

MAJESTIC



Present

A MAJESTIC Production

COLONIA

Directed by

Florian Gallenberger

Produced by

Benjamin Herrmann



PRODUCTION NOTES

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INFORMATION

Cast

Lena	Emma Watson
Daniel	Daniel Brühl
Paul Schäfer	Michael Nyqvist
Gisela	Richenda Carey
Ursel	Vicky Krieps
Doro	Jeanne Werner
Roman	Julian Ovenden
German Ambassador	August Zirner
Niels Biedermann	Martin Wuttke
Manuel Contreras	César Bordón
Jorge	Nicolás Barsoff

Crew

Directed by	Florian Gallenberger
Produced by	Benjamin Herrmann
Screenwriters	Torsten Wenzel Florian Gallenberger
Director of Photography	Kolja Brandt
Production Design	Bernd Lepel
Editor	Hansjörg Weissbrich
Composers	André Dziezuk Fernando Velázquez
Costume Design	Nicole Fischnaller
Makeup & Hair Design	Waldemar Pokromski Claudine Moureaud
Sound Department	Carlo Thoss, Frank Kruse and Bruno Tarrière
Casting Directors	John Hubbard & Ros Hubbard
Line Producer	Patrick Zorer
Co-producers	Nicolas Steil, Iris Productions Christian Becker, Rat Pack Filmproduktion Jean-Michel Rey, Rezo Productions, James Spring, Fred Films
Executive Producers	Rüdiger Böss Dirk Schürhoff

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Germany/Luxembourg/France 2015
Running time: 110 minutes
Aspect ratio: 1:2.35

Media server: www.presse.majestic.de/colonia.html
Official site: www.coloniathemovie.com
Facebook: www.facebook.de/colonia.film

SYNOPSIS

Inspired by true events, **COLONIA** tells the story of Lena and Daniel, a young couple, who become entangled in the Chilean military coup of 1973. Daniel is abducted by Pinochet's secret police and Lena tracks him to a sealed off area in the South of the country, called Colonia Dignidad. The Colonia presents itself as a charitable mission run by lay preacher Paul Schäfer but, in fact, is a place nobody ever escaped from. Lena decides to join the cult in order to find Daniel.

COLONIA is a marriage of an unforgettable love story and political thriller set during one of the Cold War's darkest chapters.

Academy Award® winning filmmaker Florian Gallenberger directed **COLONIA** based off a script written by him and Torsten Wenzel. German Academy Award winner Benjamin Herrmann produced the feature through his Majestic banner (DESERT FLOWER, JOHN RABE, TOUR DE FORCE).

The film stars Emma Watson (HARRY POTTER, NOAH, THE BLING RING) in her first lead role since Harry Potter, Golden Globe® nominee Daniel Brühl (RUSH, INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS, THE FIFTH ESTATE) and Michael Nyqvist (THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO trilogy, JOHN WICK) as Paul Schäfer. The supporting cast includes Richenda Carey (SEPARATE LIES), Vicky Krieps (A MOST WANTED MAN), Julian Ovenden (DOWNTON ABBEY), August Zirner (THE COUNTERFEITERS) and Martin Wuttke (CLOUD ATLAS, INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS).

COLONIA is a production of Majestic Filmproduktion, co-produced by Iris Productions, Rat Pack Filmproduktion, Rezo Productions and Fred Films, in association with ProSieben and Sky, supported by FilmFernsehFonds Bayern, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, FFA German Federal Film Board, German Federal Film Fund (DFFF), Luxembourg Film Fund and the MEDIA program of the EU.

PRODUCTION NOTES

"All fans of movie classics admire the great thrillers of the 70's," producer Benjamin Herrmann explains. "THREE DAYS OF CONDOR and ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN were two of those films, delivering a serious message through entertainment and suspense. 40 years later, the combination of thrill and message appeared again in ARGO and THE IMITATION GAME, fine examples of modern thrillers, which take the audience seriously and attract them at the same time. We have the same goal with COLONIA."

The so called Colonia Dignidad was founded 1961 by German lay preacher Paul Schäfer and his followers, a hermetically sealed-off camp 200 miles south of Santiago de Chile. Schäfer reigned the isolated hamlet for almost four decades. All inhabitants were captives in his dictatorial state-within-a-state and lived according to Schäfer's autocratic rules. Originally built as a "German model village" and disguised as charity for Chile's rural population, it became one of the largest farms in Chile. Over four decades, only a few people managed to escape from Colonia Dignidad as most of escapees were picked up and brought back to Colonia with the support by the German Embassy, which closely collaborated with Paul Schäfer.

When General Augusto Pinochet came to power in 1973, however, an even darker chapter began. Due to his close ties to Pinochet's secret service DINA, Schäfer allowed the government to use Colonia Dignidad as a torture camp for political prisoners. He produced and dealt with weapons and poison gas for the Chilean government and even tried to enrich uranium. Initial media reports about Colonia Dignidad shocked the world in the late 70's, but they did not have any consequences in Chile. Only when Pinochet abdicated in 1990 did law enforcement agencies pursue the accusations against Paul Schäfer. He fled to Argentina, where he was eventually arrested in 2004 and was sentenced by the Chilean courts to 33 years imprisonment on thousands of counts of sexual abuse of children and other crimes. He died in prison in Santiago in 2010. The former members of the Colonia Dignidad stayed and took over the property. It was renamed Villa Baviera.

"I was a student at elementary school," director Florian Gallenberger remembers, "when I heard about that place in Chile, where people couldn't run away and lived like prisoners. It really shocked me." While his historical drama JOHN RABE was in post-production, Gallenberger read the autobiographical book by a former "Colono", how the people living in the Colonia Dignidad were called. Just a few weeks later, screenwriter Torsten Wenzel sent him his idea for a film. This coincidence turned out to be the beginning of COLONIA.

Gallenberger travelled to Chile and researched the story of Colonia Dignidad. "The more time I spent studying the historical facts and hearing people's stories, the more I wanted to learn about Schäfer's microcosm," Gallenberger said. "I wanted to tell the story of a couple who become members of this 'community' by chance and who try to escape." Producer Benjamin Herrmann added: "We didn't want to make a film just about the facts--the machinations of the CIA, German government, and the Pinochet regime. We wanted to focus on Colonia Dignidad, this state within a state. This adds a great intensity to the story of our main characters."

After several trips to Chile and many encounters with former "residents" of Colonia Dignidad, Gallenberger earned their trust, and their opening up about their lives gave him unprecedented insight into the organization of the sect. "Although our two main characters are fictitious, each detail of the film is historically confirmed, even some of the dialogue with Paul Schäfer are authentic," Gallenberger explained.

This faithfulness to the real events and personalities impressed the film's cast and crew. Emma Watson, in the lead role of Lena, notes, "The fact that it's this outstandingly dynamic thriller with true historical material is what makes this film so appealing."

Gallenberger wrote the male leading role with Daniel Brühl on his mind: "Brühl brings the right mix

of sensitivity, openness and masculinity.” The two men worked together on JOHN RABE and have been close friends for many years. "When we presented our project at the Cannes Film Festival in 2014, potential financial supporters were so excited by the script, that we were able to start shooting in just 4 months," producer Herrmann continues.

The COLONIA team wanted a strong female hero and Emma Watson’s interest in the part was a dream come true. "I was looking for an actress with a bright aura and a luminous presence. This is just what Emma Watson is," Gallenberger said. "I think the main reason, why Emma joined our team is her interest in politics. She was committed to learning about Colonia Dignidad from the beginning. Plus, it was important to her to play a woman who takes matters into her own hands and does not fear any challenges. Her character risks everything to achieve what is important. In her off-screen life, Emma is the same." Gallenberger said. Emma Watson described her view: "The interesting dynamic is that we are all familiar with the conventional narrative, in which the woman plays the damsel in distress and the man plays the knight-in- shining-armor who comes to rescue her. In COLONIA, the switch is that actually it’s Lena who goes and rescues her man, and I thought that was really, really beautiful actually - and something we don’t see often in films."

"When Emma and Daniel met in London, we felt within seconds that the chemistry was right and we had found our couple," Benjamin Herrmann summarizes.

Finding the perfect actor for the third leading role, Paul Schäfer, proved to be much harder. "Many actors were actually hesitant to play this role," Herrmann said. Swedish actor Michael Nyqvist, who became a household name thanks to his starring role in the "Millennium" trilogy, was an early favourite, but he was committed to other projects. "But having him was so critical to the film’s dynamic that we re-scheduled his shooting days to enable him to play the part. Having him was a gift for us!" Herrmann said. "His first day in front of the camera was at the beginning of our third week of shooting," Gallenberger said. "It wasn't easy to start filming without ever having seen the antagonist, but when Michael Nyqvist appeared on the set, everything was clear immediately. His incredible physical presence was made more ominous by our great makeup artist Waldemar Pokromski, who transformed him into a Paul Schäfer lookalike--it was fascinating. Michael was not afraid to play a character that is oppressive and repulsive. We were all impressed by his performance."

Indeed, COLONIA presents Paul Schäfer as a horrifying man but one who believes in what he’s doing. "You have to look into your own abyss in order to perform the character of a villain," Nyqvist adds.

The rest of the cast came from four countries and two continents: Richenda Carey as Colonia Dignidad’s supervisor Gisela, Vicky Krieps and Jeanne Werner as female "Colonos," August Zirner as the German ambassador to Chile, Martin Wuttke as head of the Amnesty International office in Santiago de Chile, César Bordón as the feared DINA chief Contreras, and Nicolás Barsoff as the leader of a resistance group.

Behind the camera, the production sought the same quality:

- Cinematographer Kolja Brandt (HECTOR AND THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS, NORTH FACE, YONGE GOETHE IN LOVE),
- Production designer Bernd Lepel (DOWNFALL, THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX),
- Composers André Dziezuk (AN AFFAIR OF LOVE) and Fernando Velázquez (THE IMPOSSIBLE, HERCULES),
- Costume designer Nicole Fischnaller (A MOST WANTED MAN, THE COUNTERFEITERS),
- Makeup designers Waldemar Pokromski (THE WHITE RIBBON, THE PIANIST, SCHINDLER’S LIST) and Claudine Moureaud (THE MERCHANT OF VENICE),
- Sound engineer Carlo Thoss (GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING),
- Editor Hansjörg Weissbrich (NIGHT TRAIN TO LISBON),
- Sound designer Frank Kruse (PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER, RUSH), and
- Sound mixer Bruno Tarrière (LEON—THE PROFESSIONAL, ALEXANDER).

"It was fascinating to see how the team adapts to shooting in different locations and later put the puzzle together in the editing room," Benjamin Herrmann said. "In Luxembourg, our set designer, Bernd Lepel, recreated the grounds of Colonia Dignidad in an abandoned slate mine." Emma Watson adds: "I remember the first time I saw the set. I was just speechless, really. It's an exact replica, measure for measure--every room, every space, is identical. I was blown away. It was creepy and kind of odd, having just been at the Colonia camp in Chile quite recently before."

Other scenes were filmed in the fields outside of Luxembourg while the extensive "Casemates" under the capital city served as the tunnel system under Colonia Dignidad. In order to shoot the scenes in a flooded tunnel, the filmmakers closed the indoor swimming pool in Berlin-Tiergarten for one week. Filming on location in Villa Baviera, the former Colonia Dignidad, was not possible, for humanitarian reasons. Other places in Chile, such as Santiago's Estadio Nacional, the detention centre for the round-ups of prisoners during the 1973 coup, were unfortunately impossible since the stadium has been modernized. After location scouts found the right place to shoot these iconic scenes in the centre of Buenos Aires, production decided to locate all outdoor scenes of the street fights there. All interiors of Colonia Dignidad, including the halls, the dormitories and the hospital, as well as the interiors of the German embassy, were filmed in or around Munich.

"It was a challenge for the entire cast and crew to work in many different locations. But it's inspiring to see how these tiny pieces result in one great film," Benjamin Herrmann said. "To make things even harder, we had a very limited number of shooting days," Florian Gallenberger said. "Looking back, it was incredible how hard each department worked on this project."

The unity of visual image that resulted came substantially from Kolja Brandt's camera work. He defined different visual worlds by using different equipment and techniques. For the scenes playing in Chile in 1973, for instance, Brandt used a special set of optics from the 1970's. "They created a certain fuzziness and softness," Gallenberger explained. "In contrast, all scenes in Colonia Dignidad have a sharp and brilliant appearance, and the camera is close to the characters and their predicament. Kolja's images convey a feeling of continual anxiety and narrowness, of being confined."

Editor Hansjörg Weissbrich put the puzzle together. "Hansjörg recognizes the importance of each part, and it was tremendous fun to find the internal rhythm of each scene and of the whole film," Gallenberger said.

The last important component was the music. Three iconic songs were used to establish the love story between Lena and Daniel and to set the mood of the 70's: Janis Joplin's "Try (Just A Little Bit Harder)", "Samba Pa Ti" by Carlos Santana, and "Ain't No Sunshine" by Bill Withers (which also appears as a cover version on the film's end credits, performed by Danish-German shooting star Jesper Munk). In addition, Gallenberger and Herrmann felt that the arrangements by French composer André Dziezuk and Spanish composer Fernando Velázquez captured the moods--the hardship, tensions, and courage--of the story. Dziezuk and Velázquez's emotional score draws viewers into the film's many moods. Gallenberger swarms, "Fernando's compositions are the icing on the cake. They mark the final step, after five years of work."

BIOGRAPHIES – CAST

Emma Watson

Lena

The multi-talented Emma Watson is an actress and UN WOMEN Global Goodwill Ambassador. She rose to fame with her iconic role as Hermione Granger in the HARRY POTTER film series. From 2001 to 2011 she starred in all eight films of the franchise, based on the novels by JK Rowling. Watson followed up this worldwide success with performances in the biographical drama MY WEEK WITH MARILYN, starring Michelle Williams, Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, and the coming-of-age drama THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER, written and directed by Stephen Chbosky. In THE BLING RING, written and directed by Sofia Coppola, Watson stars as a fame-obsessed teenager who robs the homes of celebrities. Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg then offered her to play an exaggerated version of herself in the apocalyptic comedy THIS IS THE END. In the biblically-inspired epic film NOAH she played Noah's daughter-in-law Ila, starring alongside Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly and Anthony Hopkins. Most recently she starred in the psychological thriller REGRESSION, written and directed by Alejandro Amenábar. Emma has recently completed filming a live-action version of Disney's iconic musical, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, where she plays Belle.

Filmography (selection):

2016	BEAUTY AND THE BEAST	Director: Bill Condon
2015	COLONIA	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2015	REGRESSION	Director: Alejandro Amenábar
2014	NOAH	Director: Darren Aronofsky
2013	THE BLING RING	Director: Sofia Coppola
2013	THIS IS THE END	Director: Seth Rogen / Evan Goldberg
2012	THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER	Director: Stephen Chbosky
2011	MY WEEK WITH MARILYN	Director: Simon Curtis
2011	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PART 2	Director: David Yates
2010	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PART 1	Director: David Yates
2009	HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE	Director: David Yates
2007	BALLET SHOES	Director: Sandra Goldbacher
2007	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	Director: David Yates
2005	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE	Director: Mike Newell
2004	HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN	Director: Alfonso Cuarón
2002	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	Director: Chris Columbus
2001	HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE	Director: Chris Columbus

Daniel Brühl

Daniel

Since the start of his career, Daniel Brühl has been involved in a number of critically acclaimed film projects, garnering praise for his talent and versatility. He is best known to international audiences for his scene-stealing role of Fredrick Zoller, a German war hero in Quentin Tarantino's *INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS*, opposite Brad Pitt and Christoph Waltz. The film was nominated for eight Academy Awards® in 2010. Brühl received his first Golden Globe nomination for the role of Austrian Formula 1 driver Niki Lauda in Ron Howard's biographical drama *RUSH*. He recently wrapped production on the superhero film *CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR*, playing the villain Baron Helmut Zemo, and the World War Two drama *ALONE IN BERLIN*, starring opposite Emma Thompson.

Daniel Brühl was born in Barcelona in 1978 and raised in Germany. He is fluent in German, English, Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese and French. In 2003, he starred as Alexander Kerner in *GOOD BYE, LENIN!*, a German tragicomedy set in 1989 East Germany. Brühl gave a heart-breaking performance as a young man desperately trying to protect his frail mother from the truth, that her beloved GDR has been reunited with West Germany. For his performance Brühl won a 2003 European Film Award and the German Film Award for Actor.

His other notable film credits include his English-language debut *LADIES IN LAVENDER*, opposite Dame Judi Dench and Dame Maggie Smith, *LOVE IN THOUGHTS*, for which he won the European Film Awards' Audience Award for Best Actor; the trilingual World War I film *MERRY CHRISTMAS*, a small part in *THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM*; the British-Russian World War Two drama *IN TRANSIT*, alongside Vera Farmiga and John Malkovich; Bill Condon's *THE FIFTH ESTATE*, where he stars as Daniel Domscheit-Berg, a colleague and friend of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, played by Benedict Cumberbatch, Anton Corbijn's thriller *A MOST WANTED MAN*, starring opposite Rachel McAdams, Robin Wright and Philip Seymour Hoffman and John Wells' *BURNT* starring opposite Bradley Cooper and Sienna Miller

Filmography (selection):

2015	COLONIA	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2015	BURNT	Director: John Wells
2015	ICH UND KAMINSKI	Director: Wolfgang Becker
2014	A MOST WANTED MAN	Director: Anton Corbijn
2014	THE FIFTH ESTATE	Director: Bill Condon
2014	RUSH	Director: Ron Howard
2012	INTRUDERS	Director: Juan Carlos Fresnadillo
2011	EVA	Director: Kike Maíllo
2010	THE COMING DAYS	Director: Hans Krämer
2009	INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS	Director: Quentin Tarantino
2009	THE COUNTESS	Director: Julie Delpy
2008	KRABAT	Director: Marco Kreuzpaintner
2008	IN TRANSIT	Director: Tom Roberts
2007	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	Director: Paul Greengrass
2006	A FRIEND OF MINE	Director: Sebastian Schipper
2006	SALVADOR (PUIG ANTICH)	Director: Manuel Hueriga
2004	THE EDUKATORS	Director: Hans Weingartner
2004	LOVE IN THOUGHTS	Director: Achim von Borries
2003	GOOD BYE LENIN!	Director: Wolfgang Becker
2002	THE WHITE SOUND	Director: Hans Weingartner
2001	NO REGRETS	Director: Benjamin Quabeck
1999	SCHLARAFFENLAND	Director: Friedemann Fromm

Michael Nyqvist

Paul Schäfer

With an impressive body of work spanning the course of two decades, Michael Nyqvist has evolved into one of Sweden's most respected and accomplished actors of his generation. Over the last few years, Nyqvist has made the successful transition into American cinema, exposing his work to a much broader international audience.

In 2015, Nyqvist co-starred opposite Dominic Monaghan in the international 12-part series „The Hundred Code”, which was created and co-written by Academy Award®-winning writer Bobby Moresco (CRASH, MILLION DOLLAR BABY). Nyqvist played a Swedish by-the-book cop who gets paired with a New York detective to investigate and solve mysterious serial killings. He also co-starred opposite Keanu Reeves in the well-received revenge-thriller JOHN WICK, playing a Russian mob kingpin in New York.

Nyqvist recently completed production on John Moore's indie revenge-thriller I.T. opposite Pierce Brosnan, who also serves as a producer on the film. He completed production on Matthew Ross' romantic thriller FRANK & LOLA, starring Michael Shannon and Imogen Poots. Other American and international film credits include: THE GIRL KING, directed by Mika Kaurismäki, and MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – GHOST PROTOCOL, starring Tom Cruise.

In 2010, Nyqvist garnered international attention starring as renegade journalist Michael Blomkvist in „Millennium”, a Swedish success series based on the trilogy of Stieg Larsson's popular novels. The series, which aired on Swedish television in six parts, expanded on the three theatrically released films from 2009: THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO, THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE and THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNETS' NEST. Nyqvist was nominated for a 2011 International Emmy Award in the „Best Performance by an Actor” category for his role in the „Millennium” series.

His first big breakthrough came in 2000 with the film TOGETHER, directed by Lukas Moodysson. The film was set in the 1970's and followed the antics of life in a suburban commune in Stockholm. It reached great international success and earned Nyqvist his first Guldbagge Best Actor nomination.

Nyqvist's additional Swedish film credits include THE BLACK PIMPERNEL; SUDDENLY; Academy Award®-nominated AS IT IS IN HEAVEN; and THE GUY IN THE GRAVE NEXT DOOR, in which Nyqvist won a Guldbagge Best Actor award for his role as the farmer Benny.

Nyqvist, born in Stockholm in 1960, is also part of the permanent ensemble at the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm.

Filmography (selection):

2015	COLONIA	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2015	THE GIRL KING	Director: Mika Kaurismäki
2015	JOHN WICK	Director: Chad Stahelski
2014	DISCONNECT	Director: Henry Alex Rubin
2011	MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – GHOST PROTOCOL	Director: Brad Bird
2009	THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNETS' NEST	Director: Daniel Alfredson
2009	THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE	Director: Daniel Alfredson
2009	THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO	Director: Niels Arden Oplev
2008	THE KAUTOKEINO REBELLION	Director: Nils Gaup
2007	THE BLACK PIMPERNEL	Director: Ulf Hultberg
2006	SUDDENLY	Director: Johan Brisinger
2004	AS IT IS IN HEAVEN	Director: Kay Pollak
2002	THE GUY IN THE GRAVE NEXT DOOR	Director: Kjell Sundvall
2000	TOGETHER	Director: Lukas Moodysson

BIOGRAPHIES – CREW

Florian Gallenberger

Writer & Director

Florian Gallenberger is a director, writer and producer and one of the few Academy Award®-winners from Germany.

Gallenberger was born in Munich in 1972. From 1992 to 1998, he studied at the renowned University of Television and Film in Munich. He was a co-writer and director on Wim Wenders' student film project DIE GEBRÜDER SKLADANOWSKY, which received an award for Best Documentary at the Montreal Film Festival. In 1997, Gallenberger and his fellow student German Kral made the short film TANGO BERLIN, which was presented at the Venice Film Festival and won an award for Best Director in Bucharest. Gallenberger received the Honorary Foreign Film Award at the Student Academy Awards® and an Academy Award® for Best Live Action Short Film for QUIERO SER, which was shot in Mexico.

Gallenberger's feature film debut SHADOWS OF TIME, produced by Helmut Dietl and shot in India, won the Bavarian Film Award for Best New Director. His second feature film, JOHN RABE, was shot in China. The historical drama, starring Ulrich Tukur, premiered at the International Film Festival in Berlin and received two Bavarian Film Awards and four German Film Awards, including Best Film.

In 2014, Gallenberger and COLONIA's producer Benjamin Herrmann jointly produced Christian Zübert's tragicomedy TOUR DE FORCE, starring Florian David Fitz. Besides his film work, Gallenberger is a professor at Munich Film School. From 2010 to 2012, he and Herrmann were creative directors of the German Film Awards shows.

Filmography (selection):

2015	COLONIA	Writer & Director
2014	TOUR DE FORCE	Producer
2009	JOHN RABE	Writer & Director
2005	SHADOWS OF TIME	Writer & Director
2000	HONOLULU	Writer & Director (1 Episode)
1999	QUIERO SER (short)	Producer, Writer & Director
1997	HURE (short)	Writer & Director
1997	TANGO BERLIN (short)	Co-Writer & Co-Director
1993	MYSTERIUM EINER NOTDURFTANSTALT (short)	Writer & Director

Benjamin Herrmann

Producer

Benjamin Herrmann is one of the most prolific German producers. The Academy Award®-nominee and German Academy Award winner has produced and distributed numerous successful films for over 15 years.

Herrmann studied directing at the Munich Academy for Film and Television. During his time at ProSieben and Senator, he produced, executive produced and distributed films like Germany's most successful film ever, MANITOU'S SHOE, directed by Michael „Bully“ Herbig, Oliver Hirschbiegel's THE EXPERIMENT, Christian Zübert's LAMMBOCK, Sönke Wortmann's THE MIRACLE OF BERN and Christian Carion's Academy Award®-nominated European co-production MERRY CHRISTMAS.

In 2006, Benjamin Herrmann set up his own production and distribution company, Majestic. To date, Majestic's films, such as Doris Dörrie's CHERRY BLOSSOMS, Philipp Stölzl's NORTH FACE, Sherry Hormann's DESERT FLOWER, Florian Gallenberger's JOHN RABE, Feo Aladag's WHEN WE LEAVE, David Wnendt's WETLANDS and Christian Zübert's TOUR DE FORCE, have reached more than 7.5 million admissions in German cinemas and won 11 German Academy Awards.

Benjamin Herrmann is a member of the European Film Academy and was appointed chairman of the German Film Academy in 2015. He's a board member of the association of film distributors and of the German Federal Film Board. From 2010 to 2012, Herrmann and COLONIA's director Florian Gallenberger were creative directors of the German Academy Award shows.

Filmography (as producer, selection):

2015	COLONIA	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2014	TOUR DE FORCE	Director: Christian Zübert
2012	THE ADVENTURES OF HUCK FINN	Director: Hermine Huntgeburth
2011	TOM SAWYER	Director: Hermine Huntgeburth
2009	DESERT FLOWER	Director: Sherry Hormann
2009	JOHN RABE	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2008	NORTH FACE	Director: Philipp Stölzl
2005	MERRY CHRISTMAS	Director: Christian Carion
2003	THE MIRACLE OF BERN	Director: Sönke Wortmann
2001	THE EXPERIMENT	Director: Oliver Hirschbiegel

Torsten Wenzel

Writer

Torsten Wenzel, born in 1964, studied economics/psychology at the University of Hamburg. After learning visual storytelling from his favourite authors, he eventually started to write his own scripts. COLONIA is his debut as a writer and he's currently developing future screenplays, two of them in collaboration with German director Dominik Graf that will be produced in 2016.

Kolja Brandt

Director of Photography

Cinematographer Kolja Brandt is based in Berlin, but also in high demand beyond German borders. He received the German Film Award for his work on the epic drama NORTH FACE.

Kolja Brandt was born in Berlin in 1969. He worked as a lighting technician and camera assistant for student film projects at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin and as a cinematographer for television. In 2000, Brandt worked on several music videos and commercials with Detlev Buck, Philipp Stölzl and other directors. His first feature film was Detlev Buck's TOUGH ENOUGH (2005). The big city drama won the German Film Award.

Brandt worked on Philipp Stölzl's spectacular mountaineering drama NORTH FACE and won the German Film Award for Best Cinematography. He teamed up with Philipp Stölzl twice, filming YOUNG GOETHE IN LOVE and the independent US production THE EXPATRIATE, starring Aaron Eckhart. Increasingly, Kolja Brandt worked on documentaries. He filmed JOSCHKA AND HERR FISCHER, a documentary about former German foreign minister Joschka Fischer, for director and Academy Award®-winner Pepe Danquart; he accompanied mountaineer Reinhold Messner to Pakistan for Andreas Nickel's Himalaya-trilogy and filmed US president Barack Obama's half-sister for THE EDUCATION OF AUMA OBAMA.

Additional film credits include Peter Chelsom's international comedy-drama HECTOR AND THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS with Simon Pegg, Jean Reno, Toni Collette and Stellan Skarsgård; an Philipp Kadelbach's German TV drama „Naked Among Wolves“. A film about Karl Marx's early years, directed by Raoul Peck, is currently in preparation.

Filmography (selection):

2015	COLONIA	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2015	„Naked Among Wolves“ (TV)	Director: Philipp Kadelbach
2014	HECTOR AND THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS	Director: Peter Chelsom
2012	THE EXPATRIATE	Director: Philipp Stölzl
2012	THE EDUCATION OF AUMA OBAMA	Director: Branwen Okpako
2013	RORAIMA: CLIMBING THE LOST WORLD	Director: P. Maderla et al.
2011	JOSCHKA UND HERR FISCHER	Director: Pepe Danquart
2010	YOUNG GOETHE IN LOVE	Director: Philipp Stölzl
2008	NORTH FACE	Director: Philipp Stölzl
2006	TOUGH ENOUGH	Director: Detlev Buck
2003	„Im Dunkeln“ (short)	Director: Johannes Grebert
1995	„Landing“ (short)	Director: Branwen Okpako

Bernd Lepel

Production Designer

Bernd Lepel is one of Germany's most accomplished production designers. He has worked with many notable directors and was nominated for the German Film Award.

Lepel, born in Murnau, started his career as a writer and designer, before he became a set designer at Stuttgart State Theatre and Frankfurt Opera. In 1979, he worked with director Volker Schlöndorff, designing the sets for the Academy Award®-winning drama THE TIN DRUM. His other film credits include Hark Bohm's TV mini series „Vera Brühne" and several films by director Doris Dörrie, starting with NUDE. He also supported Dörrie's stagings at Berlin State Opera and Bavarian State Opera in Munich.

Bernd Lepel worked as production designer for three of the most expensive and most prestigious German film productions of the young century. He worked on the Academy Award®-nominated historical dramas DOWNFALL and THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX as well as Sönke Wortmann's epic drama POPE JOAN. His more recent film credits include Sherry Hormann's drama about the kidnapped Austrian girl Natascha Kampusch, 3096, and Michael „Bully" Herbig's comedy BUDDY.

In 2010, Lepel's production design for POPE JOAN was nominated for the German Film Award. In 1988, his production design for Andrew Birkin's novel adaptation BURNING SECRET won the Award for Best Production Design at the Venice Film Festival.

Filmography (selection):

2015	COLONIA	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2013	3096	Director: Sherry Hormann
2013	BUDDY	Director: Michael „Bully" Herbig
2011	„Borgia"	Director: Oliver Hirschbiegel et al.
2009	POPE JOAN	Director: Sönke Wortmann
2008	THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX	Director: Uli Edel
2005	THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE	Director: Doris Dörrie
2004	DOWNFALL	Director: Oliver Hirschbiegel
2003	THE CEMENT GARDEN	Director: Andrew Birkin
2002	NAKED	Director: Doris Dörrie
1989	BURNING SECRET	Director: Andrew Birkin
1981	CIRCLE OF DECEIT	Director: Volker Schlöndorff
1979	THE TIN DRUM	Director: Volker Schlöndorff

Hansjörg Weissbrich

Editor

Hansjörg Weissbrich started working with some of the most notable German directors in the mid-90ies. He won the German Film Award twice and received several other awards.

Weissbrich, born in 1967, studied Music and French as well as theatre, film and television in Duisburg and Bochum. In 1995, the young freelance editor met Hans-Christian Schmid. Since Schmid's feature film debut AFTER FIVE IN THE FOREST PRIMEVAL, Weissbrich has edited most of the director's films, including 23, CRAZY, DISTANT LIGHTS, REQUIEM and STORM, which won the German Film Award for Best Editing. Weissbrich received another German Film Award for Georg Maas' TWO LIVES.

In 1999, Weissbrich started his longstanding cooperation with Florian Gallenberger, for whom he edited the Academy Award®-winning short film „Quiero Ser“ and the feature films SHADOWS OF TIME and JOHN RABE. Other long-standing filmmaker companions are Marco Kreuzpaintner and Leander Haußmann. He edited Kreuzpaintner's TRADE, Leander Haußmann's HOTEL LUX and NVA and Marc Bauders's MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, which won the European Film Award for Best Documentary. Weissbrich's many other awards include the German Camera Award, the German Film Critics' Award and the German Television Award. Hansjörg Weissbrich is a member of German Film Academy and European Film Academy.

Filmography (selection):

2015	COLONIA	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2016	FRANCOFONIA	Director: Alexander Sokurov
2013	TWO LIVES	Director: Georg Maas
2013	NIGHT TRAIN TO LISBON	Director: Bille August
2011	HOTEL LUX	Director: Leander Haußmann
2009	JOHN RABE	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2009	STORM	Director: Hans-Christian Schmid
2008	KRABAT	Director: Marco Kreuzpaintner
2007	SEVEN DAYS SUNDAY	Director: Niels Laupert
2006	TRADE	Director: Marco Kreuzpaintner
2005	REQUIEM	Director: Hans-Christian Schmid
2004	SHADOWS OF TIME	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2004	SUMMER STORM	Director: Marco Kreuzpaintner
2003	DISTANT LIGHTS	Director: Hans-Christian Schmid
2003	SOLOALBUM	Director: Gregor Schnitzler
2001	WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE?	Director: Gregor Schnitzler
2000	CRAZY	Director: Hans-Christian Schmid
1999	QUIERO SER (short)	Director: Florian Gallenberger
1998	23	Director: Hans-Christian Schmid
1995	AFTER FIVE IN THE FOREST PRIMEVAL	Director: Hans-Christian Schmid

André Dziezuk

Composer

André Dziezuk is a French classically trained musician who studied musicology in Metz. Driven by an insatiable curiosity, Dziezuk explored a variety of different styles (classical music, jazz, electro, rock) and discovered his passion for teaching. He started to work in films in 1999 and has composed scores to more than 20 feature films so far, including AN AFFAIR OF LOVE, ILLÉGAL, BEFORE THE WINTER CHILL and SECRETS OF WAR.

Fernando Velázquez

Composer

Fernando Velázquez, born in 1976, studied composing in Madrid and Paris. He has been working as a film composer since the late 1990ies and earned international fame by his soundtrack for Juan Antonio Bayona's horror thriller THE ORPHANAGE. He received a nomination for the European Film Award and the Spanish Goya Film Award. A second Goya nomination honoured his music for Bayona's disaster drama THE IMPOSSIBLE, starring Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor. Additional film credits are Brett Ratner's heroic drama HERCULES, the horror thriller MAMA and the Spanish smash hit comedy OCHO APELLIDOS VASCOS.

Filmography (selection):

2015	COLONIA	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2015	OCHO APELLIDOS VASCOS	Director: Emilio Martínez Lázaro
2014	HERCULES	Director: Brett Ratner
2013	MAMA	Director: Andres Muschietti
2013	THE IMPOSSIBLE	Director: Juan Antonio Bayona
2011	DEVIL	Director: John Erick Dowdle
2008	THE ORPHANAGE	Director: Juan Antonio Bayona

Nicole Fischnaller

Costume Designer

Nicole Fischnaller is a highly respected German costume designer with an impressive breadth in her work, which has been nominated for the German Film Award.

Nicole Fischnaller, born in Saarlouis in 1964, finished her fashion design studies at the Vienna Fashion School with honours. She worked as a freelance designer, before she founded her own company perfect props in 1993. Seven years later she moved from Vienna to Berlin.

In 1996, Fischnaller started her long-time collaboration with director Stefan Ruzowitzky. She was responsible for the costumes in the horror film ANATOMY and its sequel ANATOMY 2, in THE INHERITORS and THE COUNTERFEITERS, which won the Academy Award® for Best Foreign Language Film and earned Fischnaller a nomination for the German Film Award.

She worked with Dani Levy on MY FÜHRER, with Sven Taddicken on 12 PACES WITHOUT A HEAD and with Achim von Borries on LOVE IN THOUGHTS and 4 DAYS IN MAY. Recently, she designed the costumes for Anton Corbijn's A MOST WANTED MAN with Philip Seymour Hoffman in his last starring role.

Filmography (selection):

2016	ALONE IN BERLIN	Director: Vincent Perez
2015	COLONIA	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2015	ME AND KAMINSKI	Director: Wolfgang Becker
2015	PUNK BERLIN 1982	Director: Oskar Roehler
2014	A MOST WANTED MAN	Director: Anton Corbijn
2011	4 DAYS IN MAY	Director: Achim von Borries
2009	12 PACES WITHOUT A HEAD	Director: Sven Taddicken
2008	THE COUNTERFEITERS	Director: Stefan Ruzowitzky
2007	MY FÜHRER	Director: Dani Levy
2004	LOVE IN THOUGHTS	Director: Achim von Borries
2003	ANATOMY 2	Director: Stefan Ruzowitzky
2002	BAADER	Director: Christopher Roth
2000	ANATOMY	Director: Stefan Ruzowitzky
1999	THE INHERITORS	Director: Stefan Ruzowitzky

Waldemar Pokromski
Makeup & Hair Designer

As a makeup artist Waldemar Pokromski worked with some of the greatest directors of our time and has received many awards.

Waldemar Pokromski was born in Breslau in 1946. One of his first jobs in Germany was Michael Verhoeven's KILLING CARS, starring Jürgen Prochnow, and ROSAMUNDE, starring Anica Dobra, Richy Müller and Jürgen Vogel. In 1993, Steven Spielberg hired him for the Polish part of the filming of SCHINDLER'S LIST. He was honoured with the British BAFTA Film Award and a member of the Academy Award®-nominated makeup team of the epic historical drama.

His other international credits include Peter Sehr's OBSESSION, starring Daniel Craig. He worked with Roman Polanski on THE NINTH GATE and THE PIANIST, which won three Academy Awards® in 2003 and numerous other awards. In 1997, Pokromski started his long time cooperation with Michael Haneke, including the films FUNNY GAMES, THE PIANO TEACHER, TIME OF THE WOLF and THE WHITE RIBBON. He also worked with Tom Tykwer several times, for example on THE PRINCESS AND THE WARRIOR, HEAVEN and PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER.

In 2010, Waldemar Pokromski received the first-ever German Film Award for best makeup, honouring his work on Michael Haneke's Oscar®-winning drama THE WHITE RIBBON. He was nominated for the European Film Award for Bernd Eichinger's THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX, directed by Uli Edel. He was nominated for another German Film Award for his makeup in Fatih Akin's THE CUT.

His other major film credits include the children's film MY MAGICAL FRIEND SAMS, Stephan Ruzowitzky's Academy Award®-winning drama THE COUNTERFEITERS, Andrzej Wajda's Academy Award®-nominated drama KATYN, Sherry Hormann's 3096, Katja von Garnier's WINDSTORM 2 and Oliver Stone's SNOWDEN which will be released in 2015.

Filmography (selection):

2015	COLONIA	Director: Florian Gallenberger
2015	SNOWDEN	Director: Oliver Stone
2014	THE CUT	Director: Fatih Akin
2013	3096	Director: Sherry Hormann
2009	THE WHITE RIBBON	Director: Michael Haneke
2008	THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX	Director: Uli Edel
2008	THE COUNTERFEITERS	Director: Stefan Ruzowitzky
2007	KATYN	Director: Andrzej Wajda
2006	PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER	Director: Tom Tykwer
2005	THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE	Director: Doris Dörrie
2004	TIME OF THE WOLF	Director: Michael Haneke
2002	THE PIANIST	Director: Roman Polanski
2001	THE PIANO TEACHER	Director: Michael Haneke
1999	THE NINTH GATE	Director: Roman Polanski
1997	OBSESSION	Director: Peter Sehr
1997	FUNNY GAMES	Director: Michael Haneke
1990	ROSAMUNDE	Director: Egon Günther
1986	KILLING CARS	Director: Michael Verhoeven

Carlo Thoss, Frank Kruse & Bruno Tarrière

Sound Recordist / Sound Designer / Sound Re-Recordist

The sound of COLONIA is composed by three accomplished experts in this field: Carlo Thoss was responsible for the production sound; he has worked on Sam Gabarski's VIJAY AND I (2013) and Franziska Buch's ADIEU PARIS (2013). Sound designer Frank Kruse has previously worked on Ron Howard's RUSH (2013) and IN THE HEART OF THE SEA (2015) and Tom Tykwer's PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER (2006), for which he won a German Film Award for Best Sound. All the sound layers were finally brought together by re-recording mixer Bruno Tarrière. He has won three Césars in the Best Sound category: for Luc Besson's LÉON – THE PROFESSIONAL (1995) and THE MESSENGER: THE STORY OF JOAN OF ARC (1999) as well as for Radu Mihaileanu's LE CONCERT (2009).

Nicolas Steil, IRIS Productions

Co-Producer

Iris spearheads several production and distribution entities in Luxembourg, France, Germany, Belgium and the UK. Iris Group's track record includes several Cannes selections such as Directors' Fortnight's TIP TOP and ILLEGAL or Critic's Week's MADDENED BY HER ABSENCE, as well as upcoming Terence Davies' SUNSET SONG, selected at TIFF and San Sebastian in official selection.

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