



JOHANNES  
SCHMID  
DIRECTOR  
AUTHOR





The Fairy Queen



## JOHANNES SCHMID

### DIRECTOR AUTHOR

Born in 1973 near Munich. From 1995 to 2000 he studied Theatre, Film, German Literature and Art History in Erlangen and Munich, graduating with a first class Magister Artium.

Since 2000 he has worked as an independent director and author for screen and stage.

He has directed over 45 productions for (among others): Teatro alla Scala Milano, Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf/Duisburg, Malmö Stadsteater, Läckö Castle Opera, Oper Dortmund, Salzburger Festspiele, Bayerisches Staatsschauspiel, Nationaltheater Mannheim, Theater Sankt Gallen, Theater Münster, Theater Konstanz, Oper Bonn and Schauburg – Theater der Jugend in Munich.

His productions include Edmond Rostands *Cyrano de Bergerac*, the Tiger Lillies' junk opera *Shockheaded Peter*, Gus van Saint's *Paranoid Park*, Kafka's *The Trial*, Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, Paravidino's *Still Life in a Ditch*, Purcell's semi-opera *The Fairy Queen*, Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, Berthold Goldschmidt's opera *Beatrice Cenci*, Heinrich Marschner's romantic opera *The Vampire*, the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* and the world premieres of the family operas *The Snow Queen* and *Ronja the Robber's Daughter*.

In 2007 his *An Odyssey* based on Homer was awarded the "Annual Bouquet" prize by the newspaper TZ for the best production of the year in Munich. His production of *The Changeling*, based on the work of Selma Lagerlöf, was invited to the German Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences in 2007. His stage plays based on Kafka's *The Trial*, Cervantes' *Don Quixote* and Heinrich von Kleist's *Kohlhaas* are published by Theaterverlag Korn-Wimmer and Colombine Teaterförlag Stockholm, as well as his libretto for a version for children of Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* by Universal-Verlag Vienna.

Following many short films, his first full-length work for the cinema: *Blöde Mütze!* (internationally known as *Silly's Sweet Summer*) based on his own screenplay was premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in 2007. It received national and international acclaim and numerous prizes including the Children's Media Prize "White Elephant 2007" and the screenplay prize "Children's Tiger 2008". His second feature film followed in 2011: the German-Polish co-production *Wintertochter* (*Winter's Daughter*). This film was equally lauded with, among others, the German Film Prize LOLA AWARD in the category "Best Children's Film 2012".

In 2015 he finished his third feature film, *Agnes*, based on the novel by the swiss author Peter Stamm, for which he also wrote the screenplay. *Agnes* had it's world premiere at the Palm Springs International Film Festival in January 2016 and was released in German, Austrian and Swiss cinemas in June 2016. The film was shortlisted for German Film Prize LOLA 2016 and nominated for German Audience Prize „Jupiter Award 2017.“ Several new filmprojects are in development, for example the drama *Grace* after a novel by Linn Ullmann and the family entertainment film *Geschichten vom Franz* after the books by Christine Nöstlinger.

Johannes Schmid is a founding member of *Lieblingsfilm GmbH* (formerly *schlicht und ergreifend GmbH*), one of the leading film production companies in Germany. In addition to his own work as director and author numerous activities as a jury member for film festivals, teacher for film schools and as a translator for Swedish dramatic literature into German.

Johannes Schmid is a member of the German and European Film Academies and the Writers Guild of Sweden.





The Snow Queen

## MOST SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTIONS

- 2001 *Tonight: Lola Blau*, musical by Georg Kreisler, Kammerspiele Landshut
- 2003 *Don Gil of the Green Breeches* by Tirso de Molina, KULTURmobil Lower Bavaria
- 2004 *Babytalk*, musical by Peter Lund/Thomas Zaufke, Teamtheater Comedy Munich
- 2005 *The Three Wishes*, a musical for children by Guus Ponsioen based on Johann Peter Hebel, Schauburg Munich  
*Don Pasquale*, opera buffa by Gaetano Donizetti, Pasinger Fabrik/Kammeroper Munich
- 2006 *The Changeling*, based on Selma Lagerlöf, Schauburg Munich
- 2007 *Shockheaded Peter*, junk opera by McDermott/Crouch/Jacques, Pfalztheater Kaiserslautern  
*An Odyssey*, based on Homer by Ad de Bont, Schauburg Munich
- 2008 *Still Life in a Ditch*, by Fausto Paravidino, Bayerisches Staatsschauspiel  
*The Trial*, by Johannes Schmid and Ruth Bader, based on the novel by Franz Kafka, Theater Konstanz
- 2009 *Don Quixote*, by Johannes Schmid and Georg Holzer, based on the novel by Cervantes, Bayerisches Staatsschauspiel
- 2010 *Jakob von Gunten*, chamber opera by Benjamin Schweitzer based on the novel by Robert Walser, Theater Sankt Gallen  
*The Little Mermaid*, based on H. C. Andersen, Theater Konstanz
- 2011 *Eisberg nach Sizilien* (world premiere), chamber opera by Kurt Schwertsik based on F. K. Waechter, Nationaltheater Mannheim/Junge Oper  
*Around the World In 80 Days*, by Pavel Kohout based on Jules Verne, Theater Konstanz
- 2012 *The Fairy Queen*, semi-opera by Henry Purcell, Theater St. Gallen  
*Beatrice Cenci*, opera by Berthold Goldschmidt, Oper Dortmund  
*The Cold Heart*, by Johannes Schmid and Miriam Reimers, based on Wilhelm Hauff, Theater Konstanz
- 2013 *Nothing*, based on the novel by Janne Teller, Theater Münster  
*Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (for children), based on the Singspiel by W.A. Mozart, libretto by Johannes Schmid, Salzburger Festspiele/Young Singers' Project  
*Fiddler on the Roof*, musical by Jerry Bock and Joseph Stein, Oper Dortmund
- 2014 *The Girl Who Did Not Want To Sleep* (world premiere), family opera by Marius Felix Lange, Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf/Duisburg  
*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, Singspiel by W.A. Mozart, Theater Sankt Gallen
- 2015 *Ronja the Robber's Daughter* (world premiere), family opera by Jörn Arnecke, Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf/Duisburg
- 2016 *The Snow Queen* (world premiere), family opera by Marius Felix Lange, Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf/Duisburg  
*Il ratto dal Serraglio per i bambini*, based on the Singspiel by W.A. Mozart, libretto by Johannes Schmid, Teatro alla Scala Milano  
*Captain Bone - A Pirate Opera* - based on Giacchino Rossinis opera *L'italiana in Algeri*, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden
- 2018 *La Juive*, opera by Jacques Fromental Halevy, Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie/Konzilstadt Konstanz  
*The Vampire*, opera by Heinrich Marschner, Läckö Castle Opera Sweden  
*Paranoid Park*, play by Johannes Schmid after the novel by Blake Nelson, Malmö Stadsteater
- 2019 *Gold*, children opera by Leonard Evers, Geist/Teater Pero Stockholm
- 2020 *Cyrano de Bergerac*, by Edmond Rostand, Malmö Stadsteater  
*Kohlhaas*, play by Johannes Schmid after the novel by Heinrich von Kleist, Teater Giljotin Stockholm/Scenit





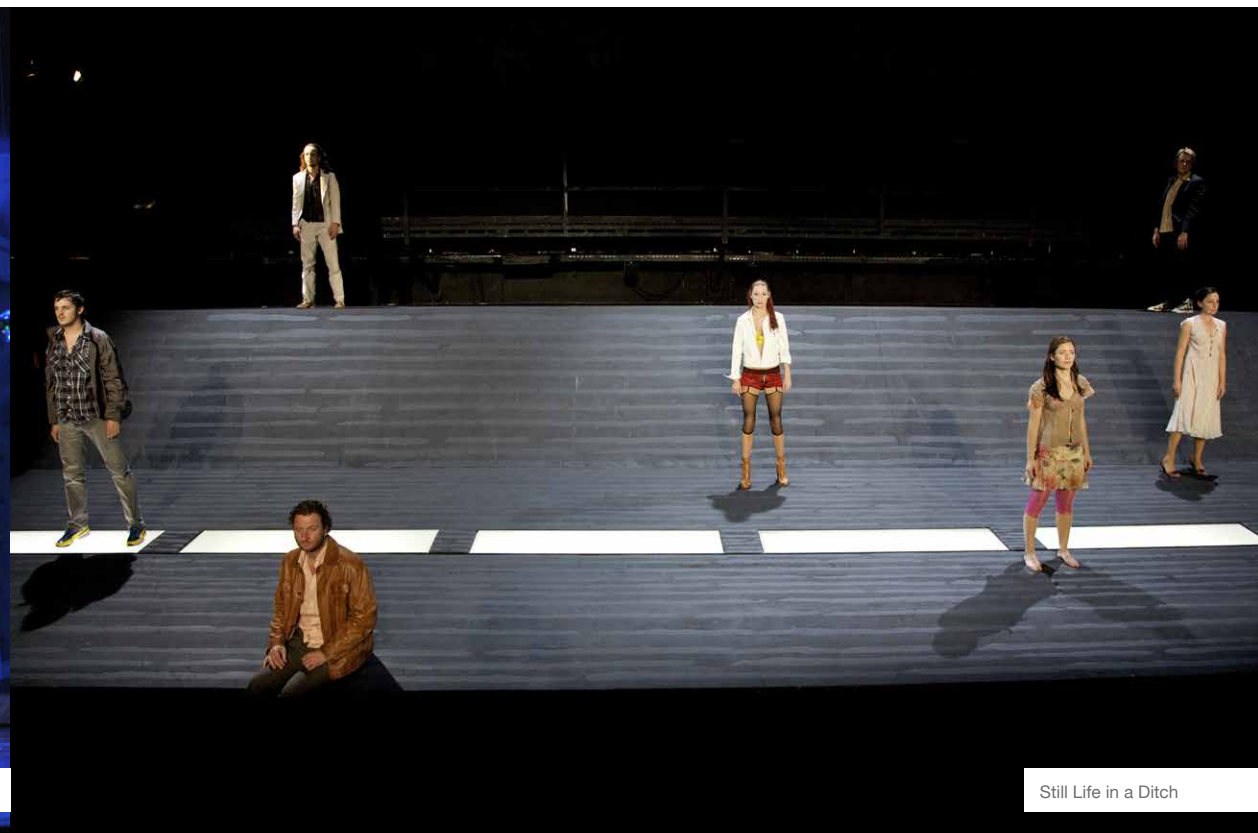
Ronja the Robber's Daughter



Jakob von Gunten



The Girl Who Did Not Want To Sleep



Still Life in a Ditch

# PRESS COMMENTS

*„Johannes Schmid is directing epic theatre without any compromises!“*

*(Aftonbladet on Kohlhaas)*

*„Beautiful and disarming stage concept, which makes you even more sensible for the cruel deeds.“*

*(Svergies Television on Kohlhaas)*

*„A tribute to the community which is formed in a library and the world of literacy. Beautiful and uplifting.“*

*(Svenska Dagbladet on Cyrano de Bergerac)*

*„Wonderful concept! A really magical theatre evening!“*

*(Sveriges Radio P1 on Cyrano de Bergerac)*

*„Intensive and dramatic Cyrano with very surprising scenography.“*

*(Skånska Dagbladet on Cyrano de Bergerac)*

*„Extraordinary entertaining and delicate staging.“*

*(Kristianstadsbladet on Cyrano de Bergerac)*

*“Grandiose premiere! Here we are talking high-quality material, that will actively be discussed between teenagers and adults.”*

*(Scenkonstguiden on Paranoid Park)*

*“Johannes Schmid puts Paranoid Park to stage, based on Blake Nelsons youth novel, fiercely, physical and explosive and make one almost forget the theatre.”*

*(Aftonbladet on Paranoid Park)*

*“Claustrophobic drama where relatable everyday teenager life, meets the big existential drama. Artistically ruthless and at the same time more than suitable discussion material for high school students, who are lucky enough to get to see this strong stage production during school time.”*

*(Sydsvenskan on Paranoid Park)*

*“A high speed and emotional force performance, full of impressive character impersonations. I really like Paranoid Park and the choice to make the internal something we can see, feel and take part of.”*

*(Skånska Dagbladet on Paranoid Park)*

*“Opera entertainment in top class!”*

*(Skånska Dagbladet on The Vampire)*

*„The stage director skilfully succeeds to hold the difficult balance between being ironic and being bloody serious. A scenic hit.”*

*(Aftonbladet on The Vampire)*

*“This is exactly the way to do an almost 200 years old old-fashioned opera and make it to an experience which is totally fresh and enjoyable.”*

*(Sveriges Radio P 1 on The Vampire)*

*“The Läckö-team knows how to amuse and to frighten. They are charming us totally with a rediscovery which makes us taste blood.”*

*(Dagens Nyheter on The Vampire)*

*“A horror opera? How thrilling can this be? The answer is, quite a lot! Humor and romance are collocated all the time. With small tools the artistic team is using the location with maximal effectful results. A real holistic experience.”*

*(Göteborgs Posten on The Vampire)*

*“The german stage director Johannes Schmid works with an artificial theatre-style, which sometimes reminds of the esthetics of a silent movie and he is mixing thrill with humor, with the same attitude as in Polanskis Dance of the Vampires.”*

*(Svenska Dagbladet on The Vampire)*

*“Halévys Grand Opera becomes under the hands of stage director Johannes Schmid to a very intense and nightmarish chamber drama. Up-to-the-minute!”*

*(Luzerner Zeitung on La Juive)*

*“An overwhelming synthesis of the arts!”*

*(Vorarlberger Nachrichten on La Juive)*

*“This Constance version is extraordinary great music plus extraordinary great theatre - it is really Grand Opera with all it needs, extremely exciting and well done from the first to the last minute. Three and a half hours of high quality musical theatre, how you will not be able to see in this city for a quite long time.”*

*(seemoz.de on La Juive)*

*“What should I write about the stage directing? It’s impossible to do it better! Opera cannot be more exiting, full of tension and full of humor. It was a pleasure to watch! Just like in the movies!”*

*(Opernmagazin.de on The Snow Queen)*

*“This ‚Ronja the Robber’s Daughter‘ shows just what a family opera can be!”*

*(Deutschlandfunk Radio on Ronja the Robber’s Daughter)*

*“Director Johannes Schmid and Designer Tatjana Ivschina show neither flat illusions nor do they attempt to match the fantasy world of the cinema: instead they use a fascinating array of essential theatre techniques. The reaction of the children was resounding.”*

*(WDR3 Radio on Ronja the Robber’s Daughter)*

*“Intelligent and inextricably linked to the music!”*

*(Neue Zürcher Zeitung on Die Entführung aus dem Serail)*

*“An atmospheric and vibrating piece of family theatre which will send a tingle down your spine!”*

*(Thurgauer Zeitung on The Cold Heart)*

*“Johannes Schmid delivers a masterpiece: in one and a half hours everything is here which is needed to kindle the special magic which is great opera!”*

*(Opernnetz on The Girl Who Did Not Want To Sleep)*

*“90 Minutes of surprising twists and a turmoil of emotion complete with imagination, tempo, comedy and romance.”*

*(Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung on The Girl Who Did Not Want To Sleep)*

*“A picture perfect production of ‚Fiddler on the Roof‘ at the Dortmund Opera House. Johannes Schmid commands powerful emotions in front of an impressive historical backdrop. The repartee, the music and the performers convince.”*

*(Westfälischer Anzeiger on Fiddler on the Roof)*

*“A real psycho thriller! The cast of six under the direction of Johannes Schmid lose nothing in the comparison to genre classics like ‚The Wave‘.”*

*(Münstersche Zeitung on Nothing)*

*“Spot-on direction with strong dramatic elements. A notable operatic evening.”*

*(Das Opernglas on Beatrice Cenci)*

*“A dream-like production, the memory of which will last much longer than a midsummer night.”*

*(Südkurier on The Fairy Queen)*

*“A frivolous magical masterwork of direction and design. The choreography and lighting design burn like a baroque firework.”*

*(St. Galler Tagblatt on The Fairy Queen)*

*“A convincing interpretation for the stage. Images and characters leave a lasting impression. Not the music but the direction in its precision and creativity make this “Jakob von Guten” a production of significance.”*

*(Südkurier on Jakob von Gunten)*

*“A challenging, virtuoso production in which everything fits.”*

*(Orpheus on Jakob von Gunten)*

*“Dense theatre, which like a liturgy, incorporates emotional tumult into its strict form without prophesying redemption. A mass which lays claim to its own relevance.”*

*(Thurgauer Zeitung on The Trial)*

*“Expressive, fast-paced physical theatre!”*

*(TZ Munich on Still Life in a Ditch)*

*“A production which gets under your skin.”*

*(Donaukurier on Still Life in a Ditch)*

*“This production dances on waves of emotion, never boring and never losing touch with the heartbeat of its characters and plot. It captivates us here with abstract shadow play, there with video sequences. Electrifying, brilliant!”*

*(Münchner Merkur on An Odyssey)*

*“Enthralling, eye-opening lesson on altruism and humanity.”*

*(Süddeutsche Zeitung on The Changeling)*

*“Johannes Schmid’s production, with its pictures reminiscent of old fairy tale books, delivers a sequences of fabulous ideas.”*

*(Süddeutsche Zeitung on The Changeling)*

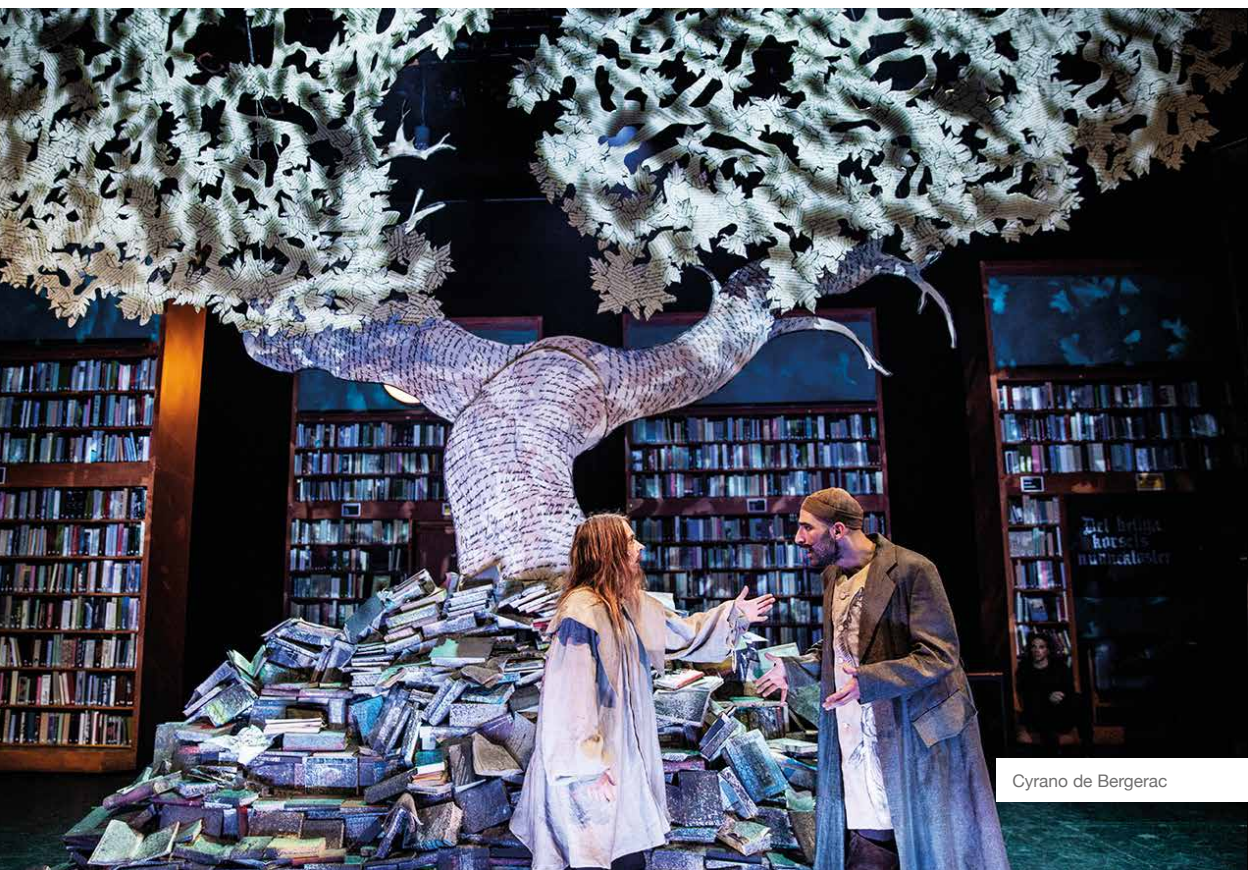




Kohlhaas



The Vampire

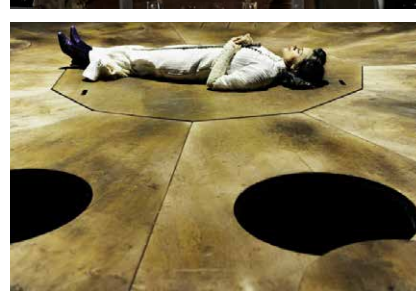
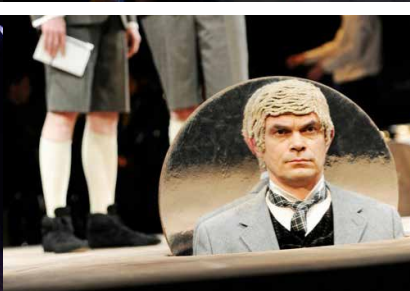


Cyrano de Bergerac



Paranoid Park









## FILM

- 1998 *halbdrei*, short film, 10 min (screenplay and direction)
- 2001 *Flügelfisch*, short film, 8 min (screenplay and direction)
- 2003 *Merle*, short film, 12 min (screenplay and direction)
- 2003 *Aus der Tiefe des Raumes (From the Depth of the Room)*, feature film, 88 min, schlicht und ergreifend Film/d.i.e.film.gmbh/ZDF (producer)
- 2007 *Blöde Mütze! (Silly's sweet summer)*, feature film, 91 min, schlicht und ergreifend Film with Kinderfilm GmbH/BR/RBB (screenplay and direction)
- 2011 *Wintertochter*, feature film, 93, min, schlicht und ergreifend Film/Pokromski Studio Warschau/RBB/BR/MDR/NDR/SWR (co-writer and direction)
- 2016 *Agnes*, feature film, 104 min, Lieblingsfilm GmbH/WDR (screenplay and direction)

## MOST SIGNIFICANT AWARDS

- 2004 Bavarian Film Prize „Best Upcoming Producer/VGF Prize“ for *Aus der Tiefe des Raumes*
- 2007 German Children Media Prize „White Elephant – Best Direction“ at Film Festival Munich for *Blöde Mütze!*  
„Golden Sparrow 2007“ Newcomer Award for *Blöde Mütze!* at German Children's Film Festival
- 2008 Main prize „Golden Swan“ at the International Children's Film Festival Moscow for *Blöde Mütze!*  
Screenplay Prize „Children's Tiger 2008“ for *Blöde Mütze!*
- 2011 Adult Jury Prize at Chicago International Children's Film Festival for *Wintertochter*  
„Golden Butterfly for Best Director“ at ICFF - International Children Film Festival Isfahan/Iran for *Wintertochter*  
„Golden Sparrow 2011“ for Best Screenplay at German Children's Film Festival for *Wintertochter*
- 2012 German Film Prize LOLA AWARD in the category „Best Children's Film of the year“ for *Wintertochter*  
German Screenplay Prize „Children's Tiger 2012“ for *Wintertochter*
- 2016 „Max-Ophüls-Prize Best Upcoming Actress“ for Oidine Johne as *Agnes*  
*Agnes* on Shortlist German Film Prize LOLA AWARD  
Nomination for the German Audience Prize „Jupiter Award“ for *Agnes*

## IN DEVELOPMENT

- Geschichten vom Franz*, feature film, Nikolaus Geyrhalter Film Vienna/if-filmproductions Munich (direction)
- Grace*, feature film, Anagram Lund/Liebingsfilm Munich (screenplay and direction)
- Wir für immer*, feature film, Lieblingsfilm Munich (screenplay and direction)





## AGNES

Feature film, Germany 2016, 105 min, DCP

The non-fiction author Walter falls for the physics student Agnes. He is fascinated by her extreme attitude towards life and her reserved appearance, which is quite the opposite of his quiet and regular life. When Agnes encourages him to follow his passion for writing fiction, he starts to work on a book, a portrait of how he sees her.

Directed by: Johannes Schmid

Written by: Johannes Schmid, Nora Lämmermann based on the novel by Peter Stamm

Director of Photography: Michael Bertl bvk

Music: Michael Heilrath, Anna Ternheim

Produced by: Philipp Budweg, Thomas Blieninger

Cast: Odine Johne, Stephan Kampwirth, Sonja Baum and others.



A „Lieblingsfilm GmbH“ Production in Co-Production with Westdeutscher Rundfunk WDR.

World Premiere: January 2016 Palm Springs International Film Festival, since then it has been shown at over 10 Film Festivals world wide.

Cinema Release: June 2016 , DVD Release: December 2016

TV Premiere: Autumn 2017 (ARD - Das Erste)

## PRESS COMMENTS

„Fascinating german indie!“ (The Hollywood Reporter)

„Sustainable and overwhelming.“ (kino-zeit.de, 5 stars out of 5)

„Good stories make one happy! A rarely seen case, a clever german love story.“ (Frankfurter Rundschau)

„Congenial filming of the novel. Immensely thrilling.“ (Kölner Stadtanzeiger)

„Perfectly told.“ (epd Film, 4 stars out of 5)

„Disturbing, discussion provoking and formal, as well as contentwise unconventional.“ (Blickpunkt Film)

„Exquisitely directed.“ (cineuropa.org)

„Intellectual cinema enjoyment.“ (programmokino.de)

„A fascinating and highly intelligent film about the truth in fiction.“ (German Film Rating Board)

„At least since AGNES is Odine Johne the new discovery in the german cinemas!“ (kulturzeit 3sat)

„An unusual fluke in german cinemas!“ (MDR Kino Royal)

„Incredible and beautifully directed. A Psychological thriller that lives on in ones thoughts.“ (Deutschlandradio Kultur)

„Clever and bewitching cinema adaption.“ (Tagesanzeiger Zurich)







## WINTERTOCHTER

Feature film, Germany/Poland 2011, 93 min, 35mm/DCP

Kattaka is celebrating Christmas at home in Berlin when her family receives a phone call that reveals that the man Kattaka thought was her father actually isn't. Wanting to know who her biological father is, she sets off on a journey along German country roads and the Polish coast to find him. Knacke, her best friend, and Lene, her 75-year old neighbour, go with her, as Lene is looking for something, too. A story of friendship across nations and generations, and about having the courage to live your life.

Directed by: Johannes Schmid

Written by: Michaela Hinnenthal, Thomas Schmid, Johannes Schmid

Director of Photography: Michael Bertl bvk

Music: Michael Heilrath, Kathrin Mickiewicz

Produced by: Philipp Budweg, Thomas Blieninger, Mikolaj Pokromski

Cast: Ursula Werner, Nina Monka, Leon Seidel, Dominik Nowak, Katharina Marie Schubert, Maxim Mehmet, Daniel Olbrychski, Merab Ninidze and others.

A „schlicht und ergeifend“ Production in Co-Production with Pokromski Films Warsaw and Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg RBB/Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk MDR/ Bayerischer Rundfunk BR/Norddeutscher Rundfunk NDR/Südwestdeutscher Rundfunk SWR.

World Premiere: January 2011 Competition MAX-OPHÜLS-PREIS Saarbrücken, since then it has been shown that shown at over 30 Film Festivals world wide.

Cinema release: October 2011, DVD Release: June 2012

TV Premiere: November 2013 (ARD - Das Erste)

## PRESS COMMENTS

„Johannes Schmid is a godsend for the genre!“ (Süddeutsche Zeitung)

„Schmid proves once again his sensibility for young people. He combines a sensitive Coming-of-Age with a corss generational drama for young and old alike.“ (www.kino.de)

„A poetic as well as adventures road movie with powerfully developed characters and brilliant pictures.“ (Filmdienst)

„A terrific road movie in magnificent Scope-Pictures!“ (epd Film)

„Equally clever and entertaining.“ (Bild)

„Sophisticatedly told, sensibly played family story!“ (Cinema)





## BLÖDE MÜTZE!

Feature film, Germany 2007, 91 min, 35 mm

Until he moved to the small town of Bellbach, 12-year-old Martin's life seemed to be okay, but then suddenly he is confronted with a unexpected reality: his first love and Oliver's fist. Pretty complicated! But Martin fights for what he believes in: for Silke and against Oliver, and finally for the friendship of both.

Directed by: Johannes Schmid

Written by: Johannes Schmid, Michael Demuth based on a novel by Thomas Schmid

Director of Photography: Michael Bertl bvk

Music: Michael Heilrath

Produced by: Philipp Budweg, Johannes Schmid, Ingelore König

Cast: Johann Hillmann, Konrad Baumann, Lea Eisleb, Inka Friedrich, Stephan Kampwirth, Inga Busch, Claudia Geisler, Andreas Hoppe and others.

A „schlicht und ergreifend-Film“ Production in Co-Production with Kinderfilm GmbH and Bayerischer Rundfunk BR/Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg RBB.

World Premiere: February 2007 Berlin International Film Festival (Competition GENERATION Kplus), since then shown at over 25 film festival world wide.

Cinema Release: April 2008, DVD Release: February 2009

TV Premiere: June 2009 (ARD - Das Erste)

## PRESS COMMENTS

„A new german standard for young people's films has been set!“ (German film rating board)

„An existential crash course in 90 minutes.“ (Die Tageszeitung)

„Realistic and without an educational broad hint.“ (Süddeutsche Zeitung)

„Simply charming!“ (Express Köln)

„Schmid's masterful directing is embossed by humor, sensitivity and love for the characters. A fluke for the german cinema.“ (Hamburger Morgenpost)

„In a perfect world this film would attract millions of people!“ (Mannheimer Morgen)

„This film is a rarity.“ (Münchener Merkur)

„Impressive, true-to-life children's movie.“ (Stuttgarter Zeitung)



# CONTACT

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