



TOUR DE FORCE

Directed by
Christian Zübert

Produced by
Florian Gallenberger and Benjamin Herrmann

**A Majestic Filmproduktion in co-production with ZDF
in association with Viafilm and Sky**

Starring
**Florian David Fitz, Julia Koschitz, Jürgen Vogel,
Miriam Stein, Volker Bruch, Victoria Mayer, Johannes Allmayer
and Hannelore Elsner**

Supported by
**HessenInvestFilm, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Filmförderungsanstalt,
Deutscher Filmförderfonds, and the European Union's MEDIA program**

German Release
October 23, 2014 by Majestic Filmverleih

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OFFICIAL SELECTION 2014

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CAST

Hannes	Florian David Fitz
Kiki	Julia Koschitz
Michael	Jürgen Vogel
Sabine	Miriam Stein
Finn	Volker Bruch
Mareike	Victoria Mayer
Dominik	Johannes Allmayer
Irene	Hannelore Elsner

CREW

Director	Christian Zübert
Screenplay by	Ariane Schröder
	adapted by Christian Zübert
Producers	Florian Gallenberger
	Benjamin Herrmann
Cinematographer	Ngo The Chau
Production designer	Kobita Syed
Costume designer	Monika Gebauer
Makeup designer	Heike Merker
Sound recordist	Thorsten Bolzé
Sound designer	Oliver Achatz
Re-recording mixer	Christian Bischoff
Editor	Mona Bräuer
Composers	Siggi Mueller, Egon Riedel
Casting	Simone Bär
Co-producer	Caroline von Senden

TECHNICAL DATA

Running time: 95 minutes
Format: Cinemascope, 24 fps
Screen Ratio: 1:2,35, DCP 5.1
Language: German

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

Belgium, of all places! What's Belgium got besides chocolates and fries? No matter, this year it was Hannes' and Kiki's turn to choose the destination of their annual bike tour with their closest friends. They all look forward to the adventure, after all they know that what counts the most is the time they spend together.

It's only after the tour has begun that Hannes tells his friends that he's suffering from an incurable disease. The trip is to be his last.

At first, the group is shocked and helpless, but after they hit the road again, they embark on a wild and one-of-a-kind adventure. Through Hannes, they realize how precious life is. Equipped with a list of things that still remain to do, and aware that nothing will be the same after this trip, they celebrate life as they never did before...

PRESS NOTES

Following his successful comedy *THREE QUARTER MOON* with Elmar Wepper, award-winning scriptwriter and director **Christian Zübert** has once again devoted his efforts to a comical yet touching story: *TOUR DE FORCE* is a road movie on bicycles, a humorous tragedy and a tragic comedy, as life-affirming as it is moving. Christian Zübert has made an inspiring hymn to friendship and life itself, based on a screenplay by Ariane Schröder – a hymn that tells the story of a journey that changes the characters' lives, told with emotional depth and complexity, and brimming with humor and lightness.

The lead role is played by an actor who is very much in demand in Germany: **Florian David Fitz** (*VINCENT WANTS TO SEA*; *QUALITY TIME*). An excellent character ensemble accompanies him on his journey: An actress known for her delicate portrayals, **Julia Koschitz** (*SHOPPEN*; *DER LETZTE SCHÖNE HERBSTTAG*) plays Hannes' wife Kiki, who is torn between helplessness and inner strength. The German Film Award winner **Jürgen Vogel** (*THE WAVE*) plays the ladies' man Michael who ensnares his coincidental acquaintance Sabine, played by **Miriam Stein** (*GOETHE!*; *GENERATION WAR*). Sabine then gives him a dose of genuine lovesickness for the first time in his life. And **Johannes Allmayer** (*MEN IN THE CITY*; *VINCENT WANTS TO SEA*) and **Victoria Mayer** (*KOMMISSAR STOLBERG*) as the married couple Dominik and Mareike learn how to break out of their daily grind and listen to their emotions. Hannes' insubordinate brother Finn is played by **Volker Bruch** (*GOETHE!*; *GENERATION WAR*), and the role of Hannes' and Finn's mother is played by the wonderful **Hannelore Elsner** (*CHERRY BLOSSOMS - HANAMI*), winner of several German Film Awards.

TOUR DE FORCE was produced by Academy Award nominee **Benjamin Herrmann** (*NORTH FACE*; *JOHN RABE*; *DESERT FLOWER*) and the Academy Award-winning director **Florian Gallen-**

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berger (QUIERO SER; JOHN RABE). TOUR DE FORCE is Florian Gallenberger's feature film debut as a producer.

TOUR DE FORCE will celebrate its world premiere on Piazza Grande at the Festival del Film Locarno in August 2014.

TOUR DE FORCE is a production of **Majestic Filmproduktion**, in co-production with German broadcaster ZDF, in association with Viafilm and Sky, with supporting funds from HessenInvestFilm; Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg; Filmförderungsanstalt; and Deutscher Filmförderfonds. Project development was supported by the European Union's MEDIA Program. The distributor **Majestic Filmverleih** will release TOUR DE FORCE on October 23, 2014 in Germany.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Rain drops. It's dark, and a heavy thunderstorm rages outside. It's a sleepless night. A sleepless night for Finn, who's completely drunk and on a nocturnal pub crawl with his friends, and for Dominik, who would like to end the barren, cold winter and finally have sex again with his wife, and for playboy Michael, who is losing sleep once again because of one of his jealous ex-girlfriends, and for Hannes, who is working out hard on his exercise bicycle. The exertion shows. But despite all of this, his wife Kiki can't get him to come back to bed again. Determined, Hannes fights for every kilometer, because their annual bicycle tour with their closest friends and his brother Finn is just around the corner. This year they're going to Belgium – that's what Hannes wanted. But it doesn't look like he's looking forward to the journey: Shortly before they leave, Hannes gazes out over the skyline of Frankfurt from his rooftop terrace. He has a melancholy expression.

All of his friends are already waiting in the courtyard: Michael, Dominik, and Mareike. When they see Hannes they ask him about his health; apparently he hasn't been feeling well recently. But Hannes consoles them and explains that the doctors didn't find anything. When Hannes' brother Finn finally joins the group as well, they all get on their bicycles. They're on their way to Belgium. But just outside of Frankfurt their journey grinds to a halt. The chain came off of Finn's ancient bike. When Kiki notices Hannes is already out of breath, she suggests they take a break, much to Hannes' disapproval. Their forced break comes at a good time, because like every year they have to hand out the compulsory assignments. Each one of them writes on a beer coaster a secret task and hands it to the person sitting next to them, who then has to fulfill the assignment during the journey. It's clear that hardly any one of them appreciates the task he or she has to do, but that evening when Mareike talks about the assignments with Dominik and he tells her Finn wrote down "gang bang" as his assignment, the married couple's mood is somber.

The first stop on the tour is at their old friend Jens' place; Jens normally rides along every year but this year he has broken his leg. Surprisingly, Hannes' and Finn's mother Irene is also visiting Jens. They welcome each other warmly, but the mood during dinner is tense. When Irene suddenly bursts

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into tears at the dinner table, there's a perplexed silence. Finn has an unpleasant feeling, and Kiki urges Hannes to set things straight. Hannes reluctantly tells his secret: He has ALS, the incurable motor neuron disease, which eventually results in asphyxiation. His physicians give him 3 - 5 years, but his energy has been dwindling steadily for the last six months. And that isn't everything, because Hannes wants to die in Belgium.

His friends are flabbergasted. Especially Finn, who can't comprehend that an enjoyable bicycle tour is supposed to become Hannes' farewell to life. When they are alone, Irene tries to talk Hannes into changing his plan. Despite suffering from ALS, Hannes' father still experienced a few happy years. But Hannes can still vividly remember how his father suffered, and he doesn't want to suffer like that.

His friends don't know what to do. Should they really continue on and accompany Hannes on his journey? Fulfill his absurd wish and watch him die after their mutual bicycle tour? Kiki explains how important the tour is to Hannes; she's not sure if the others will understand.

The next morning, Hannes and Kiki pack their things into Irene's car; they want to continue on to Oostende alone, assuming the others won't come along with them. But surprisingly, Michael, Mareike, and Dominik ride their bikes around the corner – of course they want to continue with the tour! Hannes is relieved. Finn is the only one who isn't there. He doesn't join the group until later – he's obviously disappointed and upset that his brother didn't say anything for a long time and kept it a secret. But he is his brother. And so he too can't let his brother down.

In order to ensure that Hannes doesn't have a difficult time, the group plans to spend an evening together in the local club at their next stop. Michael surprises everyone when he shows up at dinner disguised as a woman. That's his assigned task: "to feel like a woman one time"! Dressed as a woman, Michael runs into Sabine in the ladies' restroom, and he immediately feels drawn to her. Typically for Michael, he not only scores with Sabine, he also immediately invites her the next morning to ride with them to Belgium. It's no big deal – after all, Sabine lives right along the Belgian border. Except for Michael and Sabine, hardly anyone else thinks that's a great idea. When Sabine, unaware of the truth, mocks Hannes' lame pace, she doesn't have anybody on her side after that. So that evening it's clear to Sabine that she doesn't want to continue riding with the group. But Michael, for whom up until now women were nothing more than nice, no-strings-attached flings, starts to trust a woman for the very first time, and he discovers in her a person who listens and understands how Hannes is dealing with his illness and why he wants to die.

Hannes' fate also affects Dominik and Mareike. Thinking about how quickly everything can end brings them at first closer to one another. But the peace between husband and wife starts to crumble once again when Finn reminds Dominik about his assigned task. Mareike is disappointed in Finn and about the stupid gang bang. When another argument breaks out between Dominik and Mareike and it escalates, Dominik heads straight for the local swinger club. Hurt and disappointed, Mareike follows him. But she arrives too late, and she has to witness Dominik cheating on her.

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Accomplishing her task is also a challenge to Kiki. Despite her acute fear of heights, she's supposed to make a parachute jump. But even her test jump is a failure. Unlike Mareike, who not only does something illegal but even commits several "criminal offenses" – she pretends to be a police officer and confiscates marijuana from two teenagers.

By the campfire – just beyond the Belgian border – only one night before Hannes' appointment, melancholy and sadness are in the air when the friends smoke the grass Mareike confiscated. Hannes wants his friends to continue taking the bicycle tour together every year, and he doesn't want them to give him of those cliché funerals. But as much as his friends try to fulfill his wish, Kiki can't and doesn't want to promise Hannes anything. It's hard enough for her to accept his decision. A decision he made without consulting her and that she now has to put up with. In a highly emotional discussion the two of them talk things over and, in their desperation, make up again.

The next morning the group meets Hannes' mother, who takes them by car the last few kilometers to Oostende. By the time the friends reach the physician's house, every step they take is a torture. For Hannes, who suffers more and more from his illness, as well as for his friends, who are only walking down this last path for Hannes. But an ironic stroke of fate gives the group unexpected hope. The physician who is supposed to give him the injection suffered a serious accident. Hannes is flabbergasted; his friends' mood sways back and forth between fresh hope and sadness. The assistant of the deceased physician promises to contact Hannes' second medical specialist.

All of a sudden everything seems completely open again.

The phone call from the second physician, however, reveals that the appointment can still take place. Hannes is certain about his decision. But before he will take his last walk down that path of no return, he wants to still accomplish his assigned task: to dance in the summer rain.

He dances his last dance with Kiki.

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IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA

Florian David Fitz

as Hannes

Model: sporty racing bike

For Hannes the bicycle tour "Belgium 2013" will be the last one he takes with Kiki, the love of his life, and with his best friends. But that's exactly what he wants to keep secret, so he can enjoy every second. But then everything turns out completely different...

"To me, friendship means most of all consistency. The majority of my friends are actually from kindergarten and elementary school – it's simply something different. A little like family: For the most part you don't talk a lot about the things that define you, but rather you're just together, you spend time together! To me, friends are a corrective. Because you usually get beaten up by your friends – but you're more likely, in severe pain, to accept it from them." – Florian David Fitz

The entire nation knows who he is ever since his roles as the lionized, likeable-arrogant senior physician Dr. Marc Meyer in the successful RTL television series DOCTOR'S DIARY (2008) and as Vincent, who suffers from Tourette syndrome, in the touching and award-winning road movie VINCENT WANTS TO SEA (2010, directed by Ralf Huettnner): without a doubt Florian David Fitz is one of the most successful and popular actors in Germany. In the meantime he is also active as a scriptwriter and director.

Born in 1974 in Munich, Fitz studied music and theater at the Boston Conservatory from 1994 to 1998, and he graduated with a bachelor's degree in fine arts. Afterwards he toured across Europe as a member of an English theater group in a production of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" before returning to Munich in 1999 to accept a role at Volkstheater. Since 2000 he has appeared regularly on television in films and series. As early as 2001 he received the Young Movie Talent Award, the newcomer award of the Munich Filmfest, for his performance in the ARD television series VERDAMMT VERLIEBT. The lead role in the comedy KISS ME KISMET (directed by Stefan Holtz) landed him the Adolf Grimme Award in 2007. In 2008 he was nominated for the German Television Award for his role in DOCTOR'S DIARY.

After supporting roles in feature films such as GIRLS ON TOP 2 (2004, directed by Peter Gersina) and 3° KÄLTER (2006, directed by Florian Hoffmeister), he won over an audience of millions for his performance as the advertising man Niklas in Simon Verhoeven's comedy MEN IN THE CITY (2009) with Til Schweiger and Christian Ulmen. He did this again in 2011 in the sequel, MEN IN THE CITY 2. In VINCENT WANTS TO SEA Florian David Fitz not only played the lead role alongside Karoline Herfurth and Johannes Allmayer, he also wrote the screenplay, for which he received the Bavarian Film Award. After he won the Bambi Award in 2010 as Best Actor for VINCENT WANTS TO SEA, in 2011 he also won the German Film Award in the Best Actor category for his performance in this

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film. The film also received the Lola German Film Award as Best Film. In Detlev Buck's 3-D production MEASURING THE WORLD (2012), based on the novel of the same name by Daniel Kehlmann, Florian David Fitz played the lead role, the mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauß. He also had his debut as a film director in 2012 with JESUS LOVES ME; he also wrote the screenplay, freely adapted from the bestseller by David Safier, and played the lead role alongside Jessica Schwarz, Henry Hübchen, and Hannelore Elsner. Most recently he was in the feature film comedy QUALITY TIME (directed by Holger Haase), and he also co-wrote the screenplay.

Vanessa Jopp's film LIES with Florian David Fitz in one of the lead roles will open in cinemas before TOUR DE FORCE.

Filmography (a selection)

2014	TOUR DE FORCE	Christian Zübert
2014	DIE LÜGEN DER SIEGER	Christoph Hochhäusler
2014	LIES	Vanessa Jopp
2013	QUALITY TIME	Holger Haase
2012	JESUS LOVES ME	Florian David Fitz
2012	MEASURING THE WORLD	Detlev Buck
2011	MEN IN THE CITY 2	Simon Verhoeven
2010	VINCENT WANTS TO SEA	Ralf Huettner
2009	MEN IN THE CITY	Simon Verhoeven
2006	3° KÄLTER	Florian Hoffmeister
2004	GIRLS ON TOP 2	Peter Gersina

Julia Koschitz

as Kiki

Model: reliable mountain bike

Kiki loves Hannes and her life with him. She can't imagine what her life will be like without him. Despite this, she tries to give Hannes her support, even though her heart revolts against this. Not until she puts this into words do the two of them find their way back to each other...

"To me, friendship means sharing your lives with one another – sharing the joy, sharing the suffering. Not having to pretend while doing this and being able to rely on one another and always being a good corrective influence." – Julia Koschitz

Born in 1974 in Brussels, Belgium, Austrian Julia Koschitz studied acting from 1995 to 1998 at the Franz Schubert Konservatorium in Vienna. Afterwards, she was a member of the ensemble at Landestheater Coburg and at Theater Regensburg. Since 2002 she has appeared on various theater stages as a freelance actress at, among others, Metropol Theater in Munich and Kleines Theater

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Kammerspiele in Landshut. For her portrayal there of Nora in Henrik Ibsen's play of the same name she received the Acting Award at the Bayerische Theatertage theater festival in 2006. Julia Koschitz managed to break into television in 2004 with Franz Xaver Bogner's Grimme award-winning Bavarian police series MÜNCHEN 7 in the role of police officer Sandra Holzapfel. She was also already in a successful television series in front of the camera together with Florian David Fitz: Alongside him she played the bitchy senior physician Dr. Hassmann in the popular comedy series DOCTOR'S DIARY, which received the German Television Award and the Adolf Grimme Award. Julia Koschitz moved audiences as a mother suffering from cancer in the ZDF drama TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM (2013), directed by Johannes Fabrick, which received the Bernd Burgemeister Award last year. For her convincing performance she received the German Acting Award as Best Actress and the Bavarian Television Award, as well as the Golden Nymph Award as Best Actress in Monte Carlo. In addition to numerous television films, Julia Koschitz is also frequently on cinema screens: most recently in GLORY: A TALE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITIES (2012, directed by Isabel Kleefeld), the film adaptation of the book of the same name by Daniel Kehlmann, and in the Austrian whodunit comedy LEMMING'S FIRST CASE (2009, directed by Nikolaus Leytner). She could display her precise, finely nuanced acting most of all in her work with the director Ralf Westhoff: In his debut film SHOPPEN (2007), the comedy about speed dating, she interpreted Westhoff's dialogue with a huge dose of humor and charm. This was followed by her lead role in DER LETZTE SCHÖNE HERBSTTAG (2010), a comedy about love relationships, and a guest appearance in Westhoff's latest film WE'RE THE NEW PEOPLE (2014).

Filmography (a selection)

2014	TOUR DE FORCE	Christian Zübert
2014	WE'RE THE NEW PEOPLE	Ralf Westhoff
2012	GLORY: A TALE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITIES	Isabel Kleefeld
2010	DEVIL'S KICKERS	Granz Henman
2010	DER LETZTE SCHÖNE HERBSTTAG	Ralf Westhoff
2009	LEMMING'S FIRST CASE	Nikolaus Leytner
2007	SHOPPEN	Ralf Westhoff

Jürgen Vogel

as Michael

Model: high-tech bike ... reluctantly with trailer

Michael is the showman in the group. The ladies' man who traditionally picks up women during every annual bicycle tour and breaks their hearts. But this year he runs into Sabine, and for the first time he's the one who has lovesickness.

"To me friendship is love. For example, you don't choose family, you grow into it. You can build up friendships on your own, these are persons you look for. This means it also has something to

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do with love: Friends are people who are extremely close to you, who know everything about you and understand you. That's really a form of "being fond of one another." I have just a few good friends, but they're the ones I share my life with, and that's really close and very important." – Jürgen Vogel

Born in 1968 in Hamburg, Jürgen Vogel is one of Germany's most popular and renowned actors. His career in front of the camera began early when he worked as a model as a child. He was discovered by the film industry when he was 15 years old. In 1991 he finally had his big breakthrough in Sönke Wortmann's *LITTLE SHARKS*. Although Jürgen Vogel left acting school after the first day, he has produced a convincing role repertoire since then in numerous television and film productions. Whether as a criminal, a revengeful brother, a murderer, a redneck, or a loving husband – over and over again, Jürgen Vogel has enthralled audiences with his finely nuanced acting.

With his courage to also slip into uncomfortable roles, Jürgen Vogel has become one of the most important actors in German auteur films. He proved he could act with difficult material in three films by Matthias Glasner – *THE FREE WILL* (2006), *THIS IS LOVE* (2009), and *MERCY* (2012). In return, he displayed his chameleon-like acting skills in roles in successful comedies as well, such as *WHERE IS FRED!?* (2006, directed by Anno Saul) and *RABBIT WITHOUT EARS* (2007, directed by Til Schweiger). Jürgen Vogel proved he was willing to experiment in Lars Kraume's *KEINE LIEDER ÜBER LIEBE* (2005) on the side of Heike Makatsch and Florian Lukas. The screenplay to the film is based on just a few guidelines. During the filming, a fake documentary film developed with Jürgen Vogel as the lead singer of a band named Hansen, founded especially for the film, which then toured Germany and he sang live in front of real audiences. Most recently he gave brilliant performances in Oskar Roehler's epic feature film *SOURCES OF LIFE* (2013); in the thriller *STEREO* (2014, directed by Maximilian Erlenwein) alongside Moritz Bleibtreu; and in the film adaptation of Charlotte Roche's bestseller *SCHOSSGEBETE/WRECKED (WT)* (directed by Sönke Wortmann).

Over the course of his career Jürgen Vogel has been honored with numerous awards: in 1990 the Bavarian Film Award as Best Newcomer for *ROSAMUNDE* (1989); the Bavarian Film Award for *LITTLE SHARKS* (1991) and again for *EMMA'S BLISS* (2007); and the German Film Award for *LIFE IS ALL YOU GET* (1997). For his extraordinary artistic achievements as an actor, co-author, and co-producer of the film *THE FREE WILL* (2006) Jürgen Vogel was awarded the Silver Bear at the Berlinale film festival in 2006; that same year he won the Best Actor Award at the TriBeCa Film Festival and at the Chicago Film Festival. His performances in *WHERE IS FRED!?* (2006, directed by Anno Saul) and in *A FRIEND OF MINE* (2006) were both rewarded with the Ernst Lubitsch Prize. He was awarded the Adolf Grimme Award for the television production *THE PHANTOM* (2000, directed by Dennis Gansel).

Filmography (a selection)

2014	TOUR DE FORCE	Christian Zübert
2014	SCHOSSGEBETE/WRECKED	Sönke Wortmann

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2014	STEREO	Maximilian Erlenwein
2013	SOURCES OF LIFE	Oskar Roehler
2012	MERCY	Matthias Glasner
2010	THE COMING DAYS	Lars Kraume
2010	BOXHAGENER PLATZ	Matti Geschonneck
2010	GRAVITY	Maximilian Erlenwein
2009	THIS IS LOVE	Matthias Glasner
2008	THE WAVE	Dennis Gansel
2007	RABBIT WITHOUT EARS	Til Schweiger
2006	EMMA'S BLISS	Sven Taddicken
2006	THE FREE WILL	Matthias Glasner
2006	WHERE IS FRED!?	Anno Saul
2006	A FRIEND OF MINE	Sebastian Schipper
2005	KEINE LIEDER ÜBER LIEBE	Lars Kraume
2003	ROSENSTRASSE	Margarethe von Trotta
2002	SHATTERED GLASS	Chris Kraus
2002	NAKED	Doris Dörrie
2001	EMIL AND THE DETECTIVES	Franziska Buch
1997	SMILLA'S SENSE FOR SNOW	Bille August
1997	LIFE IS ALL YOU GET	Wolfgang Becker
1996	SEXY SADIE	Matthias Glasner
1992	LITTLE SHARKS	Sönke Wortmann
1989	ROSAMUNDE	Egon Günther

Miriam Stein

as Sabine

Model: red woman's bike ... pragmatic

At first Sabine seems to be nothing else but Michael's latest trophy. Like every year he has once again picked up a young woman, who he will drop again after the bike tour ... at least that's what everybody thinks. But unlike the women who came before her, Sabine knows exactly what she wants. With her disarming directness and charming energy she makes Michael see the world in a different light.

"With my best friends, no matter how long we haven't seen each other when we get together we immediately feel close again. That's very important, especially in the acting profession, because often you don't see one another for a long time." – Miriam Stein

Miriam Stein, born in 1988 in Vienna, stood in front of the camera for the first time when she was eleven years old in the title role in Peter Reichenbach's DAS MÄDCHEN AUS DER FREMDE. She received the Sponsorship Award at the German Television Awards in 2001 for her performance as a

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distraught refugee child from Kosovo. From 2006 to 2009 she studied at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in theater, and she spent a year abroad studying at the Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique in Paris. Miriam Stein became known to a large audience in the lead role of Lotte Buff in the romantic feature film drama GOETHE! (2010, directed by Philipp Stölzl) on the side of Alexander Fehling and Moritz Bleibtreu, for which she received the New Faces Award as Best Newcomer Actress in 2011. Hermine Huntgeburth's television film NEUE VAHR SÜD with Miriam Stein and Frederick Lau in the lead roles received the Adolf Grimme Award in 2011.

Miriam Stein is a member of the ensemble of the successful Austrian television series FOUR WOMEN AND A FUNERAL (directed by Andreas Prochaska and Wolfgang Murnberger). Most recently audiences saw her in lead roles in cinemas in the generation comedy OMAMAMIA (2012, directed by Tomy Wigand) with Marianne Sägebrecth and Annette Frier, and on television in the internationally hugely successful and much talked about three-part ZDF television film GENERATION WAR (2013, directed by Philipp Kadelbach) as the nurse Charlotte. For her performance she was awarded the Special Bavarian Television Award in 2013 and the German Television Award as part of the quintet of lead roles.

Following TOUR DE FORCE, in 2014 Miriam Stein was back in front of the camera with Volker Bruch in the adaptation of Iny Lorentz' bestseller DAS GOLDENE UFER (directed by Christoph Schrewe).

Filmography (a selection)

2014	TOUR DE FORCE	Christian Zübert
2013	GENERATION WAR	Philipp Kadelbach
2012	OMAMAMIA	Tomy Wigand
2012	THE FOSTER BOY	Markus Imboden
2010	GOETHE!	Philipp Stölzl
2010	180°	Cihan Inan

Volker Bruch

as Finn

Model: old, rickety city bike ... the main thing is, you can still ride it

Finn is Hannes' younger brother, who, when he hears the real reason for the journey, protests vehemently. But in the end he makes the journey all the way to Belgium, too, and only at the end does he understand that this journey is also a turning point for him.

"Trust plays a very big role in friendships for me. That you can be the way you are. That you don't have to pretend in order to get something. That you can have fun together, have a similar

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sense of humor. That a dynamic can also develop in situations that can lead in some direction where you feel at ease together and you can let yourself go." – Volker Bruch

Born in 1980 in Munich, Volker Bruch studied acting at the Max Reinhardt Seminar in Vienna. After small television roles he gained notice in 2007 in several roles: In his roles as Corinna Harfouch's son in the award-winning ROSE (2007, directed by Alain Gsponer) and as a young murderer in the television drama NICHTS IST VERGESSEN (2007, directed by Nils Willbrandt), for which he was nominated for the German Television Award. At the same time he was convincing in 2007 on the cinema screen as the son of Katja Riemann and Ulrich Noethen in LIFE ACTUALLY (directed by Alain Gsponer), which brought him a nomination for a Grimme Award, and in Marcus H. Rosenmüller's coming-of-age comedy GOOD TIMES. He was back in front of the camera in 2008 in the sequel BESTE GEGEND on the side of Rosalie Thomass. As Lothar von Richthofen, brother of the legendary fighter pilot Manfred von Richthofen, Volker Bruch was a welcome addition to the international ensemble of Matthias Schweighöfer, Til Schweiger, and Joseph Fiennes in THE RED BARON (2008, directed by Nikolai Müllerschön), followed by his performance in the adaptation of Bernhard Schlink's bestseller THE READER (2009, directed by Stephen Daldry) with Kate Winslet and Ralph Fiennes. Additional feature films with Volker Bruch include THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX (2008, directed by Uli Edel), where he played Stefan Aust, editor in chief of the weekly German magazine Der Spiegel, as well as THE MURDER FARM (2009, directed by Bettina Oberli), THE CLIMB (2010, directed by Joseph Vilsmaier), and GOETHE! (2010, directed by Philipp Stölzl) on the side of Miriam Stein and Alexander Fehling.

With his performance as the Wehrmacht officer Wilhelm in the ZDF three-part television film GENERATION WAR (2013, directed by Philipp Kadelbach) Volker Bruch enthralled millions in front of their televisions. He received for his performance the Special Bavarian Television Award in 2013 and the German Television Award as part of the quintet of lead roles.

In addition to TOUR DE FORCE, in 2014 Volker Bruch is also in cinemas in the third part of Marcus H. Rosenmüller's coming-of-age trilogy BESTE CHANCE, and he was in front of the camera with Miriam Stein in the adaptation of Iny Lorentz' bestseller DAS GOLDENE UFER (directed by Christoph Schrewe).

Filmography (a selection)

2014	TOUR DE FORCE	Christian Zübert
2014	BESTE CHANCE	Marcus H. Rosenmüller
2013	GENERATION WAR	Philipp Kadelbach
2013	CONFESSION	Sylvie Verheyde
2011	WESTWIND	Robert Thalheim
2010	GOETHE!	Philipp Stölzl
2010	THE CLIMB	Joseph Vilsmaier
2009	THE MURDER FARM	Bettina Oberli

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2009 THE READER
2008 THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX
2008 THE RED BARON
2008 BESTE GEGEND
2007 GOOD TIMES
2007 LIFE ACTUALLY

Stephen Daldry
Uli Edel
Nikolai Müllerschön
Marcus H. Rosenmüller
Marcus H. Rosenmüller
Alain Gsponer

Hannelore Elsner

as Irene

Hannelore Elsner, highly honored as a diva in the French sense of the word for her acting talents in theater, film, and television, has enchanted large audiences for decades. And simultaneously she inspires, over and over again, authors and directors to create masterpieces, without allowing herself to be typecast in a certain direction. Her inexhaustible gifts and chameleon powers can be seen in five of her recent films: NO PLACE TO GO (2000) by Oskar Roehler; MEIN LETZTER FILM (2002) by Oliver Hirschbiegel; GO FOR ZUCKER! (2005) by Dani Levy; Doris Dörrie's CHERRY BLOSSOMS-HANAMI (2008); and DAS BLAUE VOM HIMMEL (2011), directed by Hans Steinbichler.

Hannelore Elsner, born in Bavaria, began her acting career in Munich, where she received a classical acting education. Even if she worked from the very beginning in front of the camera, her artistic efforts focused on theater in particular, her great love in the 1960s, which she refers to as her "training period." She was a member of the ensembles at Münchner Kammerspiele and Hebbel Theater in Berlin, and she appeared on the most renowned stages in Germany as well as on theater tours.

One of the first milestones in her film career was her performance in the feature film drama THE ENDLESS NIGHT (1963) by the auteur filmmaker Will Tremper, which won four national film awards, a film role she accepted when she left the theater. On the other hand, a large audience sees her up until the present day in the role of the young Frenchwoman Geneviève Ponelle in the film series LÜMMEL VON DER ERSTEN BANK by Franz Seitz.

The list of her successes in television is also endless and ranges all the way back to the 1960s, when Jürgen Roland hired her for the legendary STAHLNETZ police television series. Since then, numerous television productions feature her signature performances, including ICH SCHENK DIR MEINEN MANN (1999, directed by Karola Hattop); ENDE DER SASON (2001, directed by Stefan Krohmer), which received four Grimme Awards; BELOVED SISTER (2002, directed by Oskar Roehler); DIE SPIELERIN (2005, directed by Erhard Riedlsperger); and from 1994 to 2006 the series LADY COP, where she enchanted audiences in 65 episodes as the investigator Lea Sommer.

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In the spring of 2014 Hannelore Elsner appeared on the side of Axel Prahl and Nadja Uhl in Doris Dörrie's feature film comedy ALLES INKLUSIVE, and on the side of Mario Adorf in the international co-production THE LAST MENTSCH (directed by Pierre-Henri Salfati).

In 2011 Hannelore Elsner released her autobiography "Im Überschwang". In addition, she continues her commitment to important social issues: she is involved in the support institution Fritz Bauer Institut dedicated to prevent the Holocaust from being forgotten, and she is a curator in the German AIDS Foundation and a patron of Karuna e.V., an association in Berlin that looks after homeless children and teenagers.

The list of the awards she has received is endless: the Grimme Award; the German Film Award twice, as Best Actress for NO PLACE TO GO and for MEIN LETZTER FILM; the German Critic's Award; the Bambi Award; the Telestar Award; the Golden Camera; the Bavarian Film Award; and countless awards at international festivals – for example, as Best Actress in Monte Carlo, Chicago, and Istanbul. In 2009 she received the Acting Award at the German film festival in Ludwigsburg; the award is given to actors and actresses who have displayed character and personality in film. For her great commitment to social issues as well as for her involvement in the AIDS Foundation she has twice received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition, she received the Honorary Award for her life's work at the Bavarian Television Awards in 2006; the Bavarian Order of Merit; the Honorary Award from the Bavarian Film Awards; and the Honorary Award from the Hessian Film and Cinema Awards.

Filmography (a selection)

2014	TOUR DE FORCE	Christian Zübert
2014	ALLES INKLUSIVE	Doris Dörrie
2014	THE LAST MENTSCH	Pierre-Henri Salfati
2012	WER'S GLAUBT, WIRD SELIG	Marcus H. Rosenmüller
2012	JESUS LOVES ME	Florian David Fitz
2011	DAS BLAUE VOM HIMMEL	Hans Steinbichler
2008	CHERRY BLOSSOMS - HANAMI	Doris Dörrie
2007	VIVERE	Angelina Maccarone
2007	DAS SICHTBARE UND DAS UNSICHTBARE	Rudolf Thome
2006	RAUCHZEICHEN	Rudolf Thome
2006	YOU TOLD ME, YOU LOVE ME	Rudolf Thome
2005	GO FOR ZUCKER!	Dani Levy
2004	WOMAN DRIVING; MAN SLEEPING	Rudolf Thome
2004	RED AND BLUE	Rudolf Thome
2002	MEIN LETZTER FILM	Oliver Hirschbiegel
2000	NO PLACE TO GO	Oskar Roehler
1980	DER GRÜNE VOGEL	István Szabó
1979	THE FALL	Alf Brustellin

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1975 THE OUTSIDER
1973 DIE REISE NACH WIEN
1963 THE ENDLESS NIGHT

Alf Brustellin and Bernhard Sinkel
Edgar Reitz
Will Tremper

BEHIND THE CAMERA

Christian Zübert

director and screenplay adaptation

Director and scriptwriter Christian Zübert was born in 1973 in Würzburg and initially studied German. He started working as a scriptwriter for the series DER CLOWN (1998-2001); he wrote approximately 20 episodes of the series.

Zübert's first feature film productions were the stoner comedy LAMMBOCK (director and scriptwriter) with Moritz Bleibtreu, Lucas Gregorowicz, and Wotan Wilke Möhring in the lead roles, and Dennis Gansel's feature film debut GIRLS ON TOP, which he co-wrote. Both films were surprise successes in 2001, and LAMMBOCK achieved cult film status. In 2005 he wrote and directed THE TREASURE OF THE WHITE FALCONS, a family entertainment film that received several awards. The film won the People's Choice Award at Filmfest Hamburg and received the Best Children's and Youths' Film Award at the film festival Kinofest Lünen. It also received an award from a children's jury in Chicago and was nominated in 2006 for the German Film Award. In addition, he was the scriptwriter and director of the buddy comedy HARDCOVER (2008) with Wotan Wilke Möhring and Justus von Dohnányi, and of the heartwarming tragicomedy THREE QUARTER MOON with Elmar Wepper. Christian Zübert received the Bavarian Film Award for his screenplay in 2011, and the film was nominated in the Best Film category for the German Film Award. That same year Zübert received two awards, the coveted Adolf Grimme Award as the scriptwriter of NEUE VAHR SÜD (directed by Hermine Huntgeburth) and as director of the CRIME SCENE episode "Nie wieder frei sein."

In addition, Zübert has written numerous feature film screenplays: COMPLETE IDIOT (2007, directed by Tobi Baumann) – he co-wrote the screenplay with the novelist Tommy Jaud; RED ZORA (2008, directed by Peter Kahane); and most recently DAMPFNUDELBLUES, based on the novel by Rita Falk.

Filmography (as a director)

2014	TOUR DE FORCE	(and screenplay adaptation)
2011	THREE QUARTER MOON	(and scriptwriter)
2008	HARDCOVER	(and scriptwriter)
2005	THE TREASURE OF THE WHITE FALCONS	(and scriptwriter)
2001	LAMMBOCK	(and scriptwriter)

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Ariane Schröder

screenplay

Ariane Schröder was born in 1985 in Eupen, the German-speaking community in Belgium. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in communication science and political science at RWTH Aachen University, before she was accepted to the University of Television and Film Munich, where she started studying scriptwriting and dramaturgy in 2007. She worked on various award-winning documentary films already during her studies, including ICH WILL JA NUR LEBENDIG ANKOMMEN about the Munich street musician Ivan Hajek, which was shown at numerous festivals in Germany, Austria, and Russia, and won the Best Documentary Film Award in 2009 at "20minmax" in Ingolstadt.

TOUR DE FORCE is her debut as a scriptwriter for a feature film.

Florian Gallenberger

producer, Majestic Filmproduktion

Florian Gallenberger, born in 1972 in Munich, studied directing from 1992 - 1999 at the renowned University of Television and Film Munich (HFF). One of his first works, the film A TRICK OF THE LIGHT (1995, directed by Wim Wenders, in collaboration with students at the HFF), with Gallenberger as co-writer and co-director, won the Best Documentary Film Award at the film festival in Montreal. In 1997 he and his fellow student German Kral made the short film TANGO BERLIN, which was in competition at the film festival in Venice and won the Best Director Award in Bucharest. Gallenberger won not only almost every German and international newcomer award for his graduation film shot in Mexico, QUIERO SER, he also was crowned with an Academy Award in 2001 for this film.

Florian Gallenberger's feature film debut, SHADOWS OF TIME (2005), produced by Helmut Dietl, was awarded the Bavarian Film Award in the categories Best Debut Film and Best Cinematography. His second feature film, JOHN RABE, with Ulrich Tukur in the title role, had its world premiere in 2009 at the International Film Festival in Berlin and that same year won not only two Bavarian Film Awards but also four Lola awards at the German Film Awards – for Best Film, Best Actor, Best Production Design, and Best Costume Design.

Parallel to his activities as a director, Florian Gallenberger is a professor at the HFF film school in Munich since 2011.

TOUR DE FORCE is Gallenberger's first feature film as a producer; he developed and produced the film together with Benjamin Herrmann, a close friend of his since when they studied together at the HFF in Munich. The idea for TOUR DE FORCE was presented to Florian Gallenberger by one of his students, Ariane Schröder, who then wrote the screenplay to the feature film.

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Currently Florian Gallenberger is in the middle of pre-production for his third feature film, the historical thriller COLONIA DIGNIDAD, which is scheduled to be filmed in the autumn of 2014 in South America, Luxemburg, and Germany.

Filmography

2014	TOUR DE FORCE	(producer)
2009	JOHN RABE	(scriptwriter and director)
2005	SHADOWS OF TIME	(scriptwriter and director)
2000	HONOLULU	(episode film; scriptwriter and director)
1999	QUIERO SER	(short film; scriptwriter and director)
1997	HURE	(short film; scriptwriter and director)
1997	TANGO BERLIN	(short film; co- scriptwriter and director)
1993	MYSTERIUM EINER NOTDURFTANSTALT	(short film; scriptwriter and director)

Benjamin Herrmann

producer, Majestic Filmproduktion

For over 15 years by now, the Academy Award-nominated producer and distributor Benjamin Herrmann has been an integral part of the German film industry.

After studying to be a director at the University of Television and Film Munich (HFF), he worked as a senior editor and managing director of SevenPictures for the German broadcaster ProSieben, as a managing director at Senator Film's production and distribution outfits, and he was responsible for numerous successful films with his own production and distribution company, Majestic. For example, as executive producer on Michael "Bully" Herbig's MANITOU'S SHOE; as (co-)producer and distributor of Oliver Hirschbiegel's THE EXPERIMENT; Lasse Hallström's CHOCOLAT; Christian Zübert's LAMMBOCK; Sönke Wortmann's THE MIRACLE OF BERN; and Christian Carion's Academy Award-nominated international co-production MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Just the films he produced and distributed with his company Majestic were seen by over 7.5 million people in German cinemas and received eleven German Film Awards. These include Doris Dörrie's surprise hit CHERRY BLOSSOMS – HANAMI; Sherry Hormann's adaptation of Waris Dirie's bestselling autobiography, DESERT FLOWER; Philipp Stölzl's alpine drama NORTH FACE; Florian Gallenberger's multi-award winning epic JOHN RABE; David Wnendt's scandalous smash hit WETLANDS; Marcus H. Rosenmüller's culture clash comedy, SUMMER IN ORANGE; and Hermine Huntgeburth's remake of Mark Twain's classic novel, TOM SAWYER. Majestic doesn't just stand for great films, but also for great successes with smaller films: for example, the drama about honor killing and winner of numerous awards, WHEN WE LEAVE by Feo Aladag, and the dark mystery comedy THE BONE MAN, in the series of film adaptations of books by the Austrian author Wolf Haas, featuring Josef Hader in the lead role.

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Benjamin Herrmann's latest production, *TOUR DE FORCE* by Christian Zübert, will be in movie theaters in October, and at the same time shooting will start on Florian Gallenberger's new film, the thriller *COLONIA DIGNIDAD*.

Benjamin Herrmann is a member of the German and European Film Academies, and a member of the administrative board of the German Federal Film Board (FFA). He also teaches at several German film schools.

Filmography (a selection)

2014	TOUR DE FORCE	Christian Zübert
2012	THE ADVENTURES OF HUCK FINN	Hermine Huntgeburth
2011	TOM SAWYER	Hermine Huntgeburth
2009	DESERT FLOWER	Sherry Hormann
2009	JOHN RABE	Florian Gallenberger
2008	NORTH FACE	Philipp Stölzl
2005	MERRY CHRISTMAS	Christian Carion
2003	THE MIRACLE OF BERN	Sönke Wortmann
2002	IF IT DON'T FIT, USE A BIGGER HAMMER	Peter Thorwarth
2001	THE EXPERIMENT	Oliver Hirschbiegel

Ngo The Chau

cinematographer

Ngo The Chau was born in 1977 in Hanoi, Vietnam, and he lives now in Berlin. From 1999 to 2004 he studied cinematography at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin, where in 2003 he received the Michael Ballhaus Sponsorship Award for his extraordinary achievements. Already during his studies Ngo was working as a cameraman on film, television, and advertising productions. He has also filmed music videos for well-known artists such as Herbert Grönemeyer, Seeed, and Patrice. In 2005 Ngo received the German Television Award for two of his films: for the television experimental film *FOLLOW THE FEATHER* (2005, directed by Nuray Sahin), and for the episode "Scheherazade" (2005, directed by Peter Henning, Claudia Prietzel) shot in Bremen and part of the German television detective series *CRIME SCENE*. In addition, for his cinematography he was awarded the German Camera Award; he was nominated for the same award the previous year for Ludwig & Glaser's *DETROIT* (2003).

Following the children's film *MAX MINSKY AND ME* (2007, directed by Anna Justice) and Franziska Meletzky's *FREI NACH PLAN* (2008) with Dagmar Manzel and Corinna Harfouch, in 2009 he worked on Matthias Emcke's *PHANTOM PAIN* with Til Schweiger and Jana Pallaske in the lead roles, and on *66/67 – FAIRPLAY IS OVER*, which won an award at the Zurich Film Festival. One year later

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he worked with the director Maximilian Erlenwein on the crime caper comedy GRAVITY with Jürgen Vogel and Fabian Hinrichs, which went on to win several awards.

After the amusing and award-winning comedy about culture clashes, ALMANYA (2011), he was the cinematographer on Hermine Huntgeburth's film adaptation of Mark Twain's book, TOM SAWYER (2011). In 2013 Ngo The Chau was the cinematographer on the feature film DAS LEBEN IST NICHTS FÜR FEIGLINGS (2013) with Wotan Wilke Möhring. On the side of the director Christian Alvarth he was responsible for the camerawork in two episodes of the detective television series CRIME SCENE: "Borowski und der stille Gast" (2012) with Axel Milberg and Sibel Kekilli, followed in 2013 by WILLKOMMEN IN HAMBURG, where Til Schweiger made his fervently discussed debut as a CRIME SCENE police inspector. In addition, he was the cinematographer on director Christian Alvarth's feature film BANK LADY (2014) about the first female bank robber in Germany. Most recently, Ngo's camerawork could be admired in Maximilian Erlenwein's thriller STEREO (2014) with Jürgen Vogel and Moritz Bleibtreu.

Filmography (a selection)

2014	TOUR DE FORCE	Christian Zübert
2014	STEREO	Maximilian Erlenwein
2014	BANK LADY	Christian Alvarth
2013	DAS LEBEN IST NICHTS FÜR FEIGLINGS	André Erkau
2011	TOM SAWYER	Hermine Huntgeburth
2011	ALMANYA	Yasemin Samdereli
2010	GRAVITY	Maximilian Erlenwein
2009	66/67 – FAIRPLAY IS OVER	C. Ludwig and J.-C. Glaser
2009	PHANTOM PAIN	Matthias Emcke
2008	ACCORDING TO THE PLAN	Franziska Meletzky
2007	MAX MINSKY AND ME	Anna Justice
2003	DETROIT	C. Ludwig, J.-C. Glaser

THE SOUNDTRACK

TOUR DE FORCE has an extraordinary and impressive soundtrack, which primarily is accomplished through a number of inspired songs. From the start, working with songs over dramatic key scenes was one of the challenges in this production, in order to selectively provide relief for the audience from the emotional intensity of the story without losing the audience. Following a multitude of intensive discussions with successful and young musicians, the music consultants at Daydream worked together with the director and the producers to design a music concept and to realize this concept; the result can be considered to be a pearl among soundtracks. The idea was to convince every single artist about the film, and not simply purchase the rights. This is how the title song "**Skin and Bones**" and its interpreter **Ryan Keen** were discovered.

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Ryan Keen on his song "Skin and Bones" on the soundtrack to TOUR DE FORCE:

"I wrote 'Skin and Bones' at a point in my life when I felt like I didn't have much of a voice in the crowd. But I believe in much more than just the physical presence in the present moment. When I heard and saw the song being used with the film it seemed like a perfect match. The film delivers a beautiful and poignant message of optimism, which the song reflects 'a darker place has more room for light'."

Siggi Mueller

composer

Siggi Mueller has composed the music to numerous German feature film productions – AGENT RANJID RETTET DIE WELT (2012); HOUSE OF THE SLEEPING BEAUTIES (2006); TIGER-TEAM (2010); and many more – and to television films and documentary films, in collaboration with renowned directors such as Gregor Schnitzler; Uwe Janson; Xaver Schwarzenberger; Hans-Christoph Blumenberg; Matti Geschonneck; Peter Gersina; Hans Horn; Carlo Rola; Peter Keglevic; and Vadim Glowna. He has also received several national and international awards and nominations for Best Soundtrack.

His career as a classical pianist began at Stadttheater Ulm. He expanded his musical spectrum from the virtuoso mastery of instruments (keyboards, piano, and accordion) in classical music to live performances in funk, soul, jazz, and rock bands.

Egon Riedel

composer

From very early on, the composer and music producer Egon Riedel was very interested in music's limitless possibilities, in particular with the piano and percussion instruments. With his studies at the music school in Munich, the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München, and at Berklee College of Music in Boston he turned his passion into his profession, and in 1994 he began to compose music for film, advertising, and television. In 1997 he founded the music production company EGO-N in Munich. Today he's one of the most versatile composers in Germany and very much in demand.

He composed soundtracks to, among other films, HUI BUH, THE GOOFY GHOST (2006), directed by Sebastian Niemann, and he worked with the same director again in 2008 on KILLING IS MY BUSINESS, HONEY. In 2012 he was responsible for the soundtrack to AGENT RANJID RETTET DIE WELT (directed by Michael Karen).

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BETA CINEMA – WORLD SALES

Beta Cinema has established itself as a "boutique-operation" for independent feature films with strong theatrical potential. Beta Cinema's philosophy is to keep its selective acquisition policy of 10 to 12 titles per year in order to fully develop the theatrical potential of each title according to its individual character.

Beta Cinema's portfolio includes outstanding productions like the international box office hit THE PHYSICIAN, Berlin 2014 Silver Bear–winning STATIONS OF THE CROSS, Berlin 2013 Golden Bear–winning CHILD'S POSE, Academy Award 2011-nominated IN DARKNESS, Cannes 2008 Jury Prize-winning and Academy Award-nominated IL DIVO, Academy Award 2007-winning THE COUNTERFEITERS, Academy Award 2007 nominated MONGOL, Academy Award 2006-winning THE LIVES OF OTHERS and the Academy Award 2004-nominated DOWNFALL.

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