



presents

The STORY of MIKE TYSON.  
Not the boxes, a different one.

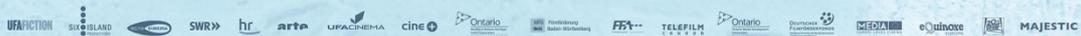


# COCONUT HERO



A Film by FLORIAN COSSEN and ELENA VON SAUCKEN

BETA CINEMA PRESENTS AN UFA FICTION AND SIX ISLAND PRODUCTIONS PRODUCTION IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH SWR, HR, ARTE AND UFA CINEMA - CINE PLUS FILMPRODUCTION  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH BETA CINEMA. "COCONUT HERO" ALEX OZEROV BEA SANTOS KRISTA BRIDGES SEBASTIAN SCHIPPER UDO KIER  
SOUND DAVID OTTIER MAKE UP JESSICA PANETTA COSTUME DESIGNER BRENDA BROEK SET DESIGNER NAZGOL GOSHTASPOUR SOUND DESIGNER RAINER HEESCH WITH TOBIAS FLEIG  
MUSIC MATTHIAS KLEIN CASTING JOHN RUCHAN C.S.A. JASON KNIGHT C.S.A. SIMONE BAR WITTMANN PHILIPP THOMAS HIS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BRENDAN STENY CSE  
COMMISSIONING EDITORS BRIGITTE DITTHARD BARBARA HÄBE JÖRG HINSTEDE CO-PRODUCERS WOLF BAUER SIDNEY CHIU FRANK EVERS HELGHE NEURÖNNER JÖRG SCHULZE  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MICHAEL JUNGFLEISCH PRODUCED BY PAUL SCHERZER FABIAN MAUBACH JÖCHEN LAUBE WRITTEN BY ELENA VON SAUCKEN DIRECTED BY FLORIAN COSSEN  
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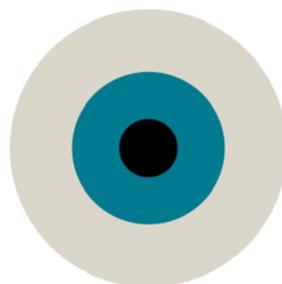
# COCONUT HERO

A Film by  
**Florian Cossen and Elena von Saucken**

Starring  
**Alex Ozerov, Bea Santos, Krista Bridges, Sebastian Schipper**

Produced by  
**UFA Fiction and Six Island Productions**  
in cooperation with **SWR, Arte and HR**

Produced with the participation of  
**Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Cooperation**  
**MFG Film Funding Baden-Württemberg**  
**FFA German Federal Film Board**  
**Telefilm Canada**  
**Ontario Media Development Cooperation**



**Festival Internacional  
de Cine de Gijón**

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



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### **CAST**

Mike	Alex Ozerov
Miranda	Bea Santos
Cynthia, Mike's Mother	Krista Bridges
Frank, Mike's Father	Sebastian Schipper
Priest	Jim Annan
Funeral Director	R.D. Reid
Steven, Social worker	David Tompa
Physician	Jeff Clarke
Therapist Mr. Morrow	Udo Kier

### **CREW**

Director	Florian Cossen
Screenplay	Elena von Saucken
Production	UFA Fiction – Jochen Laube & Fabian Maubach Six Island Productions – Paul Scherzer
Camera	Brendan Steacy
Editing	Philipp Thomas
Soundtrack	Matthias Klein
Costumes	Brenda Broer
Art Direction	Nazgol Goshtasbpour

### **TECHNICAL DATA**

Germany/Canada 2015  
Running time: ca. 101 minutes  
Aspect: 2:35 Cinemascope  
Sound: Dolby Digital 5.1

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## LOGLINE

A kid with a death wish gets a brain tumour. Now he has something to live for!

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

The story of Mike Tyson. Not the boxer, a different one.

Abandoned by his father at an early age and the butt of abuse at his school in a sleepy northern Ontario logging town, 16 year-old Mike Tyson (a name that's just one of his many problems) is determined to leave his messed-up life permanently. However, his suicide attempts have met with utter failure. When Mike learns he's got a fatal brain tumour requiring immediate surgery, he considers it an answer to his prayers. Keeping his condition a secret from everyone – in particular his overbearing mother, Cynthia – Mike waits for nature to run its course. However, when he is befriended by newcomer Miranda, the first person to truly understand him, slowly but surely Mike develops an entirely new wish...

## PRESS NOTES

COCONUT HERO stars the up-and-coming young Canadian actor **Alex Ozerov** in the lead role of troubled teen Mike Tyson, with **Krista Bridges** as the annoyingly energetic mother Cynthia, and rounded out by **Sebastian Schipper** playing the absentee father Frank, and **Bea Santos**, the angelic love interest Miranda.

The indie comedy about a pact with death is directed by **Florian Cossen** from a script by **Elena von Saucken**. **Jochen Laube**, **Fabian Maubach** and **Paul Scherzer** produce.

COCONUT HERO is a Canada-Germany co-production between Six Island Productions (Canada) and UFA Fiction (Germany), in cooperation with SWR, Arte and HR, subsidized with funds from Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg, FFA, DFFF, as well as the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the Ontario Media Development Corporation and Telefilm Canada.

### Mike Tyson

We say goodbye to our son and classmate. A flower that should never have been planted, is now taken back by the earth.

Rest in peace, flower.

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## LONG SYNOPSIS

This is the story of Mike Tyson. Not the boxer. A different one.

Mike Tyson is 16 ½ years old and lives with his overbearing mother in Faintville, a small crappy town in the wilds of northern Canada. His single greatest wish is to be dead.

One afternoon, after many failed attempts, Mike finally gets serious. After writing his obituary for the local newspaper, Mike digs out an old hunting rifle left by his absentee dad and shoots himself in the head.

To his great dismay, Mike wakes up in the local hospital. Turns out his inexperience with guns led him to confuse blanks for bullets, and his quest is thwarted yet again.

While still in the hospital, however, Mike's luck miraculously changes. Answering his prayers, Mike's doctor finds a lethal walnut-sized malignant brain tumour. Realizing he no longer has to finish the job himself, the fatal news cheers Mike up immediately. Provided Mike can keep his diagnosis secret from his mother and avoid a life-saving surgical operation, his own demise is in the bag!

With the pressure of killing himself off, Mike's outlook on life changes dramatically and, so does his life. Having read the obituary, Mike's absentee father re-emerges and wants to be in his life. Even better, Mike gets to know Miranda, the new girl in town, who teaches him how to drive a car, bury a deer, and kiss a girl.

When Mike finally decides to call off his deal with death, things get out of control. Once you've been blessed by a wish granted, is it ever possible to take the wish back?

*COCONUT HERO is a celebration of life, for all of us who tend to forget that it's only passing.*

## PRODUCTION NOTES

After the success of their debut feature *The Day I Was Not Born*, starring Jessica Schwarz and Michael Gwisdek, director Florian Cossen and scriptwriter Elena Von Saucken decided their second feature would be a comedy.

Comedic inspiration came from an unusual source. "I read about a teenager who attempted to commit suicide, and failed," recalls Von Saucken. "An image came to me of this poor kid who, after really trying hard to kill himself, wakes up in what he takes to be a rather dingy version of heaven... only to realize that he's actually in a run-down hospital, and very much alive."

Von Saucken approached Cossen, her partner both in life and creative ventures, with this morbid yet outrageously funny image. Cossen saw the comedic possibilities immediately and urged her to start work on the first draft of what would become *COCONUT HERO*.

The filmmaking duo's first order of business was to make their young hero sympathetic, so they envisioned a cute, nerdy adolescent character: an only child with an over-bearing single mother and an absentee father. But how to justify his strong desire to kill himself? Giving their skinny white kid the name of a violent black heavy-weight boxer – a name ripe for picking on – would only go so far. So the pair decided to place Mike Tyson in as remote and crappy a town as they could find – the kind of place that would make anybody living there want to kill themselves. At first they searched their

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native Germany for such a place, but found that even in the middle of the Schwarzwald you were only minutes away from fast and efficient transportation to an urban oasis. So the duo was forced to search much further afield.

The son of a diplomat, director Cossen had spent much of his youth living in Israel, Argentina and Canada, and considered each country in turn. Ruling out Argentina (they had shot their last film there), and Israel (where suicide stories take on an entirely different connotation), the pair settled for Canada and its endless tracts of desolate wilderness.

Starting in the director's old stomping grounds of Montreal, Cossen and Von Saucken embarked on an odyssey across northern Quebec and Ontario. Thousands of kilometres later, fearful they would reach the open prairies of Manitoba empty handed, the intrepid duo turned off the highway northeast of Thunderbay and came upon a hidden gem: Geraldton, population 2000. Its near complete isolation offered a host of creative possibilities, ideal for the story they had in mind.

With a location in mind and a draft of the script in hand, Cossen and Von Saucken, and their producers Jochen Laube and Fabian Maubach (*The Day I Was Not Born*) found themselves at the 2012 Berlinale Co-Production Market. Their aim there was to meet as many Canadian producers as possible in the search for a co-production partner. Leaving no stone unturned, the team would later attend both Cannes and the Toronto International Film Festival with the same goal in mind. Over the course of nine months, Cossen and the German producers held meetings and repeat meetings with a long list of Canadian producers before finding the right match with veteran producer Paul Scherzer. He had fallen in love with their previous film; and easily connected to the new script's mix of arthouse and commercial qualities. Scherzer found it easy to say "yes" to the German filmmakers' offer to join the team. The newly expanded international co-production team lost no time in working together on subsequent drafts of the script.

While many details of the script changed; the title COCONUT HERO remained. Cossen explains, "The first draft had numerous coconut references, including a coconut-themed song that was finally replaced with the Dead Dear ukulele number in the film. Each new draft reduced the number of references until only a few remained. We tried but no other title resonated for us." The other options were either not playful enough (like "Dead is dead", more befitting a slasher flick than a comedy) or simply too much alliteration ("Dead Deer Don't Dance"). They finally decided that a story about a suicidal adolescent named Mike Tyson deserved something memorable and heroic, and the name stuck.

With a completed script, it was time for the filmmakers to make critical creative and budgetary decisions. Cossen and Von Saucken were convinced that shooting in Geraldton was a viable creative choice. "They wanted to shoot in the town that had inspired them," recalls Scherzer. Initially the producers were not convinced. "Geraldton is such an isolated place that we were concerned about having access to crews and equipment and what it would mean both logistically and financially," continues Scherzer. However Cossen and Von Saucken were undeterred. Scherzer, Laube and Maubach were eventually persuaded and the process to secure financing began.

Convinced by the story's charm, distributors and funders in Canada and Germany were quick to come on board to support the project. With funds secured, pre-production began in late summer 2013. Up-and-comer Alex Ozerov was cast for the role of Mike Tyson. Locations were being secured. Costumes were being sourced and created. And then everything changed. The Fremantle-owned studio UFA took over the production company Laube and Maubach worked for, causing a delay as the paperwork was revised.

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The ripples were immediate. The story COCONUT HERO tells is set in summer, and needed to be shot during that season. Shooting so far north in Geraldton in late summer meant a good chance of snow on the ground. The filmmakers couldn't postpone for a few weeks and still hope to shoot a summer movie. They made the difficult choice and put the project on hiatus for a year. While disappointing in the short term, a silver lining soon appeared. Scherzer was able to raise more funds in Canada, as both the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and Telefilm supplied crucial additional financing.

So in the summer of 2014, the production team began preparations again but with one significant change – the filmmakers chose to shoot in northern Ontario instead of Toronto. And so the schedule was set: five weeks in Sault Ste. Marie, followed by a week in the distant village of Geraldton - the little town that had inspired it all.

While attempts were made to keep as many of the original 2013 cast as possible, the filmmakers had to recast the key role of Miranda with Bea Santos. Udo Kier came on board for a cameo role of the therapist, Mr. Morrow. However, the filmmakers' biggest concern was with their lead actor. When first cast, Alex Ozerov was a 21-year-old playing 16. A year later, at 22, could he still believably play the scrawny 110-lb Mike Tyson – a kid so pathetic, children 5 years his junior bully him? Fortunately for them, Ozerov hadn't changed drastically. That's not to say there weren't adjustments to be made. "Underneath that loose-fitting wardrobe there's a very athletic and toned young man," explains Scherzer. "So in the skinny-dipping scene with Miranda and Mike, we absolutely had to avoid showing Alex's six-pack."

The Canadians knew that scheduling a skinny dipping scene in northern Ontario late in the summer would be tempting fate, so they made sure that it was as early in the schedule as possible. For a variety of logistical reasons, they were unable to do the same with the Geraldton portion of the shoot. Seeing an opportunity, Mother Nature decided to get in on the act and thwart production's plans to shoot the set piece of the show – the main street cycling scene.

Cast and crew awoke on the morning of September 17<sup>th</sup> to a full 4 inches of the white fluffy stuff! Who do you call when you're in a small town and need to get rid of snow mid-September? The Volunteer Fire Department came to the rescue. "In no time those delightful fellows hosed down all the streets and the buildings, enabling us to shoot that afternoon, and saving our butts in the process," recalls director Florian Cossen.

Cossen credits cinematographer Brendan Steacy for his collaborative approach to the film. As with the search for a Canadian producer, Cossen scoured an exhaustive list of Canadian films to find the right person. He came across *Small Town Murder Songs* and instinctively knew he had found the right person. There was an instant connection when they finally met to discuss the project – a connection that shows in the finished work.

So in spite of the weather, the isolated location and corporate delays, like its protagonist, the production of COCONUT HERO was able to beat the odds and emerge a winner. "I believe audiences will easily embrace the wacky, the random and the unexpected," says Scherzer. "After all, that's how life is."

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## ON CAMERA

### Alex Ozerov as Mike Tyson

Born in Russia, Alex Ozerov came to Canada with his mother in 2004, aged 13, after his parents' divorce. During his time at school he already took theatre classes. In addition to acting, he was fascinated by other stage crafts, like magic and acrobatics. With the help of online videos he taught himself juggling and card tricks, training to perfection, so that by 16 he could start making money busking magic on the street. For Ozerov magic means making people believe in the unimaginable again.

In 2008 Ozerov started taking private lessons for film and television with actor and filmmaker Walter Alza in Toronto. Ozerov gave his first performance in the TV version of Jodi Picoult's bestseller "Salem Falls" with DAWSON'S CREEK star James Van Der Beek in the leading role, followed by guest parts in several TV series like TRANSPORTER (2012), ROOKIE BLUE (2013), CRACKED (2013) and ORPHAN BLACK (2014). Alex Ozerov's feature debut came in the highly praised indie drama BLACKBIRD (2012) by Jason Buxton, where he took on the antagonist lead role of violent prison inmate Trevor, who tortures his cell neighbour with sadistic glee. The film received the award for Best Canadian First Feature Film at the Toronto International Film Festival 2012 and a further five awards at other festivals, including the Claude Jutra Award as Best First Feature Film at the Canada Screen Awards 2013, the Canadian Academy awards.

This was followed by parts in cinematic features MOLLY MAXWELL (2014) and Canadian drama WHAT WE HAVE by Maxime Desmons, playing a student who feels himself attracted to a gay teacher.

COCONUT HERO is Ozerov's first international co-production. In Canada he can be seen in three more films on the big screen this year: the drama NATASHA, the gloomy fantasy/horror movie THE DARK STRANGER and in A CHRISTMAS HORROR STORY, the latest horror movie from the creators of the successful GINGER SNAPS series.

### Filmography (a selection):

2015	COCONUT HERO NATASHA THE DARK STRANGER A CHRISTMAS STORY	Director: Florian Cossen Director: David Bezmozgis Director: Chris Trebilcock Director: Grant Harvey / Steven Hoban / Brett Sullivan
2014	WHAT WE HAVE MOLLY MAXWELL	Director: Maxime Desmons Director: Sara St. Onge
2012	BLACKBIRD	Director: Jason Buxton

### Bea Santos as Miranda

Bea was born in Huntsville, Ontario, a Muskokan cottage town 2.5 hours north of Toronto, to her mother, a painter from Madrid, Spain and her father, a fifth generation Huntsvillian

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who was active in the town's community theatre scene. By their example, Bea was encouraged to pursue art from birth and made her theatre debut at the age of four. From then she averaged two plays a year until the age of sixteen when she went into boarding at Trinity College School with a focus on its rich theatre program.

Bea attended McGill University in Montreal where she studied literature and art history while staying active as a director and actress in two of the university's theatre companies throughout her degree. She moved to Toronto to pursue a film career full time upon graduation.

Bea focuses on telling meaningful stories on screen through captivating and realistic characters. Some of her favourite film credits so far include: REIGN in which she plays a sadistic teenage Queen Bee who becomes the target of a school shooting, the leading role in MILK & HONEY as a young woman contemplating leaving her manipulative polygamous cult, the leading role in WORLD AWAY which follows an astrophysicist on her last days on earth before leaving on a one-way trip to colonize Mars and the leading role in IRIS in which she plays a girl with Asperger's who can see magical worlds in different dimensions.

#### Filmography (a selection):

2015	COCONUT HERO	Director: Florian Cossen
	GOD & COUNTRY	Director: Ken Finkleman
2014	Q <small>(short film)</small>	Director: Tom Vujcic
	MILK AND HONEY <small>(short film)</small>	Director: Thomas Pepper
	IRIS <small>(short film)</small>	Director: Simone Stock

#### Sebastian Schipper as Frank

Born in Hanover in 1968, actor, director, scriptwriter and producer Sebastian Schipper, after graduating from high school, studied acting at the Otto Falckenberg Schule in Munich from 1992 to 1995. During his studies he worked at the Münchner Kammerspiele and early in his studies gave his first cinematic performance in Sönke Wortmann's KLEINE HAIE (1992). After his studies, further supporting parts followed in the films WINTER SLEEPERS (1997) and RUN LOLA RUN (1999) by Tom Tykwer. In the international production THE ENGLISH PATIENT (1997) Schipper could be seen as a German soldier. Two years later, he made his debut as scriptwriter and film director with GIGANTICS. This comedy starring Frank Giering, Florian Lukas and Antoine Monot Jr. turned into a cult movie, not least because of the famous foosball sequence, and is highly decorated, among others with the German Film Award in Silver. After further parts in films like Tom Tykwer's THE PRINCESS & THE WARRIOR (2000), boxing drama ELEFANTENHERZ (2003) by Züli Aladağ and Marco Kreuzpaintner's GANZ UND GAR (2003), he brought his second big film as director and scriptwriter,

A FRIEND OF MINE (2006), on the cinema screens. In this character study the friendship of two dissimilar men (Daniel Brühl and Jürgen Vogel) is put to the test by the love for the same woman (Sabine Timoteo). He made his third feature with Marie Bäumer and Milan Peschel: MITTE ENDE AUGUST. This interpretation of Goethe's *Wahlverwandtschaften* had its première at the Berlinale 2009. The following years, he concentrated on acting, and was nominated for the Preis der deutschen

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Filmkritik for his unusual role in Tom Tykwer's 3 (2010), about a love triangle. In LUDWIG II. (2012) he played the eponymous king in his later years. Since 2013, Schipper has been playing best friend and ex-colleague of the inspector, played by Wotan Wilke Möhring, in the Hamburg „Tatort“ episodes. At the Filmfest Hamburg 2014 the film I AM HERE had its première In this Zentropa-produced thriller about the illegal trafficking of babies, Schipper plays an important supporting role next to Kim Basinger. This film will hit theatres this year, just like VICTORIA, his highly praised contribution to the 65. Berlinale, where he did not only work as director and scriptwriter, but for the first time as producer as well. This mixture of thriller and romance, filmed in only one take, tells the story of Spanish woman Victoria (Laila Costa), who in the search for acquaintances in the Berlin nightlife gets herself involved in a bank robbery, with Frederick Lau, Burak Yiğit, Franz Rogowski and Max Mauff in the other leading roles.

#### Filmography as actor (a selection):

2015	COCONUT HERO I AM HERE	Director: Florian Cossen Director: Anders Morgenthaler
2012	LUDWIG II.	Director: Peter Sehr / Marie Noelle
2010	3	Director: Tom Tykwer
2003	GANZ UND GAR ELEFANTENHERZ	Director: Marco Kreuzpaintner Director: Züli Aladağ
2000	THE PRINCESS & THE WARRIOR	Director: Tom Tykwer
1999	RUN LOLA RUN	Director: Tom Tykwer
1997	THE ENGLISH PATIENT WINTER SLEEPERS	Director: Anthony Minghella Director: Tom Tykwer
1992	KLEINE HAIE	Director: Sönke Wortmann

#### Filmography as director:

2015	VICTORIA	Director, Screenplay und Production
2009	MITTE ENDE AUGUST	Director, Screenplay
2006	A FRIEND OF MINE	Director, Screenplay
1999	GIGANTICS	Director, Screenplay

## BEHIND CAMERA

### Florian Cossen – Director

### Elena von Saucken – Screenplay

**Florian Cossen** was born in Tel Aviv in 1979 and subsequently, as the son of a German diplomat, grew up in Israel, Canada, Spain and Germany. From 2002 to 2009 he studied directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg. A scholarship led Cossen to the UCLA in Los Angeles in 2006 and to the Universidad del Cine in Buenos Aires, where he was inspired to his thesis film THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN. An extensive research followed, which led to his first feature film, made in collaboration with Elena von Saucken.

**Elena von Saucken** was born in Munich. After her diploma in media development, she was a participant of the productions masters ‚L’Atelier‘ at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg and the Femis in Paris in 2004/2005. After that she produced, among others, the short film „Polar“ by director Michael Koch, which won the German Film Award in Gold for the best short

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film in 2009. Her debut as a scriptwriter was the 2010 drama THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN co-written with Florian Cossen. As a scholarship holder of the Script Workshop of University of Television and Film Munich and with support from the Equinoxe script workshop, their joint follow-up project COCONUT HERO was developed, which at the Filmfest Munich 2011 was awarded the Tankred-Dorst-Award.

COCONUT HERO is Florian Cossen's & Elena von Saucken's second feature film after their joint debut, highly decorated drama THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN. The film, based in Buenos Aires, starring Jessica Schwarz and Michael Gwisdek, was honoured, among many other awards, with two German Film Awards in 2011, for Best Supporting Actress and Best Original Score. Florian Cossen himself was furthermore nominated in the Best Director category, as was cinematographer Matthias Fleischer in the Best Camera category. THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN was, as now COCONUT HERO, produced by Jochen Laube and Fabian Maubach.

At present, Cossen and von Saucken are developing, with Katrin Götter at Real Film, the idea for Munich-based series "Stairs", which at the Filmfest Munich 2014 had already been presented with the Racconti#3 Development Award of the BLS Südtirol. Cossen and von Saucken would like to realize their next project abroad again, if possible. The ideas for that abound, for the world is big and full of stories.

#### **Filmography:**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2015 | COCONUT HERO<br>Tankred-Dorst Award Munich 2011  |
| 2010 | THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN<br>FIPRESCI Award World Film Festival Montreal 2010<br>Audience Award World Film Festival Montreal 2010<br>"Goldenes Auge" for the Best German Language Film IFF Zürich 2010<br>Eastman Award Hofer Filmtage 2010<br>Best First Feature Award Film Festival Biberach 2010<br>Best Camera Bavarian Film Award 2011 |

#### **Jochen Laube – Producer**

Jochen Laube was born in Ludwigsburg in 1978. After graduating from high school he worked as production and floor manager for numerous film productions until he began to study production at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in the year 2000. He earned his diploma in 2005 as producer of the film URLAUB VOM LEBEN, starring Meret Becker, which came to theatres in 2006 and was awarded the Studio Hamburg Newcomer Award in the Best Feature category. In the same year, Laube founded the production company sommerhaus filmproduktionen, which he used to produce films like the twice German Film Award-nominated feature by Christian Schwochow, NOVEMBER CHILD, as well as the Grimme-Preis-awarded documentary "Sonbol – Rallye durch den Gottesstaat" by Niko Apel, or DIE HAUSHALTSHILFE, which was awarded the Lola of German Shortfilm Award.

From 2008 on, Jochen Laube worked as producer for UFA subsidiary teamWorx, managing their Ludwigsburg office. The films created there received numerous national and international accolades. THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN by Florian Cossen was awarded among others with the German Film Award 2011 in two categories and the Bavarian Film Award 2011. DIE UNSICHTBARE, Christian Schwochow's second feature film, was awarded a Lola at the German Film Award 2012 and twice

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decorated at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. They were followed by 3 ZIMMER/KÜCHE/BAD (2012) and two films which were highly decorated at the Filmfestival Max Ophüls Award, TRANSPAPA (2012) about a transsexual family man, played by Devid Striesow and 5 YEARS (2013), a reworking of the incarceration of ex-Guantanamo prisoner Murat Kurnaz, played by Sascha Alexander Gersak, who was nominated in this part for the German Film Award in the Best Leading Actor category. Jochen Laube was, in May 2013, German “producer on the move” of the eponymous programme within the Cannes Film Festival.

In the same year, the UFA united its subsidiaries teamWorx, Phoenix Film and UFA Fernsehproduktion under the roof of new company UFA Fiction. Jochen Laube's first production under the label of UFA Fiction was STATIONS OF THE CROSS by Dietrich Brüggemann, which in 2013 at the 64. Berlinale was awarded the Silver Bear for the best script (Dietrich and Anna Brüggemann) and the Wettbewerbspreis der Ökumenischen Jury. His theatrical feature WE ARE YOUNG. WE ARE STRONG, about the events of the incendiary night in Rostock-Lichtenhagen was the opening film in 2014 of the 48. Hof International Film Festival and is nominated in three categories for the German Film Award 2015. At present, Jochen Laube is working on the film of Hape Kerkeling's bestselling book ICH BIN DANN MAL WEG, the film version of Sarah Kuttner's bestseller MÄNGELEXEMPLAR and the documentary BECKENBAUER for the 70. birthday of the “Kaiser”.

#### Filmography (a selection):

2015	MÄNGELEXEMPLAR	Regie: Laura Lackmann
	COCONUT HERO	Regie: Florian Cossen
	WE ARE YOUNG. WE ARE STRONG.	Regie: Burhan Qurbani
2014	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	Regie: Dietrich Brüggemann
2013	FIVE YEARS	Regie: Stefan Schaller
2012	TRANSPAPA	Regie: Sarah-Judith Mettke
	3 ZIMMER/KÜCHE/BAD	Regie: Dietrich Brüggemann
	DIE UNSICHTBARE	Regie: Christian Schwochow
2010	THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN	Regie: Florian Cossen
2008	NOVEMBER CHILD	Regie: Christian Schwochow
2006	URLAUB VOM LEBEN	Regie: Neele Leana Vollmar

#### Fabian Maubach – Producer

Fabian Maubach was born in Cologne in 1980, and like Jochen Laube is an alumnus of the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. His thesis film THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN (2010) was filmed entirely in Buenos Aires and decorated with numerous national and international awards. From 2009 on, Fabian Maubach worked alongside Jochen Laube for teamWorx Ludwigsburg. There he served as producer for, among others, Dietrich Brüggemann's 3 ZIMMER/KÜCHE/BAD (2012) and DIE UNSICHTBARE (2012) by Christian Schwochow, as well as the feature FIVE YEARS (2013), awarded the Thomas-Strittmatter Screenplay Award, about Guantanamo prisoner Murat Kurnaz. Also together with Jochen Laube, he produced for the UFA Fiction (after the merger of the UFA subsidiaries) the Berlinale competition entry STATIONS OF THE CROSS (2014) by Dietrich Brüggemann, which in 14 takes follows a 14-year-old girl with a strict catholic upbringing, as she lives through the 14 stations of the cross in her constricted everyday life. On COCONUT HERO, his first international production, Fabian Maubach shares the responsibility with Jochen Laube as co-producer. In 2015 the two will go freelance with their production company sommerhaus filmproduktionen.

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**Filmography** (a selection):

2015	COCONUT HERO	Director: Florian Cossen
2014	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	Director: Dietrich Brüggemann
2013	FIVE YEARS	Director: Stefan Schaller
2012	3 ZIMMER/KÜCHE/BAD	Director: Dietrich Brüggemann
	DIE UNSICHTBARE	Director: Christian Schwochow
2010	THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN	Director: Florian Cossen

**Paul Scherzer – Producer**

Since 1998 Paul Scherzer has produced award-winning dramatic features, documentaries and transmedia projects playing festivals from Toronto to Cannes, Sundance to Busan and selling into all markets.

Features include the Locarno Golden Leopard winner THITHI by Raam Reddy, the Cannes ACID Opening Night film CHALLAT OF TUNIS by Kaouther Ben Hania, the Germany-Canada comedy COCONUT HERO by Florian Cossen, the ensemble improv A WAKE by Penelope Buitenhuis, the multi-culti rom-com SABAH by Ruba Nadda and EP Atom Egoyan, the award-winning festival fave KHALED by Asghar Massombagi, and the best-director title NO MORE MONKEYS by Ross Weber.

Theatrical documentaries include Hot Docs Gala Opening Night film THE MANOR, the Karlovy Vary official competition selection 23 KILOMETRES, the Denmark-Canada co-pro DISPORTRAIT, the Lebanon-Canada co-pros GATE#5 and ANJAR, the social issue docs TROUBLE IN THE PEACE and LAND, and the Sundance favorite MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES.

Prior to founding Six Island Productions, Paul lived in Scotland, Japan, Spain and Australia. He is a graduate of the Canadian Film Centre established by Norman Jewison, a TIFF STUDIO alumnus, a former employee of Telefilm and the NFB, and a member of the CMPA, ACCT and ACE.

**Filmography** (a selection):

2015	COCONUT HERO	Director Florian Cossen
2015	THITHI	Director Raam Reddy
2015	23 KILOMETRES	Director Noura Kevorkian
2014	THE CHALLAT OF TUNIS	Director Kaouther Ben Hania
2014	DISPORTRAIT	Director Alejandro Alvarez & Ulrik Wivel
2013	THE MANOR	Director Shawney Cohen
2013	TROUBLE IN THE PEACE	Director: Julian Pinder

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## Matthias Klein – Soundtrack

Composer Matthias Klein, born in Tübingen in 1978, has for many years been successfully writing and producing scores for film, television and theatre. He lives and works in Berlin.

Klein completed his MA in music at the Hochschule für darstellende Kunst und Musik in Stuttgart, and subsequently studied film composition at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg. Ever since he has been writing musical scores for several features and documentaries and also serves as a stage musician in diverse formations and theatres. Together with theatre director Christian Brey he worked on the Staatstheater Stuttgart productions »Dancer in the Dark« (2013), »Ab jetzt« (2011), »Volpone« (2010) and »Der Prinz von Dänemark – Ein Hamlet-Musical« (2008).

### Filmography (a selection):

2015	COCONUT HERO	Director: Florian Cossen
2014	DIE SPIEGEL-AFFÄRE	Director: Roland Suso Richter
2011	EINER WIE BRUNO	Director: Anja Jacobs
2010	CINDY LIEBT MICH NICHT	Director: Hannah Schweier
2010	THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN	Director: Florian Cossen
2008	TEENAGE ANGST	Director: Thomas Stuber

## UFA FICTION

UFA FICTION is one of the most important German production companies and offers a variety of formats. The company successfully produces series, TV movies, event movies as well as films. The board of directors consists of Nico Hofmann (Chairman of the Board), Joachim Kosack and Markus Brunnemann.

The company is a unique leader in the German film and television market, offering a remarkable portfolio of films and series which have strongly influenced the German production landscape. Along with many national and international awards, last year the WWII drama "Generation War" won the International Emmy for Best Mini-series. It was sold in over 150 territories.

Among other successful films and TV series such as DANNI LOWINSKI, MOGADISCHU WELCOME, DRESDEN – THE INFERNO, THE WOMAN FROM CHECKPOINT CHARLIE, 12 HEISST: ICH LIEBE DICH, MARCH OF MILLIONS, THE TOWER, OPEN THE GATE, NAKED AMONG WOLVES and THE PHYSICIAN, starring Tom Payne, Stellan Skarsgård and Sir Ben Kingsley, UFA Fiction is producing the domestic crime procedurals BELLA BLOCK, DONNA LEON and SOKO LEIPZIG. Four UFA FICTION productions premiered in the "New German television" section at this year's Munich Film Festival in June: the coming of age story SHED MY SKIN as well as the television dramas FAMILY PARTY, DOUBT AND SILVIA S. – BLIND RAGE. Furthermore, the film COCONUT HERO had its premiere in the "New German cinema" section of the festival. The eight-part series DEUTSCHLAND 83 which takes place in cold war Berlin of the 1980s is the first German-language drama ever to be aired on a US Television Network and had its premiere at SundanceTV in June. It was sold to several European TV stations and will be aired in Germany on RTL this fall. On the occasion of Franz Beckenbauer's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday the documentary BECKENBAUER will be aired this fall as well as the satire THE UDO HONIG STORY. Currently in production for the big screen are adaptations of MÄNGELEXEMPLAR based on the best-selling novel by German author and presenter Sarah Kuttner and ICH BIN DANN MAL WEG based on Hape Kerkeling's novel about his pilgrimage of the way of St James. Currently in preparation are the mini-series KU'DAMM 56 and CHARITÉ as well as LANDGERICHT a film based on the award-winning novel by Ursula Krechel.

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UFA FICTION has been supporting young talents in film and television for years. Since 1995 Nico Hofmann has regularly lectured at the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg. He and Bernd Eichinger established the German newcomer award FIRST STEPS, today's most important distinction for young filmmakers. Since 2005, Joachim Kosack has presided over the department "series producing and storytelling" at the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg, where he started lecturing in 2002. Markus Brunnemann has established the course of lectures "creative series production" at the Film Academy.

## **SIX ISLAND PRODUCTIONS**

Founded by producer Paul Scherzer in 2000, Six Island has produced international award-winning feature films and dramas, including THITHI (Golden Leopard Locarno), CHALLAT OF TUNIS (Opening Night Film Cannes Film Festival L'ACID, Official Competition Dubai, San Sebastian), KHALED (Canada's Top 10, Toronto International FIPRESCI, Karlovy Vary Best Director), the improv ensemble piece A WAKE (Cannes Perspectives Canada, DGC Awards Best Direction/Best Picture Editing), SABAH (Dir: Ruba Nadda [Cairo Time], EP Atom Egoyan), NO MORE MONKEYS JUMPIN' ON THE BED (Best Director Vancouver International), along with two TV dramas for Canada's CityTV.

In factual programming, Six Island produced the feature documentaries THE MANOR (Gala Opening Night Hot Docs, Official Competition Karlovy Vary), 23 KILOMETRES (Official Competition Karlovy Vary), MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES (Sundance, Toronto International, Rotterdam), DISPORTRAIT (CPH:DOX), TROUBLE IN THE PEACE (Cannes Cross Media, Hot Docs Doc Soup), GATE #5 (Official Competition Dubai, Edinburgh), LAND (Hot Docs, Official Competition Santa Barbara) and ANJAR (DocuDays). For TV Six Island also produced the world's first enviro-reality series CODE GREEN for the CBC and the 13-part documentary series URBAN NITES for CTV.

In digital media, Six Island produced the ethical video game Pipe Trouble (SXSW, Cannes Cross Media, GDC San Francisco and Games for Change NYC) developed for tablet and mobile that takes a satirical look at the gas extraction industry.

The team at Six Island has worked with such renowned companies as Cinetic (US), Beta Cinema (DE), Celluloid Dreams (FR), UFA Fiction (DE), Zeitgeist (US), Films Distribution (FR), the Sundance Channel, Tribeca Film Institute (US), ARTE (FR) and the National Film Board of Canada.

## **WORLD SALES – BETA CINEMA**

World sales and co-financing company Beta Cinema has established itself as a "boutique-operation" for quality feature films that combine commercial viability with artistic integrity. Prime examples are Oscar winners and worldwide B.O. hits like THE LIVES OF OTHERS, IL DIVO, MONGOL and DOWNFALL.

Current highlights include Oliver Hirschbiegel's widely sold thematic follow-up, 13 MINUTES, and the Emma Watson, Daniel Brühl, Mikael Nyqvist thriller COLONIA.

### **For further Information:**

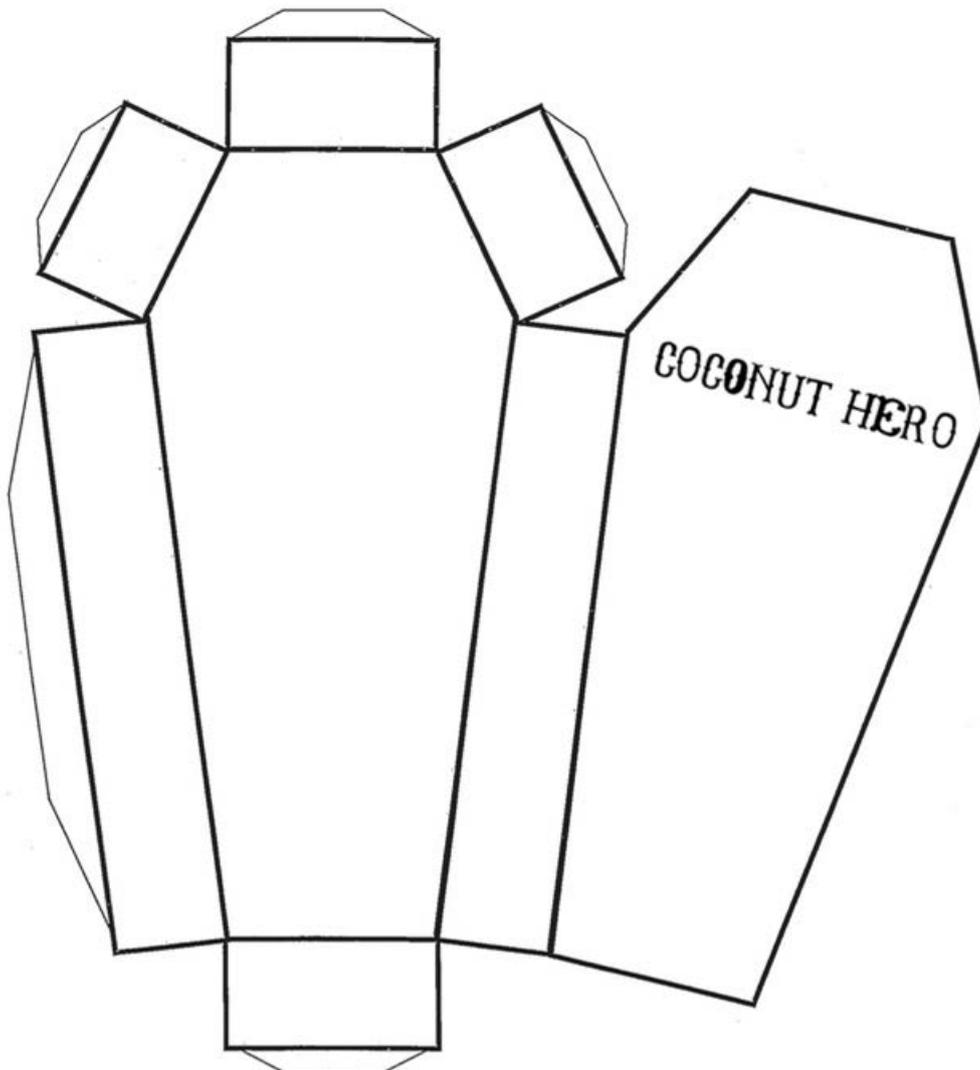
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## BONUS

Build your own coffin (Economy version)

1. cut out
2. fold at the edges
3. paste the flaps together
4. paint (optional)

Done!



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