

A FILM BY THOMAS STUBER

# PRESS KIT

# IN THE AISLES



FRANZ ROGOWSKI

SANDRA HÜLLER

PETER KURTH

BETA CINEMA PRESENTS A SOMMERHAUS FILMPRODUKTION PRODUCTION IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH MDR, ARTE, SWR, HR, ROTOR FILM AND DEPARTURES FILM WITH FRANZ ROGOWSKI, SANDRA HÜLLER, PETER KURTH, ANDREAS LEIPOLD, MICHAEL SPECHT, RAMONA KINZE-LIENOW, HENNING PEKER, STEFFEN SCHEWMANN, MATTHIAS BRENNER, GEROY ZINT  
SUPPORTED BY MITTELDEUTSCHE MEDIENFÖRDERUNG, MFG FILMFÖRDERUNG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, BEAUFTRAGTE DER BUNDESREGIERUNG FÜR KULTUR UND MEDIEN, MEDIENBOARD BERLIN-BRANDENBURG, DEUTSCHER FILMFÖRDERFONDS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PETER MALJASKO EDITED BY KAYA WAN SET DESIGN JENNY RUESLER COSTUME DESIGN JULIANE MAIER CHRISTIAN JÖRIS  
MAKE UP HANNA HACKBELL CASTING ANJA DIERBERG, KAREN WENDLAND ORIGINAL SOUND CHRISTOPH SCHILLING SOUND DESIGN KAI TEBBEL COMPOSING EDITING MEIKE GÖTZ (MDR), BARBARA HÄBE (ARTE), BRIGITTE OTHARD (SWR), JÜRIG HINSTEYD (HR) LINE PRODUCERS MICHAEL JUNGELSCH, SOPHIE COCCO CO-PRODUCERS MARTIN FRÜHMORGEN, UNIQNE FILTER, THOMAS KRAL  
WRITTEN BY CLEMENS MEYER, THOMAS STUBER PRODUCERS JOCHEN LAUBE, FABIAN MAUBACH DIRECTED BY THOMAS STUBER GERMAN DISTRIBUTOR ZORRO FILM

# IN THE AISLES

GERMANY / 2018 / RUNNING TIME 125 MINUTES / ORIGINAL TITLE: IN DEN GÄNGEN

## CREDITS

Starring	<b>Franz Rogowski</b> <b>Sandra Hüller</b> <b>Peter Kurth</b> <b>Andreas Leupold</b> <b>Michael Specht</b> <b>Steffen Scheumann</b> <b>Ramona Kunze-Libnow</b> <b>Henning Pekar</b> <b>Matthias Brenner</b> <b>Gerdy Zint</b>
Directed by	<b>Thomas Stuber</b>
Screenplay by	<b>Clemens Meyer, Thomas Stuber</b>
Based on the short story	<b>IN THE AISLES</b>
Producers	<b>Jochen Laube, Fabian Maubach</b>
Associate producer	<b>Martin Frühmorgen, Undine Filter, Thomas Král</b>
Director of photography	<b>Peter Matjasko</b>
Casting by	<b>Anja Dührberg, Karen Wendland</b>
Set designer	<b>Jenny Roesler</b>
Costume designer	<b>Juliane Maier, Christian Röhrs</b>
Make-up artists	<b>Hanna Hackbeil</b>
Editor	<b>Kaya Inan</b>
Music supervision	<b>Milena Fessmann</b>
Production	<b>Sommerhaus Filmproduktion GmbH</b>
Co-production	<b>Rotor Film, Departures Film</b>



© Sommerhaus Filmproduktion, Anke Neugebauer

# IN THE AISLES

## LOGLINE

Introverted Christian discovers love, friendship and a whole new and mysterious world between the aisles of a wholesale market. Starring Franz Rogowski (VICTORIA, HAPPY END) and Sandra Hüller (TONI ERDMANN).

## SYNOPSIS

After the shy and reclusive Christian loses his job, he starts to work for a wholesale market. Bruno from the Beverage aisle takes him under his wing and quickly becomes a fatherly friend to him. He shows him the ropes and patiently teaches him how to operate the fork lift. In the aisles he meets “Sweets”-Marion. He is instantly smitten by her mysterious charm. The coffee machine becomes their regular meeting point and the two start to get to know each other. But Marion is married and Christian’s feelings for her seem to remain unrequited, especially when Marion does not return to work one day. Christian slowly becomes a member of the wholesale market family and his days of driving fork lifts and stacking shelves mean much more to him than meets the eye.

## LONG SYNOPSIS

Love and death in the wholesale market – after Christian (27) loses his job at a construction site following an outburst, he begins to work in a wholesale market as a stock clerk. Christian is plunged into a world that is completely unknown to him: the hustle and bustle at the checkout counters, the forklifts . . . He meets Rudi, Klaus (the only one allowed to drive the big pallet truck), Jürgen, and Bruno from the beverages department. Bruno initiates him into the work and teaches him to drive the forklift, becoming like a father to him. In the aisles, Christian meets his colleague from the sweets section, Marion (39). The coffee machine becomes their meeting place as they get to know each other more closely.

Soon Christian is an accepted member of the supermarket family. He successfully passes the forklift test and Rudi presents him with his own forklift key. He has long since fallen in love with the mysterious Marion, and the whole supermarket shares in the excitement. But they remain cautious in interacting with one another, since Sweets-Marion is married. When they meet on the loading ramp during the Christmas party, Christian’s advances finally seem to be rewarded: they hold hands. But a little later Marion stops showing up at work and Christian falls into despair. When he joins Bruno in the seafood department, observing the glass containers filled with live fishes, Bruno reveals to him that Marion is on sick leave. And that her husband is the reason she hasn’t returned to work, since he is a jerk. Christian can no longer bear the uncertainty with Marion.

He drives to her place and manages to enter her home in an attempt to uncover Marion’s secret. But there is no one there. Christian leaves flowers for her. He becomes depressed, shows up late for work, and falls back into old habits. Rudi and Bruno watch this turn of events with concern. At night Bruno invites Christian to his farm, where he lives with a few chickens. Here he tries to cheer Christian up and give him encouragement. But Christian discovers that Bruno is very much caught up in his own problems: for him things are not moving forward, and he no longer expects much from life.

Then Marion shows up again at the supermarket as if she had never been away. All bundled up like Eskimos in “Siberia,” as they call the frozen foods section, they come closer than ever before. But soon afterward there is devastating news: Bruno stops coming, he won’t be coming ever again since he has hanged himself in the barn. Everyone is shocked, especially Christian, who was unable to help Bruno when he needed it. The whole staff bids farewell to their colleague Bruno at the village cemetery. When the casket is lowered into the ground, Marion holds Christian’s hand. Soon the daily routine between the supermarket shelves resumes, and Christian takes Bruno’s place at the beverages department. The relationship between Christian and Marion remains a professional one. At the end, she asks him to operate the forklift in a very specific way: to first raise the fork, then slowly lower it back down. The fork descends with a whooshing noise as the air is expelled from the hydraulic system – it sounds like the waves of an ocean. Something Bruno had showed her.

They both sit on top of the forklift and listen to the sea.

## DIRECTOR’S NOTE BY THOMAS STUBER

I immediately dreamt about adapting Clemens Meyer’s short story IN THE AISLES to screen when I first started reading his collection of short stories ALL THE LIGHTS. I couldn’t let go of the idea of the lonesome young man who dives into the nightly aisles of a wholesale supermarket.

The rustle of the nearby Autobahn on the loading ramp, the secret cigarette on the shift, the coffee machine, the boss of the night, who shakes everyone’s hand at the end of the shift. Meyer’s story has immense depth and tragedy, but needs such few details to come alive. Many things remain unspoken, the conclusions often remain untold. The reader, and now the audience, needs to puzzle the pieces together.

Love and death in the wholesale market. “Sweets”-Marion, Bruno, Rudi, Irina and “Pallets”-Klaus - they all rise above themselves. What remains is the realization that community, warmth and a little bit of happiness are only possible in the aisles of the wholesale market.

# IN THE AISLES

## PRODUCERS NOTE

Finally a romantic film.

A romantic film that takes place in the aisles of a wholesale market.

A romantic film based on the short story by German cult author Clemens Meyer, directed by Student Oscar winner Thomas Stuber.

This is exactly the film we wanted to make from the very beginning!

A film that loves and cherishes its characters and reveals humanity in a setting where we wouldn't necessarily expect it.

A film that seems utterly "genuine," but isn't a documentary; rather, its subtle poetry unfolds through its unique visual images.

Thanks to the outstanding script that had already been honored with the German Screenplay Award before shooting began, to Franz Rogowski, Sandra Hüller, Peter Kurth and all the other incredible actors, an amazing team behind the camera, and Thomas Stuber's keen instinct and talent, we are filled with joy to realize that we have made exactly the film that we all dreamed of making for four years.

A film in the tradition of poetic realism, which hasn't been given much space in contemporary German cinema up to now, but which has so often captivated us on the international scene.

And so we hope that many people in the movie theaters of the world will take Christian, Marion, Bruno, and their unique world into their hearts, and after IN THE AISLES, when anyone sees a forklift at the supermarket, they will only think of the ocean.

## CREW

### BIOGRAPHY DIRECTOR THOMAS STUBER

**Thomas Stuber**, born in Leipzig in 1981, completed several trainings in the film industry, including a producer internship with Jörg Winger (UFA, 2001–2002), and from 2002 onward was responsible for script continuity in numerous film productions, including LEIPZIG HOMICIDE (2002–2004), ANTIBODIES (2005), and RUNAWAY HORSE (2006). In 2004 he began his studies at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, which he completed in 2011 with a degree in film and media/directing. With the short film WE ARE FINE, he won the 2006 Promotion awards of the Baden-Württembergischen Filmindustrie. His feature film TEENAGE ANGST was invited

to the Berlinale/Perspektive Deutsches Kino in 2008 and won the award for Best Film by an Up-and-Coming German Director at the International Student Film Fest "Sehsüchte".

OF DOGS AND HORSES was nominated for the First Steps Award in 2011, won the Deutscher Kurzfilmpreis in Gold, and was honored with a Student OSCAR® Silver Medal in 2012. His film HERBERT celebrated its premiere at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival and won the Silver Medal at the 2016 German Film Awards for Best Feature Film. In addition to IN THE AISLES, which will be celebrating its world premiere in the competition section of the 2018 Berlinale, his TV feature film KRUSO will also be appearing soon.



© Jörg Singer

Director Thomas Stuber

### BIOGRAPHY OF PRODUCER JOCHEN LAUBE

**Jochen Laube** studied production at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg and earned his degree in 2005 with the feature film URLAUB VOM LEBEN.

In 2006 he founded Sommerhaus Filmproduktion, with which he produced such films as NOVEMBER CHILD and the Grimme Award-winning documentary SONBOL.

From 2008 to 2015 Laube worked as a producer for teamWorx, later UFA Fiction, directing its Ludwigsburg office.

# IN THE AISLES

During this period he was involved in many award-winning feature and television films, including the 2012 miniseries *BARON ON THE CANNONBALL*, *STATIONS OF THE CROSS*, nominated for an International Emmy Award and presented at the 2014 Berlinale Competition where it won a Silver Bear for Best Screenplay, and *WE ARE YOUNG, WE ARE STRONG*, which celebrated its premieres in Rome and Tribeca and was nominated for a German Film Award (Lola) in 2016 in the Best Film category. Most recently for UFA Fiction, he produced the German-Canadian co-production *COCONUT HERO*, as well as the Frank Zappa documentary *EAT THAT QUESTION* which was premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

In 2015 Laube founded Sommerhaus Filmproduktion GmbH with Fabian Maubach.

In addition to *IN THE AISLES*, last year Laube and Maubach produced Sandra Nettelbeck's film *WAS UNS NICHT UMBRINGT* and the Tatort episode *DER ROTE SCHATTEN* directed by Dominik Graf.

Jochen Laube participated in the Producer on the Move Program in 2013 and is a member of the Deutsche Filmakademie.

## BIOGRAPHY OF PRODUCER FABIAN MAUBACH

**Fabian Maubach** was born in 1980 in Cologne and is a graduate of the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. His graduate thesis film *THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN* was shot entirely in Buenos Aires, Argentina and won many national and international awards.

Since 2009 Maubach has worked together with Jochen Laube for UFA Fiction, formerly teamWorx Ludwigsburg, where he has been responsible as producer for such films as *FIVE YEARS* by Stefan Schaller about Guantanamo inmate Murat Kurnaz, which was awarded the Thomas-Strittmatter-Preis, Dietrich Brüggemann's art-house hit *MOVE*, and *CRACKS IN THE SHELL* by Christian Schwochow. He also produced the German-Canadian co-production *COCONUT HERO* directed by Florian Cossen (*THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN*).

In 2015 Fabian Maubach founded Sommerhaus Filmproduktion GmbH with Jochen Laube.

In addition to *IN THE AISLES*, last year Maubach and Laube produced Sandra Nettelbeck's film *WAS UNS NICHT UMBRINGT* and the Tatort episode *DER ROTE SCHATTEN* directed by Dominik Graf. Fabian Maubach is a member of the ACE Producers Network and the Deutsche Filmakademie.



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## BIOGRAPHY OF DOP PETER MATJASKO

**Peter Matjasko** was born in 1978 in Frankfurt am Main and first studied film and media at the Fachhochschule Dortmund with a specialization in cinematography, before transferring to the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in 2004.

He was awarded the German Cinematographer Award for his cinematographic composition in the short horror film *AKUMI* (2005), and further nominations followed for the short films *THE GRANDFATHER* (2009) and *OF DOGS AND HORSES* (2011).

With director Thomas Stuber, Peter Matjasko also filmed the character and milieu study *A HEAVY HEART* (2015), for which he received a German Film Award nomination for Best Cinematography.

## CAST

### BIOGRAPHY OF FRANZ ROGOWSKI -

**Franz Rogowski** was born in 1986 in Freiburg. He worked as a dancer and performer at the Thalia Theater in Hamburg and Schaubühne in Berlin under such directors as Falk Richter and Nikolas Stemann.

In 2013 Rogowski received the Förderpreis Neues Deutsches Kino from the Filmfestival München for his performance in Jakob Lass's *LOVE STEAKS*. This was followed by an appearance in *VICTORIA* under the direction of Sebastian Schipper, which received a Silver Bear for Best Cinematography at the Berlinale and won prizes in six categories at the German Film Awards.

Rogowski subsequently played the leading role in Henrik Stahlberg's *BEDBUGS*. From 2015 to 2017 he was an ensemble member of the Münchner Kammerspiele, and in 2016 appeared in Michael Haneke's *HAPPY END* and Terrence Malick's *RADEGUND*. Franz Rogowski is a European Shooting Star at the 2018 Berlinale and will feature in the leading role in two world premieres at the Berlinale Competition – Thomas Stuber's *IN THE AISLES* and Christian Petzold's *TRANSIT*.

### BIOGRAPHY OF SANDRA HÜLLER

**Sandra Hüller**, born in 1978 in Suhl, studied at the Hochschule für Schauspielkunst Ernst Busch in Berlin and later performed at the theaters in Jena, Leipzig, Basel, Berlin, Hanover, and Munich.

In 2004 Hüller took on her first film role as the epileptic Michaela Klinger in Hans-Christian Schmid's film *REQUIEM* (2004). For this performance she received a Silver Bear, a German Film Award, and a nomination for a European Film Award, among other honors. In the following years Hüller collaborated closely with Johan Simons at the Münchner Kammerspiele and Ruhrtriennale while continuing to appear in films, including *MADONNEN* (2007) with Maria Speth and *BROWNIAN MOVEMENT* with Nanouk Leopold. Her role in Jan Schomburg's feature film debut *ABOVE US ONLY SKY* (2011) earned her a further German Film Award nomination. For her performance in Frauke Finsterwalder's *FINSTERWORLD* (2013), she won the 2014 German Film Award for Best Supporting Actress. *TONI ERDMANN*, in which she played



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the female lead, celebrated its premiere in Cannes and was nominated for an Oscar at the 2017 Academy Awards as Best Foreign Language Film; Sandra Hüller received a European Film Award for her role. She will now be seen in one of the leading roles in Thomas Stuber's *IN THE AISLES*, which will celebrate its world premiere at the Berlinale Competition.

## BIOGRAPHY OF PETER KURTH

**Peter Kurth**, born in 1957, studied at the Staatliche Schauspielschule Rostock. In addition to his work in the theater, which has led him to the stages of Magdeburg, Leipzig, Hamburg, Berlin, and most recently Stuttgart (among other cities), he can be seen in numerous film and television productions. In 2014 he was named Actor of the Year by Theater heute. For his portrayal of Herbert in the 2015 film *A HEAVY HEARTS*, he won a German Film Award and Deutscher Schauspielerpreis as Best Actor. Kurth can currently be seen in the series *BABYLON BERLIN* directed by Tom Tykwer, Hendrik Handloegten, and Achim von Borries. In 2018 he will be celebrating a film premiere at the Berlinale with *IN THE AISLES*, also directed by Thomas Stuber.

With *BABYLON*, Peter Kurth was nominated for the 2018 Deutscher Fernsehpreis in the categories Best Drama Series and Best Actor.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY SOMMERHAUS FILMPRODUKTION

The stories of our films have one thing in common: they have

to make it to the screen. Each in its own, completely individual way. At times gritty and challenging, at times funny, political, thought-provoking, or simply entertaining. But always with a unique and unmistakable signature. And always with heart and soul.

Sommerhaus Filmproduktion was founded in 2006 by Jochen Laube in Ludwigsburg. Key projects included the prizewinning feature film *NOVEMBER CHILD* by Heide and Christian Schwochow and the Grimme Award-winning documentary *SONBOL* by Niko Apel.

During Jochen Laube's involvement as a producer at UFA Fiction with Fabian Maubach from 2008 to 2015, the company temporarily ceased its activities. At UFA Fiction, Laube and Maubach produced such audience hits as *THE DAY I WAS NOT BORN* by Elena von Saucken and Florian Cossen, sophisticated art house films like *STATIONS OF THE CROSS* by Anna and Dietrich Brüggemann (Berlinale 2014, Silver Bear for Best Screenplay), political cinema like *WE ARE YOUNG, WE ARE STRONG.* by Martin Behnke and Burhan Qurbani (nominated for the 2015 German Film Award in the Best Film, Best Cinematography, and Best Supporting Actor categories as well as a Golden Lola for Joel Basman for Best Supporting Actor), internationally-acclaimed documentaries like Frank Zappa's *EAT THAT QUESTIONS* (Sundance Film Festival 2016), and international co-productions including *COCONUT HERO* by Elena von Saucken and Florian Cossen.



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# IN THE AISLES

Since 2015 Jochen Laube and Fabian Maubach have directed Sommerhaus Filmproduktion. In addition to Thomas Stuber's IN THE AISLES, current projects include the highly successful television film Tatort: DER ROTE SCHATTEN by Dominik Graf, with nearly 10 million viewers in October 2017, and WAS UNS NICHT UMBRINGT by Sandra Nettelbeck (in post-production). In 2018 filming is planned for BERLIN ALEXANDERPLATZ (AT) by Martin Behnke and Burhan Qurbani (winner of the EURIMAGES Co-production Development Award), ALS HITLER DAS ROSA KANINCHEN STAHL, based on the book by Judith Kerr and directed by Oscar-winning Caroline Link, and HELLO AGAIN by Maggie Peren.

In addition, the following films are currently in preparation: A SMALL SMALL WORLD by Philip Haucke, ERSCHLAGT DIE ARMEN (D: Aelrun Goette, S: Bernd Lange), NACHSPIEL (D: Sebastian Marka, S: Erol Yesilkaya), MAULINA SCHMITT (based on the book by Finn-Ole Heinrich), SERAPHIN (D: Dietrich Brüggemann), ASTRID by authors Antonia Rothe-Liermann and Katrin Milhan, and LAURA DEKKER (D: Florian Cossen, S: Elena von Saucken).

Sommerhaus Filmproduktion GmbH has branch offices in Berlin, Ludwigsburg, and Munich. The core team consists of Jochen Laube and Fabian Maubach (producers), Kathleen Georgi (production coordinator), and Nora Kronemeyer (office manager).

## 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 and DOWNFALL.

Recent highlights include the Emma Watson, Daniel Brühl thriller COLONIA, Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner SAND STORM and 2017 Oscars contender THE KING'S CHOICE. The slate of upcoming titles is spearheaded by THE HAPPY PRINCE, written and directed by Rupert Everett with Rupert Everett, Colin Firth and Emily Watson, as well as WERK OHNE AUTOR, the new film by Oscar-winner Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck.

## SUPPORTED BY

- \*Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (MDM)
- \*Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg (MFG)
- \*Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (BKM)
- \*Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg (MBB)
- \*Deutscher Filmförderfonds (DFFF)



## CONTACT WORLD SALES

Beta Cinema  
Dirk Schuerhoff  
Thorsten Ritter  
Tassilo Hallbauer  
Tel: + 49 89 67 34 69 828  
beta@betacinema.com  
www.betacinema.com

## CONTACT INTERNATIONAL PRESS

Beta Cinema  
Dorothee Stoewahse  
Rebecka Müsel  
Tel: + 49 89 67 34 69 15  
press@betafilm.com