

ZDF Streaming: from Saturday, 6th September 2025, available for a year

ZDF: Monday, 15th September 2025, 20.15

ARTE: Friday, 12th September 2025, 20.15

On a Day in September

A historic TV movie based on a true story

Crew

Writer	Fred Breinersdorfer
Director	Kai Wessel
DOP	Holly Fink
Editor	Tina Freitag
Production Designer	Samuel Charbonnot
Costume Designer	Christophe Pidre
Sound Engineer	Philippe Vandendriessche
Composer	Jens Grötzschel
Production Manager	Gladys Brookfield-Hampson
Line Producers	Heinz-Georg Voskort, Gwennaëlle Libert
Producers	Christophe Toulemonde, Alain-Gilles Viellevoys
Production	commissioned by ZDF in collaboration with ARTE; Network Movie Film- und Fernsehproduktion GmbH, Köln and made in munich content & films GmbH
Executive Producers	Wolfgang Cimer (Network Movie), Mark von Seydlitz (made in munich)
Commissioning Editors	Matthias Pfeifer (ZDF), Julius Windhorst (ZDF/ARTE)
Running Time	90 minutes

Cast

Konrad Adenauer	Burghart Klaußner
Charles de Gaulle	Jean-Yves Berteloot
Yvonne de Gaulle	Hélène Alexandridis
Gaston de Bonneval	Vincent Lecuyer
Günther Bachmann	Fabian Busch
Willi Klockner	Ronald Kukulies
Elke Schmitz	Nadja Sabersky
Helene Wissembach	Nora Turell
Louise Camaille	Muriel Bersy

Philomene Ziegler	Mailys Dumon
Marie Nagot	Alice Hubbal
Reinhold Doennes	Rüdiger Klink
Marie-Rose	Colette Kraffe
Philippe de Gaulle	Pierre Lognay
and others	

Synopsis

September 14th, 1958: Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and Prime Minister Charles de Gaulle meet for the first time in Colombey-les-Deux-Églises. The encounter of the two charismatic statesmen is fraught with tensions but will mark the birth of the German-French friendship as well as the European unification movement.

At the time, General Charles de Gaulle, a passionate soldier, is the newly appointed prime minister of France, a country that is in the middle of a serious constitutional crisis with the threat of a military coup. Konrad Adenauer, a devout Catholic, has been the head of government of a divided country for almost ten years by then. Germany is struggling with a fragile political status and, even 13 years after the end of the war, does not have its own sovereignty. Directly positioned within the Iron Curtain, it could become a nuclear battlefield in a potential third world war. Against this backdrop of simmering conflicts and the centuries-old “hereditary enmity” between France and Germany, the two men approach each other in this carefully planned meeting in the Gaulle’s private home *La Boisserie* in Lorraine. De Gaulle’s wife Yvonne tries to ease the pressures of the encounter at every possible opportunity. This is anything but easy, as the German-French animosity is palpable between the closest associates of the two statesmen, among the staff within the house and outside on the streets.

Despite fundamental differences of opinion and the dangers of a possible failure, the talks are marked by diplomacy and insights into their private lives which enable a spontaneous, friendly relationship to develop between the French general and the German chancellor that will be considered a historic success for European collaboration.

ZDF Press Office

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