

21  
23  
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22

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF GERMAN FILM

# GERMAN CURRENTS



# DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

We are excited to welcome you to the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the German Currents Film Festival 2022! This year's festival takes place from October 21–23 as an in-person event with screenings at the American Cinematheque and the Goethe-Institut. German Currents 2022 opens Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Los Feliz 3 Theatre,

with the LA Premiere of acclaimed director Andreas Dresen's multi-award-winning **RABIYE KURNAZ VS. GEORGE W. BUSH**, based on Rabiye Kurnaz's real-life fight to free her son from Guantanamo Bay. Opening night continues with the west coast Premiere of director Natalia Sinelnikova's debut feature film, **WE MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD**, which opened the program Perspective Deutsches Kino at Berlinale 2022.

German Currents continues on Saturday at the Goethe-Institut with the LA Premiere of veteran Filmmaker Andreas Kleinert's **DEAR THOMAS**, an intimate portrait of the

East German artist and provocateur Thomas Brasch. Saturday closes with the LA Premiere of **PRECIOUS IVIE**. This multi-award-winning drama from Writer-director Sarah Blaßkiewitz focuses on a young Afro-German woman searching for her true self. The Goethe-Institut will also host the return of the beloved annual family matinee with a screening of Christian Theede's **THE PEPPERCORNS AND THE SECRET OF THE DEEP SEA**, a family-friendly adventure filled with courage, humor, and action.

This October also marks our one-year anniversary in our new location in this diverse community.



We are grateful for the deep connections we have made in the community and look forward to celebrating this milestone with our wonderful German Currents audience.

We look forward to seeing you at the festival!

All the best,  
**Lien Heidenreich-Seleme  
& the German Currents team**



# Tired of reading subtitles?

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// OPENING NIGHT //  
OCT 21 – 7:00 PM – LOS FELIZ 3

## FRI



**RABIYE KURNAZ VS.  
GEORGE W. BUSH**

Germany (2021), 114 min.  
DCP Projection  
German/English/Turkish  
with English Subtitles

OCT 21 – 10:00 PM – LOS FELIZ 3

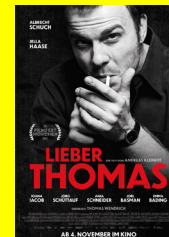


**WE MIGHT AS WELL  
BE DEAD**

Germany (2022), 93 min.  
DCP Projection  
German with  
English Subtitles

OCT 22 – 5:00 PM – GOETHE-INSTITUT

## SAT



**DEAR THOMAS**

Germany (2021), 150 min.  
Digital Projection  
German with  
English Subtitles

OCT 21 – 8:00 PM – GOETHE-INSTITUT



**PRECIOUS IVIE**

Germany (2021), 112 min.  
Digital Projection  
German with  
English Subtitles

// CHILDREN'S MATINEE //  
OCT 23 – 11:00AM – GOETHE-INSTITUT

## SUN



**THE PEPPERCORNS AND THE  
SECRET OF THE DEEP SEA**

Germany (2020), 94 min.  
Digital Projection  
German with  
English Subtitles

MORE INFORMATION: [GERMANCURRENTS.COM](http://GERMANCURRENTS.COM)

# SHOWTIMES



IN PERSON | OPENING NIGHT | WEST COAST PREMIERE  
FRIDAY | OCTOBER 21 | 7:00 PM | LOS FELIZ 3

RABIYE KURNAZ GEGEN GEORGE W. BUSH  
**RABIYE KURNAZ VS.  
GEORGE W. BUSH**



October 2001. Bremen, Germany. For Rabie Kurnaz (Kaptan), a loving wife and mother, her close-knit Turkish-German immigrant family is the center of her world. Shortly after her oldest son Murat (Öztürk) goes missing, the Kurnaz' learn that he has been arrested in Pakistan, detained without trial and sent to the Guauntanomo Bay Detention Camp as a suspected terrorist. Rabiye immediately springs into action, but soon finds herself alone and out of her depth. Things change for the dedicated, albeit impulsive and impatient Rabiye, when she finds Bernhard Docke (Scheer), a level-headed human rights lawyer, who takes on her case. Together, the two find themselves enmeshed in global politics as they battle for the release of her son, all the way to the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Veteran filmmaker Andreas Dresen skillfully directs Kaptan's award-winning blend of drama and humor in her portrayal of the real Rabiye Kurnaz. Laila Stieler's award-winning screenplay captures Kurnaz' determination and dedication to her family and justice.



Germany/France (2022), 119 min. (DCP Projection)  
German/English/Turkish with English Subtitles

**Director** Andreas Dresen  
**Screenplay** Laila Stieler  
**Cinematography** Andreas Höfer  
**Cast** Meltem Kaptan, Alexander Scheer, Charly Hübner, Abdullah Emre Öztürk  
**Producers** Claudia Steffen, Christoph Friedel  
**Production Company** Pandora Film Produktion

**Awards & Nominations:**  
**German Film Awards 2022:** Best Film (Silver), Best Lead Actress (Meltem Kaptan), Best Supporting Actor (Alexander Scheer)  
**Berlinale 2022:** Guild Film Award, Best Screenplay - Silver, Best Lead Actress - Silver (Meltem Kaptan)  
**German Screen Actors Awards 2022:** Dramatic Lead (Meltem Kaptan)  
**Nationaler Friedenspreis des Deutschen Films – Die Brücke 2022**

**World Sales**  
The Match Factory GmbH  
[the-match-factory.com](http://the-match-factory.com)



**Andreas Dresen** was born in 1963 in Gera, Germany and studied Directing at the "Konrad Wolf" University of Film & Television in Potsdam-Babelsberg. Since 1992, he works as a writer and director for film, TV and theater. A selection of his award-winning films includes: **STILLES LAND** (1992), **NACHTGESTALTEN** (1998), **HALBE TREPPE** (2001), **WILLENBROCK** (2004), **SOMMER VORM BALKON** (2005), **WOLKE 9** (2008), **HALT AUF FREIER STRETCKE** (2011), **ALS WIR TRÄUMTEN** (2015), **THE LEGEND OF TIMM THALER** (2017), **GUNDERMANN** (2018).

# German Film Office

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An initiative of





Don't become a member, become a friend!

Dear German Currents Film Festival Patrons,

For the past sixteen years, the Goethe-Institut and the German Currents Film Festival, with the support of Friends of Goethe of Southern California, have continued to bring the best in German cinema to Los Angeles.

This October, the Goethe-Institut also celebrates the first year in its new space in the Westlake/MacArthur Park neighborhood. As part of the Neighborhood Interpretive Center project, the Goethe-Institut has served as project partner and host for a diverse series of programs presented by local community organizations and partners, including live performances, exhibitions and art installations, concerts, and workshops.

As we celebrate another exciting edition of German Currents, I invite you to assist the Friends of Goethe in fulfilling our mandate to support the Goethe-Institut's work. Your tax-deductible contribution to the Friends of Goethe helps directly support the Goethe-Institut's exciting and engaging cultural programming in Los Angeles and around Southern California.

On behalf of the members of the board of the Friends of Goethe, including Dennis Fredericks, Jurate Gulbinas, Nele Hempel-Lamer, Paul Lerner, Sydney Levine, and Catherine MacGowan, I would like thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

**Michael Odenheimer**

President, Friends of Goethe of Southern California



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## WIR KÖNNTEN GENAUSO GUT TOT SEIN WE MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD

In Natalia Sinelnikova's feature film debut, the microcosm of the high-rise provides the setting for an eerie, nuanced, and satirical portrait of a timeless dystopian experiment. Anna (Iacob) and her teenage daughter Iris (Geiger) live in an exclusive apartment building near the edge of an unnamed forest. Secluded, secure, and self-contained, the complex is famous for its curated list of residents. To live here, shielded from a dangerous environment, is the goal. As head of security, Anna holds one of the most critical positions within the community. Life within the idyllic complex seems perfect until caretaker Gerti's (Schüttauf) dog mysteriously disappears, sparking panic among the residents. What follows is an unsettling, slow burning series of events that send the already paranoid tenants spiraling towards mass hysteria. Award-winning cinematographer Jan Mayntz artfully captures the bleak reality of Sinelkova and Gallandi's screenplay that resonates with current social and political issues.



IN PERSON | OPENING NIGHT | WEST COAST PREMIERE  
FRIDAY | OCTOBER 21 | 10:00 PM | LOS FELIZ 3



**Germany (2022), 93 min. (DCP Projection)**  
**German with English Subtitles**

**Director** Natalia Sinelnikova  
**Screenplay** Natalia Sinelnikova & Viktor Gallandi  
**Cinematography** Jan Mayntz  
**Cast** Ioana Iacob, Pola Geiger, Jörg Schüttauf  
**Producers** Julia Wagner  
**Production Company** HEARTWAKE films in co-production with Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF

**Awards & Nominations:**  
**Berlinale 2022:** Opening Film at Perspective Deutsches Kino  
**Tribeca Film Festival 2022:** International Narrative Competition, Best Cinematography  
**Bolzano Film Festival Bozen 2021:** Cine Chromatix - Postproduktions-Preis  
**Berlin Film Week:** Winner Best Director and Best Screenplay

**World Sales**  
Fortissimo Films  
[fortissimofilms.com](http://fortissimofilms.com)



**Natalia Sinelnikova** was born in St. Petersburg in 1989 and emigrated to Germany at the age of 7. She grew up in Berlin and studied Culture Studies, focusing on theater and photography in Hildesheim and film directing at Film University Babelsberg Konrad Wolf in Potsdam. We Might As Well Be Dead is her debut feature.

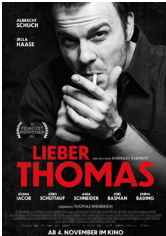


IN PERSON | LA PREMIERE  
SATURDAY | OCTOBER 22 | 5:00 PM | GOETHE-INSTITUT

LIEBER THOMAS  
DEAR THOMAS



Rebel. Poet. Revolutionary. Few artists personify the division between East and West Germany like Thomas Brasch. Born in 1945 to Jewish-German emigrants exiled in England who soon returned to Germany to help build the GDR, Thomas (Schuch) was destined to be an outsider. As his father Horst (Schütttauf) rose in the ranks of East Germany's ruling party, he urged young Thomas to help build the then still young state. But Thomas grew to be an uncompromisingly radical activist and artist whose rebellious attitude led to family conflict, state censorship, and ultimately prison. After emigrating to the west with his partner Katharina (Haase), Brasch refused to play the role of the stereotypical GDR dissident artist. Instead, he directed his critique at German history and West German Society in his poetry, plays, and films. Despite his overwhelming success and acceptance in the west, Brasch refused to be appropriated. Recipient of nine German Film Awards, including Best Film, Screenplay, Actor (Schuch), Actress (Haase), and Cinematography, veteran director Andreas Kleinert skillfully interweaves Brasch's writing into this intimate portrait of the East German provocateur.



**Germany (2021), 150 min. (Digital Projection)**  
**German with English Subtitles**

**Director** Andreas Kleinert  
**Screenplay** Thomas Wendrich, Anke Wagner  
**Cinematography** Johann Feindt  
**Cast** Albrecht Schuch, Jella Haase, Ioana Iacob, Jörg Schütttauf, Anja Schneider  
**Producers** Michael Souvignier, Till Derenbach  
**Production Company** Zeitsprung Pictures GmbH, in co-production with NDR, BR, WDR, ARTE Deutschland TV GmbH

**Awards & Nominations:**  
**German Film Awards 2022:** Best Film (Gold), Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Lead Actor (Albrecht Schuch), Best Supporting Actress (Jella Haase), Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Best Set Design, Best Costumes  
**Bavarian Film Awards 2022:** Best Actor (Albrecht Schuch)

**World Sales**  
Beta Cinema  
[betacinema.com](http://betacinema.com)



**Andreas Kleinert** was born in East Berlin in 1962. He studied film directing at the Konrad Wolf Film Academy in Babelsberg from 1984 to 1989 and has been a professor of feature film directing at the institution, now a university, since 2006. His debut film **LEB WOHL, JOSEPH** (1990) premiered in competition at Locarno, while **VERLORENE LANDSCHAFT** (1992) was screened in competition in San Sebastián. Kleinert received an Emmy for his highly acclaimed drama **MEIN VATER** (2003). His **FRAU VON FRÜHER** (2012) and **HEDDA** (2016) were adaptations of plays by Roland Schimmelpfennig and Henrik Ibsen. In between, he directed various episodes of the popular detective series **TATORT – SCHIMANSKI** and **POLIZEIRUF 110**.

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## KULTUR .21

# LAND DER DICHTER UND DESIGNER?

Kunst und Kultur nicht nur auf der Leinwand! Das Vitra Museum in Weil am Rhein ist eines der vielen Aushängeschilder der deutschen Kreativszene. Kultur.21 stellt deren Akteure vor, spürt neue Ideen auf und ist bei den wichtigsten Ereignissen der Saison dabei.

Unter [dw.com/tv-usa](https://www.dw.com/tv-usa) finden Sie heraus, wie Sie Kultur.21 auf DW Deutsch+ auch in Ihrem Sendegebiet empfangen können.

[dw.com/kultur21](https://www.dw.com/kultur21)

## IVIE WIE IVIE PRECIOUS IVIE

Ivie (Jones) is a 30-year-old German woman with African roots living in Leipzig, whose life seems to be at a standstill. Struggling to land a permanent teaching position, she spends her time between job interviews, hanging out with her friends, who've nicknamed her "Shoko" (literally Choco), and working a part-time job. However, Ivie's life is up-ended when Naomi (Ishema), her half-sister from Berlin, shows up unexpectedly with news of their father's death and his upcoming funeral in Senegal.

Neither sister knew their father, nor did they know each other. But as the sisters from two very different cities and backgrounds grow closer, Ivie begins to question her nickname, culture, and self-image as she finds the strength within herself to move forward. Writer-Director Sarah Blaßkiewitz's multi-award-winning feature debut is an intelligently crafted examination of identity and everyday racism.



IN PERSON | LA PREMIERE  
SATURDAY | OCTOBER 22 | 8:00 PM | GOETHE-INSTITUT



Germany (2021), 112 min. (Digital Projection)  
German with English Subtitles

**Director** Sarah Blaßkiewitz  
**Screenplay** Sarah Blaßkiewitz  
**Cinematography** Constanze Schmitt, David Schmit  
**Cast** Haley Louise Jones, Lorna Ishema, Anne Haug, Maximilian Brauer  
**Producers** Milena Klemke, Yvonne Wellie, Jakob Weydemann, Jonas Weydemann  
**Production Company** Weydemann Bros. GmbH

**Awards & Nominations:**  
**German Screen Actors Awards 2022:** Best Leading Role (Haley Louise Jones)  
**German Film Awards 2021:** Best supporting Actress (Lorna Ishema)  
**Filmkunstmesse Leipzig 2021:** Guild Film Award, Best Film (Junges Kino)  
**Festival of German Films Ludwigshafen 2021:** Best Film  
**achtung berlin 2021 - new berlin film award:** Best Acting (Haley Louise Jones and Lorna Ishema)  
**Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2019:** Baltic Event Works in Progress – Award

**World Sales**  
Weydemann Bros.  
[weydemannbros.com](https://www.weydemannbros.com)



**Sarah Blaßkiewitz** was born in Leipzig in 1986 and grew up in Potsdam. While completing her studies in audiovisual media (2006 to 2011), she worked in the directing and camera departments on various film productions. Her graduation film **AUF DEM WEG NACH OBEN** premiered at the Max-Ophüls Festival, and her short film **BLANK** (2016) screened at numerous festivals. In 2017, she received development funding for her mini-series concept **SUPERCREW**. Most recently, she directed the final season of the series **DRUCK**, which premiered in 2022. **IVIE WIE IVIE** is her debut feature as director.



IN PERSON | CHILDREN'S MATINEE | WEST COAST PREMIERE  
SUNDAY | OCTOBER 23 | 11:00 PM | GOETHE-INSTITUT

DIE PFEFFERKÖRNER UND DER SCHATZ DER TIEFSEE  
THE PEPPERCORNS AND THE  
SECRET OF THE DEEP SEA



Germany's beloved and unbeatable team of teenage detectives are back. When Alice (Flint) visits her friend Tarun (Fischer-Ortmann) on the coast of Northern Ireland for summer vacation, neither of them can imagine the adventure that awaits them. Tarun's mother, Jaswinder (Abbas) is an oceanographer working on a secret project to reduce plastic waste in the ocean. Shortly after her top secret documents are stolen, Jaswinder disappears without a trace. While tracking down clues to hopefully find Jaswinder, Alice and Tarun come face to face with Robert Fleckmann (Ferch), a suspicious business executive who seems to know too much about Jaswinder's research. Alice and Tarun suddenly find themselves tangled-up in a mystery that they can only solve with the help of their Peppercorn friends: Jonny (Pütz), Clarissa (Martz) and Hanna (Madita). Theede's film brings the beloved German television series to the big screen for another family-friendly adventure filled with courage, humor, action, suspense and an inspiring cast of young characters, determined to change their world for the better.



Germany (2020), 94 min. (Digital Projection)  
German with English Subtitles

**Director** Christian Theede  
**Screenplay** Dirk Ahner  
**Cinematography** Matthias Fleischer  
**Cast** Emilia Flint, Casper Fischer-Ortmann, Leander Pütz, Charlotte Martz, Linda Madita, Meriam Abbas, Heino Ferch  
**Producers** Michael Lehmann, Kerstin Ramcke, Holger Ellermann  
**Production Company** Letterbox Filmproduktion, Nordfilm, ARD/NDR, Senator Film Produktion

**Awards & Nominations:**  
**Golden Sparrow Film Festival 2020:** Best Feature Film

**Molodist Film Festival 2021:** Special Mention for Best Acting

**World Sales**  
Globenscreen GmbH  
[globalscreen.de](http://globalscreen.de)



**Christian Theede** was born in 1972 and studied Literature and Theater in Tübingen before taking up studies in Film & Television in Dortmund and Cologne. Also active as a writer, his film work includes: various successful comedy formats, music videos, TV movies and series such as **HANS IN LUCK, TILL EULENSPIEGEL, ALARM FOR COBRA 11** and the features **IM WEISSEN RÖSSL, TIME HEROES, THE PEPPERCORNS AND THE CURSE OF THE BLACK KING, and THE PEPPERCORNS AND THE SECRET OF THE DEEP SEA.**

CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGE

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