## CRACKS IN THE SHELL

#### A FILM BY CHRISTIAN SCHWOCHOW

with

STINE FISCHER CHRISTENSEN

ULRICH NOETHEN

RONALD ZEHRFELD

ANNA MARIA MÜHE

ULRICH MATTHES

DAGMAR MANZEL

CHRISTINA DRECHSLER

GERMANY 2011 | 113 min.

**PRESS KIT** 

## **WORLD PREMIERE**

JULY 3, 2011

#### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION



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## LOGLINE

"You're invisible!" Can there be a worse judgment for an actress? Young Fine definitely lacks self-confidence but when renowned director Kaspar Friedmann appears at the acting school and casts Fine for her first main role, nobody understands his motivation, least of all Fine herself. The character to play is "Camille", quite different to herself but Fine wants to come as close as possible. As Camille, she awakens to her femininity, but loses her own strengths in dealing with her everyday life because Camille is not only self-conscious and sexually hyperactive but at the same time fragile and self-destructive. Fine puts herself into the hands of a director, who sends her on an emotional roller coaster ride.. A dangerous game is set off, bound to turn Fine into her own worst enemy...

CRACKS IN THE SHELL is a rewarding journey of a young girl from immaturity to self-determination by German director Christian Schwochow (,November Child'). Convincingly interweaving the illusionary world of theatre with real life the director impresses with great sensibility, featuring excellent performances (especially by newcoming Stine Fischer Christensen as Fine) and a resourceful camerawork.

JOSEPHINE LORENTZ
KASPAR FRIEDMANN
SUSANNE LORENTZ
JULE LORENTZ
JOACHIM
IRINA

BEN KÄSTNER

STINE FISCHER CHRISTENSEN
ULRICH NOETHEN
DAGMAR MANZEL
CHRISTINA DRECHSLER
RONALD ZEHRFELD
ANNA MARIA MÜHE
ULRICH MATHES

### Crew

DIRECTOR
SCREENPLAY
PRODUCER
DOP
EDITOR
MUSIC
PRODUCTION DESIGNER
COSTUME DESIGNER
MAKE UP ARTIST
SOUND MIXER
SOUND DESIGNER
PRODUCER
COMMISIONING EDITORS

CHRISTIAN SCHWOCHOW
HEIDE AND CHRISTIAN SCHWOCHOW
JOCHEN LAUBE
FRANK LAMM
JENS KÜBLER
CAN ERDOGAN SUS
KOBITA SYED
KRISTIN SCHUSTER
MICHAEL FARALEWSKI
GÜNTER FRIEDHOFF
RAINER HEESCH
FABIAN MAUBACH
STEFANIE GROSS (SWR)
GEORG STEINERT (ARTE)
PETRA SCHMITZ (RBB)

**DARIA MOHEB ZANDI** (RBB)

## FACTS ABOUT THE MOVIE

ORIGINAL TITLE **DIE UNSICHTBARE** 

ENGLISH TITLE CRACKS IN THE SHELL

GENRE DRAMA

RUNTIME 113 MIN

FORMAT 35 MM / HD

ASPECTRATIO CINEMASCOPE

SOUNDSYSTEM **DOLBY DIGITAL** 

FILMING DATES **20.07.2010 – 29.08.2010** 

30 DAYS

SHOOTING LOCATION BERLIN

COUNTRY GERMANY

LANGUAGE GERMAN

PRODUCTION COMPANY TEAMWORX TELEVISION & FILM GMBH,

**LUDWIGSBURG** 

CO-PRODUCERS SWR

ARTE RBB

BERLINER UNION-FILM MEDIA FACTORY BERLIN

**SOMMERHAUS FILMPRODUKTIONEN** 

FUNDING MEDIENBOARD BERLIN BRANDENBURG

MFG - FILMFÖRDERUNG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

BEAUFTRAGTER FÜR KULTUR UND MEDIEN

FILMFÖRDERUNGSANSTALT
DEUTSCHER FILMFÖRDERFONDS

DISTRIBUTOR FALCOM MEDIA

WORLDSALES BAVARIA FILM INTERNATIONAL

## SYNOPSIS

"You only see a shell, a smooth, lovely, shell. There are cracks in the shell. Small, fine cracks. They're just small. You can't sense what's hidden within. There it reeks of decay and death."

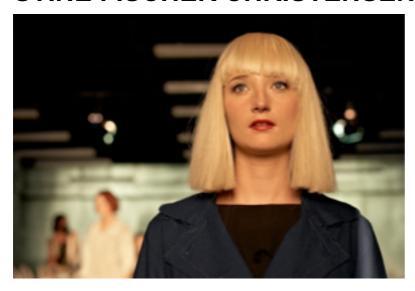
Josephine suffers from not being noticed, moreover she also does her best to not attract attention even though she's a drama student.

At night, when her mentally handicapped sister Jule can't fall asleep and stereotypically bangs her head against the wall, Josephine turns on the recorder and presents Jule a firework of singing, acting and dancing. However, at school she lacks self-confidence to uninhibitedly conquer the stage.

When the well-known director Kasper Friedmann invites Josephine for an audition, she convinces him with her acting. But Friedmann also sees Josephine's vulnerable personality that matches his vision of Camille, the main character in his next play. Josephine gets her first big part, which she wants to keep no matter what it takes. She slips into another identity. As Camille, Josephine's femininity awakens, but because of Camille, who is not only self-conscious and sexually active but also mentally fragile and self-destructive, Josephine also loses her own strengths when dealing with her sister Jule.

Josephine puts herself in the hands of her director who makes her go through hell and back without providing psychological back up. This is a dangerous game, which makes her become her own enemy.

## STINE FISCHER CHRISTENSEN



# JOSEPHINE LORENTZ. Called Josephine. 21 years old. Drama student.

When Josephine looks in the mirror she sees a person that she dislikes. She covers her boyish figure under baggy clothes. She suffers from not being noticed but she also does everything to not attract attention. Despite the fact that she is a drama student. She fails her first big audition and none of her tutors really believes in her. When the well-known director Kaspar Friedmann visits her school, Josephine attracts his attention. Friedmann sees Josephine's vulnerable personality, which matches his vision of Camille, the leading part in his new play.

When Josephine was five years old her sister Jule was born. Until the birth of her sister they had been a normal family, a father, mother and child. Because of the grueling everyday life with their handicapped daughter, her parents' marriage failed. One day her father left the family and Susanne became a single mom. Josephine started to keep out of the focus. She did not want her mother to worry about her, as well. So she was functional, she did not even move out as a student just to help Susanne get along with her daily duties. She thereby restrained her own problems, pains and needs. All attention in her family was focused on Jule.

Friedmann gives Josephine her first leading part, which she wants to keep no matter what it takes.

## **FILMOGRAPHY**

(SELECTION)

2009 THE WILD SWANS

Director: Githa Norby, Peter Flinth

2008 **GOODBYE BLUE BIRD** 

Director: Lisa Aschan

**ELSKER IKKE** 

Director: Mathias Hovgaard

2007 **EKKO** 

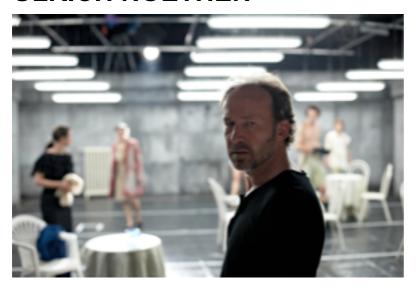
Director: Anders Morgenthaler

2006 AFTER THE WEDDING

Director: Susanne Bier

- \* Oscar Nomination 2007:"Best Foreign Language Film"
- \* Robert Festival 2007: "Best Supporting Actress"
- \* Bodil Awards 2007: "Best Supporting Actress"
- \*Berlinale 2008 "Shooting Star"

## **ULRICH NOETHEN**



## KASPAR FRIEDMANN. 50 years old. Theatrical director.

"IF AN ACTOR IS NOT COMPLETELY AT THE MERCY OF THE HANDS THAT FORM HIS CHARACTER, HE WILL JUST REMAIN A CHUNK OF DIRT!"

**FRIEDMANN** 

This is Friedmann's opinion. He is the kind of director who mercilessly incites his actors to their limits. This is why he has to find out the abilities of his actors. He needs to know their pains, their dark sides and their flaws. An obsessed artist whose only interest is the extreme. He exhausts them like a leech. He rejects the actors of the leading parts after every production because he is convinced that he already knows everything about them. Actually, Kaspar Friedmann is very lonely and incapable of staying in relationships. He only lives for and through his work. He sees his leading actors - preferably young women - not only as his muses but as his creatures. As long as he is working with them they give him something to hold on. But there is only an inexpressible emptiness afterwards.

## **FILMOGRAPHY**

(SELECTION)

2010 **Oh Boy** 

Director: Jan Ole Gerster

2008 Henri IV.

Director: Jo Baier

2007 Schattenwelt (Long Shadows)

Director: Connie Walther

2006 Mein Führer (MY FÜHRER)

Director: Dani Levy

\* German Film Critics Association Award 2007:

"Best Actor"

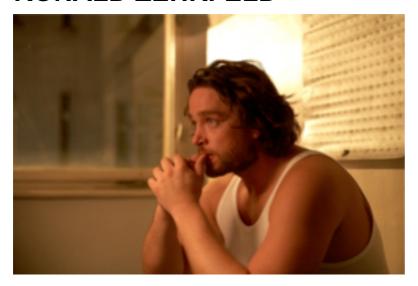
2003 Der Untergang (DOWNFALL)

Regie: Oliver Hirschbiegel

\* Oscar Nomination 2005:

"Best Foreign Language Film"

## RONALD ZEHRFELD



# JOACHIM. **30 years old. Project manager for tunneling.**

Joachim is a wanderer between the worlds. As a project manager for tunneling he moves from project to project, from city to city. No place gives him the feeling of home. His apartments stay rough and ready. He does not get involved in relationships. He avoids farewells that could hurt him.

"MY BOSS TOLD ME ONCE: TO HAVE A GIRL IN EVERY CITY IS PERFECT BUT NEVER EVER FALL IN LOVE ... AT LEAST NOT MADLY IN LOVE."

JOACHIM

And then he meets strange Camille, right in the middle of an anonymous crowd. She lives in her own broken world where personal relations do not fit in. She tells him straight to the face how lonely he is. She seems to know him what makes him curious. She is upfront with him about her psychic problems, which is new to him. She pretends to be a man-eater although she is scared of physical closeness and sexuality: this contradiction appeals to him. Camille triggers his protective instinct. And then it happens: he falls in love. For the first time Joachim thinks about refusing the next project to stay in her town. But Camille does not really exist. He fell for a drama student. And the person behind Camille? He is not really interested in her. Joachim switches back to his old habits. He wanders on without saying good-bye.

## **FILMOGRAPHY**

(SELECTION)

2011 **DIE STUNDE DER KRÄHEN**Director: Thomas Nennstiel

2010 IM ANGESICHT DES VERBRECHENS (IN FACE OF THE CRIME)

Director: Dominik Graf

- \* German Television Award 2010: "Special Achievement Fiction"
- \* Grimme-Award 2011

2010 **NIEMANDSLAND** 

Director: Toke Constantin Hebbeln

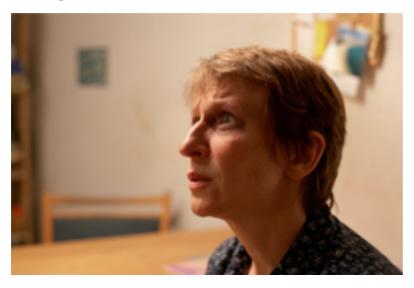
2008 12 METER OHNE KOPF (12 PACES WITHOUT A HEAD) Director: Sven Tadikken

2007 **IN JEDER SEKUNDE** Director: Jan Fehse

2006 DER RUSSISCHE GELIEBTE

Director: Ulrich Stark

## DAGMAR MANZEL



# SUSANNE LORENTZ. 46 years old. Executive at the public affairs office, mother.

Susanne caught the diagnosis two months after she gave birth to Jule: her youngest daughter suffers from an infantile brain damage; she will be mentally handicapped for life. Susanne disavowed this and began a desperate struggle for Jules development. She dragged Jule from one doctor to another, practiced gymnastics, trained her to grab, to sit, to walk and to talk ... Jule was her only focus having muscle spasms on a regular basis, crying a lot and being uneasy at night. A constant load, which destroyed her marriage. Susanne adjusted her life to be the nurse who takes care of Jule. She accepts no one to meddle, not even Josephine, although she relies on her help. She expects her older daughter lives like her. Without friends. Without compensation. Just for Jule.

#### **JOSEPHINE**

"EVERYTHING IS BROKEN HERE."

#### **SUSANNE**

"ONCE, THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO SAID EXACTLY THE SAME, AND THEN HE WAS GONE FOR THE NIGHT, AND THEN ANOTHER NIGHT..."

Men? Her bad experience with her husband formed her animosity towards the opposite gender. Sexuality? For Susanne it rather is something bad since her husband chose to leave her with another woman. Touches? Susanne just manages to hold up a reasonably efficient life. But to handle everything, she needs Josephine. That is why she sees Josephine's studies as a threat, although she does not even have a clue about it. Susanne is scared by everything Josephine is interested in besides their little family. She uses subtle and brutal methods to keep Josephine at it. So that she restrains Josephine's development to an independent personality.

## FILMOGRAPHY

(SELECTION)

2010 DIE VERLORENE ZEIT Director: Anna Justice

2007 JOHN RABE

Director: Florian Gallenberger

#### 2006 FREI NACH PLAN

Director: Franziska Meletzky \* Shanghai International Film Festival 2007: "Best Actress"

**FREISCHWIMMER** 

Director: Andreas Kleinert

2005 DER JUNGE OHNE EIGENSCHAFTEN

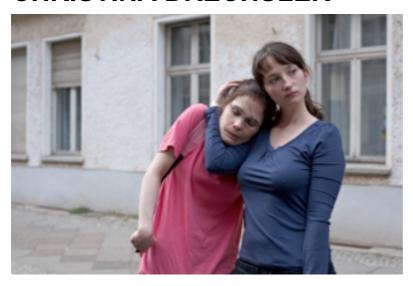
Director: Thomas Stiller

#### 2004 LEBEN WÄRE SCHÖN

Director: Kai Wessel

- \* Adolf Grimme Award 2004
- \* Bavarian TV Award 2004

## CHRISTINA DRECHSLER



## JULIANE LORENTZ. Called Jule. 16 years old.

Jule was born with infantile brain damage. The reason: Suffering of oxygen deficiency while being born. Since she was small she suffered from torturing spasms. She also suffers from excessive demands as she is often asked to fulfill things she is not capable of. Jule is hardly able to speak and learning to walk was troublesome. She moves uncoordinatedly. But with her face, her mimic, she is able to express how she feels and what she wants. On the one side she has a good, cuddly personality but on the other side she is short tempered. In such cases she starts crying and lashing out. No one can deal with Jule as well as Josephine does. Jule loves it when Josephine sings and acts for her.

Genreally: she feels that she is the focus at home. Thus, she is very perceptive in some respects. If this is different she knows how to draw attention to herself.

#### **FILMOGRAPHY**

(SELECTION)

2011 **EISWIND** 

Director: Michael Keindl

2010 EIN STARKES TEAM – BLUTSCHWESTERN (AT)

Director: Walter Weber

2010 WILDER MOHN (AT)

Director: Eric Golub

2009 STROMBERG

Director: Franziska Meletzky

2007 NOVEMBERCHILD

Director: Christian Schwochow

## **ANNA MARIA MÜHE**



## IRINA. **21 years old. Drama student.**

Irina is one of those drama students who attract attention right from the beginning. She is a big talent. She sings like a professional singer, She dances like a professional dancer. And she enters the stage in a way that arouses the desire to watch her doing so. Irina likes herself and she likes her body. Scared of big challenges? Not her. She is made for leading parts, which she generally gets. When Friedmann, the director, only casts her for a featured part, Irina feels defeated. She can hardly cope with it. Secretly Irina wishes for Josephine to fail as Camille. Since she is the supporting actress, Irina is able to recognize Kasper Friedmann's methods, which make her uneasy. She tries to warn Josephine who irresistibly keeps moving on her self-destructive way.

#### **FILMOGRAPHY**

(SELECTION)

2011 BIS ZUM HORIZONT, DANN LINKS!

Director: Bernd Böhlich

2009 IN DER WELT HABT IHR ANGST

Regie: Hans W. Geißendörfer

2008 THE COUNTESS

Regie: Julie Delpy

1 ½ RITTER – AUF DER SUCHE NACH DER HINREISSENDEN HERZELINDE (1 1/2 KNIGHTS - IN SEARCH OF THE RAVISHING PRINCESS HERELINDE)

Director: Til Schweiger

2007 NOVEMBERCHILD

Director: Christian Schwochow

\* FilmArtFestival Schwerin 2008:

"Most talented Newcomer"

\* German Film Awards 2009: Nomination "Best Actress"

2006 SCHWESTERHERZ

Director: Ed Herzog

## CHRISTIAN SCHWOCHOW

#### WRITER & DIRECTOR

Christian Schwochow was born in 1978 in Bergen / Ruegen. After graduating from high school in Hannover, Schwochow started working as comedy author, narrator for TV and radio, worked as an editorial trainee at POLYLUX and as a correspondent and video journalist for ARD, ARTE, 3SAT, RBB, SWR, MDR, NDR. He studied directing from October 2002 until the beginning of 2008 at the Baden-Württemberg Film Academy. Christian Schwochow lives and works in Berlin.

#### **FILMOGRAPHY** (SELECTION)

#### 2011 DER TURM

#### 2008 NOVEMBERCHILD

- \* Audience Award Filmfestival Max Ophüls Price
- \*Best First Feature Film Biberach Filmfestival 2008
- \*Nominated for the German Film Award 2009 (Best Screenplay, Best Actress)
- \*New Faces Award 2009 "Bester First Feature Film"
- \*Studio Hamburg Young Talent Award 2009 "Best Movie"

#### 2007 JÄGER VERLORENER SCHÄTZE: Jahrhundertraub von Quedlinburg

## 2006 MARTA UND DER FLIEGENDE GROSSVATER

(Marta and her flying Grandfather)
\* SIGNIS - Award Best Feature
Film

\*Best Feature Film for Children & Best Feature Film for Youth Ekotopfilm Festival 2006 Bratislava / Slovakia

#### 2005 TANTALUS

## **HEIDE SCHWOCHOW**

#### SCREENPLAY

Born in 1953 in Stralsund, Heide Schwochow, was raised in Bergen / Ruegen. After studying educational science in Leipzig, she began to study film directing in Berlin. Afterwards she worked as a freelancer at theaters as assistant director and director. She also worked as a writer for the GDR broadcaster department "drama for in the broadcasting/ children's audio drama". From 1990 to 1993 Schwochow graduated in Journalism in Hannover. Heide Schwochow worked as a free journalist, writer and director. She works as associate lecturer at universities in Hannover. Goettingen and Leipzig. She also works as a freelance writer for radio, print, TV-broadcasters and movies in Berlin and was awarded with the Deutscher numerous prizes, such as Sozialpreis 2003 or the European Journalists' Prize 2004.

#### **FILMOGRAPHY** (SELECTION)

#### 2011 LAGERFEUER (WT)

#### 2007 NOVEMBERCHILD

Director: Christian Schwochow,

- \*Audience Award Filmfestival Max Ophüls Price
- \*Best First Feature Film Biberach Filmfestival 2008
- \*Nominated for the German Film Award 2009 (Best Screenplay, Best Actress)
- \*New Faces Award 2009 "Bester First Feature Film"
- \*Studio Hamburg Young Talent Award 2009 "Best Movie"

## 2006 MARTA UND DER FLIEGENDE GROSSVATER

(Marta and her flying Grandfather)
\*SIGNIS - Award Best Feature
Film

\*Best Feature Film for Children & Best Feature Film for Youth Ekotopfilm Festival 2006 Bratislava / Slovakia

## **JOCHEN LAUBE**

#### **PRODUCER**

Born in 1978 in Ludwigsburg, Laube studied production at the Baden-Wuertemberg Film Academy from 2000 to 2005. His graduate film "Urlaub vom Leben" was rewarded with the Studio Hamburg Young Talent Award for "Best Feature Film". He worked at Peter Greenway's production "The Tulse Luper Suitcases" as production assistant just to mention a few. Followed by an involvement in the Germany-UNESCO-Project "Zauberlaterne" for children's cinema. 2006 Laube founded his own production company "sommerhaus Filmproduktionen". Since 2008 Laube has been working as producer at teamWorx Television & Film GmbH Ludwigsburg.

#### **FILMOGRAPHY** (SELECTION)

#### 2010 DAS LIED IN MIR (THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN)

Director: Florian Cossen,

- \*Audience Award and FIPRESCI Award World Film Festival Montréal
- \*Golden Icon for "Best German Language Film" Zurich Film Festival 2010
- \*EASTMAN Price Hof International Film Festival
- \*Bavarian Film Awards 2010 "Best Cinematography"
- \*German Film Award 2011 Best Supporting Actress Best Music (also nominations for: Best Direction, Best Cinematography)

## DAS SCHIFF DES TORJÄGERS (THE GOALGETTERS SHIP)

Director: Heidi Specogna, Documentary

- \*Festival del Film Locarno 2010: "Official selection"
- \*DOK Leipzig 2010: Preis der Jugendjury
- \*Duisburger Filmwoche 2010: Audience Award

#### 2008 NOVEMBERCHILD

Director: Christian Schwochow

- \*Audience Award Filmfestival Max Ophüls Price
- \*Nominated for the German Film Award 2009 (Best Screenplay, Best Actress)
- \*New Faces Award 2009 "Bester First Feature Film"

#### 2007 SONBOL

Director: Niko Apel, Dokumentarfilm

- \*Sehsüchte 2008 "Best Documentary"
- \*First Steps Award 2008 "Best Documentary"
- \*Grimme Award 2009

#### 2005 URLAUB VOM LEBEN

Director: Neele Vollmar, movie

\*Studio Hamburg Award for Best Newcomer 2006 "Best Movie"

## **FABIAN MAUBACH**

#### **PRODUCER**

Fabian Maubach was born in Cologne in 1980. After graduating from high school completing community service at the Goethe Institute, Maubach studied cultural sciences, social sciences and musicology at Humboldt University in Berlin. Besides studying Maubach gained experience while working for various movie productions of Bavaria Film in Munich. From 2004 to 2009 Maubach studied production with focus on international producing at the Baden-Württemberg Film Academy. Besides the production of various short films and documentaries for school Maubach started to produce corporate films and documentaries with his own production company "mosquitofilm" since 2006. Since 2009 Maubach has been working as producer with Jochen Laube at teamWorx Television & Film GmbH.

#### **FILMOGRAPHY** (SELECTION)

#### 2010 DAS LIED IN MIR (THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN)

Director: Florian Cossen,

- \*Audience Award and FIPRESCI Award World Film Festival Montréal
- \*Golden Icon for "Best German Language Film" Zurich Film Festival 2010
- \*EASTMAN Price Hof International Film Festival
- \*Bavarian Film Awards 2010 "Best Cinematography"
- \*German Film Award 2011 Best Supporting Actress Best Music (also nominations for: Best Direction, Best Cinematography)

#### 2008 LANDGANG

Director: Fabian Maubach, Shortfilm
\*Festival Max-Ophüls Award

#### 2007 SONBOL

Director: Niko Apel, Documentary

- \*Sehsüchte 2008 "Best Documentary"
- \*First Steps Award 2008 "Best Documentary"
- \*Grimme Award 2009

#### 2005 WOLFSNACHT

Director: Florian Cossen, Shortfilm

## **Frank Lamm**

#### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Frank Lamm was born in 1979 in Arolsen. After finishing community service he worked as an assistant in а photographic studio commercial and fashion photograhy. Afterwards Lamm studied design at the University of Applied Sciences in Mainz. From 2002 to 2008 he studied cinematography at the Baden-Wuertemberg Academy, Film where graduated in 2008 in collaboration with director Christian Schwochow and the movie "Novemberkind". Besides his movie projects he works as cinematographer for various movies, TV commercials, music videos and corporate videos. Lamm lives in Berlin.

#### FILMOGRAPHIE (SELECTION)

#### 2011 DER TURM

Director: Christian Schwochow

#### 2009 HEXE LILI – DIE REISE NACH MANDOLAN

Director: Harald Sicheritz

#### **EIN SOMMER IN NEU ENGLAND**

Director: Sybille Tafel, ZDF

#### JETZT SIND WIR DRAN

Director: Heiko Schier, Sat.1

#### 2008 NOVEMBERCHILD

Director: Christian Schwochow,

\*Audience Award Filmfestival Max Ophüls Price

\*Nominated for the German Film Award 2009 (Best Screenplay, Best Actress)

\*New Faces Award 2009 "Bester First Feature Film"

#### 2006 MARTA UND DER FLIEGENDE GROSSVATER (Marta and her flying Grandfather)

\* SIGNIS - Award Best Feature Film

\*Best Feature Film for Children & Best Feature Film for Youth Ekotopfilm Festival 2006 Bratislava / Slovakia

## **JENS KLÜBER**

#### **EDITOR**

Jens Klüber, born in 1967, successfully completed an apprenticeship as assistant editor with the SDR in Stuttgart after passing high school. In 1999 Klüber was rewarded with the German Television Award for editing the TV-movie "Operation Noah". Since 1994 Jens Klüber lives and works as a freelance editor in Berlin. Furthermore he works lecturer at the Baden-Wuerttemberg Film Academy.

#### **FILMOGRAPHY** (SELECTION)

#### 2009 ES KOMMT DER TAG

Director: Susanne Schneider

#### **DER VERLORENE SOHN**

Director: Nina Grosse

#### **GO WEST**

Director: Andreas Linke

## 2005 STILLE SEHNSUCHT (WARCHILD)

Director: Christian Wagner

\*Nominated German Editing Award 2007

## 2001 MEIN BRUDER DER VAMPIR (MY BROTHER THE VAMPIRE)

Director: Sven Taddiken

\*Nominated German Editing Award 2007

## 2000 RATTEN – SIE WERDEN DICH KRIEGEN

Director: Jörg Lühdorff, TV

\*Bavarian Television Award

#### 1998 OPERATION NOAH

Director: Achim Bornhak, TV

\* German Television Award "Best Editing"

## CONTACTS

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