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The successful Hamburg architect Georg Winter (Josef Bierbichler), his wife (Hilde Van Mieghem) and two grown-up children (Sandra Hüller and Matthias Schweighöfer) travel to attend Georg’s mother’s funeral in a snowy mountain village where he grew up as a child.

At the funeral the mysterious Hannah (Sophie Rois) and her son Alex (Lucas Zolgar) suddenly appear. She unearths a truth which drags the family into a vortex of desires and confusion. When a snow avalanche cuts the village off from the outside world, there’s no escape...

“Der Architekt knew how to convince with excellent performances.” (Stuttgarter Nachrichten)

“The film was daring, to a great benefit.” (Der Tagesspiegel)

“Compelling feature film debut.” (dpa)

“Extraordinary.” (Märkische Allgemeine)
**Cast and Crew / Project information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DIRECTED BY:</strong></th>
<th>Ina Weisse</th>
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<td><strong>WRITTEN BY:</strong></td>
<td>Ina Weisse und Daphne Charizani</td>
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<td>Carl - F. Koschnick BVK</td>
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<td>Peter Schwartzkopff</td>
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<td>Felix Eisele</td>
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<td><strong>EDITOR NORTH GERMAN BROADCASTING (NDR):</strong></td>
<td>Doris J. Heinze</td>
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<td><strong>CAST:</strong></td>
<td>Josef Bierbichler, Hilde Van Mieghem, Matthias Schweighöfer, Sandra Hüller, Sophie Rois, Lucas Zolgar, u.a.</td>
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<td><strong>LOCATIONS:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FILM SUBSIDY:</strong></td>
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Cast and Crew / Project information

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<td>Susann Bieling</td>
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<td>Andreas Wodraschke</td>
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<td>Annette Focks</td>
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<td>Julia Kleinhenz</td>
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<td>Simone Bär</td>
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<td>Stefanie Bieker</td>
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<td>Gisela Trescher, Ines Steininger</td>
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<td>SOUND:</td>
<td>Max Meindl</td>
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<td>Richard Borowski</td>
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GEORG WINTER: Josef Bierbichler
EVA WINTER: Hilde Van Mieghem
JAN: Matthias Schweighöfer
REH: Sandra Hüller
HANNA: Sophie Rois
ALEX: Lucas Zolgar
Cast — GEORG WINTER [Josef Bierbichler]
JOSEF BIERBICHLER was born in 1948 on a farm in Ambach at Lake Sternberg. Already during his highschool years, he performed in several theatre plays. His idea to become a professional actor assumed shape when he started an acting course at the renowned Otto Falkenberg Drama School in Munich.

During the mid-1970s Josef Bierbichler met director and dramaturg Herbert Achternbusch, with whom he collaborated in several films. Bierbichler also worked with directors such as Werner Herzog, Michael Haneke, Jan Schütte, and Tom Tykwer. He has performed at both small basement theatres and on some of the most significant stages in Germany and has also become a successful film actor.

Several times, Josef Bierbichler was voted actor of the year and awarded with the “Gertrude-Eysoldt-Ring” prize. For HIERANKL, he was nominated for best leading role at the German Film Awards and awarded with the Adolf Grimme Award in gold.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED FILMS)

WINTERREISE
D/A 2006, feature film, directed by Hans Steinbichler

AUSSET KONTROLLE
D 2003, TV film, directed by Helmut Christian Görlitz

HAMLET X
D 2003, feature film, directed by Herbert Fritsch

HIERANKL
D 2002, feature film, directed by Hans Steinbichler

EIN DORF SUCHT SEINEN MÖRDER
D 2001, TV film, directed by Markus Imboden

HEIDI
CH/FR 2000, feature film, directed by Markus Imboden

ABSCHEID. BRECHTS LETZTER SOMMER
D 1999, feature film, directed by Jan Schütte
Cast — EVA WINTER [Hilde Van Mieghem]
HILDE VAN MIEGHEM was born in Antwerp in 1958. Her countless engagements as film/theatre actress and director impressively demonstrate her active productive and creative work. Not least because of her multi-lingual talent (Dutch, German, English, French) and her ability to speak without an accent, she successfully convinced in national and international film and TV productions, such as Oskar Röhler’s drama “Der Alte Affe Angst”, Helmut Dietl’s “Rossini”, and Vivian Naefe’s “Zwei Männer, zwei Frauen, vier Probleme”.

Besides her nomination for the Flemish Culture Award in 2007 Hilde Van Mieghem was nominated multiple times for the Joseph Plateau Award for Best Belgian Actress, which she won in 1988.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED ACTING PROJECTS)

**AMSTERDAM**  
NL 2007/2008, feature film, drama, directed by Ivo van Hofe, written by Jereon Planting, main cast: Katja Herbers, Hilde Van Mieghem, Omar Metwally

**BLUTHÖCHZEIT**  
D 2005, feature film, tragedy, written and directed by Dominique Deruddere, main cast: Armin Rohde, Uwe Ochsenknecht, Josef Heynert

**DER ALTE AFFE ANGST**  
D 2003, feature film, drama, written and directed by Oskar Röhler, main cast: André Hennicke, Marie Bäumer, Hilde Van Mieghem, Vadim Glowna

**ZWEI MÄNNER, ZWEI FRAUEN, VIER PROBLEME**  

**ROSSINI**  
D 1997, feature film, comedy, written and directed by Helmut Dietl, Patrick Süsskind (novel), main cast: Götz George, Mario Adorf, Heiner Lauterbach, Gudrun Landgrebe

**THE SUGARBOWL**  
B 1997, feature film, psycho-drama, written and directed by Hilde Van Mieghem, main cast: Aline Cornelissen, Els Dotermanns, Hilde Van Mieghem

**KAFKA**  
USA/F 1991, feature film, drama, directed by Steven Soderbergh, main cast: Jeremy Irons, Armin Müller-Stahl, Alec Guinness
Cast — JAN [Matthias Schweighöfer]
MATTHIAS SCHWEIGHÖFER was born in 1981 in the Mecklenburg town of Anklam. During his highschool years he gathered early acting experience in several cinema and TV productions. His skill to play the most versatile characters makes Matthias Schweighöfer one of the most promising newcomer actors in Germany. He has worked with Heino Ferch, Til Schweiger, Heike Makatsch, Nora Tschirner and Jessica Schwarz. In recent years Matthias Schweighöfer was voted best actor of the year a number of times. He received the Bavarian Film Award for best newcomer actor as well as the Bambi Award 2007 for best German actor.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED FILMS)

MEIN LEBEN
D 2008, directed by Dror Zahavi

ZWÖLF METER OHNE KOPF
D 2008, directed by Sven Taddicken

KEINOHRRHASEN
D 2007, feature film, directed by Til Schweiger

NIGHTTRAIN
USA 2007, feature film, directed by Brian King

DER ROTE BARON
D 2006, directed by Niki Müllerschön

KAMMERFLIMMERN
D 2003, feature film, directed by Hendrik Hölzemann

SOLOALBUM
D 2002, feature film, directed by Gregor Schnitzler

DIE KLASSE VON 99
D 2003, feature film, directed by Marco Petri

RAUS AUS DER HAUT
D 1996, TV film, directed by Andreas Dresen
Cast – REH [Sandra Hüller]
SANDRA HÜLLER was born in Suhl in 1978. Immediately after passing her A-levels she attended the Ernst Busch Drama School in Berlin. After her diploma Sandra Hüller began her acting career at the theatre in Jena and later in Basel, Switzerland. For her theatre performances she was given the “Theater Heute” Award for best newcomer actress. After several short film productions Sandra gave her feature film debut in 2005 in Hans-Christian Schmid’s drama “Requiem”. For her role she received the German Film Award and the Silver Bear for best leading actress.  

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED FILMS)  
ANONYMA  
D 2007, directed by Max Farberböck  
MADONNEN  
D 2005, directed by Maria Speth  
REQUIEM  
D 2004, directed by Hans-Christian Schmid  
KÜHE LÄCHELN MIT DEN AUGEN  
D 2004, short film, directed by Johann Icks  
KLEINE SCHWESTER  
D 2003, short film, directed by Thomas Adamicka  
NICHT AUF DEN MUND  
D 2003, short film, directed by Kathrin Feistl
Cast — HANNA [Sophie Rois]
SOPHIE ROIS was born in Linz, Austria. She attended the Max-Reinhardt-Seminar, the School of Drama at the University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Vienna. In Berlin Sophie Rois first performed at the Schillertheater and later at Frank Castorf’s Volksbühne, where she can still be seen today.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED FILMS)

BÖSES ERWACHEN
2008, directed by Urs Egger

ENEMY AT THE GATE
2000, directed by Jean-Jaques Arnaud

PATCHWORK
2007, directed by Franziska Buch

ECHO DER SCHULD
2007, directed by Marcus O. Rosenmüller

MORD MIT AUSSICHT
2007, directed by Arne Feldhusen

OHNE EINANDER
2006, directed by Diethard Klante

LIEGEN LERNEN
2003, feature film, directed by Hendrik Handloegten

FRÄULEIN PHYLLIS
2003, feature film, directed by Clemens Schönborn

WIR KÖNNEN AUCH ANDERS
1992, feature film, directed by Detlev Buck
Cast — ALEX [Lucas Zolgar]
LUCAS ZOLGAR was born in Austria in 1984. The young actor has already successfully worked in several television productions. He has been acting on stage for several years and is also a member of the Theaterwerkstatt Dölsach. In autumn 2003 Lucas Zolgar began his acting education at the Schauspielschule Forum Tirol. Besides drama school, he regularly performs at the Landes Jugendtheater in Tyrol.

FILMOGRAPHY

SOKO WIEN – „WETTLAUF MIT DEM TOD“
2008, TV series, directed by Christine Wiegand

TATORT - GRANIT
2007, TV film, Satel Film, directed by F. Eder

DIE VERSÖHNUNG
2006, TV film, Hager Moss, directed by O. Kreinsen

DIE HUTTERER
2003, docu drama, Taurus Film, directed by Th. Lederer

DIE FREIHEIT DES ADLERS
2002, TV film, Satel Film, directed by X. Schwarzenberger

DIE SCHWabenKINDER
2002, TV film, Epo Film, directed by J. Baier
Co-starring
KURT
ROTH
WAITRESS
STONE MASON
VICAR
FOREMAN
AUNT OLLA
NEIGHBOUR
ULRICH
MARIA
PETROL PUMP ATTENDANT
AND MANY MORE

Harald Abdelhamed
Hark Bohm
Maria Hofstätter
Erich Schröck
Johannes Silberschneider
Wolf-Dietrich Sprenger
Anna Reinstadtler
Johanna Unterleitner
Bernhard Wolf
Maria Wolf
Rainer Zotz
Interview with Ina Weisse
What is “Der Architekt” about?

_Ina Weisse:_ Denial, fear, guilt and self-deceipt. The film is about the collapse of a seemingly intact family.

_Estrangement in human relationships has already played a role in your short films “Sonntags” and “Alles anders”…_

_Ina Weisse:_ I’m interested in the family as a structure. It reflects our society and that always makes it fascinating. We all have families, and therefore we’ve all experienced humiliations that are passed on from one generation to the next. Everything to do with suppression and denial ultimately becomes a question of power and powerlessness. The children in the family get to sense it directly.

_Though the wife and lover of the architect suffer as well…_

_Ina Weisse:_ True. Georg Winter believes he can control the powers, which end up controlling him. Going back to his roots shows him that he cannot escape from himself or others. He could now have the chance to come to terms with his past and acknowledge it, but he’s too much of a coward to succeed, so in the end he’s guilty again – maybe because of a fear of loss and even self-loss. Ultimately, he breaks down.

_Why are the characters so speechless?_

_Ina Weisse:_ Their relationships are in a crisis, which is why all communications fails. They act in silence. The wife is speechless, even though she talks incessently. The more intense the conflict, the more speechless they become.
Short biographies
AUTHOR AND DIRECTOR: Ina Weisse
AUTHOR: Daphne Charizani
CINEMATOGRAPHER: Carl - F. Koschnick BVK
ART DIRECTION: Susann Bieling
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Peter Schwartzkopff
PRODUCER: Felix Eisele
EDITOR NORTH GERMAN BROADCASTING (NDR): Doris J. Heinze
Actress and director **INA WEISSE** was born in Berlin. After completing her acting education at the renowned Otto Falkenberg Drama School in Munich she performed at theatres such as the Kammerspiele in Munich, the Mannheim Nationaltheater and the Hans Otto Theater in Potsdam. She played in several film and TV feature films, e.g. „Nichts als Gespenster“, “Schneeland“, “Sams in Gefahr”, or “Duell in der Nacht” for which she was nominated for the German Television Award 2008.

Ina Weisse first studied philosophy in Heidelberg and then directing at Hamburg University from 2000 til 2002. In 2002, her short film “Alles Anders” received the FIRST STEPS Award. Her feature film debut “Der Architekt” premiered at the Hof International Film Festival.
AUTHOR AND DIRECTOR

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED FILMS)

**ALLES ANDERS**
D 2002, short film, graduate film for film course at Hamburg University, directed by Ina Weisse; received the First Steps Award 2002, the International Short Film Festival Berlin and the Studio Hamburg Newcomer Award 2002, ePantherpreis awarded by the Munich International Festival of Film Schools

**KLARA**
D 2001, short film, directed by Ina Weisse, Hamburger Filmwerkstatt

**SONNTAGS**
D 2000, short film, directed by Ina Weisse, Hamburger Filmwerkstatt, FFA sponsorship award, Berlinale 2001 (Panorama)

**LÜNOW**
D 1999, short film, directed by Ina Weisse
**AUTHOR**

**DAPHNE CHARIZANI** was born in Salonika, Greece. After moving to Germany she also lived in Greece, France and Belgium. She did journalism internships, worked as an assistant at the State Theatre in Athens, and studied theatre at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. From 1986, Daphne Charizani studied law and politics. In Munich she worked freelance for the Bayerische Rundfunk (Bavarian Broadcasting). After receiving her diploma in 1992 she worked as a TV author for ARD and for the culture section of the Hessian Broadcasting (HR). In 1999 she made her first documentary called “Make Up”. For her feature film debut “Madrid” she was nominated for the German Film Sponsorship Award and awarded with the Hessian Film Awards 2003.

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**FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED FILMS)**

**MADRID**
D 2003, feature film, written and directed by Daphne Charizani, script sponsored by the Hessische Filmdförderung, production supported by ZDF/Das kleine Fernsehspiel, BKM, Hessische Filmdförderung, Filmund Fernsehfond Bayern, Hessian Film Awards 2003, 2003 Filmfest München, nominated for the German Film Sponsorship Award

**Freundliches Feuer**
D 2007, TV film, written by Daphne Charizani for ZDF/Das kleine Fernsehspiel, with support from the Geneva Prize of the EBU in cooperation with box film.
CARL - F. KOSCHNICK was born in Berlin in 1949. His education in cinematography began with his studies at the SFOF (Staatliche Fachschule für Foto, Optik und Film) in Berlin. Initially, he worked as camera assistant and later also as director. Since 1981 Carl-Friedrich “Charly” Koschnick has been working all over Europe, Africa and the US as director of photography for many well-known TV and film productions. His works for TV and cinema have received multiple awards. For his cinematography in “Lowengrube”, he received the Adolf Grimme Award 1992. For “Silent Night” and “Meschugge”, Carl-Friedrich Koschnick won the Bavarian Film Award in 1996 and 1998. In 2001, he received the award for Best Cinematography for “Jenseits” at the German Television Awards, which was also nominated for Best TV Film.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED FILMS)

MEIN FÜHRER - DIE WIRKLICH WAHRSTE WAHRHEIT ÜBER ADOLF HITLER
D 2007, feature film, directed by Dani Levi, main cast: Helge Schneider

ELEMENTARTEILCHEN
D 2006, feature film, directed by Oskar Roehler, main cast: Moritz Bleibtreu und Christian Ulmen

SILBERHOCHZEIT
D 2006, TV film, directed by Matti Geschonneck, main cast: Iris Berben

EIN GANZ GEWÖHNLICHER JUDE
D 2005, feature film, directed by Oliver Hischbiegel, main cast: Ben Becker

BASTA - ROTWEIN ODER TOTSEIN
D 2004, feature film, directed by Pepe Danquart, main cast: Henry Hübchen

ALLES AUF ZUCKER!

AGNES UND SEINE BRÜDER
D 2004, feature film, directed by Oskar Roehler, main cast: Martin Weiß und Moritz
### FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED FILMS)

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<td>DIE WILDEN HÜHNER</td>
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<td>Vivian Naefe</td>
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<td>DIE WEISE MASSAI</td>
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<td>BIBI BLOCKSBERG UND DAS GEHEIMNIS DER BLAUE EULEN</td>
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<td>NIRGENDWO IN AFRIKA</td>
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<td>Caroline Link</td>
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<td>PUNKTCHEN UND ANTON</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>feature film</td>
<td>Caroline Link</td>
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<td>WIDOWS</td>
<td>1997</td>
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Peter Schwartzkopff completed his studies at the “KONRAD WOLF” Film Academy in 1974. Before establishing his own production company, he was head of production at SPIEGEL TV and responsible for the development and production of successful TV formats. In 2002 the foundation chairman (Gründungsbeauftragte) of the Hamburg Media School switched to the film industry and founded Reverse Angle, together with Wim Wenders. Reverse Angle is an independent company for production, finance and distribution. As managing partner of Reverse Angle and its five sublabels Peter Schwartzkopff takes part in the production of some of the most interesting national and international film projects in recent years.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED FILMS)

THE PALERMO SHOOTING

PRINZESSINNENBAD
D 2007, movie documentary, directed by Bettina Blümner, produced by Reverse Angle Factory GmbH, Berlinale 2007 - awarded with the “Dialogue en perspective” as part of the “Perspektive Deutsches Kino” section.

THE HOUSE IS BURNING

DON'T COME KNOCKING

LAND OF PLENTY

EGOSHOOTER
Short biography — Felix Eisele

**PRODUCER**

FELIX EISELE was born in Berlin in 1977. From 2000 till 2005 he studied production at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. In 2002 he received the Baden-Württemberg scholarship to attend the Hollywood Master Class at the University of California, Los Angeles. In 2002/03 he studied for one year at the University of Westminster in London. In 2003 he received the VFF scholarship. In 2005 he completed his studies at the Filmakademie Ludwigsburg with his graduate film DAS MASS DER DINGE (directed by Sven Bohse), which was nominated for the Student Oscar 2006. 2005/2006 Felix Eisele attended the Master Class “MEGA – European Master in Audiovisual Management” at the Media Business School in Ronda (Spain), which he completed in 2006 with “Master with Honours”. In 2005 he worked as a consultant for EURIMAGES at the European Council in Strasbourg. From August 2006 to June 2008 he worked as a producer for Reverse Angle International GmbH in Hamburg. In August 2008 he founded a film company in Berlin as managing partner of Penrose Film together with Julia Kleinhenz and Katja Siegel.

**FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED FILMS)**

**THE PALERMO SHOOTING**
D/ IT 2008, directed by Wim Wenders, Associate Producer, Official Selection Festival de Cannes 2008

**DAS MASS DER DINGE**
D 2005, short film, directed by Sven Bohse, produced by Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg
In collaboration with Liberté Film and Medien Produktion & dogpool pictures, nominated for student oscar Honorary Foreign Student Film Award Los Angeles, FIRST STEPS Award 2005, Deutscher Kamerapreis 2005, Hof International Film Festival 2005

**ZUR FALSCHEZ ZEIT AM FALSCHEZ ORT**
D 2005, documentary, directed by Tamara Milosevic, produced by Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in co-production with SWR and Gambit Filmproduktion, awarded with the sponsorship award of the German TV Awards, FIRST STEPS Award 2005

**SOHO IN 3 WORDS**
D 2003, documentary, camera and directed by Chris Bourke & Felix Eisele, produced by Liberté Film and Medien Produktion

**POSTCARD**
DORIS J. HEINZE studied business with a focus on consumer research and consumption behaviour. First she worked as a political and business economist for commercial industries before she managed the Filmbüro NRW e. V. from 1994 to 1989. From 1985 til 1988 she was a member of the broadcasting council at WDR to represent independent filmmakers. In addition, she represented WDR in the programme commission (Programmbeirat) of German Television. For the following three years Doris J. Heinze worked as a producer of TV films, documentaries and internationally co-produced feature films for ZDF and WDR at Filmpool Film- und Fernsehproduktion. Since 1991 she has been head of the programme sections TV film, feature film and theatre at NDR.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED FILMS)

**DIE STERNKÖCHIN**
D 2007, directed by Manfred Stelzer, with Inga Busch und Pierre Besson, ARD

**DER MANN VON GESTERN**
D 2007, directed by Hannu Salonen, with Nadeshda Brennicke und Matthias Brandt, ARD

**EIN ENGEL UND PAUL**
D 2005, directed by Manfred Stelzer, with Eva Hassmann und Pierre Besson, ARD

**SO FÜHLT SICH LIEBE AN**
D 2004, directed by Peter Gersina, with Maria Furtwängler, Hannes Jaenicke, Jan Gregor Kremp und Mavie Hörbiger, ARD

**BLONDINE SUCHT MILLIONÄR FÜR LEBEN**
D 2000, directed by Markus Imboden, with Eva Hassmann, Armin Rohde und Christian Berkel, ARD

**WILLI UND DIE WINDZORS**
D 1996, directed and co-written by Hape Kerkeling, ARD

**LAS PIRANJAS**
D 1995, directed by Ulli Baumann, co-written by Hape Kerkeling, ARD
In 2002, producer Peter Schwartzkopff and internationally renowned director Wim Wenders founded the Hamburg based film production company Reverse Angle. Since then the company’s activities have focused on the development and production of feature films and documentaries for the German and international markets. The first production by Reverse Angle was LAND OF PLENTY (directed by Wim Wenders). The second production, “Don’t Come Knocking” (directed by Wim Wenders), had a budget of $11 million. The film was shot in the United States in the summer of 2004. After it successfully premiered in Cannes in 2005 the film was distributed worldwide and sold to important markets in Europe and Asia, as well as to the North American market, which for European production is usually difficult to access.

In 2007 the Reverse Angle produced documentary “Prinzessinenbad” premiered at the Berlinale and received the “Dialogue en perspective” award for its extraordinary contribution for the Perspektive Deutsches Kino section. “PRINZESSINNENBAD” won the German Film Award 2008 in the category “Best Documentary”.

Currently Reverse Angle is working on the development and financing of the feature film project “Neue Ling” (written by Wolfgang Kohlhaase and Dan Tang, directed by Dan Tang).
Press contact

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