





# THE TASTE OF APPLE SEEDS

With

**Hannah Herzprung, Florian Stetter, Marie Bäumer,  
Meret Becker, Hildegard Schmahl, Paula Beer, Zoe Moore, Matthias Habich**

Director

**Vivian Naefe**

Producer

**Uschi Reich**

Co-Producers

**Dr. Wilfried Ackermann**

**Bernd Krause**

Screenplay

**Rochus Hahn**

**Uschi Reich**

Based on the best-selling novel by

**Katharina Hagen**

Produced by

**Bavaria Filmverleih- und Produktions GmbH, Dr. Wilfried Ackermann Filmproduktion  
and Constantin Film Produktion**

Supported by

**Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein, HessenInvestFilm, Filmförderungsanstalt  
(FFA), Deutschen Filmförderfonds (DFFF) and FilmFernsehFonds Bayern (FFF)**

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## CAST

Iris	HANNAH HERZSPRUNG
Max	FLORIAN STETTER
Inga	MARIE BÄUMER
Harriet	MERET BECKER
Bertha	HILDEGARD SCHMAHL
Carsten Lexow	MATTHIAS HABICH
Christa	ODA THORMEYER
Rosemarie	PAULA BEER
Mira	ZOE MOORE

## CREW

Producer	USCHI REICH
Director	VIVIAN NAEFE
Screenplay	ROCHUS HAHN, USCHI REICH
Co-producer	WILFRIED ACKERMANN
Producer	BERND KRAUSE
Camera	MARTIN LANGER
Set Design	THOMAS FREUDENTHAL
Costume Design	GABRIELA REUMER
Make-up Artist	ELKE LEBENDER
	GREGOR ECKSTEIN, JEANNETTE LATZELSBERGER
Production Manager	JÖRG KUHLMANN

## TECHNICAL DETAILS:

Year of Production: Germany 2012  
Running Time: 121 Minutes  
Format: 1:2,35 / SR\*D / 2D

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## SHORT SYNOPSIS

When Bertha dies, her granddaughter Iris inherits her house and finds herself back in the home where she and her cousin used to play dressing-up in the summer holidays. She wanders through the rooms and garden, a timeless world where red currants turn white overnight, where a tree blossoms twice, villages vanish and women shake sparks out of their fingers. But the garden is now wild and overgrown. And after Bertha fell out of the apple tree, she became absent-minded, then forgetful. Eventually, she didn't even recognise her own three daughters. Iris stays in the house on her own for a week. She cannot decide whether she wants to keep it. She swims in a black lake, receives a visitor, kisses an old friend's brother and paints a wall.

While she wanders from room to room, she gropes her way through memories and things she had forgotten: What did her grandfather really do before he went to war? Which men were Bertha's daughters in love with? Who ate their apple with the pips? Finally, Iris recalls the night her cousin Rosemarie had the terrible accident: What was Rosemarie doing on the conservatory roof? What did she want to tell Iris? Iris senses there are several ways to forget. And remembering is only one of them.

## PRESS NOTES

THE TASTE OF APPLE SEEDS told by the women of a family, and the fate of three generations inextricably linked by an old house that has kept their secrets for decades. Like a puzzle, the memories come together and form a moving film about love, death and oblivion.

Uschi Reich, director and producer of the Bavaria Film Distribution and Production GmbH (THE WILD CHICKS, DAS FLIEGENDE KLASSENZIMMER, BIBI BLOCKSBERG, A YEAR AGO IN WINTER, AS SANTA FELL TO EARTH) brings Katharina Hagen's international bestseller "The Taste of Apple Seeds" to the big screen. The major bestselling novel has been sold to 25 countries including France, Great Britain, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain.

The screenplay is by Rochus Hahn (THE MIRACLE OF BERN) and Uschi Reich. The film is directed by Vivian Naefe, who already staged the best-selling adaptations of THE WILD CHICKS 1-3.

The main role of Iris, who inherits the family home of her grandmother Bertha and must deal with the past before her future can begin, is played by Hannah Herzsprung. The three very different daughters are played by Marie Bäumer (SOMETIME IN AUGUST), Meret Becker (ACTING IT OUT, KOKOWÄÄH) and the renowned stage actress Oda Thor Meyer as the mother of Iris. The men who follow their ways of life are the rising stars Florian Stetter (SOPHIE SCHOLL - THE FINAL DAYS) as Max Ohmstedt and Friedrich Mücke (FRIENDSHIP!, RUSSIAN DISCO) as Peter Claasen, as well as the character actors Matthias Habich (NOWHERE IN AFRICA) as Carsten Lexow and Hans Kremer (STAMMHEIM) as Hinnerk, husband of Bertha.

The visual design is provided by award-winning cinematographer Martin Langer (LESSONS OF A DREAM). Responsible for the set design is Thomas Freudenthal (EFFI), and Gabriela Reumer

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(KOKOWÄÄH) for the costumes.

## **INTERVIEW WITH VIVIAN NAEFE (Director)**

### **How would you describe THE TASTE OF APPLE SEEDS?**

The movie tells a family story – and several love stories – across three generations. A young woman inherits her grandmother's house and must decide if she will accept this inheritance. If she decides to accept and take the house she must also start to accept her family history. At that moment she also realizes that this is a topic she must work on to grow up as a person and to be able to love at all. "To become an entire person" as she would express herself.

### **Is this story also a romantic comedy?**

The story is indeed played on several levels, but the narrative in the present actually has traits of a romantic comedy. Iris has a trauma triggered in her teenage years by the death of her cousin Rosemarie, which has basically stopped her development. She thus behaves like an adolescent when she sees her childhood friend Max again after 13 years. Actually, the two always liked each other – although Iris threw a stone at his head the first time they met. When they meet again now, she behaves like an insecure adolescent and tries to cover her lack of confidence with humor. In fact Max actually found Iris rather cool already back then. The two of them interact in a rather formal style when they meet again and constantly talk past each other, which gives rise to humorous situations.

### **Is the manipulative Rosemarie the "villain" in the story?**

No. I feel great sympathy for her, though she sets things into motion and does really bad things. Rosemarie will not survive puberty. She grew up with her mother and grandparents, and has not coped with never knowing her father and having him around. So she has created the wildest stories of an imagined father, such as a pirate. As a teenager, she tests out all boundaries, and often to rather malicious actions. But she is not evil per se. Rosemarie is also a strong and beautiful personality.

### **What attracted you as a director to tackle this project?**

That this great story spanning decades and generations contains a microcosm: family. Power struggles, love, death – all this takes place within a family. Nothing molds and forms us more than our families. In the U.S., wonderful family films are made. Epic tales of entire dynasties, such as "Die Buddenbrooks" – that is something we do not have too much of in Germany. There is also the archaic element of nature: This family lives in the country, the youth grow up in and with nature. I think it is right and important not only to make a cool urban film - of which there are plenty - but something quite different, something that goes back to our roots.

## **THE CAST**

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### **Hannah Herzprung** (*Iris*)

At the beginning of her career Hannah Herzprung showed her versatility first in television series and movies before she made her screen debut in Chris Kraus' multiple award-winning drama *FOUR MINUTES* in 2006. With her intense portrayal as prison inmate and virtuoso pianist, the actress won over critics and audiences and duplicated her success as Florina in Alain Gsponer's *LIFE ACTUALLY*. In 2007 she received the Bavarian Film Award for Most Promising Actress in *FOUR MINUTES*. In the same year she was nominated twice for the German Film Award: as Best Actress (*FOUR MINUTES*) and Best Supporting Actress (*LIFE ACTUALLY*). She won the important German Film Award for *LIFE ACTUALLY*, which also won her the 2009 Grimme Award. In 2008 she was named the "Shooting Star" of the Berlinale. In the same year she was seen as the terrorist Susanne Albrecht in *THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX*.

This was followed by Stephen Daldry's *THE READER* (2008), *MY WORDS, MY LIES, MY LOVE* (2009) starring Daniel Brühl, and Margarethe von Trotta's *VISION* (2009). This role earned her an additional nomination for the German Film Award.

In 2010 followed Juraj Herz's *HABERMANN'S MILL* and Friedemann Fromm's TV series "Weissensee", the national Bambi and, together with the ensemble, Herzprung also received the the German Television Award .

She attracted great attention in 2011 with Tim Fehlbauer's intense sci-fi thriller *HELL*. Next came the drama *ESCAPE FROM TIBET* and the American science fiction series "H +". She stars in Til Schweiger's thriller *THE GUARDIANS* and as Empress Elisabeth in Marie Noelle and Peter Sehr's *LUDWIG II*.

Her latest project is a lead in *DIE GELIEBTEN SCHWESTERN*, directed by Dominik Graf, again acting alongside Florian Stetter. The drama produced by Uschi Reich about the ménage à trois between Friedrich Schiller and his sisters Caroline and Charlotte comes to cinemas at the end of 2013.

### **Florian Stetter** (*Max*)

Florian Stetter created quite a stir in 2009 with the award-winning miniseries "Wolves in Berlin" which received an Emmy. Born in Munich in 1977, he graduated from the Otto -Falkenberg School in his hometown. His theater career began in 2002 with engagements at the National Theatre in Munich and "JEDERMANN" at the Salzburg Festival. In the 2007/ 08 season he was part of the ensemble of the Maxim Gorki Theater in Berlin, where he performed in productions of renowned directors such as Stefan Bachmann and Armin Petras.

His first leading role in the drama outsider *L' AMOUR* earned him the 2001 Max Ophüls Award as the Best Young Actor. In 2002 followed the Grimme Award for Best Actor in Dominik Graf's "FRIENDS OF FRIENDS ", which he had shot during his studies.

Since then, Florian Stetter has played regularly in film and television productions. In 2004 he was seen in *BEFORE THE FALL* and as a resistance fighter in the award-winning *SOPHIE SCHOLL*. In Joseph Vilsmaier's *NANGA PARBAT* (2009) he played Reinhold Messner. For director Vivian Naefe Florian Stetter was in front of the camera for the drama *WELLEN*. In late 2013 he will appear in Dominik

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Graf's big-screen drama DIE GELIEBTEN SCHWESTERN in which Hannah Herzsprung also plays a major role.

### **Marie Bäumer** (*Inga*)

Marie Bäumer was born in Düsseldorf and raised in Hamburg. In 1995, during her studies at the Academy of Music and Theatre in Hamburg, she made her breakthrough with her first film role in Detlev Buck's JAILBIRDS.

In 2001, she chased Bully Herbig in MANITOU'S SHOE, one of the biggest German blockbusters of all time. In 2002 she was part of the international ensemble of the lavish four-part miniseries "NAPOLEON". For her acting tour de force in Oskar Roehler's ruthless couples psychodrama ANGST, Marie Bäumer was honored in 2003 with the Bavarian Film Award for Best Actress.

In 2005, she played the lead role in Vivian Naefe historical melodrama WELLEN". In 2006 Marie Bäumer was seen in the two-part event production "Dresden: The Inferno" and the 2007 Oscar-winning war drama THE COUNTERFEITERS. In 2009 she played a starring role in Sebastian Schipper's relationship drama SOMETIME IN AUGUST, loosely based on Goethe's "Elective Affinities."

Also in 2011, Marie Bäumer received the Grimme Award for her performance in Dominik Graf's "IN FACE OF THE CRIME ". The critically acclaimed crime drama about the machinations of the Berlin Russian mafia was also awarded the German Television Award.

In 2012 Marie Bäumer thrilled audiences in the TV miniseries "Hotel Adlon – A Family Story" and was honored for her outstanding performance with the renowned Austrian ROMY award. In addition, she was also impressive as the lead actress in "The other child", a two-part miniseries based on the bestseller by Charlotte Link.

Most recently, she has starred with Mark Waschke and Sylvester Groth in the Franco-German co-production A PACT.

### **Meret Becker** (*Harriet*)

Meret Becker became well known in the early 1990s with Sönke Wortmann's ACTING IT OUT. She won the Grimme award for Best Young Actress in 1991 as the Romanian Ali in FREMDE, LIEBE FREMDE.

In 1993 she was given the Bavarian Film Award for her supporting roles in Margarethe von Trotta's THE PROMISE and in Dominik Graf's THE INVINCIBLES.

For COMEDIAN HARMONISTS she won the 1997 German Film Award for Best Supporting Actress. The same year she was part of the star ensemble of Helmut Dietl's ROSSINI.

For film and television she is constantly in front of the camera, most recently in SOURCES OF LIFE by Oskar Roehler (2011 ), which came to German cinemas in February 2013. Her popular movies

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include ANNALUISE AND ANTON, DAS GELBE VOM EI (both 1998) , URLAUB VOM LEBEN (2005) , HAPPY AS ONE (2006) , MESSY CHRISTMAS (2007) and BOXHAGENER PLATZ (2010) and FLIEGENDE FISCHE MÜSSEN INS MEER (2011).

In John Sander's PAINTED ANGELS (1996) she starred for the first time in a Canadian production and in Steven Spielberg's political thriller MUNICH( 2005) in a U.S. production. Meret Becker also stars in FEUCHTGEBIETE (2012) based on the bestseller by Charlotte Roche and in Vanessa Joop's ensemble film LIES (2013).

Meret Becker is also an gifted musician. She performs regularly as a singer and musician for German and international audiences and has released several CDs. Her partners on stage include, among others, Nina Hagen and Max Raabe. As a guest on stage she has lent her voice to bands such as Ars Vitalis, Einstürzende Neubauten , BAP and Sportfreunde Stiller. In music as in acting , she is extremely versatile: Under the direction of the star conductor Kent Nagano, she sang in Schoenberg's 20<sup>th</sup>-century classic "Pierrot Lunaire " at the Berlin Philharmonie. For her soundtrack to the road movie PIPERMINT, DAS LEBEN MÖGLICHERWEISE she was awarded the 2004 Max Ophüls Award. In October 2012, Meret Becker was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit.

## THE CREW

### **Vivian Naefe** (*Director*)

Vivian Naefe is one of the most sought-after directors and scriptwriters in Germany. For producer Uschi Reich Naefe already directed the hit movie THE WILD CHICKS (2006) based on the children's book by Cornelia Funke . This was followed by WILD CHICKS IN LOVE (2007) and THE CHICKS AND LIFE (2008).

During her studies at the German School of Journalism in Munich ,Vivian Naefe worked as a film critic and hosted the TV-show "Cinema Cinema " . In 1983 she completed her studies at the Munich Academy for Television and Film (HFF) with the comedy ZUCKERHUT .

In 1992, she produced MY DAUGHTER BELONGS TO ME, her first theatrical movie. Actress Barbara Auer earned the German Film Award for the kidnapping drama. In 1996 followed the romantic comedy with Heino Ferch, TWO WOMEN, TWO MEN. In more than 20 television films the director has cast audience favorites like Christoph Waltz in MAN(N) SUCHT FRAU (1995), Veronica Ferres (THE WILD CHICKS trilogy, EINE UNGEHORSAME FRAU) and Götz George as PAPA ALEIN ZU HAUS.

For "Tatort: Kleine Diebe" Vivian Naefe won the 2001 Bavarian TV Award; for her Ruhr-drama "Einer geht noch" in the same year she was awarded the Grimme Award.

Since 1998, Vivian Naefe is a guest lecturer at the film school in Ludwigsburg, Munich and the University of Mainz .

### **Uschi Reich** (*Production, Script*)

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After Caroline Link's *A YEAR AGO IN WINTER*, for which Uschi Reich won the German Film Award in 2009, she turns to adult material again with *THE TASTE OF APPLE SEEDS*. Recently she brought *WHEN SANTA FELL TO EARTH* (2011) to the screen after the children's book by Cornelia Funke.

After studying at the University of Television and Film in Munich and after several semesters of Romance languages and German literature, Uschi Reich worked as a freelance writer, director and producer. During this period, she created *DIE UTOPIE DES DAMENSCHNEIDERS WILHELM WEITLING* (1973), *KEINER KANN WAS DAFÜR* (1977) and *ABSCHIED VOM BLAUEN LAND* (1985). From 1987 to 1995, she was a producer for Bavaria Film and others for the series "Vera Wesskamp", the successful three-part miniseries *SO'S YOUR OLD MAN!* (1997) and responsible as chief dramaturge for over 200 episodes of primetime series "Marienhof" which she supervised from the beginning.

In 1995, Uschi Reich transferred to Constantin Film, where together with Bernd Eichinger she was responsible for the production of the "German Classics" TV movies "A girl called Rosemarie", "Charley's Tante" and "Es geschah am hellichten Tag" (all 1996).

Towards the end of 1996, she returned as a producer to Bavaria Film and took over the Bavaria Film Distribution and Production GmbH as CEO. Among her projects was *MRS. RETTICH, CZERNI AND I* (1998), which was nominated for the German Film Award, and *ANNELUISE AND ANTON* (1998) directed by Caroline Link. The remake of Erich Kästner's classic was one of the most successful films of 1999 and has been awarded several national and international festival awards. It was followed by the TV movies "DIE ZAUBERFRAU" (1999) and *MODELS* (2000).

In December 2000, Marco Petry's *NO MORE SCHOOL* was released and with more than 900,000 theater-goers a real surprise hit. Two months later came the next Kästner adaptation: Franziska Buch's *EMIL AND THE DETECTIVES* (2001), which brought in over 1.7 million viewers and became one of the most successful German films of 2001.

Before Uschi Reich produced her third Kästner movie with *THE FLYING CLASSROOM* in 2002 (German Film Award in Gold 2003), she started the TV production of *WHAT'S UP WITH THE MEN IN MY LIFE?* (2002). It was followed by the elaborate live-action adaptation *BIBI BLOCKSBERG* (2002) directed by Hermine Huntgeburth and *UNSRE MUTTER IST HALT ANDERS* (2003) with Martina Gedeck and Richy Müller, directed by Franziska Buch, who then also directed *BIBI BLOCKSBERG UND DAS GEHEIMNIS DER BLAUEN EULEN* (2004). In the same year came Hendrik Hölzemann's directorial debut with Jessica Schwarz and Matthias Schweighöfer's hit. The TV movie "Schiller" with Schweighöfer in the lead role came out for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the poet Friedrich Schiller in May 2005.

Besides *THE WILD CHICKS IN LOVE* Uschi Reich also prepared the first film adaptation of the successful children's book and audio detective series *TKKG* in 2005. Both movies were released in 2006.

*THE WILD CHICKS AND LOVE* (2007), the second film adaptation of the book series by Cornelia Funke (2007), was very successful in the cinema. After *A YEAR AGO IN WINTER* (2008), she was involved as a producer on *BUDDENBROOKS* (2008) by Heinrich Breloer. This was followed by *THE*

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WILD CHICKS AND LIFE (2008), the fairy tale DER FROCHKÖNIG and SLEEPING BEAUTY and SUMMERTIME BLUES (2009), the feature film debut of her daughter Marie Reich. In 2009 she produced HERE IS LOLA, the adaptation of a children's book by Isabel Abedi. At Christmas 2011, the fairy tale "Sterntaler" was aired on ARD. In May 2012 it was awarded the Bavarian Television Award and nominated for the KIDS-EMMY.

Basing herself on the documentary film ALEXANDER GRANACH – DA GEHT EIN MENSCH (2012), she produced DIE GELIEBTEN SCHWESTERN with Florian Stetter, Hannah Herzsprung and Henriette Confurius. The drama about the love of the poet Friedrich Schiller for the sisters Caroline and Charlotte will be released in German theaters in late 2013. Uschi Reich was awarded the German Film Award, the Bavarian Film Award (for BIBI BLOCKSBERG and THE FLYING CLASSROOM) as well as numerous other German and international awards and was honored with the Bavarian Order of Merit.

### **Katharina Hagen** (*Original Book template*)

Katharina Hagen's first novel, "The Taste of Apple Seeds" was released in 2008 and, with over 1.25 million copies sold, was an audience success which remained for months on the bestseller lists (including No. 1 on the "Spiegel" bestseller list in 2009). The novel has been published in 25 languages, and more translations are in preparation. Even abroad, the book has achieved impressive sales figures. Specifically, the Italian and French editions proved to be bestsellers. In France the book received the paperback novel prize of 2011.

Katharina Hagen studied English and German in Marburg, Freiburg and London. She conducted research at the James Joyce Foundation in Zurich and taught at Trinity College, Dublin and the Universities of Hamburg and Lüneburg. She received her PhD on James Joyce and wrote the nonfiction "Was die wilden Wellen sagen – Der Seeweg durch den Ulysees" (2006). Along with the illustrator Stefanie Clemen she published the children's books "Grausi looks under the stone" (2008) and "Albert Albatross Albert" (2010).

She lives as a freelance writer with her family in Hamburg. Her new novel, "Vom Schlafen und Verschwinden" was released in autumn 2012 by Kiepenheuer & Witsch.

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