



**I'M FROM  
KREUZBERG, YOU  
PUSSY**

# **POOL OF PRINCESSES**

**A FILM BY BETTINA BLÜMNER**

**-PRESS KIT-**



**YEAH...  
STORY, DUDE**

# **POOL OF PRINCESSES**

**A FILM BY BETTINA BLÜMNER**

**-PRESS KIT-**



**DON'T  
TELL ME  
I'M NAIVE**

# **POOL OF PRINCESSES**

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**- PRESS KIT -**

REVERSE ANGLE PICTURES

presents

# POOL OF PRINCESSES

A FILM BY BETTINA BLÜMNER

Germany 2007, 92 minutes, HD, color

a REVERSE ANGLE FACTORY Production

in coproduction with RBB/ARTE and REVERSE ANGLE PRODUCTION

funded by MEDIENBOARD BERLIN-BRANDENBURG and the GERMAN FEDERAL FILM BOARD (FFA)

distributed by REVERSE ANGLE PICTURES

Winner of the

“Dialogue en perspective” Award,

BERLINALE 2007



REVERSE ANGLE

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# CREW

Written and directed by ..... BETTINA BLÜMNER  
Producer ..... PETER SCHWARTZKOPFF  
Producer ..... KATJA SIEGEL  
Cinematography ..... MATHIAS SCHÖNINGH  
Sound design ..... CHRISTIAN LUTZ  
Editing ..... INGE SCHNEIDER  
Production management ..... BROX BROCHOT  
Sound mixing ..... JÖRG HÖHNE  
Music supervision ..... CHRISTIAN ILLNER  
Editor ..... DAGMAR MIELKE  
Editor ..... ULLE SCHRÖDER



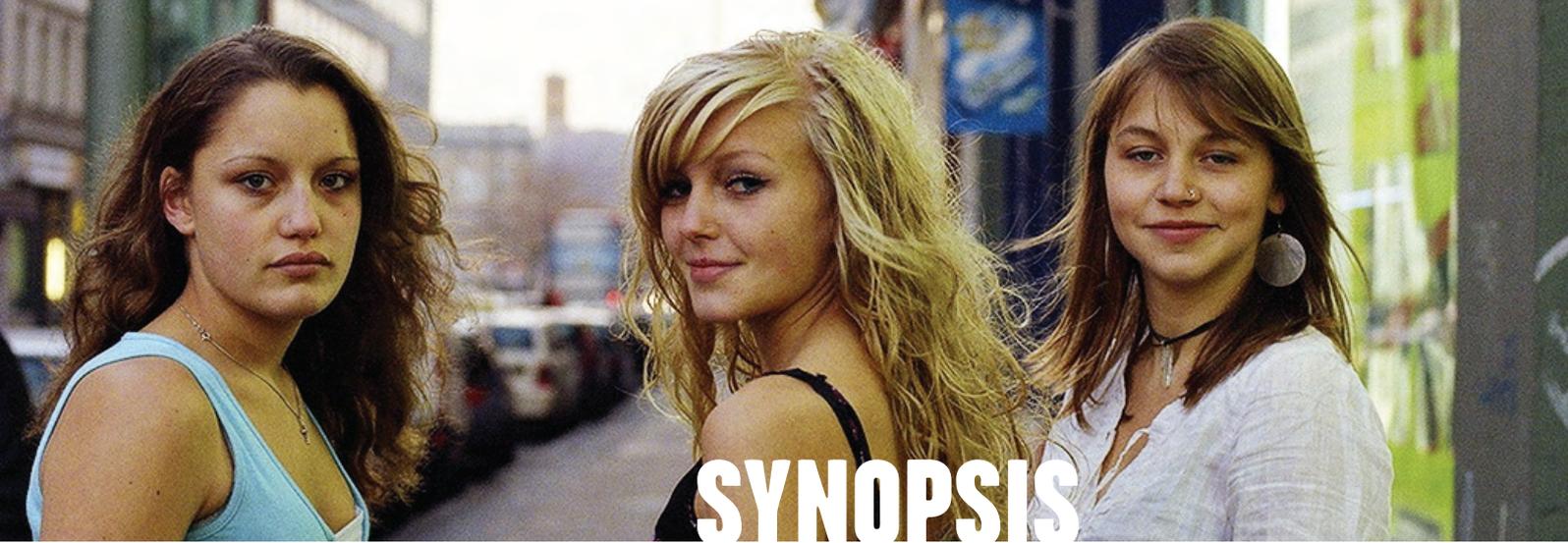
# SHORT SYNOPSIS

## **POOL OF PRINCESSES**

Klara, Mina and Tanutscha are fifteen. Raised by their mothers in Berlin Kreuzberg, they have known each other all their lives. They're best friends and share the same interests: Parties, boys and the Prinzenbad, a local swimming pool. They've always been inseparable, but on the verge of adulthood the three girls start to look for their own place in life: Klara quits school, Mina wants to be with her boyfriend, and Tanutscha demands more freedom from her mother.

### **Press note**

With their abrasive, precocious personalities and true charm, Klara, Mina and Tanutscha earn respect in their search for their own ways in life. Director Bettina Blümner's feature-length debut is a stunningly honest look at the lives of the young female protagonists. It's a striking film about coming-of-age, with an authentic and raw feel.



## **POOL OF PRINCESSES**

**POOL OF PRINCESSES** is an intense movie about growing up in Berlin Kreuzberg, authentic and honest. A candid view into the lives of the protagonists Klara, Mina, and Tanutscha.

Bettina Blümner's film is a sensitive, long-term study of three fifteen-year old girls. It's based on interest, affection and enduring patience: Years of prior conversations created a close connection with the protagonists, which allowed her to explore the lives of Klara, Mina and Tanutscha in a way that's intimate and compelling.

The result is a film about a fight for recognition and getting on in life. The end merely alludes to where the journey of Klara, Mina and Tanutscha might go – a journey with many promising and intimidating possibilities. The film portrays the girls at a point in their lives in which much, yet not all, seems possible. Free of clichés, these girls are neither tough chicks nor poor victims, nor is this a moving study of the Kreuzberg district. **POOL OF PRINCESSES** is a striking portrait of Klara, Mina and Tanutscha and their disarming wit and humor, yet it also shows them in their disheartened and sad moments.



**KLARA**

*"If everyone told me what to do, I'd tell them to fuck themselves."*

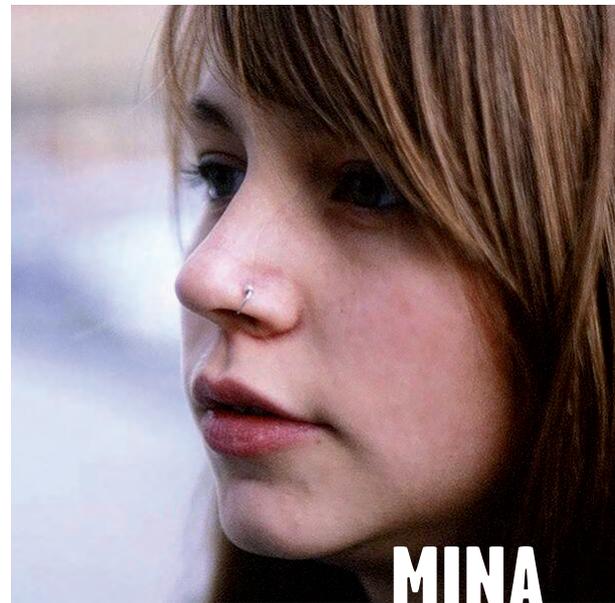
*"I can't think of a time when my Mom was with a guy. She only ever had me."*

*"The guys toughened me up. I just landed on my ass... and maybe I'll land on my ass a few more times, but I quit being naive around guys."*

*"Don't tell me I'm naive."*

*"I'm super glad that my Dad has a girlfriend. It really makes me happy... With my Mom I wouldn't be... it's just like that."*

*"I couldn't image having a boyfriend who's only 15, because, you know, men take a little longer."*



**MINA**

*"I'm from Kreuzberg, you pussy."*

*"I wanna have kids when I'm 30, if at all. I wanna be free and party, have my own job, earn my own money... I ain't gonna buy nothing at the organic store. Organic's crap."*

*"Mom...please...you're not my therapist."*



**TANUTSCHA**

# Friendship

Klara and Tanutscha have been friends since they were children. They met through their mothers and have been inseparable for years.

## What makes you two friends?

*The way we treat each other, first of all: With respect. And we trust each other 100%. We never let each other down. Sometimes we fight, but it's never been so bad that we didn't trust each other any more.*

## So you fight?

*Sure! We tell each other what we think. But more in an honest and open kind of way. And we're forgiving. After a few minutes we laugh again. Our friendship is a lot of fun.*

## What's special about your friendship?

*We have our own language! Over the years, we've invented words for certain things or people. But we also understand each other without words. Just looks. We know each other so well that we notice the same things or people. And we get upset or laugh at the same time without having talked about it beforehand.*

## Great! That really doesn't happen very often.

*I know. There aren't many really good friends. (Klara) Besides Tanutscha, there's one more person who I can tell everything and who I share everything with – and that's my Mom.*



# Love

George and Mina have been a couple for 16 months. During our shooting in 2006, George leaves Germany to go to Brazil for one year.

## George, you've been back in Germany since December 2006. How long were you gone for?

*3 months*

## And how long did you want to stay?

*12 months, so, a year.*

## How come you're already back?

*I missed Mina so much that I couldn't stand it any longer. We talked on the phone almost every day and wrote emails. And I must have written her about 20 letters. We spent so much money on phone calls, it probably would have been enough for her to fly over.*

## Do you regret coming back so early?

*No way! I'm going there again – with Mina. We're not sure where we're gonna go yet. We've already been to Africa together, but just for a couple of weeks. Now we want to go for six months. We mainly want to spend the time together.*





# DIALOGUE

*DIALOGUE BETWEEN KLARA  
AND MINA AT A BOWLING  
ALLEY IN BERLIN. THEY SIT  
ACROSS FROM EACH OTHER  
AT A TABLE TALKING ABOUT  
KLARA'S FUTURE CAREER.*

**Mina:** What about hotel management?

**Klara:** I'd have to...

**Mina:** It's kind of like gastronomy!

**Klara:** ...Mina, yeah, I know. But I'd have to learn how to make beds, how to clean and cook. I'd have to be in the kitchen for three months, clean for three months, and make beds for three months... It's always like that.

**Mina:** I know.

**Klara:** But I hate cleaning and kitchen stuff.

**Mina:** Okay, well...

**Klara:** But I also don't wanna work in some fancy-ass restaurant where I... I don't know... always have to be dressed in black and white and be friendly all the time.

**Mina:** But you have to be friendly everywhere.

Or... didn't you always dream of having your own café?

You'd be self-employed, get the start-up funds from the government...

**Klara:** Yeah, but I don't need any training for that.

**Mina:** Okay, then do something else and you can still work in gastronomy, without any training.

**Klara:** I know, but nothing interests me. I don't wanna work with kids, I don't wanna do anything where I have to sit around all the time. I don't know. And definitely not handicrafts.

**Mina:** A travel agency?

**Klara:** Mina, you don't earn any money with that!

Look at all the travel agencies. People book their vacations online these days.

**Mina:** Then open your own clothing store.

**Klara:** Again, not much money involved.

**Mina:** Then do...

**Klara:** No idea.

**Mina:** You're really not interested in anything?

**Klara:** No! Mina: I don't believe that.

**Klara:** Well, okay. But... lets say I want to... uhm, I don't know, I'd want to...

**Mina:** Yeah?

**Klara:** ...become an astronaut, or something. I wouldn't be able to with my grades.

**Mina:** You're right.



# **THE FILMMAKERS**

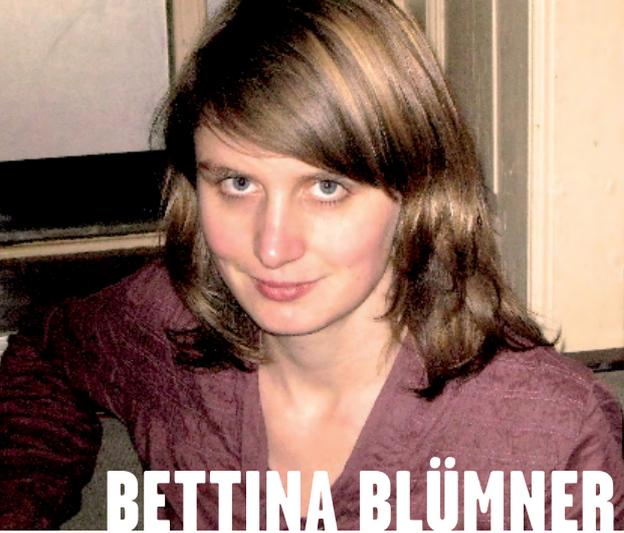
**Bettina Blümner**

**Inge Schneider**

**Mathias Schöningh**

**Peter Schwartzkopff**

**Katja Siegel**



## Director

Bettina Blümner was born in Düsseldorf in 1975. She first studied media culture and design at Bauhaus University in Weimar. Then, between 1999 and 2004, she studied directing at the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg and at the Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV in Cuba. Her diploma film "Die Kette" premiered at the Hofer Filmtage and was shown on Arte and the Hessischer Rundfunk (Hessian Broadcasting) in 2006. POOL OF PRINCESSES is Bettina Blümner's first feature film.

*"I WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE INTENSITY OF THAT AGE, AND THE ROUGH HONESTY OF KLARA, MINA AND TANUTSCHA; THEIR LANGUAGE AND THEIR DIRECTNESS, BUT ALSO THEIR VULNERABILITY AND THE WAY THEY DEAL WITH IT. IT SEEMED AS IF THEY DIDN'T TRY TO HIDE THEIR PROBLEMS, BUT ACTUALLY DISCUSS THEM WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY.*

*ANOTHER TOPIC IN THIS MOVIE IS THE ABSENCE OF FATHERS AND MALE ROLE MODELS – OR THE SEARCH FOR THEM. OF COURSE, DURING OUR YEAR OF SHOOTING THERE WERE MOMENTS IN WHICH I CLEARLY FELT THE GIRLS CHANGING. I ACTUALLY FIND IT REMARKABLE WHAT THOSE THREE ACCOMPLISH AT THEIR AGE; THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THEY FEEL FOR THEMSELVES, THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY."*

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### **NAKED CITY**

D/USA 2005/06, 30 minutes, short film, DV, in cooperation with WDR (West German Broadcasting)/3Sat, funded by BKM-Kurzfilmförderung

### **LA VIDA DULCE**

Cuba 2004/2005, 14 minutes, short film, DV, a EICTV Cuba cooperation

### **13+15**

Cuba 2004, 26 minutes, short film, DV, in cooperation with EICTV Cuba

### **DIE KETTE**

D 2004, 60 minutes, Diploma feature film of Baden-Württemberg Film Academy, super 16mm, in cooperation with Arte and HR (Hessian Broadcasting)

### **WASH & GO**

D 2002, 25 minutes, short film, super 16mm

### **SOMMERSONNE**

D 2001, 15 minutes, short film, super 16mm

### **OST-WEST IST KRASS**

D 1999, 15 minutes, short film, DV

### **MARIA**

D 1999, 12 minutes, short film, DVC Pro

### **FOREVER YOUNG – 3 FILME**

D 1999, 3 times 10 minutes, 3 short films, DV



## Editing

After her A-levels and practical experience as assistant editor, Inge Schneider studied editing at the Film & Television Academy (HFF) in Babelsberg. Meanwhile she's been focusing on the editing of documentaries. Between 1986 and 1994, she was associate lecturer for film editing at the dffb. For *Nach dem Fall* by Frauke Sandig and Eric Black, she earned an honorary mention at the German Camera Awards 2000. In 2001, she received her first editing award for *Die Spielwütigen* by Andres Veiel.

## FILMOGRAPHY (selection)

### **POOL OF PRINCESSES**

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### **DANCING WITH MYSELF**

D 2005, 99 minutes, documentary, dance film, Egoli Tossell Film/ZDF (Das kleine Fernsehspiel)

### **DER GLANZ VON BERLIN**

D 2001, 89 minutes, documentary, Egoli Tossell Film/ZDF (Das kleine Fernsehspiel)

### **NACH DEM FALL**

D/USA 1999, 85 minutes, documentary, SR/SFB/Umbrella Films

### **GRÜSSE AUS DACHAU**

D 2003, 80 minutes, Egoli Tossell Film

### **DIE SPIELWÜTIGEN**

D 1996/04, 108 minutes, documentary, Journal Film



## Cinematography

Mathias Schöningh was born in Uelzen on September 24th, 1970. During his photography training, he worked as a freelance camera assistant for various television features, documentaries and advertisement. Since the completion of his training in 1999, he has worked as a freelance photographer and cinematographer for features, documentaries, advertisement and feature films.

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### **DIE ZEIT LÄUFT**

D 2006, 10 minutes, documentary, 16mm, Produktion 101

### **DIESER TAG**

D 2006, 7 minutes, short film, 35mm, La Officine, Berlin

### **RWE ENERGIE**

D 2006, 5 minutes, image film, digi beta/P+S Pro 35, Produktion ASC Berlin

### **DIE TODESENGEL**

D 2005, 45 minutes, documentary, digi beta, Cinecentrum/NDR (North German Broadcasting)

### **THE HOUSE IS BURNING**

USA/D 2005, 98 minutes, feature film, HD/P+S Pro 35, Reverse Angle International

### **UNENTDECKTE MORDE**

D 2004, 45 minutes, documentary, digi beta, Cinecentrum/NDR



**PETER SCHWARTZKOPFF**

## **Producer**

Before founding his own production company, Peter Schwartzkopff was production director at SPIEGEL TV, where he was in charge of the development and production of successful TV formats. In 2002, he switched to the film industry and founded Reverse Angle Productions, an independent production, financing and distribution company. As managing partner of Reverse Angle and its five sublabels, Peter Schwartzkopff was involved in the production of some of the most interesting national and international film projects in recent years.

## **FILMOGRAPHY** (selection)

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### **THE HOUSE IS BURNING**

USA/D 2005, 98 minutes, feature film, HD/P+S Pro 35, Reverse Angle International

### **DON'T COME KNOCKING**

D/F 2005, 123 minutes, feature film, Reverse Angle/Arte France Cinéma

### **LAND OF PLENTY**

D/USA 2004, 123 minutes, feature film, Reverse Angle International/Independent Digital Entertainment

### **EGOSHOOTER**

D 2004, 79 minutes, feature film, Reverse Angle Factory/WDR (West German Broadcasting)



## Producer

Katja Siegel was born in Munich in 1971. Between 1993 and 1999, she studied law (with the elective units media and intellectual property law) at the University of Freiburg. On completing her degree in 1999, Katja Siegel began a training program in film production at the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg, with a focus on International Producing and Creative Producing. After receiving her diploma in 2003 and an internship at Eurimages in Strasbourg, she worked in Los Angeles as production assistant in development and acquisition. She has been a producer for Reverse Angle since 2005.

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### **NAKED CITY**

D/USA 2005/06, 30 minutes, short film, DV, in cooperation with WDR (West German Broadcasting)/3Sat, funded by BKM-Kurzfilmförderung

### **REQUIEM**

D 2006, minutes, 93 feature film, 23/5 Filmproduktion GmbH

### **RICHTUNG ALLGÄU**

D 2002/03, 80 minutes, diploma film/feature film



# PRODUCTION

Reverse Angle Factory is based in Berlin. The independent film production company has specialized in the development and production of innovative feature films and documentaries by young script writers and directors.

In 2001, the company launched a new label named "radikal digital". A series of four digital low-budget films was produced in coproduction with WDR (West German Broadcasting) and the Filmstiftung NRW: Narren, 1/2 Miete, Egoshooter and Junimond. The films included new digital production techniques and explored other visual, content-related and aesthetic options of digital film. The motivation behind it is the promotion of young talents, script writers, directors and cinematographers. In 2004, Reverse Angle Factory decided to expand its activities to international coproduction. Supported by the experiences of the managing directors of mother company Reverse Angle Production in the area of international coproduction, the company realized its first European coproduction debut Bye Bye Blackbird in 2005, directed by Robinson Savary. POOL OF PRINCESSES is the Factory's most current project.



# ABOUT THE TITLE

*BERLIN IS THE MELTING POT OF  
GERMANY, KREUZBERG IS THE  
MELTING POT OF BERLIN, AND THE  
PRINZENBAD IS ITS MULTICULTURAL  
CENTER.*

In summer, looking out through the scratched windows of the Berlin subway line 1, you can see the green lawns and the sky-blue pool of the public swimming pool Prinzenbad. Even at the subway exit, it already smells of chlorine and a hint of sunscreen. On hot summer days, a long queue of people make their way from the sidewalk up to the reception. The outdoor pool of Berlin-Kreuzberg is a kind of “biotope”: Guests come from different sectors of the population, and from the most varied parts of the world. Arab and Turkish family clans eat together at wallpaper tables, while pubescent teenagers stand at the edge of the pool pushing shrieking girls into the water. The title plays with the name of the Prinzenbad – or Princes’ Bath – turning it into a Princesses’ Bath.

In *POOL OF PRINCESSES*, director Bettina Blümner uses the Prinzenbad as a metaphor for diversity and pulsating life, and shows all facets of the princesses in the film – Klara, Mina and Tanutscha.



# MUSIC

**LISI**

**AFROB**

**SHE-RAW**

**DJ VERSATILE**

**KIDNEY**

**ZENIT**

**BEATHOAVENZ**

**BASSTURK**

Hip-hop is absolutely essential when searching for the right sound to describe life in Kreuzberg musically. The notorious Berlin “Schnauze” – the sassy Berlin slang – sounds best over thumping hip-hop beats, particularly by Berlin based Lisi, Germany’s most promising female rapper. Lisi attracts her listeners with an unparalleled flow through the crowded streets of Kreuzberg, while more pensive parts gain from Lisi’s emotional versatility. Along with Four Music label colleague and German hip-hop star Afrob, who has released four albums so far and played a tremendous role in the development of German hip-hop, she lends her voice to the girls’ attitudes to life. This voice, however, is loudest when sharing the mic with She-Raw, whose soulful voice always leaves you uncertain whether she’s a better singer or rapper. Expert on the subject is DJ Versatile from the Indie hip-hop label Maintheme Records. He has been highly involved in her career up until now, and contributed a specially sensitive beat to the POOL OF PRINCESSES soundtrack. By now, no one will fail to realize that hip-hop is more than your ordinary cool party sound. Kidney, who also took part in the editing process, tops it off with playful melancholy – much unlike the Berlin artist exception Zenit, who seems to explore the depths of music with meticulous sound collages. The way out is offered by the pulsating beats of Beathoavenz, Perez and Smolface, who neatly capture the vibe of the district at their Kreuzberg studio. The same is virtuously achieved by the young Turkish duo Bassturk, who add an oriental note to their sound mix. The visual ride through youth is given an authentic, sonic accompaniment, turning the POOL OF PRINCESSES into a fountain of youth.



REVERSE ANGLE

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