

LOTTA KILIAN  
CINEMATOGRAPHER

BAYAN LAYLA  
ACTOR

LYDIA GEISSLER  
MAKEUP ARTIST

ANNA ROLLER  
WRITER & DIRECTOR

JOSCHA BONGARD  
WRITER & DIRECTOR

ENZO BRUMM  
ACTOR

ISA WILLINGER  
DIRECTOR

# FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS

## THE FILMMAKERS



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# FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS

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**11th Edition**

## **MEET THE FACES OF 2026**

As a key promoter of German cinema abroad, German Films aims to strengthen the international presence of German filmmakers. In pursuit of this mission, the organization has been running the annual FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS campaign since 2016, showcasing outstanding emerging talents from Germany's film industry for a global audience. The initiative highlights some of the most influential creative voices shaping contemporary German cinema. In 2026, FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS will celebrate its eleventh edition.

Over ten editions, a wide range of talents have represented German film abroad. In the first five, participants were grouped by department: six female actors, six male actors, six directors, then a mix of actors, and finally writers. From the sixth edition onward, the campaign evolved into THE FILMMAKERS, shifting the focus from single categories to a diverse group of exceptional creatives across all film disciplines - reflecting the collaborative nature of filmmaking and the many talents, on and off screen, who make it possible.

This year's FILMMAKERS brings together seven remarkable and multifaceted talents. As ambassadors, they will represent German cinema abroad, sharing the creativity and craftsmanship of filmmakers in Germany through their personal stories and experiences. Each of them has followed an individual, inspiring path into the film world, reflecting the diversity and creative energy that define the German film industry.

The FACES 2026 share a profound passion for cinema and a strong commitment to shaping its future. They already embody the excellence that distinguishes German films and series internationally, proudly presenting their work at leading festivals around the world. With their artistic vision, skill, and unwavering dedication, they have made a lasting contribution to German filmmaking - continuing to shape it with fresh spirit and professionalism.

"We have an exceptionally vibrant and diverse film landscape in Germany - one that thrives on the creativity and vision of its filmmakers," says Simone Baumann, Managing Director of German Films. "Across all disciplines, we see talented individuals who are constantly exploring new ideas, questioning conventions, and redefining what film and cinema can be. At German Films, we consider it our responsibility to support these creatives and accompany them on their journey toward international success. We're proud to present seven filmmakers as ambassadors of our campaign this year - each representing the spirit of innovation that drives the film industry forward."

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**JOSCHA BONGARD**

**Writer & Director**

Joscha Bongard was born in Wolfsburg in 1994 and grew up in Kassel as the son of a pediatric nurse and a human resources officer. After completing his high school diploma and training as an electronic technician for devices and systems, he worked in Cologne at the YouTube channel network TubeOne (now: We Are Era), which specializes in marketing and managing YouTubers. He then took on a position as a production assistant at the Berlin-based production company Iconoclast Germany before starting his studies in Directing for Film and TV at the Filmakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg in 2017. In 2019, Joscha was awarded the Baden-Wuerttemberg scholarship and directed a short film at La Fémis in Paris. In 2022, he received another scholarship and participated in a masterclass at UCLA Extension in Los Angeles.

His short film JUNG FRAGIL, a reflection on sexuality and masculinity, had its international premiere at the Riga International Film Festival in 2020 and was broadcast by German public TV. In addition to narrative work, Joscha has also directed commercials and branded shorts in recent years for brands such as Mercedes, Bose, and Amazon Prime Studios.

His first feature-length documentary, PORNFLUENCER, a portrait of a young amateur porn couple, premiered at DOK.fest Munich and was released in cinemas across Germany by distributor Salzgeber in July 2022. PORNFLUENCER received extensive media coverage, was nominated for the German Documentary Film Award 2023, and sold to several territories. BABYSTAR, his feature film debut, celebrated its world premiere at the 50th Toronto International Film Festival. BABYSTAR portrays the life of Luca, who, since her birth (she is now 16), has been at the center of attention both online and offline. When her influencer parents plan to have another child, she plunges into a deep vacuum and begins to realize how little of herself is left. BABYSTAR screened at several international film festivals such as Warsaw Film Festival, Mostra International Film Festival Sao Paulo and Stockholm Film Festival.

## Quick Q & A

### Why did you want to get into the film business?

When I was 14, I really wanted to become a photographer. My sister's ex-boyfriend was a photographer, and he inspired me and became kind of a mentor to me. He wanted to become a DOP—he's now a very good one. We shot our first short films together. And he basically pulled me into the film business.

### Can you tell us something about your current project BABYSTAR?

BABYSTAR is my first feature film. We celebrated its premiere at Toronto International Film Festival in 2025. It was really exciting and just the start of the festival tour. Many more exciting stops and festivals followed, and I hope it continues for a long time to come. But what was most special for me was the entire process of making the film, from writing to financing and shooting. We worked on it for more than four years. I am very proud of the result.

### How would you characterize German cinema?

I think we're very good when it comes to psychological storytelling. And I feel that we're becoming more courageous when it comes to visual language. That's a very positive development.

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## Filmography

2025

### **BABYSTAR**

Feature Film – Writer & Director

2022

### **PORNFLUENCER (VERIFIED COUPLE)**

Documentary – Writer & Director

2021

### **THIS WILL BE MY LAST CIGARETTE**

Short Film – Writer & Director

2020

### **JUNG FRAGIL**

Short Film – Writer & Director

2017

### **WOLFGANG'S N**

Short Documentary – Writer & Director

2017

### **BERGFILM – NOSTALGIC LOVE**

Music Video – Writer & Director

2015

### **ALACRITAS**

Short Film – Writer & Director



**ENZO BRUMM**

**Actor**

Enzo Hermann Brumm was born in Meaux, France in 1996, and raised in Hamburg, Germany. He began his career as an international model, strutting the catwalks in Paris, Milan, London, and New York, and working for designers such as Versace, Rick Owens, Bottega Veneta, and Louis Vuitton among others. These experiences introduced him to the global creative scene and shaped his sense of expression, movement, and presence.

In 2018, he decided to quit modeling to focus fully on his acting and started to train at the prestigious Max Reinhardt Seminar in Vienna, graduating in 2022. During his studies, he performed in numerous classical and contemporary productions, including at the Vienna Burgtheater, demonstrating versatility and a strong stage presence. Later in 2022, he took on his first professional engagement at Theater Regensburg, gaining initial stage experience before increasingly focusing on film.

In 2023, Brumm starred in the Amazon Prime series VIKTOR BRINGT'S alongside Moritz Bleibtreu. His performance earned him the New Faces Award as Best Young Actor in 2025. In 2024, he appeared in his first international arthouse film, SILENT FRIEND, directed by the renowned Hungarian filmmaker Ildikó Enyedi, in one of the lead roles. The film premiered at Venice International Film Festival in 2025, where it won multiple awards, including the FIPRESCI Prize; later it screened at major festivals such as Toronto, BFI London, and Chicago, among others. SILENT FRIEND is scheduled for theatrical release in 2026.

Also in 2025, Brumm appeared in Sönke Wortmann's feature DIE ÄLTERN and in the Netflix production DAS GESCHENK (dir. Vanessa Jopp), both expected to be released in 2026. Today, Enzo Hermann Brumm is regarded as one of Germany's most promising young actors, celebrated for his emotional depth, versatility, and compelling presence.

## Quick Q & A

### Why did you want to get into the film business?

To be honest, I didn't originally plan to go into the film business. I started doing theater at school to get good grades easily. And then I was surprised at how much fun I had doing it. So, I applied to acting schools and did a lot of theater. For a long time, I wasn't sure if I was any good as an actor for movies. Nevertheless, I got the chance to appear in a film. And now I'm here, trying to do my best.

### What film, German or international, would you have liked to have acted in?

I would have loved to have been in Sebastian Schipper's VICTORIA. The film was shot in just one take. That reminds me a lot of theater, when you perform an entire story from beginning to end in one evening. And I like that. On set, it's often the case that the last scene is shot on the first day and the whole shooting is non-chronological. So, I would find it very exciting to perform a film from beginning to end in one take.

### Can you name an interesting or extraordinary fact from your biography people may not know about you?

My childhood dream was to become a professional show jumper. I rode a lot as a child. That's why I wanted to make it my profession.

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## Filmography

2025

### **DAS GESCHENK (WT)**

Feature Film – Director: Vanessa Jopp

2025

### **DIE ÄLTERN**

Feature Film – Director: Sönke Wortmann

2024

### **WHERE TO (WT)**

Feature Film – Director: Assaf Machnes

2024

### **SILENT FRIEND**

Feature Film – Director: Ildikó Enyedi

2023

### **VIKTOR BRINGT'S**

Series – Director: Ed Herzog

2022

### **DIE TOTEN VON SALZBURG - SCHATTENSPIEL**

Series – Director: Erhard Riedlsperger

2022

### **DER ONKEL**

Feature Film – Director: Michael Ostrowski





**LYDIA GEISSLER**

**Makeup Artist**

Lydia Geißler was born in Leipzig in 1985 and now lives in Neu-Ulm, Bavaria. In September 1989, her family fled the GDR. This escape also had a decisive influence on her later professional life.

Her interest in visual transformation and the creative processes behind the camera developed early. After completing her hairdressing apprenticeship as the top of her class, she trained as a state-certified makeup artist for film and television in 2011, completing the program with top marks. She has since worked in the fields of makeup and special effects makeup, with a focus on character design and film-related aesthetics.

Her feature film debut as a makeup artist was *A GIFT FROM THE GODS (EIN GESCHENK DER GÖTTER, Oliver Haffner, 2014)*. This was followed by projects such as *WHO IS WITHOUT FAULT (WER OHNE SCHULD IST, Sabrina Sarabi, 2024)* and *AIR (Anatol Schuster, 2019)*, a film that has been screened at international film festivals and won awards.

Her most recent projects are *MISTY - THE ERROLL GARNER STORY (Georges Gachot, 2025)*, *CYBERPUNK ROMANCE (Joscha Douma, 2025)*, and *KARLA (Christina Tournatzés, 2025)* - a historical drama based on a true court case from the 1960s. For *KARLA*, she contributed period-accurate makeup concepts, aging effects, and character-specific designs.

For Lydia Geißler, makeup functions as a component of visual storytelling. She uses detailed design elements to clarify a character's emotional state and to support the narrative in a restrained and coherent manner.



## Quick Q & A

### Why did you want to get into the film business?

I have always been very skilled with my hands and very creative. Whenever I watched fairy-tale films, I was fascinated by the masks and makeup. I wanted to understand how these looks were created, how wigs were made, and what happened behind the scenes. I started out, as was customary at the time, with a traditional hairdressing apprenticeship, then attended a private school, and finally made the leap into the film business.

### Which filmmakers inspired you growing up?

I was particularly inspired by films that relied heavily on visual effects. For example, Steven Spielberg's JURASSIC PARK, Ridley Scott's ALIEN, Luc Besson's LÉON - THE PROFESSIONAL, as well as DAS BOOT and THE NEVERENDING STORY by Wolfgang Petersen.

### What is an interesting or extraordinary fact from your biography people may not know about you?

Few people know that I once appeared in front of the camera for a documentary. In the documentary, I talked about my family's escape from the GDR in 1989, during which I fell out of a moving train as a child.

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## Filmography

### 2025 **CYBERPUNK ROMANCE**

Feature Film - Director: Joscha Douma

### 2025 **KARLA**

Feature Film - Director: Christina Tournatzés

### 2025 **MISTY - THE ERROLL GARNER STORY**

Feature Documentary - Director: Georges Gachot

2024

### **WHO IS WITHOUT FAULT**

WER OHNE SCHULD IST

TV Film (Drama / Crime) - Director: Sabrina Sarabi

### 2024 **STELLA. A LIFE**

STELLA. EIN LEBEN

Feature Film - Director: Kilian Riedhof

### 2022 **THE GOOSE PRINCESS**

DIE GÄNSEPRINZESSIN

TV Fairy Tale - Director: Frank Stoye

### 2022 **TOTALLY MESCHUGGE**

VÖLLIG MESCHUGGE?!

TV Series - Director: Frank Stoye

### 2020 **AT HOME IN THE MOUNTAINS: FATHERS**

DAHEIM IN DEN BERGEN - VÄTER

TV Film - Director: Annette Ernst

### 2020 **AT HOME IN THE MOUNTAINS - NEW PATHS**

DAHEIM IN DEN BERGEN -

AUF NEUEN WEGEN

TV Film - Director: Annette Ernst

### 2019 **AIR**

LUFT

Feature Film - Director: Anatol Schuster

### 2014 **A GIFT FROM THE GODS**

EIN GESCHENK DER GÖTTER

Feature Film - Director: Oliver Haffner



**LOTTA KILIAN**

**Cinematographer**

Lotta Kilian is a Berlin-based cinematographer, born in Hamburg. She graduated in Cinematography from Film University KONRAD WOLF. Her main focus is on feature films & high-end TV series, in addition she gained wide experience as a director of photography for documentaries. In her work, she gravitates towards projects which not only explore emotional and psychological dimensions but are also political and socially relevant. Kilian's cinematography for the feature film LUISE, a historical intimate play directed by Matthias Luthardt, earned her a nomination for Best Cinematography at the German Film Awards (2024) and a nomination at Camerimage Film Festival (2023) in the Cinematographers' Debut Competition. Early in her career, Kilian received the German Camera Award (2012) and the Kodak Filmschool Cinematography Award (2011) for the short film WIR STERBEN. Her work has been shown at many international festivals including the Berlinale. She maintains an ongoing creative collaboration with director Faraz Shariat, having worked together on the series DRUCK.

Their latest project, the political thriller PROSECUTION is set to premiere at the Berlinale 2026. Leonie Krippendorff is another frequent creative partner. Together, they have worked on several projects, including the series LOVING HER. Their latest collaboration GEPELLTE HAUT is set to premiere in 2026 as well. Kilian's portfolio includes the Grimme Prize winning feature film NICHTS WAS UNS PASSIERT, directed by Julia C. Kaiser (2024) and the award-winning series BECOMING CHARLIE by director Kerstin Polte (2022). She was a founding member of CINEMATOGRAPHINNEN - Women\* Cinematographers Network at its launch in 2017 and has served on the board for many years. Lotta Kilian is a member of the German Film Academy, the European Film Academy and the German Society of Cinematographers (BVK).

## Quick Q & A

### Why did you want to get into the film business?

I always knew that I wanted to do something with visual arts, and I was also interested in storytelling. As a child, I was allowed to watch Charlie Chaplin films and animal films in particular. As a cinematographer I find it fascinating to interact with the people in front of the camera, I love building a relationship between the camera and the characters of the film, be their ally or their best friend – or on the opposite be an observer or an intruder in a way. This is a crucial factor in the visual storytelling of a film and I am very grateful to be able to do work in this very unique profession.

### What is better in German cinema today than it was in the past?

In terms of the stories being told and the perspective from which they are told, German cinema has become somewhat more diverse. When it comes to gender equality in the camera department, there is still a lot of room for improvement. As a female cinematographer, you very rarely get big jobs, and on every set that I work on, people come up to me and tell me that I am the first female cinematographer they have ever worked with. In my opinion, there is still a lot to be done here.

### What would be outside your comfort zone in your work? What would challenge you?

It would be a challenge to shoot a film entirely in a studio. I love being on location and outdoors. And I love natural light and authenticity. But nevertheless, that would definitely be a cool challenge.

## Filmography

### 2024 **PROSECUTION**

Feature Film – Director: Faraz Shariat

### 2025 **GEPELLTE HAUT**

Feature Film – Director: Leonie Krippendorff

### 2023 **PUSH**

Series – Director: Mia Maariel Meyer

### 2023 **24 STUNDEN**

Series – Director: Leonie Krippendorff

### 2022 **NICHTS WAS UNS PASSIERT**

TV Film – Director: Julia C. Kaiser

### 2022 **BECOMING CHARLIE**

Series – Director: Kerstin Polte

### 2021 **LUISE**

Feature Film – Director: Matthias Luthardt

### 2021 **LOVING HER**

Series – Director: Leonie Krippendorff

### 2020 **DRUCK**

Series (Season 5+6) – Director: Faraz Shariat

### 2019 **AICHA**

Short Film – Directors: Faraz Shariat, Laura Bleck

### 2018 **THREE AUGUST DAYS**

Short Film – Director: Madli Lääne

### 2016 **LANDSTÜCK**

Feature Documentary – Director: Volker Koepp

### 2014 **TOP GIRL**

Feature Film – Director: Tatjana Turanskyi

### 2013 **AM ANFANG**

Feature Documentary – Director: Josephine Links





**BAYAN LAYLA**

**Actor**

Bayan Layla, born and raised in Syria, began studying architecture at the University of Hama before gaining her first stage experience in Leipzig, Germany, in 2015. She has performed as an actor at renowned theaters such as the Staatsschauspiel Dresden, the Volksbühne Berlin, and the Theater an der Ruhr.

In 2019, she began studying acting at August Everding Theater Academy, graduating in 2023 with a scholarship from the German National Academic Foundation. While still a student, she took on her first engagement at the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe.

Bayan celebrated her breakthrough with the title role in the debut film ELAHA (2023, directed by Milena Aboyan). Bayan received numerous awards for this role, including the New Faces Award, the First Steps - Götz George Young Talent Award, and the Bavarian Film Award. The film was presented at the Berlinale, won an award at Locarno Film Festival, and earned her a nomination for Best Actress at the German Film Awards (Lola).

This was followed by more film and television productions with Milena Aboyan, Matthias Glasner, and David Nawrath, among others. She was recently announced as starring in three upcoming films in 2026: WOVON SOLLEN WIR TRÄUMEN, HYGGE, and DREI KAMERADINNEN. She will also be taking on a leading role in an international production for the first time.

## Quick Q & A

### Why did you want to get into the film business?

As a teenager, movies saved my life in a way and helped me maintain my mental health. I always had this feeling and urge to express myself. And I think film is the perfect medium for that.

### Do you have a favorite German film?

GOODBYE, LENIN! is one of my favorite German films. I love the dialogue and the complexity of the story. The film shows how difficult it can be to leave a world behind, even if that world wasn't perfect. For me, this can be applied to or compared with the current situation in Syria.

### What is the work you are most proud of so far?

In the film WHAT SHALL WE DREAM OF, I had the opportunity to act in a language I don't speak. And I had to learn wrestling. The combination of these two components or challenges was very intense and at the same time very enriching.

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## Filmography

### 2025 **3 KAMERADINNEN**

Feature Film – Director: Milena Aboyan

### 2024 **HIJACK**

Series – Season 2 – Director: Jim Field Smith

### 2024 **HYGGE**

Feature Film – Directors: Zarah Schrader, Lena Fakler

### 2024 **WOVON SOLLEN WIR TRÄUMEN**

Feature Film – Directors: Milena Aboyan, Constantin Hatz

### 2024 **POLIZEIRUF 110 - TU ES!**

Series – Director: Max Gleschinski

### 2023 **TATORT - ÜBERLEBE WENIGSTENS BIS MORGEN**

Feature Film – Director: Milena Aboyan

### 2023 **INFORMANT**

Series – Director: Matthias Glasner

### 2023 **MADE IN GERMANY**

Series – Director: Ozan Mermer

### 2023 **MANDY UND DIE MÄCHTE DES BÖSEN**

Series – Directors: Andreas Schmied, Franziska Meyer Price

### 2023 **IM ROSENGARTEN**

Feature Film – Director: Leis Bagdach

### 2023 **TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT**

Experimental – Director: Lea Thurner

### 2022 **BLUTIGE ANFÄNGER**

Series – Directors: Philipp Eichholtz, Irina Popow, Franco Tozza

### 2022 **FUCHSENSTUNDE**

Short Film – Director: Louise Zenker

### 2021 **ELAHA**

Feature Film – Director: Milena Aboyan

### 2021 **GENERATION TOCHTER**

Feature Film – Director: Marielle Sjømo Samstad

### 2020 **ON THE SQUARE**

Short Film – Director: Ajay Paul



**ANNA ROLLER**

**Writer & Director**

Anna Roller was born in Munich in 1993. Early on, she discovered filmmaking as a way to combine her passions for music, photography, and writing. During her directing studies at the University of Television and Film Munich, she created five short films. PAN and THE LAST CHILDREN IN PARADISE screened at more than 60 international festivals, including Palm Springs, Max Ophüls, and Camerimage. Her short film BRAT received the German Short Film Award "Lola" in 2021.

In 2019, Anna was selected for the Future Frames program at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and took part in the Talent Village at Les Arcs Film Festival as well as Mannheim Cutting Edge Talent Camp. During the 2020 lockdown, she co-created and produced the IGTV series CURFEW CALLS with kalekone film.

Anna's debut feature, DEAD GIRLS DANCING, a co-production between kalekone film and Totem Atelier, premiered simultaneously at Tribeca Film Festival and Munich Film Festival in 2023, followed by a theatrical release through MUBI. The film earned her the New Faces Award for a feature debut. Her second feature ALLEGRO PASTELL, an adaptation of Leif Rand's novel, will be released in cinemas in 2026.

Anna writes both on her own and in teams, crafting cross-genre stories with a strong emotional core. She remains a firm believer in the community power of cinema and the idea that films are meant to be experienced together. Rejecting the notion of the "auteur genius," she advocates for an open, collaborative approach to filmmaking grounded in equality and teamwork.



## Quick Q & A

### What are your current projects or projects in planning?

My current project is ALLEGRO PASTELL. The film is based on a novel by Leif Randt. I am also working on my third feature film, which will be produced in collaboration with kalekone Film and Totem Atelier.

### What inspires you to do your job?

There's a very particular feeling you experience only sometimes in the cinema – that moment when a film pulls the ground out from beneath you, and you're suddenly in free fall. When Lazzaro in LAZZARO FELICE dies and then inexplicably returns; when PARASITE takes you into the basement for the first time; or in AS BESTAS when the narrative shifts to a new protagonist halfway through. These are the moments when you no longer know where the story is headed, and you surrender to the film completely. It's a sensation I'll always be chasing, that keeps me going – and one I aspire to create in my own work.

### Is there a person you would love to work with?

There are so many... For example, I would love to work with Leonie Benesch at some point – she's an incredible actor. And I'd also love to work with Luna Wedler again. She only had a supporting role in my last film, but I was so impressed by the honesty and rawness of her performance, and by how deeply dedicated she is to her preparation.

## Filmography

2026

### **ALLEGRO PASTELL**

Feature Film – Director

2023

### **DEAD GIRLS DANCING**

Feature Film – Writer & Director

2021

### **BRAT**

Short Film – Co-Writer & Director

2020

### **CURFEW CALLS**

IGTV Series – Show Runner, Writer & Director of the pilot

2019

### **THE LAST CHILDREN IN PARADISE**

Short Film – Co-Writer & Director

2017

### **PAN**

Short Film – Co-Writer & Director



**ISA WILLINGER**

**Director**

Isa is a documentary film director. Her debut film *HI, AI. LOVE STORIES FROM THE FUTURE* (2019) was nominated for the German Film Awards and won, among others, the Max Ophüls Award for Best Documentary and the Sistar Award for Outstanding Women Directors.

Isa Willinger's second theatrical documentary, *PLASTIC FANTASTIC*, on the intertwining of climate change and plastic production, plastic lobbyism and environmental racism received the German Documentary Film Award/Audience Award, the German Ocean Film Award, the Graine d'Or at the Festival International du Film Écologique et Social Cannes, and "Best Documentary" from Greenpeace Italia among others. The film has been shown at numerous international film festivals from China to Brazil, including the A-festivals in Warsaw and Black Nights Tallinn. It attracted over 20,000 cinema viewers.

For Isa's third theatrical documentary *NO MERCY*, completed in fall 2025, she managed to gather a cast of great women directors including Céline Sciamma, Alice Diop, Ana Lily Amirpour, Catherine Breillat and Valie Export, to discuss film language and the question whether women make the harsher films. The film has successfully started its festival journey at the Viennale, DOC.NYC and Festival do Rio de Janeiro. Currently, Isa is preparing a new theatrical documentary, *THE RED LINE* (working title), in which she returns to artificial intelligence. The film is produced by Sandra Maischberger (Vincent Productions) in collaboration with Trimafilm. Isa holds a degree in directing from the University of Film and Television Munich and an MA in American Studies, Slavic Studies, and Sociology, for which she spent two semesters in New York City on a Fulbright scholarship. Having always had an interest in film theory, she is also the author of an acclaimed book on the works of director Kira Muratova. When she is not working on her films, Isa is a passionate mountain hiker, gardener and mother of two children.

## Quick Q & A

### Why did you want to get into the film business?

At the very beginning, it was mainly a love of images. As a teenager, I was fascinated by photography. Later, in my early twenties, I became very political and became increasingly interested in social issues. Documentary films are a great combination of both. You work with images and at the same time you can raise awareness of certain issues. That's why I decided to become a documentary filmmaker.

### What is the work you are most proud of so far?

This question is not easy to answer, but I can talk about my latest film, NO MERCY, which premiered at the Doc NYC Festival. I had to get very personal for this film in order to be able to work on it. I had to become the protagonist myself and talk about myself. About my love for certain films and my motivation for wanting to make this film about female directors. It was a long process for me and it wasn't easy. But I'm very happy with the result and so I can say that I'm proud of this film.

### Which filmmakers inspire you?

There are many, many, many. I love the films by British director Andrea Arnold. I think every one of her films is a masterpiece. I also like Werner Herzog's documentaries. LESSONS OF DARKNESS, for example, is one of my favorite German films. And if I had one wish, someone I would love to work with, it would be Robbie Ryan, Andrea Arnold's cinematographer. I really like the physicality of his images.

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## Filmography

2025

### **NO MERCY**

Feature Documentary

2023

### **PLASTIC FANTASTIC**

Feature Documentary

2019

### **HI, AI. LOVE STORIES FROM THE FUTURE**

Feature Documentary

2013

### **AWAY FROM ALL SUNS**

Feature Documentary



## PAST CAMPAIGNS

# FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS 2016–2025

Find here an overview of all FACES from past campaigns:

**2016**

**PAULA BEER  
LIV LISA FRIES  
SANDRA HÜLLER  
JULIA JENTSCH  
SASKIA ROSENDAHL  
LILITH STANGENBERG**

ACTORS

**2017**

**VOLKER BRUCH  
ALEXANDER FEHLING  
LOUIS HOFMANN  
JANNIS NIEWÖHNER  
TOM SCHILLING  
RONALD ZEHRFELD**

ACTORS

**2018**

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

DIRECTORS

**2019**

**MARIA DRAGUS  
CHRISTIAN FRIEDEL  
LUISE HEYER  
JONAS NAY  
JÖRDIS TRIEBEL  
FAHRI YARDIM**

ACTORS

**2020**

**JANA BURBACH  
KATHARINA EYSEN  
HANNO HACKFORT  
BERND LANGE  
RAFAEL PARENTE  
LAILA STIELER**

WRITERS

**2021**

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THE FILMMAKERS

**2022**

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SARA FAZILAT  
JERRY HOFFMANN  
JULIA KOVALENKO  
MATTHIAS LUTHARDT  
ZAMARIN WAHDAT  
ANNE ZANDER**

THE FILMMAKERS

**2023**

**SÖNKE ANDRESEN  
WELKET BUNGUÉ  
DASCHA DAUENHAUER  
ALISON KUHN  
REZA MEMARI  
LUKAS NATHRATH  
LENA URZENDOWSKY**

THE FILMMAKERS

**2024**

**JAN BÜLOW  
MEHMET AKIF BÜYÜKATALAY  
BANAFSHE HOURMAZDI  
MORITZ MÜLLER-PREISSER  
MONA CATHLEEN OTTERBACH  
EVA TROBISCH  
SOLEEN YUSEF**

THE FILMMAKERS

**2025**

**AARON ALTARAS  
LEA DRINDA  
THEA EHRE  
LEONIE KRIPPENDORFF  
TIM KUHN  
MARIKO MINOGUCHI  
MALA REINHARDT**

THE FILMMAKERS

# FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS

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## A special Photoshoot

The pictures of the seven filmmakers which accompany the campaign were shot by renowned photographer Marcus Höhn.

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# About German Films

German Films Service + Marketing GmbH is the national information and advisory center for the promotion of German films worldwide and the official external representation for German films appointed by the federal government of Germany. The work of German Films focuses on increasing the level of awareness of German films abroad by providing information services as well as initiating PR and marketing measures in order to grant the highest possible visibility in international media.

German Films was established in 1954 under the name Export-Union of German Cinema as the umbrella association for the Association of German Feature Film Producers, the Association of New German Feature Film Producers and the Association of German Film Exporters, and operates today in the legal form of a limited company. In 2004, the company was reorganized and now operates under the name: German Films Service + Marketing GmbH.

German Film's range of activities includes a close cooperation with all major international film festivals, the organization of umbrella stands for German sales companies and producers at international television and film markets, the staging of Festivals of German Films in selected international territories as well as the staging of industry screenings in key international territories. Providing advice and information for representatives of the international press, buyers from the fields of cinema, home entertainment, and television and consulting German filmmakers on international festivals is also part of German Films activities.



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German Films



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#GERMANFILMS

BAYAN LAYLA  
ACTOR

LOTTA KILIAN  
CINEMATOGRAPHER

ENZO BRUMM  
ACTOR

LYDIA GEISSLER  
MAKEUP ARTIST

ISA WILLINGER  
DIRECTOR

JOSCHA BONGARD  
WRITER & DIRECTOR

ANNA ROLLER  
WRITER & DIRECTOR

# FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS

## THE FILMMAKERS



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