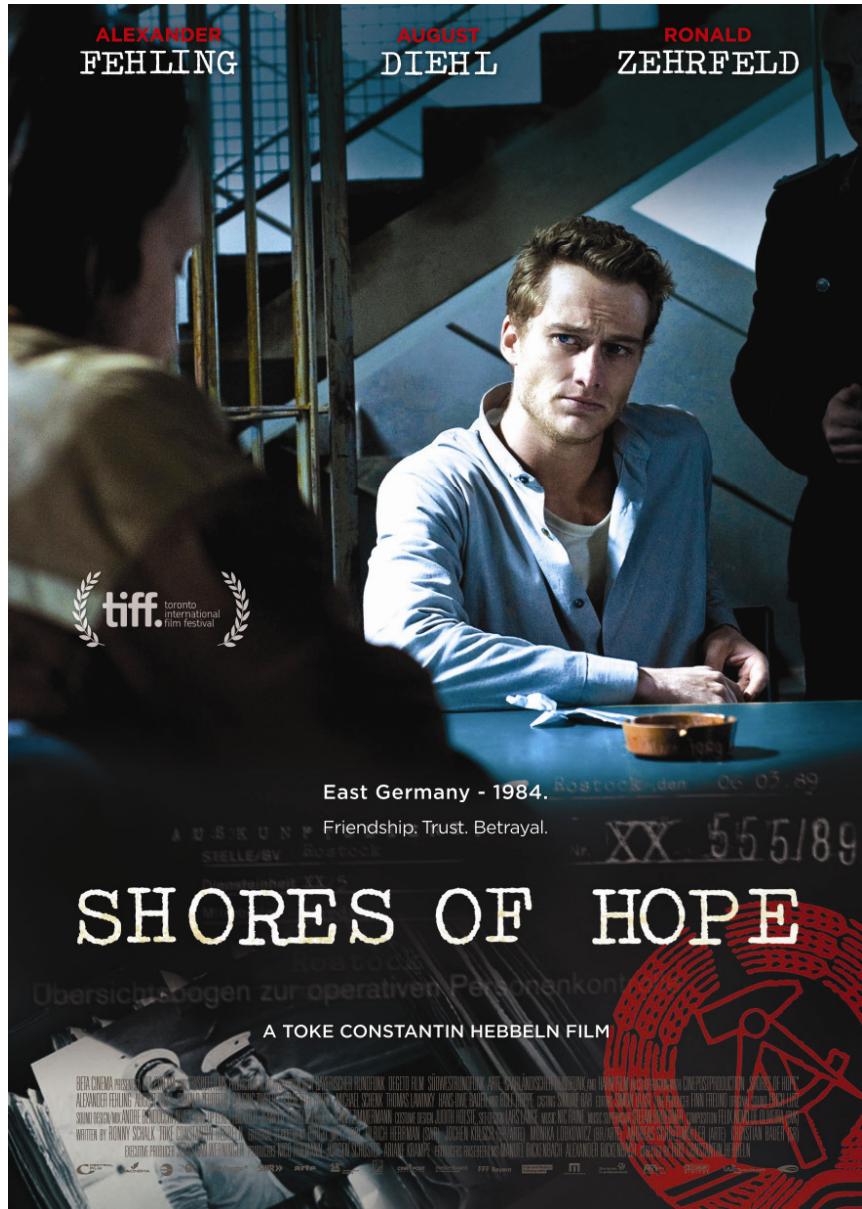




presents



A film by  
**Toke Constantin Hebbeln**

Starring  
**Alexander Fehling, August Diehl, Ronald Zehrfeld**

**tiff.** toronto  
international  
film festival®

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2012



Produced by

**UFA Cinema and Frisbeefilms in co-production with BR, Degeto, SWR, BR/arte and SR  
as well as Hahn Film in cooperation with CinePostproduction**

Supported by

**Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, FilmFernsehFonds Bayern, Film- und Medienstiftung  
Nordrhein-Westfalen, Filmförderung Saarland, Deutschen Filmförderfonds**

## Cast

Cornelis Schmidt	Alexander Fehling
Andreas Hornung	August Diehl
Phuong Mai	Phuong Thao Vu
Matthias Schönherr	Ronald Zehrfeld
Sabine Schönherr	Annika Blendl
Roman	Sylvester Groth
Oberst Seler	Rolf Hoppe
Ralfi	Hans-Uwe Bauer
Eberhard Fromm	Thomas Lawinky

## Crew

Director	Toke Constantin Hebbeln
Scriptwriters	Ronny Schalk, Toke Constantin Hebbeln
Cinematographer	Felix Novo de Oliveira
Producers	Nico Hofmann, Ariane Krampe, Jürgen Schuster, Manuel Bickenbach, Alexander Bickenbach
Executive Producer	Sebastian Werninger
Co-Producers	Bettina Reitz, Hans-Wolfgang Jurgan
Producer Hahn Film	Herbert Gehr
Supervisors	Birgit Metz (BR)
	Ulrich Herrmann (SWR)
Sets	Jochen Kölsch (BR/ARTE)
Costumes	Monika Lobkowicz (BR/ARTE)
Original Sound	Andreas Schreitmüller (ARTE)
Editor	Christian Bauer (SR)
Music	Lars Lange
	Judith Holste
	Erich Lutz
	Simon Blasi
	Nic Raine

**German Release: 13 Sept 2012 by Wild Bunch Germany**

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**TECHNICAL DATA:**

Running Time: 116 Minutes  
Format: 1:2,35 Cinemascope  
Sound: Dolby SRD

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**PRESS NOTE**

SHORES OF HOPE, the theatrical debut of Toke Constantin Hebbeln, who was awarded the 2007 Student Oscar® for his film NEVERMORE, tells a poignant, absorbing tale about two friends, who are made enemies by the life in a repressive system. The film, with a script written by Hebbeln in collaboration with Ronny Schalk, tells of the immense pain, inflicted on a friendship by betrayal, and of a near boundless courage, awakened by the power of hope. It is a touching plea against oppression, confinement and for liberty, brilliantly photographed by Felix Novo de Oliveira, with whom Hebbeln has worked repeatedly. For the leads, three of the best actors in German cinema could be won: Alexander Fehling (YOUNG GOETHE IN LOVE, INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS), August Diehl (THE COUNTERFEITERS, INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS), both nominated for the German Film Award last year, and Ronald Zehrfeld (BARBARA,) nominated for the German Film Award 2012. In the supporting parts as well, the film convinces with an excellent cast, among them e. g. Sylvester Groth (INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS, THE READER) and Rolf Hoppe (MEPHISTO).

SHORES OF HOPE is a co-production by UFA Cinema and Frisbeefilms together with the Bayerischer Rundfunk, ARD Degeto, SVR, BR/arte, arte and Saarländischer Rundfunk, as well as Hahn Film and in collaboration with CinePostproduction. The film was subsidized by the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, the FilmFernsehFonds Bayern, the Film- und Medienstiftung Nordrhein-Westfalen, the Filmförderung Saarland and the Deutscher Filmförderfonds.

**PRODUCER'S NOTE by Nico Hofmann**

When Toke Constantin Hebbeln told me of his idea for his debut film SHORES OF HOPE, I was immediately enthused. Toke was a student at the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg in my class 'Fiction Film' and in 2007 had won the Student Oscar® with his third year film NEVERMORE. His passion, his talent, his incredible precision and power of tackling projects and realizing them in a visual language completely his own, had deeply impressed me.

The script Toke had written with Ronny Schalk, in my opinion differed from all stories about repressive systems I had known up to then. The intensity of the tale about friendship and its betrayal in the times of the GDR offered a whole new dimension.

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Together with Frisbeefilms, Manuel and Alexander Bickenbach, who had earlier produced Toke's NEVERMORE at the Film Academy, we of UFA Cinema decided to take this project to the large screen.

The fantastic script convinced not only us, but also three of the best contemporary German film actors: Alexander Fehling, Ronald Zehrfeld and August Diehl could be won for the leads.

Joining in as Co-Producers were the BR, ARD Degeto, SWR, BR/arte, arte and SR and Hahn Film, as well as CinePostproduction, without whom this film would not have been realized. Our special thanks go to Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, the FilmFernsehFonds Bayern, the Film- und Medienstiftung Nordrhein-Westfalen, the Filmförderung Saarland and the Deutscher Filmförderfonds, all of whom have supported the film.

What has emerged makes me proud: Toke's Film is a highly emotional plea for liberty, brilliantly directed on camera by Felix Novo de Oliveira, with whom Toke had worked several times previously. I'm especially glad that the creative team around Toke is made up of further alumni from the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg.

The film will be theatrically released in Germany on 13. September 2012 by Wild Bunch Germany. I'm hopeful that SHORES OF HOPE will inspire as many viewers as possible – especially the young ones.

## SYNOPSIS

Shores of Hope tells the story of two East-German dock workers, Cornelis Schmidt (Alexander Fehling) and Andreas Hornung (August Diehl), who, in the 1980s, dream an impossible dream: of sailing out to sea. Their lives take a fateful turn when Cornelis falls in love with the young Vietnamese woman Phuong Mai (Phuong Thao Vu) and a fellow worker (Ronald Zehrfeld) is betrayed. A story about destinies in a repressive nation, about hope, longing and disillusionment, and about what one is ready to sacrifice for the big dream.

## LONG SYNOPSIS

Overseas harbor Rostock, 1982: The Wall is still standing, grey and solid – year after year countless young men drift into the only international harbor of the GDR – the gateway onto the world. So do the two friends Cornelis (ALEXANDER FEHLING) and Andreas (AUGUST DIEHL), with only one aim in mind: They want to sail the seas as sailors of the GDR's merchant navy and see the wide world. Filled with enthusiasm and their big dream seemingly within their grasp, they sign on as dock workers in Rostock.

Three years later: The earlier euphoria of the two friends has given way to resignation. They are stuck – still in Rostock, still as dock workers. Everything is static. With their big goal still firmly in view, Conny and Andy engage in a deal with the Stasi. For a post in the merchant navy they are at first willing to sound out their foreman Matze Schönherr (RONALD ZEHRFELD) who appears to be planning a desertion of the republic.

Conny, who cultivates a good rapport to his superior Matze and for this reason is set on to him, visits him one evening when the latter has called in sick. Obviously nervous and hesitating even in the staircase, Cornelis finally decides, in spite of his doubts, to follow through with his spying. Matze is apparently surprised by Conny's call, suspicious of Conny's pretended interest in the state of his

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health, and accuses him to be sent only to spy on him. But Conny manages to dispel Matze's doubts. When Matze briefly leaves the room, Conny checks the recording device hidden in his coat pocket. And actually, the Stasi's suspicions are quickly confirmed: In his conversation with Conny, Matze confesses that he isn't sick, but has been planning his flight into the West for quite some time. He wants to leave the country on a cargo ship from Bremen and later get his wife and child to join him. When Conny finally gets into the car with Andy carrying Matze's confession, he is already troubled with doubts. While Andreas already pictures his future in the merchant navy, Cornelis cannot bring himself to the betrayal. He throws the tape recorder with the incriminating statement out of the car window. Angry and uncomprehending of Conny's attitude, Andy increasingly doubts the sincerity of their common pipe dream and the constancy of their friendship. Conny is adamant in sticking to his decision, and he can persuade Andy not to denounce Matze. With this decision, Cornelis has not only attracted the distrust and attention of the „Firm“ onto himself and Andreas, but also irrevocably driven a wedge between the friends.

When the two appear before the Stasi next morning for their report, they claim that the tape recorder was broken in a fall, but that foreman Schönherr wasn't thinking about deserting the republic anyway. Conny and Andy are released from the interrogation with some misgivings, but a little later the Stasi officials, who had noted the tacit discord between the friends, begin to harass Andreas one night. Andreas, an opportunist, caves in and betrays Matze. Andy's confession has a further, fateful consequence: Cornelis is interrogated by Colonel Seler (ROLF HOPPE), a high-ranking member of the Stasi, and he is told that Matze has been arrested. Finally, Seler confronts Conny with the choice to keep on spying for the Stasi, otherwise Conny's secret lover, Vietnamese Phuong Mai (THAO VU), would be deported to her homeland. Not only would this destroy two dreams, Mai's wish to study medicine and Cornelis' big dream, but also the love between Mai and Conny would be lost forever. But once again, Cornelis refuses the offer. With that, he also accepts that for his best friend seafaring will become an unobtainable pipe dream. Colonel Seler is affronted by Conny's stubborn behavior. Relentlessly and callously, he orders Mai's immediate arrest.

After Conny has been released from the clutches of the Stasi, he reaches the harbor, full of rancor. An altercation between Andy and Conny, who are blaming each other, leads to a violent brawl between the two friends, during the course of which Andreas is run over by a lorry. Conny is in shock and accompanies his badly injured friend to the hospital. There, everything happens at once. The Stasi is already after Mai. But before they can be arrested by the Stasi in front of the hospital, where Mai, too, is working, the couple makes a narrow escape. They see their only possibility for living their love in a flight to West Germany. They want to escape across the Czech border to Hamburg, to get married there and to build a life together. Meanwhile, Andreas is threatened by Colonel Seler and his henchmen, even in the operating theatre. Seler knows that Andy and Conny are bound together by their close friendship. He blackmails Andy, to find out more about Conny's plans. Andy, fearing for his life because of the threats, finally gives up the place where Cornelis plans to cross the border. At the boundary between east and west, disaster strikes. When Conny and Mai finally reach the border strip in the dusk, they are caught in an ambush. Conny begs Mai to keep on running, while he wants to surrender to the border patrol. He promises Mai that he will soon join her in Hamburg, and urges her to wait for him there. While Mai manages to reach the safe side, Cornelis is apprehended and sentenced to five years' imprisonment within the GDR's penal system. In the Cottbus penitentiary, Conny unexpectedly meets with Matze, who is also serving his sentence there. Very soon, Conny feels Matze's hatred, because he thinks it was Conny who had grassed on him to the Stasi. Conny persistently denies this assumption. He tries to convince Matze that he wasn't responsible and that he, too, wanted to flee to the West with his girlfriend. Hence, he is a political prisoner, just like Matze.

Meanwhile Andreas, who has learned about Conny's arrest from Seler, keeps on working for the Stasi. Since his accident he is bound to a wheelchair, and had to finally bury his dream of working for

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the merchant navy. He is expected to henceforward manage a remote „conspirative project“ for the Stasi. IM (Informal Collaborator) Roman (Sylvester Groth) shall seduce and sound out the wives of opposition members in the isolated villa. Andy's job, in his new function as IM Hans, is to listen in on the clandestine meetings and to record them. At first, Andy yields to his assignment, but soon he feels lonely, and when Roman visits, seeks contact with him, trying to become his friend. But Roman isn't interested in a closer relationship with Andy. He takes his leave unemotionally and abandons Andy to his loneliness. But one day Andy, who increasingly despairs of his job and his isolation, unexpectedly receives a letter from Mai, begging him for help, namely to convey an enclosed letter to Conny. Andy opens this letter in secret. He finds out that by now she is living in Hamburg, with a child by Cornelis, for whom she is waiting longingly. When at last Colonel Seler explains to Andy, that Conny would actually have the chance to go into the West with an application for an emigration permit. Andy spins an insidious scheme, under the guiding hand of Colonel Seler. Driven by his thirst for revenge, he fakes Mai's letter and visits Conny in prison.

Conny, who has no inkling that Andy doesn't visit him for friendship's sake, now has to learn from the fake letter, that Mai was not successful in building a life for herself in Hamburg and for that reason has returned to her home country. Unsuspecting and deeply upset, Conny now views Andy as his last and only confidant. Andy's plan seems to be working out... But Conny's growing friendship with Matze and their oppositional views displease Andy. He reports to Colonel Seler, and makes the recommendation to release Conny back into the GDR after his imprisonment, and to take drastic measures against Matze. Shortly after, Matze receives a letter from his wife Sabine (Annika Blendl), who surprisingly demands a divorce. Matze is devastated, knowing full well that a scheme by a traitor lies behind all that. More and more, Conny, Matze and the other political prisoners have to suffer under the harassment and bullying of prison warden Fromm (Thomas Lawinky), who by now has forbidden visits by the families. In the face of all obstacles, Conny applies for an emigration permit and gets information from his cellmate Ralfi (Hans-Uwe Bauer) about the human rights of political prisoners in the GDR. He quickly realizes that Human Rights Organization in the West are very much interested in the issues of convicts in the GDR and campaign on their behalf. Conny comes up with a plan: While he is on duty in the laundry, he eavesdrops on warden Fromm, who tells his colleagues that his wife is yearning for western products. Conny provokes Fromm, by asking him whether his wife likes western chocolate. A violent altercation between the two ensues, but Conny explains to the unrestrained Fromm, that he could organize packages from the West. To that end, Conny asks Andy's help, to pass on a letter to the organization „Protective Hands“. Of Fromm, Conny demands in return that the prisoners are allowed to see their families again. Andy and Fromm both agree to the deal. When Andy exposes all in his report to Seler, Matze is put in solitary confinement.

The Human Rights Organization „Protective Hands“ has been alerted by Conny's letter.

As a representative of the organization, Wolfram (Anian Zollner) – who is really a Stasi-spy, too – visits Mai in Hamburg, allegedly to help her free Conny. Meanwhile, Conny learns that all applications for emigration by the cellmates have been turned down, and that by the end of their prison terms they will be released into the GDR. All hopes are dashed, and as a further penalty, Conny is thrown into the „dungeon“ with Matze.

When Mai and Wolfram turn up at Andy's, they want, with his help, to contact a lawyer specializing in redeeming prisoners, in order to free Conny. But Andy, utterly baffled, asks Mai to speak her in private. In a serious conversation he explains to Mai, that while he does work for the Stasi, he only does so in pretense. In truth, he wants to reunite Conny and Mai. For this plan to succeed, though, Mai would have to keep her mouth shut. Mai agrees to that. But when suddenly Roman turns up and takes Andy alias Hans to task, Wolfram realizes Andy's treacherous game.

A short time later, Andy is taken to a conspirative meeting. Roman and Colonel Seler await him, and confront him with a recording of his conversation with Mai. He realizes quickly that Wolfram has played him, and that henceforward he can expect further sanctions. Although Colonel Seler puts

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forward his promotion to official collaborator, fulfilling Andy's dearest wish, this pushes him into an abyss – complete loneliness. Andreas' only hope now rests in not losing his best friend Conny. Deeply disappointed, he visits Conny in prison. But Conny, a broken man, by now knows that a conspiracy lay at the heart of the matter. When Andy wants to relieve his conscience, Conny makes it plain to him that everything is lost and destroyed. Andy faces the ruins of a once affectionate friendship and has to realize that the only constant in his life is futility. With no chances left, he accepts his fate.

At last, the Reunification: Conny, released from prison by now, receives a small package with Mai's collected letters. He travels straight to Hamburg, to finally see the love of his life Mai, and his son. But he comes too late, Mai has returned to Vietnam. All Conny finds is an empty flat. The painful realization that the time had simply been too long leaves Conny feeling empty. But Conny makes a decision: he will go to sea! After he has found a job as roustabout in the Navy, he knows only one goal: South East Asia!

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

### *In the Beginning there was the idea for a diploma project*

... for the author Ronny Schalk at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. As student of the film academy in Ludwigsburg and trying to develop material for his final project, Ronny Schalk passed his fellow student Toke Constantin Hebbeln, who had just won the student Oscar® for his graduate thesis film NEVERMORE, his synopsis for the project SHORES OF HOPE, a story about friendship and treason with an authoritarian state as a backdrop, namely the former GDR. The emotional depth inherent in such material, the paranoia that a system of informers like the Stasi seeds into people, and the social consequences when there is no trusting anybody, not even the closest family and friends – this range of topics in SHORES OF HOPE aroused Toke Constantin Hebbeln's interest from the first instant. As always, it needed an exact balance between the universal, timeless tale about friendship, common dreams in life, and betrayal, as Schalk and Hebbeln imagined it, with the historical context. Everywhere that recent German history is involved, the regard is especially strict, and details serve as a trigger for large emotions.

For Hebbeln, two images were of greatest importance in the realization of the story: An attempted flight, failing under dramatic circumstances in the no man's land at the Czech border, one of the few places that allowed escape from the GDR. And the place of longing per se: A harbour on the Baltic coast, the „Gateway to the World“, the „Overseas Harbor“ Rostock, where a large part of the plot was to take place.

### *The Core Team Behind the Camera*

After the great success that Hebbeln achieved with his film NEVERMORE, it was clear to him that for his theatrical debut he wanted to get his core team back together again.

The mere synopsis of SHORES OF HOPE convinced producer Manuel Bickenbach, who brought the material to the production company Frisbeefilms, which in the meantime he had established in Berlin with his brother Alexander. And two more eminently important posts in film production could be cast from the NEVERMORE-Team: Felix Novo de Oliveira took over the cinematography in SHORES OF HOPE, too, and Simon Blasi was there again as editor. The four of them had delivered NEVERMORE as their graduate thesis film at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, plus scriptwriter Ronny Schalk, who had been educated there as well. Nico Hofmann, who as professor in Ludwigsburg had accompanied and closely observed the progress of the film students over the years, got on board the production of SHORES OF HOPE with his newly-founded cinema production company UFA Cinema.

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### **The Core Team in Front of the Camera**

The starting point was casting the character of Cornelis, who with his dream of going to sea is clearly the one with the most willpower in this twosome. Cornelis has a stable personality, has values which he upholds and won't be parted from, come what may. When Simone Bär suggested Alexander Fehling for this part, the film team was immediately excited. Fehling seemed to be feeling the same. An anecdote relates the moment when costume designer Judith Holste for the first time dressed him in the jacket of his film character at a dress rehearsal and he replied: „Now I'm getting the character“.

The second casting coup was to get Ronald Zehrfeld for the part of the harbor foreman Matze Schönherr, the best of mates, but in continuous conflict with the Stasi, who finally goes to prison because of Cornelis' and Andy's betrayal. And during the casting, Zehrfeld already had a very clear idea about several scenes, which partially went straight into the movie.

Fehling as well as Zehrfeld were mostly attracted by the universal scope of the story, the emotional depths lying in the betrayal, as opposed to the uplifting strength, the consistency and the will to persevere, inherent in the characters Cornelis and Matze. That both actors hail from the former GDR has helped them in the believable embodiment of their characters.

The third man, namely casting the part of Andy with no less than August Diehl, was decided a very short time before filming started. Hebbeln still relates with enthusiasm, how quickly Diehl absorbed the part, has made the insecurities and inner conflict of his character come to life, and he as a director finally had his dream team for the three leads in front of the camera.

### **The Locations**

The greatest challenge for Hebbeln in his search for locations may have been the fact that a film taking place during the last years of the GDR cannot now be made at the original settings. 20 years after the wall has come down, the original locales have naturally changed so much that they can't serve as a backdrop for the GDR any more.

The plot starts in the year 1982 in Rostock harbor. The scenes actually had to be shot in the Hamburg harbor. The nature settings in the no man's land along the Czech border were filmed in the area around Hof in Bavaria. The scenes with Andy and Cornelis quarreling in the car at night, or those where the Stasi officials stalk Andy, were made in the well-known Berlin Street in the studio lot at Babelsberg. And whole plotlines were put together from filming at totally different locations. Lars Lange, who qualified as a set designer at the Defa Studios, assembled the prison scenes from several images: the prison yard is in the former women's penitentiary Berlin-Charlottenburg, the jail's exterior was filmed in Dresden, the cells were reconstructed in the studio, and when you see the „Conspirative Place“, the Villa where Andy after his grave accident listens in on his Stasi colleague Roman „in action“ – a homage to THE LIVES OF OTHERS – again, two locations, in Berlin and the Saarland, were combined.

### **The Music Comes in at the End**

The only problem that remained unsolved during most of the film's production was, as is so often the case, the music. In SHORES OF HOPE the predominant reason for this was that the narrative process with the many jumps in time and place during the story led to the editing being constantly reconsidered and too much experimenting, until all plot strands were stringently told, the dramaturgy and the logic of the tale fitted together. The scoring was at last taken over by the British composer Nic Raine. Hebbeln is still enthusiastic about the way the Brit works, which he describes as „Anglo-Saxon pragmatism“. After all, Raine had immediately found the proper access to SHORES OF HOPE and within three weeks had written all parts of the score.

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## THE CAST

### ALEXANDER FEHLING

Cornelis Schmidt

Born in Berlin in 1981, actor Alexander Fehling studied drama at the renowned Drama School „Ernst Busch“ in Berlin and is currently accounted to be one of the most talented young actors in Germany. His big screen debut was in Robert Thalheim's AND ALONG COME TOURISTS in 2007, which had its premiere at the International Film Festival in Cannes, and for which Alexander Fehling received the „Förderpreis Deutscher Film“ in the acting category. In the same year he shared the stage with Klaus Maria Brandauer in Peter Stein's production of „Wallenstein“ at the Berliner Ensemble. In 2008 Alexander Fehling could be seen in Heinrich Breloer's film BUDDENBROOKS alongside Armin Müller Stahl and Iris Berben, and in 2009 he could be admired twice on the large screen, namely in Quentin Tarantino's INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS and Frieder Wittich's 13 SEMESTER. In 2010 he played the lead part of young Goethe in the eponymous movie success YOUNG GOETHE IN LOVE by Philipp Stölzl, which in 2011 won him the most important audience award in German cinema, the Jupiter Award. Also in 2011, Alexander Fehling was honored with the Shooting Star 2011 at the International Film Festival Berlin and shortly after that could be seen on screen in Andres Veiel's feature film IF NOT US, WHO? in the part of Andreas Baader.

#### Filmography (Selection)

2012	SHORES OF HOPE	Director: Toke Constantin Hebbeln
2012	THE RIVER USED TO BE A MAN	Director: Jan Zabeil
2011	IF NOT US, WHO?	Director: Andres Veiel
2010	YOUNG GOETHE IN LOVE	Director: Philipp Stölzl
2009	13 SEMESTER	Director: Frieder Wittich
	INGLORIOUS BASTERDS	Director: Quentin Tarantino
	STORM	Director: Hans-Christian Schmid
2008	BUDDENBROOKS	Director: Heinrich Breloer
2007	AND ALONG COME TOURISTS	Director: Robert Thalheim

### AUGUST DIEHL

Andreas Hornung

August Diehl was educated at the Hochschule für Schauspielkunst „Ernst Busch“ and appeared in many productions of the Maxim Gorki Theater Berlin, the Hamburger Kammer spiele, the Schauspielhaus Dortmund and the Burgtheater Vienna. His very first movie part made August Diehl a „European Shooting Star“ and provided him, in a minor sensation, with the most renowned award in the German film business, the Lola for best male actor in a leading part: As passionate computer hacker and conspiracy theorist Karl Koch in Hans-Christian Schmid's thriller 23. Furthermore, he was also awarded the Bayerischer Filmpreis as Best Newcomer for this film. Ever since, German cinema is unimaginable without Diehl. Thus he could be seen in Robert Schwentke's debut film, the thriller TATTOO, made a brief but memorable appearance in Stefan Ruzowitzky's thriller ANATOMY 2 and could also be seen in Ruzowitzky's Academy Award winning film THE COUNTERFEITERS. He received several awards for playing next to Daniel Brühl in Achim von Borries' 1920's tragedy LOVE IN THOUGHTS.

Diehl's prominent part in Volker Schlöndorff's THE NINTH DAY as a cultivated SS-member Gebhardt fighting a duel of words and minds of the highest, thrilling intensity with Ulrich Matthes as priest Kremer, brought him a further nomination as Best Leading Actor at the Deutscher Filmpreis 2005, same as his lead role in Andres Veiel's film IF NOT US, WHO? in 2011. August Diehl has long

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been playing in the global league of actors. Quentin Tarantino praised his precision in INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (2009) and in SALT (Director: Phillip Noyce, 2010) he was cast as husband alongside Angelina Jolie. In 2011, August Diehl for the first time appeared in front of a camera for a children's movie in HUCK FINN, and finished shooting for Sylvie Verheyde's CONFESSION OF A CHILD OF THE CENTURY with Pete Doherty and Charlotte Gainsbourg, which had its premiere at this year's International Film Festival Cannes, in the section „Un Certain Regard“. Most recently, internationally sought-after August Diehl has been filming LAYLA FOURIE by Pia Marais, as well as alongside Jeremy Irons, Mélanie Laurent and Charlotte Rampling for NIGHT TRAIN TO LISBON by Bille August.

#### Filmography (Selection):

2013	HUCK FINN	Director: Hermine Huntgeburth
2012	SHORES OF HOPE	Director: Toke Constantin Hebbeln
2011	IF NOT US, WHO?	Director: Andres Veiel
2010	DIE KOMMENDEN TAGE SALT	Director: Lars Kraume Director: Phillip Noyce
2009	INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS	Director: Quentin Tarantino
2008	DR. ALEMÁN THE COUNTERFEITERS	Director: Tom Schreiber Director: Stefan Ruzowitzky
2007	NOTHING BUT GHOSTS	Director: Martin Gypkens
2004	THE NINTH DAY LOVE IN THOUGHTS	Director: Volker Schlöndorff Director: Achim von Borries
2003	DISTANT LIGHTS ANATOMY 2	Director: Hans-Christian Schmid Director: Stefan Ruzowitzky
2002	TATTOO	Director: Robert Schwentke
2000	KALT IST DER ABENDHAUCH	Director: Rainer Kaufmann
1999	23	Director: Hans-Christian Schmid

#### RONALD ZEHRFELD

Matthias Schönherr

This exceptional actor was born in Berlin in 1977 and studied at the Hochschule für Schauspielkunst „Ernst Busch“. He was discovered while still at his studies by theatrical grandee Peter Zadek, which led to accepting first parts at the Deutsches Theater. After finishing his studies, he played at the Berliner Ensemble, the St. Pauli Theater in Hamburg and the Deutsches Theater Berlin, among others. His cinematic debut came in 2006 alongside Jessica Schwarz in the award-winning film THE RED COCKATOO by Dominik Graf. Ronald Zehrfeld could already be seen in several TV-productions, as 2006 in „Tatort – Liebe am Nachmittag“ by Manuel Flurin Hendry and in 2007 in Torsten C. Fischer's „Schimanski – Tod in der Siedlung“ together with Götz George. In 2008 he was convincing next to Iris Berben in the ZDF production „Der russische Geliebte“ by Ulrich Stark, as well as in the successful Sat.1 event two-parter „The Final Days“ by Thomas Berger. He could be seen on the large screen again as pirate Störtebeker in 2009 in ZWÖLF METER OHNE KOPF by Sven Taddicken. In 2010 he acted alongside Max Riemelt and Marie Bäumer in Dominik Graf's successful miniseries „In Face of the Crime“, which was awarded the Deutscher Fernsehpreis in the category „Best Miniseries“. Also, Ronald Zehrfeld for his part of Sven Lottner, together with the whole ensemble, was awarded the Deutscher Fernsehpreis in the category „Special Achievement Fiction“. Most recently, Ronald Zehrfeld could be seen in cinemas in Christian Schwochow's CRACKS IN THE SHELL and made an impact in the part of André by the side of Nina Hoss in Christian Petzold's theatrical film BARBARA, which had its premiere into competition at this year's Berlinale. For his impressive performance in BARBARA, Ronald Zehrfeld received a nomination in the category „Best achievement by an actor – male lead“ at the Deutscher Filmpreis 2012.

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### Filmography (Selection):

2012	SHORES OF HOPE	Director: Toke Constantin Hebbeln
	BARBARA	Director: Christian Petzold
	CRACKS IN THE SHELL	Director: Christian Schwochow
2010	„In Face of the Crime“	Director: Dominik Graf
	THE FRONTIER	Director: Roland Suso Richter
2009	ZWÖLF METER OHNE KOPF	Director: Sven Taddicken
2008	„Der russische Geliebte“	Director: Ulrich Stark
	„The Final Days“	Director: Thomas Berger
	AT ANY SECOND	Director: Jan Fehse
2006	THE RED COCKATOO	Director: Dominik Graf

### ROLF HOPPE

Colonel Seler

Rolf Hoppe is among the select few East German actors who managed to achieve international acclaim during the times of the GDR. His depiction of Göring in István Szabó's film **MEPHISTO** (1981), which in 1982 received the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, is something like his signature part: The character of the Evil Spirit. He is very rarely seen in comical or cheerful parts. It's via several detours that Rolf Hoppe arrived in the acting profession. As a baker's son, he had to stand in for his father in the bakery during the war, and following the wishes of his family, he started an apprenticeship as a baker. After his father's return from captivity, he worked as a stablehand and coachman at a neighboring estate.

In 1946 he founded the amateur theatre Ellrich. Here, he played diverse parts and worked as a director as well. After private drama lessons, Hoppe managed to be accepted at the Staatliches Landeskonservatorium in Erfurt. After finishing his drama studies, there followed acting jobs at theatres in Halle, Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin, as well as the Salzburg Festival.

From 1963 onward, Hoppe worked in many DEFA films and productions of the GDR television. Amongst others, he played the part of the villain Bashan alongside Gojko Mitic in the DEFA „Red Indian“-films. Up to 1990 he stepped before cameras in 160 film productions. For his part as Heinz Baranowski in the TV-miniseries „Sardsch“, a legal thriller, he was awarded the 1997 Grimme Preis. Serenely and unruffled he plays his characters, who usually turn out to be highly dangerous. Spot-on and precise, he embodies the creeping threat of National Socialism in his part as Gauleiter Streicher in Joseph Vilsmaier's **THE HARMONISTS** (1997). Hoppe, who outside his theatrical and cinematic works also acts in radio dramas, refuses to be typecast as the villainous type, though. As Rabbi Ginsberg in Dani Levy's **GO FOR ZUCKER**, he can be seen in a surprisingly cheerful part.

Hoppe still appears regularly on television. After several appearances in „Tatort“ or the series „Wilsberg“ and „Donna Leon“, he has a recurring part in the crime series „Commissario Laurenti“.

### Filmography (Selection):

2012	SHORES OF HOPE	Director: Toke Constantin Hebbeln
2010	„Küstenwache“	Director: Florian Froschmayer
2007-2009	„Commissario Laurenti“	Director: Hannu Salonen
2008	„The Visit“	Director: Nicolaus Leytner
2007	„Mein alter Freund“	Director: Dieter Wedel
2004	GO FOR ZUCKER	Director: Dani Levy
	„Donna Leon“	Director: Sigi Rothemund
	„Wilsberg“	Director: Manfred Stelzer
1998	PALMETTO	Director: Volker Schlöndorff
1997	THE HARMONISTS	Director: Joseph Vilsmaier

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1997	„Sardsch“	Director: Axel de Roche
1993	Die Lok	Director: Gerd Haag
1992	SCHTONK!	Director: Helmut Dietl
1989	DER BRUCH	Director: Frank Beyer
1982	Die Gerechten von Kummerow	Director: Wolfgang Luderer
1981	MEPHISTO	Director: István Szabó

## THAO VU

Phuong Mai

Thao Vu was born in 1987 in Hanoi/Vietnam and has been living in Germany since 2003. After a language course, she graduated from high school in Potsdam and has been studying Languages and Culture of South East Asia at Hamburg University since October 2010, and since April 2012 at the Humboldt University Berlin. In parallel, she takes drama lessons in Berlin and works as a model. The part of Phuong Mai in SHORES OF HOPE marks the cinematic debut for the newcomer. Currently she is preparing for filming again.

### Filmography

2012 SHORES OF HOPE  
2012 NOT TODAY

Director: Toke Constantin Hebbeln  
Director: Andy Dyo

## THE CREW

### TOKE CONSTANTIN HEBBELN

Director

Toke Constantin Hebbeln was born in 1978. After studying literature and philosophy, he began his training as writer and director at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in October 2002. During his studies he made more than 15 shorts, music videos and commercials in wildly different genres, was invited to many festivals all over the world and received several awards.  
In 2006 he was a film scholarship holder at UCLA, Los Angeles.

His first feature film NEVERMORE was completed in October 2006 and had its premiere at the 40. Hofer Filmtage. In 2007, NEVERMORE was awarded the student Oscar® by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles.

In 2012, he completed the feature film SHORES OF HOPE, which will hit cinemas in September. Currently he is working on the project „Die Verlorenen“ for Senator Entertainment AG & Telepool, „Der Gefangene“ for Frisbeefilms, as well as the 1920's dance movie „Ich tanze deinen Tod“.

### Filmography (Selection):

2012	SHORES OF HOPE	Director/Writer: Toke C. Hebbeln
2011	PEOPLE	Director/Writer: Toke C. Hebbeln
2007	HILDA UND KARL (Short)	Director/Writer: Toke C. Hebbeln
2006	NEVERMORE	Director/Writer: Toke C. Hebbeln
2005	SEANCE (Short)	Director/Writer: Toke C. Hebbeln
2004	ER UND ES (Short)	Director/Writer: Toke C. Hebbeln
2003	DER EWIGE TAG (Short)	Director/Writer: Toke C. Hebbeln

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## NICO HOFMANN

Producer and Managing Director UFA Cinema

Nico Hofmann, born 4. December 1959 in Heidelberg to journalist parents, as a producer and director stands for films telling unusual stories at a high standard of workmanship. After a two-year internship at a newspaper, he studied at the Hochschule für Fernsehen und Film in Munich. His cinematic debut, „Land der Väter, Land der Söhne“ received, amongst others, the Bayerischer Filmpreis 1989. Making TV movies, he became one of the most successful German directors of the 1990's. The first episodes of classic RTL series „Balko“, the legal thriller „The Grand Exit“ and „The Sandmann“, a thriller with Götz George that was critical of the media, all caused quite a stir.

In 1998, with feature thriller SOLO FÜR KLARINETTE, he took his leave from directing, in order to establish production company teamWorx Television & Film GmbH. This company, part of the UFA/FremantleMedia Group, quickly developed into one of the most important players in the German film industry. Event movies like „The Tunnel“, „March of Millions“, „Dresden“, „The Miracle of Berlin“ and „Mogadischu“ made teamWorx the European market leader in the field of television events. Furthermore, Hofmann started important trends in German television with productions about explosive topics, like „Willkommen zuhause“, about the traumatic experiences of German soldiers returning from the controversial deployment of the Bundeswehr in Afghanistan, and „Bis nichts mehr bleibt“, the first fiction film about Scientology. Early last year followed, amongst others, the successful broadcasts of historical dramas „Schicksalsjahre“ with Maria Furtwängler in the lead, „Kalter Himmel“ and „Hindenburg“. The first film on the topic of cybermobbing, „Homevideo“, was the most highly decorated TV-movie in 2011/2012. For 2012, there are „Munich 72“, „Rommel“, „The Tower“, „The Other Child“, „Münchhausen“ as well as the big two-part event „Generation War“ on the slate. In pre-production you'll find, amongst others, „Der große Bruder“, the satire about Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, „George“ (working title), as well as „Hannelore Kohl – Ihr Leben“ (working title).

Nico Hofmann has been frequently decorated for his achievements as producer and director. For his special merits in the field of TV movies he received the Hans-Abich-Award in 2006, and for his achievements as producer of „Dresden“, „The Storm Tide“ and „The Airlift“, he was honored with the Bayerischer Fernsehpreis. In 2007 he received the Schillerpreis of the City of Mannheim als well as the Romy as „Best Producer“. Furthermore, Hofmann was awarded the „Verdienstmedaille des Landes Baden-Württemberg“ in 2009.

For many years, Nico Hofmann has been committed to the nurturing of fresh cinematic talent. Since 1995 he has been teaching as professor at the faculty for fictional film at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg. In the year 2000 Nico Hofmann, together with Bernd Eichinger, established the new talent award First Steps.

Since the spring of 2008, Nico Hofmann is also responsible, as managing director and film producer, for the activities of newly-founded UFA Cinema. Hofmann produced the film version of the beloved adolescents' book bestseller HANNI & NANNI (Parts 1 & 2), the film of the bestseller JUNGLE CHILD (Director: Roland Suso Richter), PIDGEONS ON THE ROOF by Otto Alexander Jahrreiss as well as THE FOURTH STATE by Dennis Gansel.

Further theatrical productions from the UFA Cinema by Hofmann are, besides SHORES OF HOPE, JESUS LOVES ME (working title), THE WEEKEND, and DER PERFEKTE MANN. Currently filmed is THE PHYSICIAN, starring Stellan Skarsgård and Ben Kingsley.

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## JÜRGEN SCHUSTER

Producer and Managing Director, UFA Cinema

After studying economics, Jürgen Schuster worked for the Süddeutscher Rundfunk (SDR) from 1988 to 1993, at first as Desk Officer in the chairman's office, later he was responsible for the organization and administration of program management in the television department of the SDR. Parallel to that, he made his PhD in cooperation with the SDR, within the framework of a project concerning strategic management in public television companies, subsidized by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

In November 1993, he switched over to RTL Television in Cologne, where he was charged with organizing and heading the newly founded administrative department production management. During this time, commissioned by RTL, he supported in the course of the year 1996 the setting-up of the company Action Concept as additional managing director.

In October 1999 he finally joined UFA Film und TV Produktion, where he joined the management of various companies, e.g. teamWorx in Berlin and HDTV in Munich (up to June 2002), as well as Phoenix Film in Berlin (2002-2010). He has been with teamWorx Television & Film GmbH, with branches in Berlin, Cologne, Munich, Leipzig and Ludwigsburg, as managing director and producer for 12 years now.

Jürgen Schuster has worked as a producer on many award-winning films. Among the most successful productions are the two-parter „March of Millions“, which reached more than 13 mio. viewers on its broadcast. Further multi-decorated TV movies were „The Miracle of Berlin“, „Not All Were Muderers“ (three Grimme-awards), „Mogadischu“ and most recently event two-parters „Schicksalsjahre“, „Hindenburg“ and „The Sinking of the Laconia“. Currently in postproduction are historical event movies „Rommel“ and the miniseries „Generation War“.

Since 2008 he has also been part of the managing team at UFA Cinema, where he accompanied a line of feature film productions as producer, among others DEVIL'S KICKERS, HANNI & NANNI, JUNGLE CHILD and SHORES OF HOPE. Further films he is currently overseeing as producer are HANNI & NANNI 2& 3, DER PERFEKTE MANN (working title) and the animated film MARNIES WELT.

## ARIANE KRAMPE

Producer UFA Cinema

Ariane Krampe was born in Hagen/Westfalia. After graduating from high school, she read law at the universities of Freiburg and Munich, and while still studying put her focus on the area of media and copyright law. During her studies she worked freelance at Radio RPR, UFA Radio, as well as the Bayrischer Rundfunk.

As a freelance journalist, Ariane Krampe wrote many reports and portrait features for the Süddeutsche Zeitung during this time.

After her State Examinations she was called to the bar. Subsequently, Ariane Krampe has worked at Bavaria Film GmbH as producer.

After four more years with UFA Film und TV Produktion GmbH, Ariane Krampe together with Nico Hofmann and Wolf Bauer in 1998 founded the teamWorx Television & Film GmbH and ever since has been managing the Munich branch with great success. TeamWorx, during the past few years, has become one of the most successful film production companies in Germany. Ariane Krampe as producer was responsible for big event productions like „The Tunnel“, „Dance with the Devil“, „Airlift“ and „Die Mauer – Berlin '61“. This fact was honored by many nominations like the Emmy, New York Festival and Bambi, as well as awards like e.g. Deutscher Fernsehpreis, Prix Europa and Goldene Kamera.

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Together with Nico Hofmann and Jürgen Schuster, Ariane Krampe has overseen the films HANNI & NANNI as well as SHORES OF HOPE as producer for Ufa Cinema.

Since 2009 Ariane Krampe has been teaching at the Filmakademie in Ludwigsburg, and there oversees graduating projects in the section series production.

## **MANUEL BICKENBACH & ALEXANDER BICKENBACH**

Producers (FRISBEEFILMS)

After studying at the Filmakademie in Ludwigsburg and since the establishing of the company in 2006, FRISBEEFILMS productions have been causing a stir in the industry: They are accounted darlings of the festival circuit, nationally and internationally, are praised to the heavens by the film critics and have been awarded numerous prizes. Six feature films so far – all of them cinematic releases – between them have won two First Steps Awards, one Student Oscar®, one Förderpreis Deutscher Film, several Max Ophüls-Awards, the Golden Icon Award of the Zurich Film Festival, Nominations for the Deutscher Filmpreis and Grimme-Preis.

During the last years, FRISBEEFILMS has managed to build a tight network of acclaimed young talents, always with the aim of developing their own, original signature, respectively. „We are all about a long-term collaboration with directors, writers and cinematographers“, brothers Alexander and Manuel Bickenbach say. Among those in the field Director/Writer are filmmakers Toke Constantin Hebbeln, Sven Taddicken, David Dietl and Maximilian Erlenwein, or in the camera field Ngo The Chau, Felix Novo de Oliveira and Daniela Knapp with whom FRISBEEFILMS has worked several times. The FRISBEEFILMS producers are convinced that „Only mutual trust and esteem open up the possibility of going new cinematic ways, and telling fresh, brave stories in an emotional way.“ The basis of their work as seen by the brothers Bickenbach is their enthusiasm for film, which they share with the filmmakers close to them: „We want to make films that can make a difference, that take a stance and bring up issues, but at the same time work to a universal standard, in short: reach a large audience with sophisticated movies“.

### **Filmography FRISBEEFILMS (Selection):**

2012	KÖNIG VON DEUTSCHLAND	Director: David Dietl
2011	SHORES OF HOPE	Director: Toke Constantin Hebbeln
2010	THE SYSTEM – ALLES VERSTEHEN HEISST ALLES VERZEIHEN	Director: Marc Bauder
2009	GRAVITY	Director: Maximilian Erlenwein
2009	66/67 – FAIRPLAY IS OVER	Director: Ludwig & Glaser
2008	1. MAI – HELDEN DER ARBEIT	Director: S. Taddicken, J. Ziemnicki, Ludwig & Glaser
2006	NEVERMORE	Director: Toke Constantin Hebbeln
2005	KATZE IM SACK	Director: Florian Schwarz

## **RONNY SCHALK**

Scriptwriter

Ronny Schalk, born in Wippra in the Harz mountains in Sachsen-Anhalt, lives and works in Berlin as a freelance writer. Even while studying media and communication sciences in Göttingen, Ronny Schalk started to write scripts, mostly for shorts, and kept working as camera assistant, stage hand or lighting assistant on several film sets. From 2003 on, Schalk added another academic course at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg and there received his training as scriptwriter. On the short films

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that were made at this time, he frequently served as his own director. Early in 2007 Schalk presented the synopsis for his graduating film SHORES OF HOPE to director Toke Constantin Hebbeln. The two of them decided to develop the material together, and to bring it into theatres with Frisbeefilms. In 2008 Schalk received his diploma from the Filmakademie and has worked as a freelance writer ever since.

In 2006 he published his short story „Fallen“ at the Primeroverlag Munich. The cooperation with Hebbeln has since given rise to two further projects, the scripts of which Schalk and Hebbeln are currently developing.

#### **Filmography** (Selection):

2012	SHORES OF HOPE	Director: Toke Constantin Hebbeln
2005	BLAU (Short)	Director: Ronny Schalk
2004	REWIND (Short)	Director: Ronny Schalk
2003	KRIECHSTROM (Short)	Director: Ronny Schalk

#### **FELIX NOVO DE OLIVEIRA**

Cinematographer

Felix Novo de Oliveira was born in Heidelberg in 1978 and grew up in Germany, Ecuador, Spain and Portugal. For many years he worked as a freelance camera assistant for film, TV and music video productions, nationally and internationally. 2002 to 2008 he studied cinematography/camera at the famous Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, where he realized several shorts, amongst others „Hilda und Karl“ (2006, Director: Toke C. Hebbeln), and commercials. In 2006 he took part in the scholarship „The Hollywood Masterclass“ at the UCLA in Los Angeles, USA, and in 2007 in the „Budapest Cinematography Masterclass“. For his exceptional camera work he has been honored all over the world, at many international festivals, e.g. for „Milan“ (2007, Director: Michaela Kezele) in the category „Best Cinematographic Techniques“ at the Camerimage Festival in Poland. For Toke C. Hebbelns NEVERMORE (2007), which was awarded the Student Oscar® by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles, Felix Novo de Oliveira was nominated for the Deutscher Kamerapreis in the category Förderpreis Fernsehfilm 2006. Since 2006 Felix Novo de Oliveira lives in Berlin and works as cinematographer in the fields feature film and commercials.

#### **Filmography** (Selection):

2012	KÖNIG VON DEUTSCHLAND	Director: David Dietl
2011	MY BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY	Director: Michaela Kezele
2012	SHORES OF HOPE	Director: Toke C. Hebbeln
2009	„Killings Bees - 3D“	Director: Raymond Boy
2008	„Retina“	Director: Darko Dragicevic
2007	„Escape“	Director: Julia Zimanovsky
2006	„Hilda und Karl“	Director: Toke C. Hebbeln
	„Milan“	Director: Michaela Kezele
2005	NEVERMORE	Director: Toke C. Hebbeln

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## NIC RAINÉ

Composer/Music

Brit Nic Raine is one of the most renowned conductors and arrangers in the field of film music. Born in London, he first studied piano, organ, double bass and classical guitar and after his training worked for the classical music publisher Boosey & Hawkes, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the London Symphony Orchestra.

During this time he discovered his passion for working with orchestras, be it as a conductor, composer or arranger. Within the past 30 years he worked with many notable orchestras, among them the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal National Orchestra of Scotland, the Berliner Symphonie Orchester and the world-famous Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, to name but a few. Furthermore he worked together with film composers like Elmer Bernstein, George Fenton, Maurice Jarre and Gabriel Yared, and arranged songs for many contemporary artists like Duran Duran, Aha or Paul McCartney.

He orchestrated the score for the WALLACE AND GROMIT feature films, same as for THE MIRACLE OF BERN (2003, Director: Sönke Wortmann), THE TAILOR OF PANAMA (2001, Director: John Boorman) and also for Oliver Stone's epic ALEXANDER (2004). Nic Raine developed a close working partnership with John Barry. They collaborated for over 20 years for many films, among them naturally several James Bond movies, or in the arrangement of John Barry's musical „Brighton Rock“.

As a composer, Raine has so far worked predominantly for TV or video games, and for instance wrote the score for Miguel Alexandre's „Der Mann mit dem Fagott“ (2011) or bio-documentary „Lon Chaney: A Thousand Faces“ (2000). SHORES OF HOPE is his second work as a film composer. When he isn't out and about in concert halls or film studios, Nic Raine is living in the country in Sussex with his family.

## BETA CINEMA – WORLD SALES

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

Beta Cinema's portfolio includes outstanding productions like Academy Award 2011-nominated IN DARKNESS, multiple African Academy Award 2011-winning VIVA RIVA, multiple Spanish Goya Awards 2011-winning BLACK BREAD, German Film Award-winning VINCENT WANTS TO SEA (2011), ALMANYA (2011), JOHN RABE (2009) and FOUR MINUTES (2007), Cannes 2008 Jury Prize-winning and Academy Award-nominated IL DIVO, Academy Award 2007-winning THE COUNTERFEITERS, Academy Award 2007 nominated MONGOL, Academy Award 2006-winning THE LIVES OF OTHERS and the Academy Award 2004-nominated DOWNFALL.

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