

Film | Neu 2013 From rousing widescreen historical epics to wryly comic black-and-white slacker meditations, the 21st annual edition of Film|Neu has something for every filmgoer's taste. The robust film industries of Germany, Austria and Switzerland continue to produce diverse slates of entertainment that audiences want to see.

If Film|Neu 2013 has a theme, it just might be "ring in the new." All three of the young actors nominated for the German Film Award in that category are represented in the program: Edin Hasanovic in *Shifting the Blame*, Sabin Tambrea in *Ludwig II* and winner Tom Schilling in the opening night feature, *Oh Boy*—the triumphant debut of writer-director Jan Ole Gerster. Other first-time directors are Stephan Lacant, with the drama *Free Fall*, and Marten Persiel with the exciting documentary *This Ain't California*.

As always, we're grateful to the audiences that enthusiastically support the program each year, bringing keen minds and good taste to each screening.

Eddie Cockrell

Eddie Cockrell is a Washington native and freelance film critic for the trade paper *Variety*. He is currently the program director of the social justice film event The Big Picture Film Festival in Sydney, Australia, and is co-curator of the Film|Neu festival, for which he has written the film notes.

Please note that all films have English subtitles.

A special 3D presentation at the Goethe-Institut Washington!

Saturday, October 5, 12:30 pm & 3:15 pm
Measuring the World
(Die Vermessung der Welt)

Germany/Austria, 2012, 119 min.
Director: Detlev Buck
Screenplay: Daniel Kehlmann, Detlev Buck, Daniel Nocke, from Kehlmann's novel
Cast: Florian David Fitz, Albrecht Abraham Schuch, Jérémy Kapone, Vicky Krieps, Katharina Thalbach, Sunny Melles, Karl Markovics, Michael Maertens, Max Giermann, David Kross
Sales: The Match Factory (Cologne, Germany)



© The Match Factory



Detlev Buck (b. 1962, Bad Segeberg, Germany) was an accomplished actor, director and screenwriter by the age of 22. His feature films behind the camera include *Rabbit Fever* (Karniggels, 1991), *No More Mr. Nice Guy* (*Wir können auch anders...*, 1993), *Tough Enough* (*Knallhart*, 2006), and *Same Same But Different* (2009).

A Beautiful Mind meets *Fitzcarraldo* in director Detlev Buck's bracingly vigorous, gloriously widescreen adaptation of Daniel Kehlmann's immensely popular 2005 novel that reimagines the friendship begun by mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauss and geographer Alexander von Humboldt in the late 1700s. Scripted by Kehlmann with significant input from Buck and Daniel Nocke, the film's structure hews closely to the book's inspired chronology. As Gauss (Florian David Fitz) sits at home complaining about everything and dreaming up exotic internal mathematical theorems, von Humboldt (extraordinary newcomer Albrecht Abraham Schuch) explores the Amazon with faithful sidekick Aimé Bompland (Jérémy Kapone). When the pair finally meets in 1828, their mutual love of exploration, thought and quantification is barely enough to keep their friendship intact. The decision to shoot in 3D was made by Buck's long-time producing partner Claus Boje, who was "convinced that this format can open up completely new kinds of narrative."

Tickets (priced as at Landmark) must be purchased at the Goethe-Institut box office or online at www.boxofficetickets.com/goethe.

OPENING NIGHT

Friday, October 4, 7 & 9:30 pm

Oh Boy

Discussion with special guest follows the first screening.

Germany, 2013, black and white, 85 min.

Director/Screenplay: Jan Ole Gerster

Cast: Tom Schilling, Marc Hosemann, Friederike Kempfer, Justus von Dohnányi, Arnd Klawitter, Ulrich Noethen, Michael Gwisdek

Sales: Beta Cinema (Oberhaching, Germany)



© Beta Films



© Beta Films

Jan Ole Gerster (b. 1978, Hagen, Germany) is with X-Filme Creative Pool, where he worked on the Tom Tykwer films *The Princess and the Warrior* (2000) and *Heaven* (2002). He assisted Wolfgang Becker on the international hit *Good Bye, Lenin!* (2003) and directed the making-of documentary *Oh Boy* is his feature film debut.

The litany of woes facing today's young people isn't much greater in number than the laments of their forebears: losing a job, a relationship, looking for a good cup of coffee and so forth. What's challenging is seeing a fresh perspective along such well-trodden cinematic territory. So it is a pleasant surprise indeed to discover Jan Ole Gerster's *Oh Boy*, the luminous black-and-white 24-hour misadventures of one disaffected youth in contemporary Berlin. Passive slacker Niko Fischer (Tom Schilling) can't seem to do much right but thankfully doesn't much care. With its mellow jazz score and obvious love for the metropolis, *Oh Boy*—the title comes from the Beatles' *A Day in the Life*—has echoes of Woody Allen's *Manhattan* and Alexander Payne's *Sideways*. Winner of numerous of international prizes, including the German Film Award, *Oh Boy* sets just the right tone for another week-long celebration of German-language cinema.

CLOSING NIGHT

Thursday, October 10, 6:15 & 9:30 pm

Ludwig II

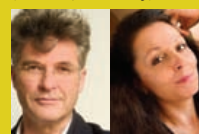
Discussion with special guest follows the first screening.

Germany/Austria, 2012, 140 min.

Directors/Screenplay: Peter Sehr, Marie Noëlle

With: Sabin Tambrea, Sebastian Schipper, Hannah Herzsprung, Edgar Selge, Friedrich Mücke, Justus von Dohnányi, Samuel Finzi, Tom Schilling, Paula Beer, Uwe Ochsenknecht

Sales: Global Screen (Munich, Germany)



© Artisan Film GmbH



© Global Screen

Peter Sehr (b. 1951, Bad König, Germany d. 2013, Munich, Germany) formed PArtisan Film-produktion in Munich with Marie Noëlle in 1998. His award-winning films included *Obsession* (1997), *Love the Hard Way* (2001) and *The Anarchist's Wife* (2008).

Marie Noëlle began working with Peter Sehr as an editor, screenwriter and co-director in 1979, and together they have directed *The Anarchist's Wife* (2008) and *Ludwig II* (2012). Her extensive filmography of collaborations with other filmmakers began in 1995.

A big-budget, widescreen historical biography with the soul of a scrappy independent film, *Ludwig II* brings fresh energy and a unique style to the momentous, oft-filmed life of eccentric Bavarian King Ludwig II to Friedrich Wilhelm. Any film on this provocative subject rises or falls on the strength of its lead performance, and newcomer Sabin Tambrea is nothing short of astonishing as Ludwig: at once delicate and sinewy, nervous and bird-like in his actions yet funeral in repose. These Washington premiere screenings are dedicated to the memory of co-director Peter Sehr, who succumbed to a brain tumor in May of this year. With *Ludwig II*, Sehr, with long-time partner Noëlle, has made a film that stands alongside the best of Ken Russell and Terry Gilliam.

SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Title
Friday, October 4	7 & 9:30 pm	OPENING Oh Boy
Saturday, October 5	1 pm	This Ain't California
Saturday, October 5	12:30 & 3:15 pm	Measuring the World (Die Vermessung der Welt) (Please note: this film will be screened at the Goethe-Institut.)
Saturday, October 5	3 pm	Life is Nothing for Cowards (Das Leben ist nichts für Feiglinge)
Saturday, October 5	5:15 pm	Forget Me Not (Vergiss mein nicht)
Saturday, October 5	7:30 pm	Shifting the Blame (Schuld sind immer die anderen)
Saturday, October 5	10 pm	Kuma
Sunday, October 6	1 pm	Kuma
Sunday, October 6	3 pm	Shifting the Blame (Schuld sind immer die anderen)
Sunday, October 6	5:30 pm	Free Fall (Freier Fall)
Sunday, October 6	7:30 pm	Forget Me Not (Vergiss mein nicht)
Sunday, October 6	9:30 pm	Life is Nothing for Cowards (Das Leben ist nichts für Feiglinge)
Monday, October 7	7 pm	This Ain't California
Monday, October 7	9 pm	Free Fall (Freier Fall)
Tuesday, October 8	7 & 9 pm	The Shine of Day (Der Glanz des Tages)
Wednesday, October 9	7 & 9 pm	Lullaby Ride (Nachtlärm)
Thursday, October 10	6:15 & 9:30 pm	CLOSING Ludwig II

TICKETS | INFORMATION

Tickets: \$11.50, \$9.50 for Students & Friends of the Goethe-Institut, \$8.50 for Seniors

Tickets can be purchased at the theater or in advance through Moviefone at 202-333-FILM (Code #781) or www.moviefone.com

Opening Night 7 pm Screening followed by "Berliner Party" with DJ at Goethe-Institut: \$26.50
Closing Night Screening and Reception: \$16.50

Featuring complimentary beer from Gordon Biersch, German wine, and food provided by the Embassy of Switzerland, Old Europe Restaurant, Cafe Mozart, Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe, Whole Foods Market, German Gourmet, and the Swiss Bakery and Pastry Shop

For information call 202-452-7672 or visit landmarktheatres.com

Special Film|Neu-themed combos and drinks will be available at the concession stand!



Tickets for *Measuring the World* must be purchased at the Goethe-Institut box office or online at www.boxofficetickets.com/goethe.

Co-presented by the Goethe-Institut in Washington, the Austrian Embassy and the Embassy of Switzerland
With support from german films



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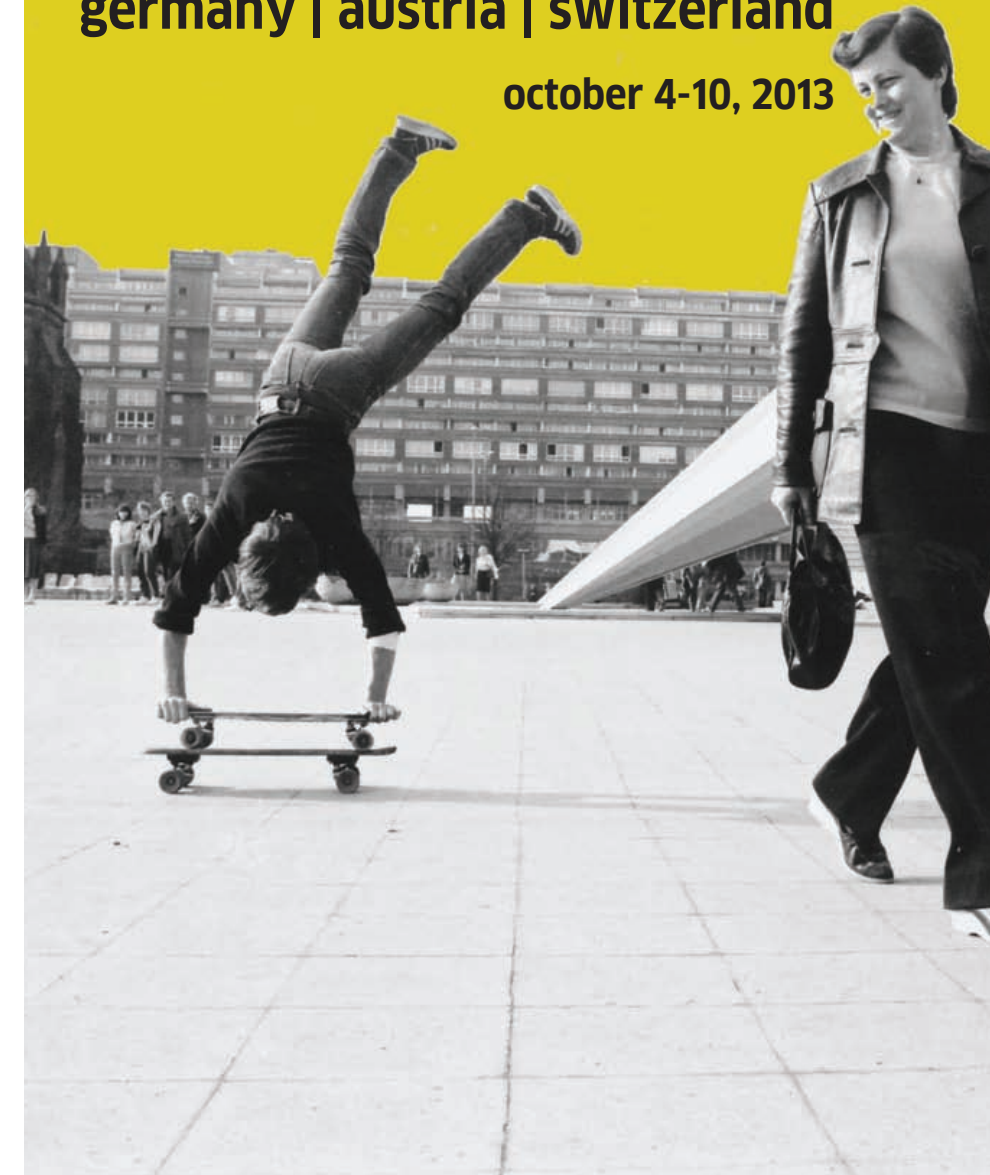


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Saturday, October 5, 1 pm & Monday, October 7, 7 pm
This Ain't California

Germany, 2012, 90 min.
Director: Marten Persiel
Screenplay: Marten Persiel, Ira Wedel
Sales: Colibri Media (Zurich, Switzerland)



Marten Persiel (b. 1974, Berlin, Germany) worked as an assistant editor in Hamburg before studying mixed media and directing in London. He has made commercials, music videos and documentaries; *This Ain't California* is his feature-length non-fiction debut.



© Harald Schmitt

"There certainly was enough cement around," remembers one of the now-grown skateboarders gathered to remember the legendary East Berlin rebel Denis "Panik" Panacek, describing the imposing architecture that provided plenty of surfaces and levels for the young athletes. As the friends reminisce, archive footage paints a compelling picture of the early days of skateboarding behind the Iron Curtain. Except for one thing... Panacek doesn't exist, his friends are actors, and even the boy in the archive footage is a current skateboarding sensation. *This Ain't California* is director and co-writer Marten Persiel's magnificent sleight of hand triumph that avoids making fun of what the director refers to as "badly dressed people who don't know much about the outside world" in favor of a film that would provide the time and place with some dignity and excitement. As someone says of Berlin's Alexanderplatz, "it was our beautiful, mysterious, ugly concrete playground, the GDR."

Saturday, October 5, 3 pm & Sunday, October 6, 9:30 pm
Life is Nothing for Cowards
(Das Leben ist nichts für Feiglinge)

Germany, 2012, 93 min.
Director: André Erkau
Screenplay: Gernot Griksch
Cast: Wotan Wilke Möhring, Helen Woigk, Frederick Lau,
Sales: Riva Filmproduktion (Hamburg, Germany).



André Erkau (b. 1968, Dortmund, Germany) studied psychology before training as an actor and, eventually, as a director. He has directed numerous short films and his previous features include *Soliloquies* (*Selbstgespräche*, 2007) and *No More Mr. Nice Guy* (*Arschkalt*, 2011).



© NFP Georges Pauly

By the time the opening credits have rolled, a wife and mother is dead of a freak accident, leaving husband Markus (Wotan Wilke Möhring) and 15-year-old daughter Kim (Helen Woigk) to fend for themselves. Which they are breathtakingly unprepared to do: Markus goes into a funk that jeopardizes his catering company, and Kim takes up with juvenile delinquent classmate Alex (Frederick Lau). Markus' mother Gerlinde (Christine Schorn) hides her newly-diagnosed cancer from them, and is first annoyed, then grateful for Paula (Rosalie Thomass), the blonde and bubbly care nurse assigned to her. When Kim and Alex take a runner for the Danish coast, Markus, Gerlinde and Paula follow them for a cathartic showdown. Gernot Griksch's script injects freshness into situations perilously close to cliché, and director André Erkau retains a remarkably consistent tone encompassing both tragedy and absurdity—often in the same sequence.

Saturday, October 5, 5:15 pm & Sunday, October 6, 7:30 pm
Forget Me Not (Vergiss mein nicht)
Discussion via Skype with director David Sieveking follows the 10/5 screening.

Germany, 2012, 88 min.
Director/Screenplay: David Sieveking
With: Margarete "Gretel" Sieveking, Malte Sieveking, David Sieveking
Sales: Autlook Filmsales (Vienna, Austria).



David Sieveking (b. 1977, Friedberg [Hessen], Germany) studied at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dfbb). He has been making films since 2001 and in 2010 won acclaim and awards for his first feature-length documentary, *David Wants to Fly*, about his hero, David Lynch.

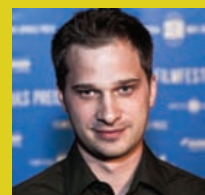


© Autlookfilms

When filmmaker David Sieveking received the news his mother, Margarete, had Alzheimer's disease, he decided to make a film about her. Familiarly known as Gretel and married for over four decades to David's father Malte, she is first seen in older footage, cooking and relaxing in the house they shared for 30 years. It is four years after the diagnosis, and David has agreed to spell Malte as primary caregiver for two weeks as he takes a much-needed vacation to Switzerland. During this time, David reveals the day-to-day challenges and quiet joys of his task. At once an inspiration for those grappling with Alzheimer's disease in their own families and a celebration of one well-lived life, *Forget Me Not* is unflinching yet profoundly rewarding. "The mother I used to know no longer exists," the filmmaker muses, "but her changes have brought my family closer together. Gretel's good spirit is with me, guiding my path."

U.S. PREMIERE
Saturday, October 5, 7:30 pm & Sunday, October 6, 3 pm
Shifting the Blame (Schuld sind immer die anderen)
Discussion with director Lars-Gunnar Lotz follows both screenings.

Germany, 2012, 90 min.
Director: Lars-Gunnar Lotz
Screenplay: Anna Maria Prassler
Cast: Edin Hasanovic, Julia Brendler, Marc Ben Puch
Sales: FFL Film- und Fernseh-Labor Ludwigsburg (Ludwigsburg, Germany)



Lars-Gunnar Lotz (b. 1982, Bad Isch, Austria) grew up near Cologne, studied visual communication and directing, and participated in an exchange program at the FEMIS film academy in Paris and a Hollywood Masterclass at Los Angeles' UCLA. His award-winning films include *Lisanne* (2005), *For Miriam* (2009) and *Shifting the Blame* (2012).



Both images © FFL Film- und Fernseh-Labor Ludwigsburg GmbH & Co. KG

In an industrial section of Stuttgart, masked young criminal Benjamin Graf (Edin Hasanovic) and his accomplice carjack a woman. Not long afterwards, Ben is jailed on another charge until social worker Niklas (Marc Benjamin Puch) persuades him to attend a rural camp for at-risk youth. After initially disrupting the group, Ben bears down and tries to fit in—until Niklas' wife Eva returns from leave, and Ben discovers she's the woman he assaulted. At once a compassionate tale of hard-fought redemption and a tense, cold thriller, *Shifting the Blame* manages the not inconsiderable feat of balancing the two dramatic tones with nary a misstep. And in Edin Hasanovic, director Lars-Gunnar Lotz has found an actor seemingly unafraid to unleash the ferocity that has consumed Ben. Winner of numerous German film awards and featured at many international film festivals, *Shifting the Blame* is an accomplished, effective and ultimately eye-opening drama.

Saturday, October 5, 10 pm & Sunday, October 6, 1 pm
Kuma

Austria, 2011, 93 min.
Director: Umut Dağ
Screenplay: Petra Ladinigg, Dağ
Cast: Nihal Koldas, Begüm Akkaya, Vedat Erincin, Dilara Karabayir, Murathan Muslu
Sales: Films Boutique (Berlin, Germany)



Umut Dağ (b. 1982, Vienna, Austria) studied international relations, religion and teaching. Following his career as a commercials director, he took up studies at the Vienna Film Academy in 2006. *Kuma* is his feature-length dramatic directorial debut.



© Filmsboutique

Selected as the opening night film for the prestigious Panorama section of the 2012 Berlin International Film Festival, Austrian-born Kurd director Umut Dağ's debut feature *Kuma* is a thoughtful, assured family drama about generational issues and the gap between Turkish and German cultures. At a traditional wedding in Turkey, 19-year-old country girl Ayse (Begüm Akkaya) marries the handsome Hasan (Murathan Muslu). When his family delegation, led by kindly patriarch Mustafa (Vedat Erincin), returns to Vienna, Ayse discovers she's really been recruited as a second wife for Mustafa, as his first, Fatma (Nihal Koldas), has cancer. First-time screenwriter Petra Ladinigg worked from an original idea by Dağ, and the combination of her rich characters and his confident, unflashy direction results in an authentic depiction of a family dynamic.

Sunday, October 6, 5:30 pm & Monday, October 7, 9 pm
Free Fall (Freier Fall)

Germany, 2013, 100 min.
Director: Stephan Lacant
Screenplay: Lacant, Karsten Dahlem
Cast: Hanno Koffler, Max Riemelt, Katarina Schüttler, Maren Kroymann, Luis Lamprecht
Sales: Wolfe Releasing



Stephan Lacant (b. 1972, Essen, Germany) studied theater, film and directing in Germany and in New York. His short and documentary films have screened at international festivals since 1996. He currently works as a screenwriter in Berlin. *Free Fall* is his second feature following *Fireflies* (2006).



© Wolfe Releasing

Young Marc Borgmann (Hanno Koffler) is undergoing immersive week-end police training, and has been assigned to an elite riot squad. His partner Bettina (Katarina Schüttler) is expecting their first child, Marc's family is tight-knit and loving, and his future seems assured. But when he meets fellow recruit Kay Engel (Max Riemelt), a dope-smoking enigma who seems quietly determined to seduce him, the feelings stirred up by Kay's attentions leave Marc anguished by conflicting emotions. But the pressures of commitment and the looming threat of hostile workplace prejudice grow well beyond Marc's control. For all the tension and eroticism in *Free Fall*, director and co-writer Stephan Lacant seems admirably uninterested in the story's more melodramatic aspects, focusing instead on Marc's agonizing indecision between the reassuringly familiar and the excitingly new. Life, says *Free Fall*, is a series of choices, but the paths aren't always familiar and the destinations are often unknown.

Tuesday, October 8, 7 and 9 pm
The Shine of Day (Der Glanz des Tages)
Reception with Austrian treats between the two screenings.

Austria, 2012, 90 min.
Directors: Tizza Covi, Rainer Frimmel
Screenplay: Covi, Frimmel, Xaver Bayer
Cast: Philippe Hochmair, Walter Saabel
Sales: Austrian Film Commission



Tizza Covi (b. 1971, Bolzano, Italy) and **Rainer Frimmel** (b. 1971, Vienna, Austria) founded Vento Film in 2002. Their films together include the documentaries *That's All* (*Das ist Alles*, 2001) and *Babooska* (2005), as well as their fiction debut, *The Girl* (*La Pivellina*, 2009).



© Ventofilm

Audiences fortunate enough to see *La Pivellina* in the 2010 edition of Filmfest DC witnessed a beguiling docudrama hybrid from documentarians Tizza Covi and Rainer Frimmel. Their follow-up, *The Shine of Day*, continues the blend of fact and fiction found in their previous film by focusing on a pair of mismatched relatives and their comically awkward first meetings after many years apart. Walter Saabel, a burly German who played the circus performer in *La Pivellina* and is one in real life, is Walter, the long-lost uncle of Philipp, played by prominent Austrian stage actor Philipp Hochmair. That the two men are not actually related adds yet another layer of playfulness to an already relaxed, deliberate film. Part encounter group, part neorealist drama and all heart, *The Shine of Day* is a modest triumph about the intricacies of family and the pleasures of companionship.

U.S. PREMIERE

Wednesday, October 9, 7 & 9 pm
Lullaby Ride (Nachtlärm)
Reception with Swiss treats between the two screenings.

Switzerland/Germany, 2012, 91 min.
Director: Christoph Schaub
Screenplay: Martin Suter
Cast: Alexandra Maria Lara, Sebastian Blomberg, Georg Friedrich, Carol Schuler
Sales: T&C Edition (Zürich, Switzerland)



Christoph Schaub (b. 1958, Zürich, Switzerland) has founded film production companies, lectured on film and made films since the early 1980s. His dramatic and feature-length documentaries include *Blind Date* (*Einfach so*, 1998), *Silent Love* (*Stille Liebe*, 2001), *Birds Nest: Herzog & de Meuron in China* (2008) and the upcoming *Millions Can Walk* (2013).



© A & T Edition

Babies cry; that's what they do. Don't try telling that to partners Livia (Alexandra Maria Lara) and Marco (Sebastian Blomberg), however, as their nine-month-old Tim (Tiziano Jähde) has squalled so unrelentingly during his short life that their already-broken relationship is on the verge of complete collapse. Their solution is one parents have turned to since the invention of the automobile: the middle-of-the-night highway drive. Stopping at an all-night convenience store when Tim finally drops off, they're both out of the car when it is stolen by thrill-seekers Jorge (Georg Friedrich) and Claire (Carol Schuller). Giving chase, Livia and Marco embark on a terrifying, often absurdist journey through stormy and increasingly sinister darkened villages and imposing forests. Not since the Coen Brothers' *Raising Arizona* has there been such an audacious movie on the subject of baby boosting.