



GLOBAL PLAYER

Written and Directed by

Hannes Stoehr

Starring

Christoph Bach, Walter Schultheiß, Inka Friedrich, Ulrike Folkerts, Stefan Hallmayer

Produced by

**sabotage films GmbH with Stoehrfilm GmbH in co-production with ARD
Degeto, Bayerischer Rundfunk, ARTE**

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Pictures and film clips available on [ftp.betafilm.com](ftp://ftp.betafilm.com), username: ftpress01, password: 8uV7xG3tB

CAST

Michael Bogenschuetz	Christoph Bach
Paul Bogenschuetz	Walter Schultheiss
Marlies Bogenschuetz	Inka Friedrich
Marianne Bogenschuetz	Ulrike Folkerts
Matthias Bogenschuetz	Stefan Hallmayer
Agnieschka Gutek	Monika Anna Wojtyllo
Silke Bogenschuetz	Rita Lengyel
Interpreter Lin Ling	JinJin Harder
Chong Wang	Kevin Chen
Mr Wu	Yu Fang
Mr Zong Chang	Guohua Shi
Mr Li	Zengquan Guo
Bank boss	Hans-Jochen Wagner
Secretary Ms Schulz	Henriette Mueller
Crafter Kleinmann	Berthold Biesinger
Andrew Tannenbaum	Harvey Friedman
Crafter Fischer	Axel Fischer
Textile manufacturer Beck	Uwe Zellmer
Used car dealer	Dominik Kuhn

CREW

Cinematography	Andreas Doub
Editing	Simone Klier
Casting	Karen Wendland
Costume design	Sabine Greunig
Production design	Barbara Falkner
	Adán Hernández S.
Music	Florian Appl feat. Paul & Fritz Kalkbrenner
Make-up	Nadine Scherer
	Christina Baier
2nd unit	Max Penzel
Light	Stefan Bodenhaupt

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Grip	Holger Frey
Original sound	Patrick Veigel
Sound design	Martin Fruehmorgen
Re-recording mixer	Robby Jaeger
Assistant director	Tanja Daeberitz
Production accountant	Janina Bukowski
Production manager	Franziska Jahnke
	Jianwei Han
Line producer	Karsten Aurich
Dramatic adviser	Annedore v. Donop
Commissioning editors	Claudia Graessel
	Hubert von Spreti
	Andreas Schreitmueller
	Jochen Koelsch
	Monika Lobkowicz
Producers	Karsten Aurich
	Annedore v. Donop
	Hannes Stoehr
Written and directed	Hannes Stoehr
Production	sabotage films GmbH with Stoehrfilm GmbH
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TECHNICAL DETAILS

Genre: Dramatic Comedy
Category: Feature film
Length: 95 minutes
Production: Germany 2013

PRESS NOTES

After his sensational debut "Berlin is in Germany" (Panorama Audience Award, Berlinale 2001), after "One day in Europe" (in Berlinale Competition 2005) and his cult film "Berlin Calling" (2008, e.g. ARTE Audience Award), Hannes Stoehr has yet succeeded in another outstanding film:

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GLOBAL PLAYER tells a humorous family-story and deals with the generational conflict and the clash of two cultures in a dramatically changing world. In Hannes Stoehr's typical neorealistic approach, the film highlights vital aspects of present and past. The story is at the same time regional and global.

GLOBAL PLAYER asks *the* crucial question about Europe's strongest economy: can Germany cope with China? David versus Goliath ...

"Bogenschuetz & Sons" is a fictitious company, but the story of the film is based on real paradigms. And like Shakespeare's 'King Lear' the patriarch Paul Bogenschuetz, 90 years of age and a WW II veteran, looks at his offspring wondering whether they are really prepared for the things to come. At the end of his life he has to offer an important advice: Nobody wants war!

PRODUCTION NOTES

The awesome German cast is led by Christoph Bach, winner of the German TV Award for "Dutschke", who plays Michael Bogenschuetz. The grand Swabian actor Walter Schultheiss plays the role of his father Paul Bogenschuetz. Inka Friedrich, who became particularly well-known in cinemas by the film "Summer in Berlin", plays Marlies Bogenschuetz. Ulrike Folkerts (famous through "Tatort", Germany's best-known crime serial) acts as Marianne Bogenschuetz. Hans-Jochen Wagner plays the role of bank boss Wissmann. From the regional stage "Theater Lindenhof" from Burladingen-Melchingen in the Swabian province, there is Stefan Hallmayer (Matthias Bogenschuetz), Uwe Zellmer (textile manufacturer Beck) and Berthold Biesinger (crafter Kleinmann). Monika Anna Wojtyllo, Rita Lengyel, Jinjin Harder, Kevin Chen, Henriette Mueller, Harvey Friedman, Dominik Kuhn, Yu Fang, Zengquan Guo, Guohua Shi and Axel Fischer play further important characters.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

The family-run company "Bogenschuetz & Sons" has produced solid textile machines in Hechingen, a small Swabian city in southern Germany, for generations. But nowadays demand is down since Asian competitors are cheaper. Michael Bogenschuetz (39, junior boss) is forced to negotiate on a sale with the Chinese behind his father's back. But father Paul (90, senior partner) finds out and tries to get help from Michael's sisters Marlies (45) and Marianne (49) to rescue his life's work ...

GLOBAL PLAYER tragicomically portrays a family, middle-class and entrepreneurial, in times of globalization.

LONG SYNOPSIS

The family-run business "Bogenschuetz & Sons" has produced solid textile machines in the Swabian city Hechingen for generations. But nowadays, demand is down and the employees have been on short-time work for months. The competition with the new global power China seems overwhelming. Michael Bogenschuetz (39), junior boss of the firm, has the water up the neck. The company loses money on every newly produced machine and the staff is getting increasingly worried. Michael tries to gain new orders, which is very difficult. The bank refuses new loans without receiving new securities. Michael already signed his house over to the bank without his family knowing. He lives off the salary of his wife, Silke Bogenschuetz (38) who works as a teacher. So, Michael is bound

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to enter into negotiations with Chinese investors in order to avert the impending insolvency behind the back of his father, Paul Bogenschuetz (90 and senior partner with the power of veto).

To celebrate the ninetieth birthday of the patriarch, Michael's sisters and co-shareholders come to pay a visit: the funky, "green" Marlies (45) with her 18 year-old daughter Salome from Cologne and the considerate Marianne (49) from Berlin. Paul is upset about his daughters not bringing their partners along. Except Michael, all children have lost touch with the rough-and-ready "old man" who is living in the industrialist's mansion by himself, backed up by his Polish housekeeper Agnieschka (30). The oldest brother Matthias (52), who lives in Thailand as dropout, did not come to visit at all. Later that evening, Michael lets his sisters in on the situation of the firm. Marlies and Marianne are shocked - they did not know the condition was that bad.

When the Chinese entrepreneur Chong Wang (35), together with his interpreter Lin Ling (27) and the Chinese team of negotiators arrive to take a look at the company's factory, Paul Bogenschuetz assumes that Michael wants to sell the firm to the Chinese competitors. Father and son, the latter who is considering the Chinese as potential partners, get into a heated debate - the Chinese are baffled.

The patriarch decides to disinherit his children. The family members are forced to sign over their houses – Paul wants to save the firm, his life's work, by using that new capital. Paul doesn't exclude himself by that and signs over his house to the bank, too. Together with his housekeeper Agnieschka, he travels to Cologne and Berlin to visit his daughters. Michael thinks this is a bad idea but regardless, he cannot hold his father back from leaving. While Paul travels through Germany, Michael tries to obtain a life-saving order for the company – without success.

On his travels, Paul learns new things about his children: His youngest daughter Marlies is not just the alternative single mother who he thought she was, but a modern entrepreneur and manager of several successful yoga centers. His oldest daughter Marianne, a translator of literature, never introduced her husband Andrew, 50, an American musician and Jew, to her father - for a good reason: Andrew never wanted to meet a German from Paul's generation. Now it comes to the serious debate.

Paul's initiative revives the family spirit. Marianne establishes an emotional connection to her father again. Marlies, who had not been taken serious for so long, contributes a good business idea at the right time and supports Michael in the negotiations with the Chinese. But the Chinese only have one goal: They want to buy "Bogenschuetz & Sons". They are not interested in cooperation...

PRODUCTION REPORT

featured in
German Films Quarterly 01/2013

Director Hannes Stoehr, whose previous films include **BERLIN CALLING** and **ONE DAY IN EUROPE**, rediscovered his native roots in Baden-Württemberg and traveled to Shanghai for his latest film **GLOBALPLAYER**.

"After being 20 years away from my home town, it was a real eye-opener to see how tough the people are and that globalization is taking place in the provinces and not only in the big cities," he remarks.

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While the film's action is inspired by real-life events he has observed in his home town over recent years, the family textile company of Bogenschütz & Söhne is fictional, but he has achieved an authenticity to the setting by casting actors originating from the south-west corner of Germany – such as the veteran actor Walter Schultheiss as the 90-year-old patriarch, his son Michael, played by Christoph Bach, who is trying to negotiate a deal with the Chinese behind his father's back to save the company, and one of the two daughters played by Inka Friedrich who are recruited by their father to stop the son's plans – as well as local professionals from the Theater Lindenhof, and 'real' people as the factory workforce.

"That's something I have always liked about Hannes' films and this stylistic approach runs through the mall," says producer Annedore von Donop about the casting. "It is a refreshing mixture, and the authenticity of the real people – with their unforgettable faces – can be really surprising."

"In many respects, the film's action is similar to Shakespeare's King Lear and it is a very universal story," Stoehr adds, while von Donop points out that the film also addresses the question of one generation handing over to another and the conflicts and confrontations flaring up within a family.

As producer Karsten Aurich notes, shooting in China might seem a daunting proposition, but they were lucky to find a local service producer in Shanghai who not only knew the right locations, but had studied in Berlin and so spoke fluent German.

Martin Blaney, German Films Quarterly

THE SOUNDTRACK

Hannes Stoehr about the music in his film:

"The film GLOBAL PLAYER draws strength from its contrasts: The past of 90-year-old Paul Bogenschuetz versus the present in which Michael Bogenschütz and his siblings live; the small town Hechingen versus the metropolis Shanghai. We found it musically appealing to mix classical with electronic music let these contrasts communicate with each other and merge.

Florian Appl already composed the music for "Berlin is in Germany" (2001), for my crime serial film, WDR-Tatort "Odin's Revenge" (2003) and for "One Day in Europe" (2005). Then came "Berlin Calling" (2008), a feature film with Paul Kalkbrenner and his music. His brother Fritz Kalkbrenner sung the theme song "Sky and Sand". Now, in my new film, there was the possibility of a collaboration between Florian Appl and the Kalkbrenner brothers."

(Soundtrack available at Suol)

BIOGRAPHY HANNES STOEHR

Hannes Stoehr, born in 1970 in Stuttgart/Germany; high school graduation in Hechingen/Germany; community service at Lebenshilfe Zollernalb; European Law Studies (Spanish & English) in Passau/Germany (pre-degree); Erasmus scholarship in Santiago de Compostela; 1995-1999 Screenplay and Director Studies at German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dfbb); several work stays in Spain, England, U.S.A., Central & South America; since 2005 also guest lecturer

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(screenwriting & directing) at Film Academy Baden-Württemberg and at German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dffb); 2006 screenwriting scholarship at Villa Aurora, Los Angeles; lives in Berlin.

FILMOGRAPHY HANNES STOEHR

HOPPER VU PAR... (2012)

TV series for ARTE France, Alexa, written & directed

MY HUNGARY IN BERLIN (2011)

Documentary, 90 Min, directed by Rita Lengyel, producer

PAUL KALKBRENNER 2010 – A LIVE DOCUMENTARY (2010)

Documentary, 2 Disc DVD Release, 120 min, storyliner & dramatic advisor

BERLIN CALLING (2008)

feature film, 35 mm, 105 min, written & directed

Official Pre-selection German Film Award 2008: Best Film, Best Editing (Anne Fabini), Best Screenplay (Hannes Stoehr), Best Music (Paul Kalkbrenner) FBW Wiesbaden, September 2009: Best DVD ARTE FilmFestival 2010: ARTE Audience Award

Film festivals (selection): Locarno 2008, Piazza Grande; Hamburg 2008; arsa 200 eeds 200 Gi n 200 Angers 200 Miami 200 Austin-SXSW 2009;

Istanbul IF 2009; Budapest 2009; Copenhagen 2009; Santiago de Chile 2009

Distribution: D (Movienet), ESP (Karma), ITALY (Ubu), UNGARN (Best Hollyw.), POLAND (Solopan), ARGENTINA (Eclectique), AUSTRIA (Polyfilm) et al.

FORTY EIGHTERS (2009)

Western, 120 min, screenplay

ONE DAY IN EUROPE (2005)

feature film, 35 mm, 100 min, written & directed

Berlin International Film Festival Competition 2005

Official Pre-selection German Film Awards 2005: Best Screenplay (Hannes Stoehr),

Best Actor – Supporting Role (Miguel de Lira & Luidmila Svetkova)

Film festivals (selection): Berlin 2005 (Competition); Istanbul 2005; Warsaw 2005; Shanghai 2005; Brussels 2005; Vancouver 2005; Busan 2005; Hamptons 2005; Sao Paulo 2005; Seville 2005; Hawaii 2005; Damascus 2005 Distribution: D (Piff), ESP (Notro), RUS (Rusfilm), GREAT BRITAIN

(Peccadillo), JAPAN, POLAND (Gutek) et al.

ODIN'S REVENGE (2003)

WDR Tatort Cologne, 90 min, written & directed

Nominated for CIVIS Media Prize for Integration 2004: European CIVIS Television Prize Entertainment & German CIVIS Television Prize Entertainment

BERLIN IS IN GERMANY (2001)

feature film, 35 mm, 95 min, written & directed

Berlin International Film Festival 2001: Panorama Audience Award

FilmKunstFest Schwerin 2001: Audience Award

Festival International de Cinema Jove, Valencia 2001: Luna de Plata

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Studio Hamburg "Nachwuchspreis" 2001: * 1st prize Hannes Stoehr
Deutscher Kritikerpreis 2002: Best Film
Preis der deutschen Filmkritik 2001: Best Actor – Leading Role (Joerg Schuettauf)
Festival du Premier ilm Annonay 2002: Prix Special du Jury
Festival Henri Langlois, Poitiers 2002: Prix Special du Jury
New Faces Award 2002: Best Director (Hannes Stoehr)
Rolf-Hans Mueller Preis für Filmmusik 2001: Best Music (Florian Appl)
Film festivals (selection): Berlin 2001, Panorama; Moscow 2001; Jerusalem 2001; The Museum of
Modern Art, New York 2001; Los Angeles 2001 (AFI); Istanbul 2002; Leeds 2002; New Delhi 2002;
Singapore 2002; Hong Kong 2002
Distribution: D (Piff), ES (Sherlock), FR (K Films), TURKEY (Belge Films), GB (Peccadillo) et al.

WORLD SALES - BETA CINEMA

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 Berlin 2013 Golden Bear–winning CHILD'S POSE, Academy Award 2011-nominated IN DARKNESS, 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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