

BURHAN  
QURBANI

DAVID  
WNENDT

VALESKA  
GRISEBACH

LARS  
KRAUME

EMILY  
ATEF

ANCA MIRUNA  
LAZARESCU

# FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS

T H E D I R E C T O R S



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## PRESS KIT 2018

## INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the national information and advisory centre for the promotion of German films worldwide - **German Film Service + Marketing** - launched a unique campaign promoting German cinema achievements, through exceptional German talent to the film industry and wider international cinema-going community.

The initiative – **FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS** – shines a spotlight on the most influential individuals currently working in the German film industry and who represent just some of the many dynamic ‘faces’ of German filmmaking today.

The **2016** launch of the **FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS** campaign presented six **actresses** as these ‘faces’, at the London Film Festival and through the year, across a series of press events, a photographic advertising campaign and through the international launches of their diverse film and television projects. The actresses were PAULA BEER, LIV LISA FRIES, SANDRA HÜLLER, JULIA JENTSCH, SASKIA ROSENDAHL and LILITH STANGENBERG.

At the **2017** Cannes International Film Festival, the **FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS** initiative entered the second phase of the campaign with the support of Germany’s most eclectic **actors**, some of whom have already established diverse acting careers and others who represent the next generation of acclaimed German acting talent: VOLKER BRUCH, ALEXANDER FEHLING, LOUIS HOFMANN, JANNIS NIEWÖHNER, TOM SCHILLING and RONALD ZEHRFELD.

**2018** sees the continuation of the **FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS** campaign, this year celebrating the visionaries behind the camera, by showcasing prominent **directors** in the German film industry, who have already garnered a great deal of international recognition for their varied works. These new ‘faces’ are:

- EMILY ATEF
- VALESKA GRISEBACH
- LARS KRAUME
- ANCA MIRUNA LAZARESCU
- BURHAN QURBANI
- DAVID WNENDT

This year’s **FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS** campaign will continue to celebrate trends in German filmmaking, as well as the current international appetite for German storytelling and the filmmakers at the heart of the industry’s most recent national and international successes.

The directors will be presented at the Berlin International Film Festival 2018 and will represent their industry through a series of curated events throughout the coming year.

## GERMAN CINEMA AND SERIES ABROAD IN 2017

After the world falling in love with TONI ERDMANN in 2016, 2017 was another stand-out year for German cinema and television around the globe. A Cannes Competition entry for the second year in a row, the biggest presence ever at Toronto, an animated film drawing huge international box-office success, and the buzz about German series are just some of the highlights. This proves that homegrown films continued to exceed expectations at the international box-office and on the film festival circuit and original series garnered international acclaim and attention.

A number of German films premiered at the major international films festivals – often in Competition and other prestigious sections, receiving over 300 awards. Sundance hosted world premieres of Helene Hegemann's **AXOLOTL OVERKILL**, Nana Ekvtimishvili and Simon Gross' **MY HAPPY FAMILY** prominently in the World Dramatic Competition, as well as artist Julian Rosefeldt's **MANIFESTO** starring Cate Blanchett.

Faith Akin's **IN THE FADE** screened In Competition at the Cannes Film Festival, where Diane Kruger won the award for Best Actress. Kruger's starring role in the thriller has been lauded by festival-goers and critics alike and went on to win a Golden Globe® and a Critics' Choice Award for Best Foreign Language film at the beginning of 2018. It is also on the shortlist of the last nine films in the Best Foreign Language Film category for this year's Academy Awards®.

In addition, **WESTERN** by Valeska Grisebach (one of this year's 'Faces') proved to be very popular internationally and screened not only in Cannes' Un Certain Regard, but also drew strong, positive receptions at the festivals in Karlovy Vary, New York, Toronto and London, among many others.

Young German cinema was shown at the summer festival in Locarno with Jan Zabeil's **THREE PEAKS**, starring Alexander Fehling – one of the 'Faces' in 2017 - and Bérénice Bejo, and Felix Randau's **ICEMAN** screening at the impressive open-air venue of Piazza Grande. **THREE PEAKS** won the Variety Piazza Grande Award. The Toronto International Film Festival boasted four German titles alone in the high-profile Special Presentations strand including world premieres of **THE CAPTAIN** by director Robert Schwentke and Wim Wenders' **SUBMERGENCE**, both of which went on to have their European premieres In Competition at the San Sebastian Film Festival.

German films enjoyed a strong presence at the international box office once again in 2017: Toby Genkel and Reza Memari's animated film **RICHARD THE STORK** was released theatrically in 44 countries so far and proved to be a great box office hit with 10.5 million Euros outside of Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Over 600,000 cinema-goers saw the film in Russia. To date, Simon Verhoeven's **UNFRIEND** has taken in over 7.5 million Euros at the international box office, of which approximately 3 million Euros has come from the USA. **TONI ERDMANN** was released in additional countries in 2017 and the film's total box office gross has now reached 9.5 million Euros (excluding Germany/Austria/Switzerland).

Germany's offering of high-end series continued to draw an international following and also starred actors and actresses who have previously featured in the **FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS** campaign. This included Oliver Hirschbiegel's **THE SAME SKY** starring Tom Schilling; Netflix's first German production **DARK** – created by Baran bo Odar and Jantje Friese and starring Louis Hoffman - which is already considered as one of Netflix's biggest European serial hits so far; and Tom Tykwer, Henk Handloegten and Achim von Borries' acclaimed **BABYLON BERLIN** starring Liv Lisa Fries and Volker Bruch, which has been extensively broadcast internationally.

## EMILY ATEF



*"In all the German films that I have admired from the last few years, the depth of the characters have walked me home, sometimes staggering, and other times with a skip in my step, inspired."*

Emily Atef was born in Berlin to French and Iranian parents. She grew up in Los Angeles and Paris, before moving to London to work in theater. In 2001, she enrolled in the German Film & Television Academy (DFFB) in Berlin.

After directing several successful short films including **FROM XX TO XY: FIGHTING TO BE JAKE** (2002) and **SUNDAYS** (2003), Atef's first feature, **MOLLY'S WAY** (2006), which she co-wrote with Esther Bernstorff, received the important German Cinema New Talent Award for Best Screenplay at the Munich Film Festival. The film went on to win a number of additional awards including the Special Jury Award at the Mar del Plata Film Festival in Argentina.

Atef's second feature, **THE STRANGER IN ME** (2008) - about a mother who falls into severe depression following the birth of her child - celebrated its world premiere in the Semaine de la Critique in Cannes and also won numerous international awards, including Best Picture and Best Actress at the International Film Festival of Sao Paulo.

With a scholarship from the Cinéfondation at the Résidence Du Festival in Cannes, Emily Atef, together with Esther Bernstorff, wrote the screenplay for her third feature **KILL ME** (2010), which focuses on the morbid pact made between a 15-year old girl and an escaped prison inmate. The film went on to screen at numerous international film festivals.

Atef has written and directed **3 DAYS IN QUIBERON** which premiered in Competition at the Berlinale 2018. The film is inspired by three days in the life of the world-famous actress Romy Schneider: In a Spa hotel on the coast of Brittany, where Romy has retreated to escape the daily pressures of her life, she gives her last interview for the famous German magazine STERN. Three days, full of ups and downs, switching between tenderness and mutual manipulation, driven by despair, desire, professional ambition and the urge for living - which keeps them deeply engaged for three days and nights and reveals Romy Schneider to be more vulnerable than ever.

**3 DAYS IN QUIBERON** recently won an outstanding 7 German Film Awards (Lola), including Best Director for Emily Atef, Best Film in Gold, Best Actress (Marie Baumer), Best Supporting Actress (Birgit Minichmayr) and Best Supporting Actor (Robert Gwisdek).

**SELECT FILM & TELEVISION CREDITS**

2018	3 DAYS IN QUIBERON	Feature
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2017	DON'T WORRY I'M FINE	TV Movie
2016	WUNSCHKINDER	TV Movie
2015	KÖNIGIN DER NACHT	TV Movie
2010	KILL ME	Feature
2008	THE STRANGER IN ME	Feature
2006	MOLLY'S WAY	Feature
2004	I LOVE YOU, I KILL YOU	Short
2003	SUNDAYS	Short
2002	FROM XX TO XY: FIGHTING TO BE JAKE	Short

## AWARDS

2018	<p>WON: Best Film in Gold – German Film Award          WON: Best Director – German Film Award          WON: Best Actress (Marie Baumer) – German Film Award          WON: Best Supporting Actress (Birgit Minichmayr) – German Film Award          WON: Best Supporting Actor (Robert Gwisdek) – German Film Award          WON: Best Cinematography (Thomas W. Kiennast) – German Film Award          WON: Best Score (Christoph M. Kaiser, Julian Mass) – German Film Award          NOMINATED: Best Supporting Actor (Charly Hübner) – German Film Award          NOMINATED: Best Sound (Joern Martens, Martin Steyer, Kai Tebbel) – German Film Award          NOMINATED: Best Makeup (Ljiljana Müller, Hanna Hackbeil) – German Film Award</p>
2015	<p>WON: Eurimages Co-Production Development Award 3 DAYS IN QUIBERON – Berlin International Film Festival</p>
2013	<p>WON: Best Director KILL ME - Bradford International Film Festival</p>
2009	<p>WON: Best Director THE STRANGER IN ME - Studio Hamburg Young Talent Awards 2009</p>
2009	<p>WON: Young Jury Prize THE STRANGER IN ME – Festival du Cinema Allemand de Nantes</p>
2009	<p>WON: Best Film THE STRANGER IN ME – Festival du Film Germanophone Augenblick</p>
2009	<p>WON: Audience Award THE STRANGER IN ME – Cinéma Science International Film Festival Bordeaux</p>
2008	<p>WON: Best Film &amp; Audience Award THE STRANGER IN ME – Filmfest Oldenburg</p>
2008	<p>WON: Canvas Award for Best Film THE STRANGER IN ME – European Film Festival Brussels</p>
2008	<p>WON: Best Film THE STRANGER IN ME – Alba International Film Festival and Sao Paulo Film Festival</p>
2008	<p>WON: SIGNIS Award for Best Film THE STRANGER IN ME - Mar del Plata International Film Festival</p>
2006	<p>WON: Best Film MOLLY'S WAY – Turkish German Film Festival</p>

- 2006           WON: Best Film MOLLY'S WAY – Neisse Film Festival
- 2005           WON: Grand Jury Award MOLLY's WAY – Mar del Plata Film Festival
- 2005           WON: German Cinema New Talent Award Best Screenplay MOLLY's WAY –  
Munich Film Festival
- 2004           WON: Best Short Film SUNDAYS – Lucca Film Festival
- 2003           WON: Audience Award XX TO XY: FIGHTING TO BE JAKE – Long Island Film  
Festival
- 2003           WON: Best Short XX TO XY: FIGHTING TO BE JAKE – Pittsburgh Film Festival  
and LGBT Film Festival Philadelphia



## VALESKA GRISEBACH



*“German cinema is beautiful, diverse and has many different faces. It is always fascinating to me how making films and watching films brings you in contact with the world and other people, whether it's just a step outside the door or further away. When I think about the question of what German cinema actually is, and what cinema was for example in the 1960s, I find it particularly exciting to ask what contemporary, modern cinema, independent of borders and nationalities, can be like.”*

Valeska Grisebach studied directing at the Vienna Film Academy under such internationally renowned filmmakers as Peter Patzak, Wolfgang Glück and Michael Haneke.

Grisebach's graduation film, **BE MY STAR** (2001) was also her first feature. It had a very successful international festival career, winning the Special Mention FIPRESCI Critics Award at the Toronto International Film Festival as well as the Grand Prize at the Torino Film Festival.

Her second feature film, **LONGING** (2006) premiered In Competition at the Berlinale. The film went on to receive numerous awards at international film festivals including the Special Jury Award at Buenos Aires, the Grand Prix Asturias at the Gijón International Film Festival and the Special Jury Award at the Warsaw International Film Festival.

Grisebach's third feature film, **WESTERN** premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in Un Certain Regard in 2017 to critical acclaim. The film screened at various other international festivals like New York, Toronto, Karlovy Vary and London and won several awards. WESTERN recently won a German Film Award for Best Film in Bronze, with a nomination for Best Director. WESTERN centers on a group of German construction workers located at a remote site in the Bulgarian countryside. The foreign land awakens the men's sense of adventure, but they are also confronted with their own prejudice, due to the language barrier and cultural differences. The stage is quickly set for a showdown when men begin to compete for recognition from the local villagers.

**SELECT FILM CREDITS**

2017	WESTERN	Feature
2006	LONGING	Feature
2001	BE MY STAR	Feature
1999	BERLINO	Short
1997	IN DER WUESTE GOBI	Short

AWARDS

2018	WON: Best Film in Bronze – German Film Award NOMINATED: Best Director – German Film Award
2017	WON: Honourable Mention WESTERN – Jerusalem Film Festival
2017	WON: Special Mention WESTERN – International Film Festival Yerevan
2017	WON: Best Film & FIPRESCI Award WESTERN – Motovun Film Festival
2017	WON: Grand Prix & FIPRESCI Prize WESTERN - New Horizons International Film Festival
2017	WON: Günter Rohrbach Filmpreis WESTERN
2017	WON: Grand Jury Award WESTERN – Sevilla Film Festival
2017	WON: Silver Astor for Best Director WESTERN – Mar Del Plata Film Festival
2017	NOMINATED: LUX Film Prize by the European Parliament WESTERN
2017	WON: Best International Film WESTERN – La Orquidea International Film Festival
2006	WON: Special Jury Award LONGING – BAFICI International Film Festival
2006	WON: Film Art Prize LONGING – Ludwigshafen Film Festival
2006	WON: Best Film LONGING – Pesaro Film Festival
2006	WON: Prix L'Age D'Or LONGING – Brussels Film Festival
2006	WON: Best Film & FIPRESCI Jury Award LONGING - Gijón International Film Festival
2001	WON: Best Feature Film BE MY STAR – First Steps Awards
2001	WON: Special Mention (FIPRESCI) BE MY STAR – Toronto International Film Festival
2001	WON: Best Film BE MY STAR - Torino Film Festival



## LARS KRAUME



*"German film is violence, blood, tears, death and love. It is crime, thriller, drama and tragedy. It is everything to me, my first love, I just wish it would be more funny."*

Lars Kraume was born in Italy and grew up in Frankfurt, Germany. In 1992 he submitted his first short film, **3:21**, as part of his successful application to the prestigious film school German Film & Television Academy Berlin (DFFB).

Kraume's student short film **LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO DANCE WITH UGLY WOMEN** (1996) received the Best Short Film Award at the Torino International Film Festival. His graduation film, **DUNCKEL** won the prestigious German Grimme Prize for Best Director in 1998.

After having made his feature film debut with **VIKTOR VOGEL** in 2001, in 2005 **NO SONGS OF LOVE**, premiered at the Berlinale. Kraume's **GUTEN MORGEN, HERR GROTHE** also screened in Berlin in 2007 and went on to win the German Television Award and the Grimme Prize, both for Best Director. Also in 2007 Kraume, together with Frank Döhmann, Matthias Glasner, and Jürgen Vogel co-founded the production company Badlands Film. In 2010, Badlands produced Kraume's next feature **DAYS TO COME**.

In 2013 Kraume's feature **MEINE SCHWESTERN** celebrated its premiere at the Berlinale. This was followed by **THE PEOPLE VS. FRITZ BAUER** starring Burghart Klaußner, which won the Audience Award at the Locarno Film Festival in 2015, as well as no less than six German Film Awards in 2016 (Best Film, Best Screenplay, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, Best Production Design, Best Costume Design) and screened at numerous international festivals like Toronto, London or Shanghai.

Kraume's latest film, **THE SILENT REVOLUTION**, premiered in the Special Gala Section of this year's Berlinale. **THE SILENT REVOLUTION** was recently nominated for several German Film Awards including Best Film Award, Best Costume Design (Esther Walz), Best Screenplay and Outstanding Feature Film. It is based on true events that took place in the former German Democratic Republic during the height of the Cold War: Kurt and Theo are classmates and best friends. In 1956 they are about to finish school in Stalinstadt, in the GDR. On one of their secret excursions to West Berlin, they see disturbing pictures of an uprising in Hungary in the Newsreel Wochenschau. The students are impressed by the young Hungarians, who fight for their freedom and they decide to show their solidarity. In class, they hold a minute's silence in honour of the victims. Little do they know how much trouble their seemingly harmless act of solidarity will mean for their future...

#### SELECT FILM & TELEVISION CREDITS

2018	THE SILENT REVOLUTION	Feature
2017	FAMILIENFEST	TV Movie
2017	TERROR	TV Movie
2015	THE PEOPLE VS. FRITZ BAUER	Feature
2013	MEINE SCHWESTERN	TV Movie
2010	DAYS TO COME	Feature
2007	GUTEN MORGEN, HERR GROTHE	TV Movie
2005	NO SONGS OF LOVE	Feature
2005	KISMET –WÜRFEL DEIN LEBEN	Feature
2001	VIKTOR VOGEL	Feature
1998	DUNCKEL	Short
1996	LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO DANCE WITH UGLY WOMEN	Short
1992	3:21	Short

### AWARDS

2018	NOMINATED: Best Film Award – German Film Award NOMINATED: Best Costume Design (Esther Walz) – German Film Award NOMINATED: Best Screenplay – German Film Award NOMINATED: Outstanding Feature Film – German Film Award
2017	WON: Best Film & Best Director FAMILIENFEST – German Television Awards
2017	WON: Best Director TERROR – German Television Awards
2016	WON: Best Film, Best Screenplay, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, Best Production Design, Best Costume Design THE PEOPLE VS. FRITZ BAUER – German Film Awards
2015	WON: Audience Award THE PEOPLE VS. FRITZ BAUER – Locarno Film Festival
2008	WON: Best Director GUTEN MORGEN, HERR GROTHE – Grimme Awards
2007	WON: Best Director GUTEN MORGEN, HERR GROTHE – German Television Awards
1998	WON: Best Director DUNCKEL – Grimme Awards
1996	WON: Best Short Film LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO DANCE WITH UGLY WOMEN – Torino International Film Festival

## ANCA MIRUNA LAZARESCU



*“Having been born and raised abroad allows me to judge films made in Germany with a healthy bit of distance - German cinema is much more passionate, courageous and funny than it’s often given credit for. For me, being part of the German film community means the freedom to cross borders: between former East and West, TV and cinema and low and higher budget projects.”*

Anca Miruna Lazarescu was born in Romania and emigrated with her family to Germany in 1990. Although her parents originally wanted her to study medicine, Lazarescu studied directing at the University of Television and Film in Munich, attended summer classes at UCLA and enrolled in various scriptwriting workshops abroad. It was in Los Angeles where she worked on the hit American television comedy, **SCRUBS**.

In 2010 Lazarescu directed the short film **SILENT RIVER**, which was invited to screen at over 300 film festivals worldwide and won 83 international awards. **SILENT RIVER** is regarded as the most awarded short film of all time in Romania and Germany.

Lazarescu’s first feature film **THAT TRIP WE TOOK WITH DAD** which is based on the biography of her father, premiered both at the Munich International Film Festival and at the Moscow IFF in 2016. It screened at over 20 international film festivals worldwide and apart from Germany, was theatrically released in Hungary and Romania.

Lazarescu has finished shooting her second feature, **HAPPINESS SUCKS**: The tragic comedy tells the story of twelve-year-old Jessica who doesn’t have it easy: she has to fight against some odd quirks and her crush Nicolai thinks she is a boy. She would like to swap lives with her pretty sister Sabrina who – despite being terminally ill – seems to have her life under control.

Together with Igor Cobileanski, Anca Miruna Lazarescu is set to direct the international cyber-crime series **HACKERVILLE**, a co-production between HBO Europe and the German TNT series and UFA Fiction. Created by Ralph Martin and Joerg Winger, both writers of the Emmy-winning German series *Deutschland 83*, the series will be produced by Golden Palm winner Cristian Mungiu and Tudor Reu.

After a cyber attack on a major German bank is traced to Romania. Cyber-crime expert Lisa Metz is then sent from Germany to her native Romania to investigate alongside a local cop. They discover a genius hacker is at large, setting up a complex series of events and relationships between the protagonists. **HACKERVILLE** stars *Face to Face with German Films* alum Ronald Zehrfeld.

### SELECT FILM & TELEVISION CREDITS

2019	THE WAVE	Series (Netflix)
2018	HACKERVILLE	Series (HBO Europe)
2017	HAPPINESS SUCKS	Feature
2016	THAT TRIP WE TOOK WITH DAD	Feature
2010	SILENT RIVER	Short
2009	ONE DAY TODAY WILL BE ONCE	Documentary
2007	THE SECRET OF DEVA	Documentary
2005	SALMA BENEATH TWO SKIES	Documentary
2004	BUCURESTI – BERLIN	Short

### AWARDS

2017	WON: Best First Feature, Best Ensemble Cast, Best DOP and Audience Award THAT TRIP WE TOOK WITH DAD – Seefest Los Angeles
2017	WON: Best Narrative Feature Film THAT TRIP WE TOOK WITH DAD – Cinequest, San José, USA
2017	WON: Federico Fellini Award THAT TRIP WE TOOK WITH DAD – Tiburon International Film Festival
2017	WON: CICAIE Art Cinema Award THAT TRIP WE TOOK WITH DAD – Cinefest Miskolc
2012	WON: Best Short Film SILENT RIVER – Romanian Film Awards
2012	WON: Young Hope SILENT RIVER – Romanian Film Awards
2011	WON: Best Film, Best Director, Best Editing, Best Score & Best Actor SILENT RIVER – Bueu International Short Film Festival
2011	WON: Outstanding International Student Film Award SILENT RIVER – Beijing International Student Film Festival
2011	WON: Best European Short Film & Best Film SILENT RIVER – European Short Film Festival Cambrils-Reus
2011	WON: Best Romanian Short Film & Audience Award SILENT RIVER – Bucharest Next Film Festival
2011	WON: Best Short Film SILENT RIVER – Vukovar International Film Festival
2011	WON: Best Foreign Short Film SILENT RIVER – St. Petersburg Open Cinema Film Festival
2011	WON: Grand Prize SILENT RIVER – Brussels Short Film Festival
2008	WON: Grand Jury Prize THE SECRET OF DEVA – Cronograf

- 2008      WON: Audience Award THE SECRET OF DEVA – Trieste Film Festival
- 2007      WON: Best Young Director THE SECRET OF DEVA – Sehnsüchte International  
Student's Film Festival

**BURHAN QURBANI**

***“German cinema must become a European cinema to stay relevant and current. We as German filmmakers have to be able to do both: speak an international cinematic language and still tell stories that are specific and based in our roots as Germans.”***

Burhan Qurbani's family fled the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, seeking political asylum in Germany in 1979. After finishing high school in Stuttgart, he worked in theater as an assistant director. In 2002, Qurbani began his studies in movie directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg film school.

Qurbani's short films have been screened at various film festivals worldwide, winning numerous prizes. His short **ILLUSION** won the German Camera Award and the German Film Critics' Awards in 2008. That same year, he received the Black Pearl Award for Best Newcomer of the Year at the Middle East International Film Festival.

**SHAHADA (FAITH)**, Qurbani's graduation film and feature debut, premiered In Competition at the Berlinale in 2010. The movie, about young Muslims and their struggle with love and faith in Berlin was distributed all over Europe. It won, among other awards, the Golden Hugo at the Chicago International Film Festival.

His second feature, **WE ARE YOUNG. WE ARE STRONG.** (2014) starring 'Faces' alumni, Saskia Rosendahl, was screened at over 50 Festivals world-wide. It recounts the xenophobic riots in the city of Rostock in Germany in 1992, during which a refugee shelter housing over 120 Vietnamese was attacked and burned down.

Currently Qurbani is shooting his third feature, **ALEXANDERPLATZ**, a new adaptation of the famous German novel *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, where the story is translated into the present and told from the viewpoint of the African refugee Francis.

**SELECT FILM & TELEVISION CREDITS**

2018	ALEXANDERPLATZ	Feature
2014	WE ARE YOUNG. WE ARE STRONG.	Feature
2011	WARRIORS WITHOUT ENEMIES	Short
2010	SHAHADA (FAITH)	Feature
2007	ILLUSION	Short
2006	VÖGEL OHNE BEINE	TV series pilot
2005	STILL ON EARTH	Short
2004	NUR WENN SIE SCHLAFEN	Short

**AWARDS**

- 2016      WON: Euroimage Co-Production Development Award – Rotterdam International Film Festival
- 2015      WON: Best Director WE ARE YOUNG. WE ARE STRONG. – VOICES Vologda
- 2015      WON: International Special Jury Award WE ARE YOUNG. WE ARE STRONG. – Sofia International Film Festival
- 2015      WON: Best Upcoming Director WE ARE YOUNG. WE ARE STRONG. – Friedenspreis des Deutschen Films
- 2015      WON: Best Screenplay WE ARE YOUNG. WE ARE STRONG. – Bavarian Film Awards
- 2014      WON: SIGNIS Award, AMC Award for Best Editing & Sorriso Diverso Roma Social Award WE ARE YOUNG. WE ARE STRONG. – Rome Film Fest
- 2011      WON: WARRIORS WITHOUT ENEMIES – Grimme Awards
- 2010      WON: Grand Prix & Best Film SHAHADA (FAITH) – Cinessonne Film Festival
- 2010      WON: Grand Prix & Best Film SHAHADA (FAITH) – Saint Jean de Luz Film Festival
- 2010      WON: Best Screenplay SHAHADA (FAITH) – Studio Hamburg New Talent Awards
- 2010      WON: Best Feature Film SHAHADA (FAITH) – Hessischer Filmpreis
- 2010      WON: Golden Hugo New Directors Competition FAITH – Chicago International Film Festival
- 2008      WON: Jury Award ILLUSION – International Short Film Festival Hamburg
- 2008      WON: Best Short Film ILLUSION – German Film Critics' Awards
- 2008      WON: Special Prize of the Jury ILLUSION – Novi Sad Film Festival
- 2008      WON: Best Student Film ILLUSION – Middle East International Film Festival Abu Dhabi



## DAVID WENDT



*"German cinema: why so serious?"*

David Wendt made his foray into the world of theater and film production working as a lighting technician, editor and production assistant. After graduating from Freie Universität Berlin in Business Administration and Journalism and completing a one-year film course at the Film and TV School at the Academy for Performing Arts in Prague, in 2004, Wendt was accepted into the renowned Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF, where he studied directing. During his studies, he directed the short film **CALIFORNIA DREAMS** (2006) and the mid-length feature **LITTLE LIGHTS** (2008), which won several awards.

David Wendt's graduation film (which was also his first full length feature), **COMBAT GIRLS**, which he both wrote and directed, received great critical acclaim. The film went on to win numerous awards including three German Film Awards, The Bavarian Film Award for Best Young Director, The Young German Cinema Award, the Prix Genève-Europe for Best Screenplay and the First Steps Award for Best Feature Film.

His second feature **WETLANDS**, based on Charlotte Roche's best-selling novel of the same name, premiered at the Locarno Film Festival in 2013 and also screened In Competition at the Sundance Film Festival. The film was awarded the Grand Jury Prize and Best Actress Award at the Nashville Film Festival in 2014.

**LOOK WHO'S BACK** (2015), Wendt's third feature, a satire about Adolf Hitler based on the successful book by Timur Vermes, was very well received both in German and international cinemas and was also sold to Netflix.

Wendt is currently working on his next project **THE SUNLIT NIGHT** - about a young woman, who left behind her life in the big city due to a broken heart, and a son of a Jewish baker, who had to bury his father. In an artist colony on the Norwegian Lofoten islands they learn that you often find love where you least expect it. It will star Jenny Slate, Zach Galifianakis, Gillian Anderson, and Jessica Hecht.

In addition, Wendt, alongside other acclaimed and award-winning German filmmakers Julia von Heinz, Erik Schmitt and producer Fabian Gasmia have set up a new production company - **Seven Elephants**. The company's first will to go into production is von Heinz's **TOMORROW THE WHOLE WORLD**.

**SELECT FILM & TELEVISION CREDITS**

2018	THE SUNLIT NIGHT	Feature
2015	LOOK WHO'S BACK	Feature
2012	WETLANDS	Feature
2011	COMBAT GIRLS	Feature
2008	SMALL LIGHTS	Medium length
2006	CALIFORNIA DREAMS	Short
2005	HANNAS HOBBY	Short

**AWARDS**

2013	WON: Grand Jury Prize & Best Actress WETLANDS – Nashville Film Festival
2012	WON: Best Screenplay, Best Actress & Bronze for Best Feature Film COMBAT GIRLS – German Film Awards
2012	WON: Best Young Director COMBAT GIRLS – Bavarian Film Awards
2012	WON: COMBAT GIRLS – Young German Cinema Award
2012	WON: Best Screenplay COMBAT GIRLS – Prix Genève-Europe
2012	WON: Best Feature Film COMBAT GIRLS – First Steps Awards

## FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS- SPECIAL SHOOT

High resolution images from an exclusive photoshoot with all 6 directors are available upon request



**Caption for use of any image:**

© German Films/Joachim Gern, for the FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS 2018 campaign

The pictures of the six directors which accompany the campaign were shot by renowned German photographer Joachim Gern.



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