

MATTHIAS LUTHARDT
WRITER & DIRECTOR

JULIA KOVALENKO
FILM EDITOR

JERRY HOFFMANN
ACTOR & DIRECTOR

ZAMARIN WAHDAT
CINEMATOGRAPHER & DIRECTOR

SARAH NOA BOZENHARDT
WRITER & DIRECTOR

SARA FAZILAT
ACTOR, PRODUCER & WRITER

ANNE ZANDER
ACTOR



FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS

THE FILMMAKERS

FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS

GERMAN TALENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Since its first edition in 2016, the annual FACE TO FACE campaign, from German Films, the national information and service centre for the promotion of German films abroad, has established itself as a flagship platform to give international visibility to German film talent and draw the attention of the global film industry to a number of the country's most sensational newcomers and professionals. For the first time, in 2021, German Films decided to also include other film crafts apart from actors, directors and screenwriters as a way of recognising those talents who are doing outstanding work behind the camera. In its complex production process, film is - more than any other art form - particularly reliant on the collaboration of creative minds with diverse skills and backgrounds. Under the motto FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS - THE FILMMAKERS, the 2021 campaign presented a greater range and diversity of German filmmaking than ever before.

In 2022, German Films has pursued this idea even further by spotlighting seven new FACES: documentary writer-director SARAH NOA BOZENHARDT, actor-producer-writer SARA FAZILAT, actor-director JERRY HOFFMANN, film editor JULIA KOVALENKO, writer-director MATTHIAS LUTHARDT, cinematographer and director ZAMARIN WAHDAT and actor ANNE ZANDER.

The 2022 FACES are united by their passion for the medium and desire to help shape the German film industry as it moves into a new era. All the participants will therefore contribute their own perspectives and motivations, from the need for adequate representation and inclusion and the desire for equal opportunities to the efforts to produce high-quality, current entertainment. "The way to achieve this is also to a large extent through content, with films and series from Germany which reveal the potential that has gone untapped for much too long in recent decades, while at the same time casting their spell on audiences," says German Films Managing Director Simone Baumann. "It is a great honour for us to be able to welcome seven talented filmmakers as ambassadors of our campaign this year. Their work addresses issues as diverse as their professional backgrounds and personal stories. Year after year, our FACES have been focusing on what Germany has to offer in terms of film and series and where the journey may still lead," Baumann continues.

SARAH NOA BOZENHARDT

WRITER & DIRECTOR



Born in Freiburg, Sarah Noa Bozenhardt moved with her family to the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa when she was 12 years old, which had an immense influence on her life and subsequently, her filmmaking. Relationships that the director and aspiring writer forged in her second homeland are reflected in her documentary work.

Sarah Noa learnt her profession at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver, where she completed her Bachelor's degree in Film, Video & Integrated Media with a distinction; she graduated with the documentary short MEDANIT in 2015. Since 2016, she has been studying Documentary Directing at the renowned Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF in Potsdam.

From the start of her filmmaking career, Sarah Noa has dealt with socio-political issues of womanhood, which she presents as documentary works. For instance, her short film MEDANIT (2015) explores the relationship between a blind single mother and her daughter. Her current documentary AMONG US WOMEN, which is also her graduation film, follows a change in midwifery in the Ethiopian village of Megendi. A community of women explore their relationships with themselves, their bodies and each other in the midst of upheaval. Sarah Noa's feature-length debut combines her professional training and talent as a filmmaker with a delight in collaboration; in addition to co-director Daniel Abate Tilahun, AMONG US WOMEN brings together a range of international filmmakers committed to intimate, thoughtful storytelling. The ambitious project celebrated its world premiere at DOK Leipzig in October 2021, where it received a special mention in the international competition.

In addition to her work as a writer and director, Sarah Noa supports other projects as a story consultant and runs film workshops for young people and children.

FILMOGRAPHY

2021 AMONG US WOMEN

Documentary Feature

Writer & Director

2015 MEDANIT

Documentary Short Film

Writer & Director

2012 HEIMFAHRT

Documentary Short Film

Writer & Director

SARA FAZILAT

ACTOR, PRODUCER & WRITER



Sara Fazilat is an actor, producer and screenwriter. After graduating from high school in Bremen, she attended RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. In 2012, Sara moved back to Germany to study Film Production at the DFFB (German Film and Television Academy Berlin). This was followed by a scholarship to study at Columbia University in New York.

By this time, Sara had already performed on various theatre stages and acted in several short and feature films, so it was no surprise that she was selected to participate in the Berlinale Talents program for outstanding filmmakers in 2017. Sara has also been a regular presence on television since 2015, such as in the TV film series DIE FÜCHSIN as well as the series CHECK CHECK and DER ÜBERFALL.

Sara won festival audiences' and critics' hearts worldwide with her feature film NICO, which she produced, starred as the lead and was involved in the writing of. NICO was the

final film made during her studies at the DFFB and examines how a racist attack changes one young woman's life. The film celebrated its international premiere at Shanghai International Film Festival and was featured in the lineups of Frameline Film Festival San Francisco and Melbourne Queer Film Festival, as well as film festivals in Oslo, Sydney and Cambridge. The film has also received various prizes in Germany, Austria and England. Sara was awarded several accolades for her performance, including the Max Ophüls Prize (Best Young Actress), and as a producer, she also received the First Steps No Fear Award for NICO.

2022 looks to be an equally promising year: NICO will open cinemas after a successful festival run and the versatile actor can be seen again in numerous other productions on the big screen, including in a leading role in Michael Bully Herbig's 1000 ZEILEN, as well as in HOLY SPIDER, the latest feature film from Cannes winner Ali Abbasi. Since 2020, Sara has been on the board of Pro Quote Film, an association that promotes equality for all genders and diversity in the film industry. She also founded her own production company, THIRD CULTURE KIDS, in 2020.

As a producer and writer, Sara is currently working on the script for a feature-length film, ARIER, selected for the First Steps Masterclass, and the series UNDERDOGS. She has been invited to Rotterdam Lab 2022 as a producer, and this year she will also be on the Berlinale juries for the Kompass Perspective Award and the Kompagnon Promotional Award.

FILMOGRAPHY (Selection)

2022 HOLY SPIDER

Feature

Director: Ali Abbasi

2022 1000 ZEILEN

Feature

Director: Michael Bully Herbig

2022 FEATURING ELLA

Feature

Director: Teresa Hoerl

2022 DER ÜBERFALL (THE HEIST)

Limited Series, ZDF

Director: Stephan Lacant

2021 CHECK CHECK, Seasons 1-3

Series, ProSieben

Director: Lars Jessen

2021 NICO

Feature

Director: Eline Gehring

2017 COUNTERPART

Series, Starz (USA)

Director: Jennifer Getzinger

Since 2015 THE FOX

Series

Director: Various

2013 PUPPET

Feature

Director: Sebastian Kutzli

JERRY HOFFMANN

DIRECTOR & ACTOR



At the age of just eighteen, Jerry Hoffmann played a leading role in Burhan Qurbani's internationally acclaimed feature film SHAHADA. Since then, the actor has been in high demand on the German film scene, not least due to his versatility. He studied acting in Munich and Berlin, in addition to brief professional excursions to London, Brazil, South Africa and Italy. At the same time, Jerry was appearing onstage in various theatre productions and was invited to the Maxim Gorki Theater Berlin as a permanent member of the ensemble during his third year of training.

He appeared in a number of high-profile film and television productions and was invited to participate in the Berlinale Talents program in 2013 before deciding to try his hand at directing in 2015. Selected for a prestigious Fulbright scholarship, Jerry moved to Los Angeles and studied at Loyola Marymount University in the Master's course 'Film and Television Production'.

Other acting parts followed, such as leading roles in the satire HEIL (2015) and the comedy ABIKALYPSE (2019), the fairytale hero Prince Tanka in DIE HEXENPRINZESSIN (2020) and an addict father in the Swiss box office hit NEEDLE PARK BABY (2021), for which he received several awards and nominations.

Since 2018, Jerry has been studying Film Direction at Hamburg Media School. His first short films, MALL and 90%, have screened at numerous festivals and won international awards. His highly acclaimed graduation film, I AM, an arthouse science fiction thriller, premiered at the 42nd Max Ophüls Prize Film Festival, was presented at the 55th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival as part of the Future Frames Program of European Film Promotion and was nominated for the First Steps Award. In 2021, I AM was nominated for the Student Academy Awards, received the HBOMax Best Short Film Prize at Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival and qualified for the 2022 Academy Awards.

Jerry continues to act in international productions. Most recently, he played a leading role in the Turkish Netflix series A SUBMARINE STORY, which will be released globally in 2022.

In his work, career and life, Jerry has always been committed to social issues, equality and diversity in the German film industry.

ACTING FILMOGRAPHY (Selection)

2022 A SUBMARINE STORY

Series, Netflix

Directors: Tolga Karaçelik, Umut Aral

2020 NEEDLE PARK BABY

Feature

Director: Pierre Monnard

2019 ABIKALYPSE

Feature

Director: Adolfo J. Kolmerer

2015 HEIL

Feature

Director: Dietrich Brüggemann

2015 HITMAN: AGENT 47

Feature

Director: Aleksander Bach

2010 SHAHADA

Feature

Director: Burhan Qurbani

DIRECTING FILMOGRAPHY (Selection)

2021 I AM

Medium Length Film

2020 90%

Short Film

2019 MALL

Short Film

JULIA KOVALENKO

FILM EDITOR



Film editor Julia Kovalenko has Russian roots and came to Germany when she was nine years old. Upon graduating high school, she started her first job in the editing department of the Düsseldorf production company, Capture MM, where she discovered her fascination with the craft. Julia went on to pursue her passion for editing at the University of Applied Sciences in Dortmund, where she studied Design Media Communication with a focus on film. After two years, she moved to the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg to sharpen her profile as an editor and improve her skills – amongst other opportunities there, she had the chance to learn her craft on a 16mm Steenbeck table. As a Baden-Württemberg Foundation scholarship recipient, she was given the chance to attend the Hollywood Extension Workshop at UCLA in 2015. She completed her training with a diploma in Editing/Montage in 2016.

Since then, things have only got more exciting for the talented editor. In addition to several award-winning short films such as Clemens Roth's *THE FANTASTIC LOVE OF BEEBOY & FLOWERGIRL* and Jerry Hoffmann's *I AM*, she has also worked on many TV productions and feature films. Julia celebrated her greatest success to date cooperating with editor Stephan Bechinger on the feature film *SYSTEM CRASHER* (2019) by Nora Fingscheidt, Germany's entry for the 92nd Academy Awards, which won numerous awards – including the German Film Award for Best Editing – and was praised by critics and audiences alike. Following her work on the series *HAUSEN* (2020), her next project is another collaboration, this time with editor Kaya Inan and director Thomas Stuber, called *DARK SATELLITES*, an episodic feature film which is slated for theatrical release in Germany in 2022.

FILMOGRAPHY (Selection)

2022 DARK SATELLITES

Feature

edited together with Kaya Inan

Director: Thomas Stuber

2022 SOULS

Series, Sky

edited together with Benjamin Entrup, Moritz Poth,
Robert Stuprich

Directors: Alex Eslam, Hanna Maria Heidrich

2021 PR110 - AN DER SAALE HELLEM STRANDE

TV Feature

Director: Thomas Stuber

2021 I AM

Medium Length Film

Director: Jerry Hoffmann

2020 EQUINOX

Feature

Director: Lena Knauss

2020 HAUSEN

Series, Sky

edited together with Kaya Inan

Director: Thomas Stuber

2019 SYSTEM CRASHER

Feature

edited together with Stephan Bechinger

Director: Nora Fingscheidt

2015 THE FANTASTIC LOVE OF BEEBOY & FLOWERGIRL

Short Film

Director: Clemens Roth

MATTHIAS LUTHARDT

WRITER & DIRECTOR



Matthias Luthardt grew up in the Netherlands and Southern and Northern Germany. The passionate director and writer initially wanted to become a football player and later aspired to be a cellist and travel journalist. He discovered his love of France and European cinema during a six-month stay in Lyon. As a student of German and French Literature and Rhetoric in Tübingen, he grew familiar with French filmmakers through his involvement with French Film Days and began to try his hand at making shorts with friends. His studies in literature were increasingly superseded by an interest in auteur cinema. After a detour to the Sorbonne in Paris, he completed his studies with a Master's degree on the films of Krzysztof Kieslowski and decided to become a director.

Matthias was a guest student at the DFFB (German Film and Television Academy Berlin), founded a service production company with friends and then enrolled in Film Directing at the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD

WOLF. While studying, he was drawn back to France once again, this time as a participant in the Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris, a one-year program for the further education of young European film producers. Back at Babelsberg, he shot his debut film PINGPONG, a coming-of-age drama that had its world premiere at Cannes' Semaine de la Critique in 2006 and attracted international attention after winning two awards. Matthias travelled the world with the film, which received many other accolades, including a nomination for the European Discovery award at the 2006 European Film Awards.

MEMORY, an adaptation of the novel "Der Tag, an dem ich meinen toten Mann traf," followed, in addition to several documentaries, including CINÉKINO, a series about European cinema, and a companion documentary to the successful BABYLON BERLIN series. The filmmaker shares his knowledge with young filmmakers as a lecturer at film schools and Goethe-Institutes in Germany and internationally.

His latest film as a director, German-French co-production THE FOX, stars Luise Aschenbrenner, Christa Théret and Leonard Kunz, and centres on a love triangle near the front in 1918, the last year of World War I. Matthias lives in Berlin, plays football in the authors' national team and is a member of the European Film Academy.

FILMOGRAPHY (Selection)

2022 THE FOX

Feature
Director

2020 AUTUMN 1929 - SHADOWS ABOVE BABYLON

TV Documentary Feature
Director & Writer

2016/17 CINÉKINO

Documentary Series (5 out of ten episodes)
Director & Writer

2008 - 2015 24h EUROPE / 24h BAVARIA / 24h JERUSALEM / 24h BERLIN

Collaborative real-time documentary
Co-Director

2015 THE GREAT EVOLUTION

Documentary
Director, Writer & Producer

2008 MEMORY

TV Feature
Director

2008 JESUS LOVES YOU

Documentary
Co-Director

2006 PINGPONG

Feature
Director & Writer

2004 WE NEED HOBBIES

Documentary
Director & Editor

ZAMARIN WAHDAT

CINEMATOGRAPHER & DIRECTOR



Cinematographer and director Zamarin Wahdat was born in Kabul and grew up in Hamburg. By the time she completed her A-Levels, she already knew that she wanted to pursue a career in film. Due to the lack of prospects and representation in the German film industry, the young filmmaker initially moved to England for her training, where she completed a Bachelor's degree at Brighton School of Media, Film and Music at the University of Sussex, graduating in 2012.

To add to her skillset, she decided to go to NYU Tisch School of the Arts in New York and complete a Master's degree in Visual Design and Scriptwriting. While there, she not only received training in those two areas, but in all facets of the filmmaking profession, from editing to directing and camerawork. During her studies, she was responsible for the visual design of several short films. When Zamarin's professor Carol Dysinger spotted her talent, she was to work as a visual designer and translator on the documentary *LEARNING TO SKATEBOARD IN A*

WARZONE (IF YOU'RE A GIRL), which would go on to win the Oscar for Best Documentary Short in 2020.

A short time after this remarkable start to her career, Zamarin made her directorial debut, *BAMBIRAK*, a short film which tells the story of a father and daughter and the everyday racism experienced by people with an immigrant background in Germany. The film won the award for Best International Short Film at Sundance International Film Festival in 2021. Zamarin is currently working as a cinematographer to develop *BAMBIRAK* into a 90-minute feature film. In addition, she is working on other short film projects and a documentary about activist Sarah Mardini.

Zamarin is a member of the International Collective of Female Cinematographers (ICFC) and was selected for the American Society of Cinematographers' Vision Mentorship Program for 2020/21.

FILMOGRAPHY (Selection)

2022 I AM SARAH (WT)

Documentary

Director: Charlie Feldman

2021 DIE SCHÖFFIN

Episode of the series STRAFE - NACH FERDINAND VON SCHIRACH

Director: Mia Spengler

2021 TATORT - SCHATTENLEBEN

TV Series

Director: Mia Spengler

2021 LITTLE SKY

Short Film

Director: Jess X. Snow

2020 BAMBIRAK

Short Film

Director & Writer

2019 LEARNING TO SKATEBOARD IN A WARZONE (IF YOU'RE A GIRL)

Documentary Short

Director: Carol Dysinger

2019 BUCK

Short Film

Directors: Jovan James and Elegance Bratton

2019 LIBERTY

Short Film

Director: Faren Humes

2017 DEVI

Short Film

Director: Karishma Dube

2017 CROSS MY HEART

Short Film

Director: Sontenish Myers

ANNE ZANDER

ACTOR



Born in Berlin, Anne Zander fostered a love for the performing arts from an early age. This passion developed into a desire to work as an actor and Anne initially completed training at a Berlin drama school in 2009. She went on to study 'Digital Media Culture' at the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF, where she got her first practical experience in film production.

As a deaf person, Anne still experiences intersectionality in her everyday life, both professionally and personally. As a result, she is very committed to working to improve diversity and inclusion in the German film and media industries.

In 2022, Anne can be seen in two major productions. She stars in her first leading role in ZDF TV drama DU

SOLLST HÖREN opposite well-known actors Claudia Michelsen and Kai Wiesinger. Portraying a deaf mother, she performs in sign language throughout the film for the first time. Anne will also appear in the Netflix Original film FOR JOJO, directed by Barbara Ott, whose credits include KIDS RUN.

In addition to her film career, Anne works in theatre and as a performer, and is an avid competitive roller derby skater.

FILMOGRAPHY (Selection)

2022 DU SOLLST HÖREN

TV Feature

Director: Petra K. Wagner

2022 FOR JOJO

Feature, Netflix

Director: Barbara Ott

2021 OFFICE

Short Film

Director: Tobias Lehmann

2020 TATORT - BOROWSKI UND DER FLUCH DER WEIßEN MÖWE

TV Series

Director: Hüseyin Tabak

2018 FENSTER BLAU

Feature

Director: Sheri Hagen

PAST EDITIONS OF

FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS

In 2016, German Films, the national information and advisory center for the promotion of German films worldwide, launched FACE TO FACE, a campaign that aims to showcase German film talent on the world cinematic stage.

The 2016 launch of the FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS campaign featured six actresses as these “faces”, at the London Film Festival and throughout the year, across a series of press events, a photographic advertising campaign and through international launches of different film and television projects. Featured actresses were PAULA BEER, LIV LISA FRIES, SANDRA HÜLLER, JULIA JENTSCH, SASKIA ROSENDAHL and LILITH STANGENBERG.

At the 2017 Cannes International Film Festival, the FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS initiative entered the second year of the campaign with the support of some of Germany’s most eclectic actors: VOLKER BRUCH, ALEXANDER FEHLING, LOUIS HOFMANN, JANNIS NIEWÖHNER, TOM SCHILLING and RONALD ZEHRFELD.

2018 saw the continuation of the FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN FILMS campaign, this time celebrating the visionaries behind the camera, by showcasing prominent directors in the German film industry who have already garnered a great deal of international recognition for their varied works: EMILY ATEF, VALESKA GRISEBACH, LARS KRAUME, ANCA MIRUNA LAZARESCU, BURHAN QURBANI and DAVID WENNDT.

The 2019 campaign continued to celebrate the trends in German filmmaking, as well as the current international appetite for German storytelling in internationally renowned series, with the actors and actresses at the heart of the industry’s most recent national and international successes MARIA DRAGUS, CHRISTIAN FRIEDEL, LUISE HEYER, JONAS NAY, JÖRDIS TRIEBEL and FAHRI YARDIM.

In 2020, the campaign turned its focus to writers to honor those who create the essence of movies: the story. The launch took place at Series Mania with a panel hosted by Variety and six of the best screenwriters of the German audiovisual landscape: JANA BURBACH, KATHARINA EYSEN, HANNO HACKFORT, BERND LANGE, RAFAEL PARENTE and LAILA STIELER.

In 2021, the FACE TO FACE campaign broadened its scope to include various disciplines in order to display the diversity of exceptional talent across the entirety of this collaborative craft, representing a cross-section of the many creative faces of German filmmaking. For the first time, the selection included a costume designer, composer, storyboard artist and cinematographer, as well as two directors and two actors. FACE TO FACE: THE FILMMAKERS were: composer FREYA ARDE, costume designer ULÉ BARCELOS, director SARAH BLAßKIEWITZ, actor TUA EL-FAWWAL, director ANNEKATRIN HENDEL, actor LORNA ISHEMA, storyboard artist LAILA PETERSEN-JAMA and cinematographer JIEUN YI.

FACE TO FACE

A SPECIAL PHOTOSHOOT

The pictures of the seven filmmakers which accompany the campaign were shot by renowned photographer Marcus Höhn.

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Press Photo Selection Download: [HERE](#)

German Films Service + Marketing GmbH is the national information and advisory center for the promotion of German films worldwide and the official external representation for German films appointed by the federal government of Germany. The work of German Films focuses on increasing the level of awareness of German films abroad by providing information services as well as initiating PR and marketing measures in order to grant the highest possible visibility in international media.

German Films was established in 1954 under the name Export-Union of German Cinema as the umbrella association for the Association of German Feature Film Producers, the Association of New German Feature Film Producers and the Association of German Film Exporters, and operates today in the legal form of a limited company. In 2004, the company was reorganized and now operates under the name: German Films Service + Marketing GmbH.

German Film's range of activities includes a close cooperation with all major international film festivals, the organization of umbrella stands for German sales companies and producers at international television and film markets, the staging of Festivals of German Films in selected international territories as well as the staging of industry screenings in key international territories. Providing advice and information for representatives of the international press, buyers from the fields of cinema, home entertainment, and television and consulting German filmmakers on international festivals is also part of German Films activities.

#FACETOFACE #GERMANFILMS



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PRESS CONTACT

DDA

EMMA MASON

emma.mason@ddaconsulting.co.uk
+44 779 926 7281

CHRISTINA KOHL

christina.kohl@ddaconsulting.co.uk
+44 771 741 7172

LONDON

192-198 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London, SW1V 1DX
+44 20 7932 9800

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, CA 90069
8981 Sunset Blvd., Suite 201
+1 310 205 4868

<http://theddagroup.com>