Physician."

The 30-year-old Munich native, the son of an Austrian mother and a Tunisian father, has appeared in more than a dozen features and countless TV projects in the past decade, but it was his starring role in the hit ARD series "Turkish for Beginners" and its subsequent bigscreen adaptation that catapulted him to stardom in Germany.

The film, a prequel to the story told in the series, about a German mother of two who moves in with her boyfriend, a Turkish widower and his two teenage kids, grossed nearly \$22 million. It was the most successful German film at the box office this year.

The pic was one of four films released this year starring M'Barek. The others were Elmar Fischer's comedy road movie "Offroad," Mike Marzuk's hit kid's adventure pic "Famous Five" and Marco Petry's romantic drama "Heiter bis

ELYAS M'BAREK

finds box office hit 'Turkish for Beginners' his Teuton coming-out party

LUCKY BREAK: "To be able to play a Turkish guy in 'Turkish for Beginners' while being Austrian."

FAVORITE FILM: " 'La Haine' and everything from Steven Soderbergh, Steven Spielberg and David Fincher."

CAREER I'D LIKE TO EMULATE: "The one of Vincent Cassel or George Clooney, even better."

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"Elyas brings an incredible combination of personality, talent and looks to the bigscreen. He has everything a movie star needs and more," says Martin Moszkowicz, Constantin Film's head of film and TV and exec producer of "Mortal Instruments," "Hopelessly in Love" and "Turkish for Beginners."

M'Barek also starred in Matthias Schweighöfer's hit laffer "What a Man," one of last year's most successful local pics, as well as Uli Edel's 2010 film "Time You Change," about the life of German rapper Bushido, and Dennis Gansel's 2008 hit "The Wave."

M'Barek will continue his relationship with Constantin on the high school comedy "F***** You Goethe," by Bora Dagtekin, writer-director of "Turkish for Beginners," as well as on a "Turkish for Beginners" sequel.

Although he already had an impressive list of credits before "Turkish for Beginners," M'Barek says the film's huge success has led to a flood of offers, allowing him to cherry pick his roles for the first time in his career.

In Harald Zwart's upcoming "Mortal Instruments," he plays a vampire leader, starring alongside Lily Collins, Jamie Campbell Bower, Kevin Zegers and Jonathan Rhys Meyers. In Philipp Stoelzl's "The Physician," about an 11th-century Englishman who travels to Persia to learn medicine, he co-stars with Ben Kingsley, Tom Payne, Olivier Martinez and Stellan Skarsgård.

—Ed Meza