

RAFAEL
STACHOWIAK

GALA OTHERO
WINTER

KRISTOF
VAN BOVEN

GASMAN

AN ARNE KÖRNER FILM





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2019 | 87 min | 35mm 1,85:1 | Dolby Surround

Cast

Bernd Tronau	RAFAEL STACHOWIAK	Bailiff	HARRY BAER
Bernds Girl	GALA OTHERO WINTER	Chief Editor	STEFFEN C. JÜRGENS
Mathis	KRISTOF VAN BOVEN	Police Officer	FELIX LOHRENGEL
Frank Winter	PETER OTT	Barkeeper	JURIJ SCHRADER
Theatre Manager	ULI WALLER	Joachim	JANNE JÜRGENSEN
Uli	DIETRICH KUHLBRODT	News Vendor	FABIAN HALBIG
Mark	ALEXANDER MERBETH	Cashier	HEIDRUN RAHLMEIER
Johannes	ASAD SCHWARZ	Bernds Ex-Wife	ANNIKA PEIMANN
Hinrich	CHARLES TOULOUSE	Bernds Son	VINCENT STACHOWIAK

Crew

Director ARNE KÖRNER

Director of Photography MARTIN PRINOTH
MAX SÄNGER

Screenplay ARNE KÖRNER
AKIN SIPAL

Production Design MARTINA MAHLKNECHT

Producer ARNE KÖRNER
UWE ZIMMERMANN
KONSTANTIN VON ZUR MÜHLEN

Film Editor ARNE KÖRNER

Co-Producer MARTIN PRINOTH
AKIN SIPAL

Production BELVEDERE
KRONOS MEDIA
AGAINST REALITY PICTURES



Synopsis

Bernd is an actor at the “St. Pauli Theater” in Hamburg and chronically unhappy with himself as well as with the theatre world. This season he is to play the gasman. The play is about two SS officers who are travelling across the country site with a mobile gas chamber picking up people.

Right from the beginning Bernd is sceptical about the play. He mistrusts the director who so far has been making films only. His first theatre production is to be pure entertainment.

Bernd is living separated from his ex wife. He does not meet his ambition to be a good father for his son; he is seeing him far too seldom. He is not the prototypical actor who wants to be seen by the audience. Since a long time acting has just become a job. His only sunshine seems to be his liaison with a mysterious young woman.

His only friends are the eccentric members of a literature group. The group consists of men only.

While they are retreating towards a historical manliness Bernd is getting more and more distanced from the group

Uli the senior group member who experienced the war in the Hitler Youth is the first to notice that Bernd is slowly distancing from the literature circle.

Theatre rehearsals and the play are pervading Bernd’s life more and more. A strange link between him and the GASMAN is developing.

“Inside a human the decision is felled. No one can do it instead.” That’s what the script says. Following a lengthy rehearsal marathon it is time for the sold out premiere. Now Bernd finally comes to a decision, a decision that if only for a short moment gives him a feeling of freedom.

Speedy, merciless and with plenty of black humour GASMAN shows the picture of a person searching for his inner soul.

ARNE KÖRNER

Director | Writer | Producer | Film Editor

Born in 1986 in Hamburg. Following his apprenticeship as a baker he studied film by Wim Wenders at the “Hochschule für Bildende Künste Hamburg“, at “École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts“ Paris and graduated from Werner Herzogs “Rogue Film School“.

Körner’s short films were shown at more than 100 national and international festivals and won numerous prizes. Many of his works are represented by the French distribution company Light Cone; at realeyz.de his films are available as Video on Demand.

The Bicycle, Körner’s first feature-length film had its world premier at the Festival des Films du Monde de Montréal and received the Prix du Jury. In January 2017 followed the German cinema premier.

Press comments:

„The Bicycle“ is a marvellous antidote to all the target oriented love stories that cinemas like to show. Nothing will be explained but a lot will be understood and a happy end is not an option. This way you don’t make block busters but good films.

Bayerischer Rundfunk

Playfully, very live and absolutely fresh scenes are linked by producer and author Arne Körner and it shows again and again the hidden wit. By setting the tone on maximal he stems against all usual romantic narrative templates. (...) “The Bicycle“ is THE German Anti-Romance. TV Spielfilm

Arne Körner shows his passion for films as well as his will and talent to leave the trodden paths of cinematographic story telling. We have to be curious about the further evolution of this very talented director. Hamburger Morgenpost

Gasman is Körner’s second feature film.

Filmography (selection)

2019 Gasman
2017 The Lone Fighter
2015 The Bicycle
2014 Vue Pointe
2013 Surrounded
2012 Schurback
2010 Station



Bühneneingang

Historische
Kartographie
2008-2010

Historische
Kartographie
2008-2010

Historische
Kartographie
2008-2010

Historische
Kartographie
2008-2010

Historische
Kartographie
2008-2010

„I've come to collect your son!“ Bernd is an actor at St. Pauli Theatre in Hamburg – and is living in the wrong movie. Bernd, until now only working as a side cast, was talked into acting in “The Gasman” by the theatre manager. It is a poisonous set about two SS officers that are collecting “undesirables” directly at home to destroy them on the road. His leading role is a nightmare from the start. Director Frank, so far making films is an ingenious despot who rehearses with culprit and victim separately. Bernd's partner Mathis is a subservient careerist and Bernd did not like the play at all. No surprise that Frank and Mathis soon start to zero in on him.

Outside of the theatre live is not easy for Bernd. His ex only talks the bare minimum, the bailiff (cameo of Fassbinder partner Harry Baer!) wants his money, the few short moments with his young son are far too short; and what does he want from his five person clique (amongst others Schlingensief collaborator Dietrich Kuhlbrodt) who are meeting regularly at drinking holes in St. Pauli? Who are these smart asses? Saloon revolutionists, regular's table fascists? Why are they at a shooting range? And why are they heading on week ends into the German winter forest?

The Hamburg director Arne Körner and his co-author Akin Sipal who together made the wonderful but culpably disregarded anti romance “The Bicycle” (2015) have made again a film eluding standard categories. Exactly this makes the film so exciting (and it is made with classical 35mm celluloid material).

“Gasman” is a political drama that discusses National Socialism as the event of German history and pretending to come to terms with the past where there is none. It is a satire of the German art and culture scene showing theatre and media as inexpensive playground of bended characters. The not that much known actors Rafael Stachowiak (Bernd), Peter Ott (Frank) and Kristof Van Boven (Mathis) who are coming from theatres are harmonising fantastically with their mutual repulsion. This is absurd theatre at its best.

Furthermore “Gasman” is a family drama giving no answer to any of the unasked questions. A Hamburg Film (Reeperbahn! Silbersack! Hafencity!) showing by chance nice weather but otherwise honestly tatty sides while the city is getting nicer the further one moves away.

A film of men bluffing and faking and every one is conned if he is thinking slower than the others can intellectualise. A tragic comic image of our times with precarious jobs (acting is one of them). A gruesome comedy that should especially people from Northern Germany screams with laughter before the laughter turns into choking; and pure poetry when the hero who isn't one enjoys the quiet peace in the port with his new girl friend. Far away from all declamations and agitating happiness can very well be to just shut up.

Arne Körners "Gasman" is not only original material from Nazi propagandist minister Joseph Goebbels or mischievous quotation of the film of the same title with Heinz Rühmann from 1941 but the vital proof that the subject is by far not yet history or that our leaning to violence is lurking only scantily below our half ways civilised surface as the Wehrmacht helmet is laying just centimetres below the surface soil. If you don't know where your own pain point is, "Gasman" will show it.





RAFAEL STACHOWIAK

Born in 1981 in Poland, he studied drama at the renowned "Hochschule für Schauspielkunst Ernst Busch" in Berlin. While studying he played at "Deutsches Theater" in Thomas Dannemann's production of "Glaube Liebe Hoffnung" from Horváth.

In 2006 during his third year of studying Stachowiak was engaged at "Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz" in Berlin. Here he worked with the directors Falk Richter, Luk Perceval, Thomas Ostermeier, Benedict Andrews and Constanza Macras.

He played Orin/Christoph in Ostermeier's "Trauer muss Elektra tragen" from Eugene O'Neill as well as Achilles in Perceval's "Penthesilea" from Kleist. In 2007 he was engaged at Salzburger Festspiele in Falk Richters production of "Freischütz".

Since the 2009/2010 season Rafael Stachowiak is a constant part of the ensemble at "Thalia Theater" in Hamburg. A close working relationship connects him with director Antú Romero Nunes. Furthermore he is working with directors Luk Perceval, Jette Steckel, Ene-Liis Semper & Tiit Ojasoo, Stefan Pucher and Johan Simons.

Together with Julian Greis, Mirco Kreibich, Daniel Lommatzsch, Thomas Niehaus, Jörg Pohl, André Szymanski and Sebastian Zimmler he is awarded the Rolf-Mares-Award for Melville's "Moby Dick" in October 2014. This was the first time the award was given to an ensemble for their "stirring and intoxicating performance".

Since 2007 Stachowiak has performed in a number of film and TV productions.

Filmography (selection)

- 2019 Gasman
- 2016 Past Life
- 2016 Der Tatortreiniger
- 2015 Nackt unter Wölfen
- 2011 Lollipop Monster
- 2011 Tabu - Es ist die Seele ein Fremdes auf Erden

Theater (selection)

- 2018 Hexenjagd
- 2017 Hunger
- 2016 Schimmelreiter
- 2016 Früchte des Zorns
- 2014 Moby Dick



בית המדרש

GALA OTHERO WINTER

Born in 1991 in Hesse, studied drama at “Hochschule für Musik und Theater“ in Hamburg. Prior to her study she performed in Frankfurt am Main at “Theater Willy Praml” in “Hyperion. Hölderlin” as well as in “Der zerbrochne Krug”. At the university she played in several performances; amongst others “Rodogune. Verkehrte Welt” directed by Sarah Klöfer, which was invited by the festival “Körper Studio Junge Regie“.

While still studying she played at “Deutsches Schauspielhaus“ in “Alles Weitere kennen Sie aus dem Kino” directed by Katie Mitchell and in Jean Genet’s “Die Neger ” directed by Johan Simons.

Since the 2014/2015 season Gala Othero Winter is part of the “Deutsches Schauspielhaus” ensemble. For her performance as Frida Foldal in Karin Henkel’s Inszenierung “John Gabriel Borkman“ she was given in 2015 the “Alfred-Kerr-Darsteller-Award”. In 2016 she received the “Boy-Gobert-Award“ from Körper-Foundation.

Amongst others she played in “Ich, das Ungeziefer” directed by Victor Bodo, “Die Wehlieder” directed by Christoph Marthaler and “Die Kasette” directed by Herbert Fritsch and Simon Stone. She played one of the three leading actors in “Peer Gynt” directed by Simon Stone. In 2018 she made her film debut in “Lazzaro felice“.

Filmography

2019 Gasman
2018 Lazzaro felice

Theater (selection)

2018 Lazarus
2018 Der Kaufmann von Venedig
2018 Der goldene Handschuh
2017 Valentin
2016 Peer Gynt
2015 Die Kasette
2013 Alles Weitere kennen Sie aus dem Kino

KRISTOF VAN BOVEN

Born in 1981 in Belgium. Following his study of drama at “Hochschule der Künste” in Arnheim he worked as independent actor in the Dutch Off-Theater-Scene, together with Linda Olthof developing plays and performed amongst others at Toneelgroep Amsterdam and Noord Nederlands Toneel.

In 2004 he joined the ensemble of “NT Gent” and worked amongst others with directors Johan Simons and Peter Verhelst. From 2010 until 2015 he was part of the ensemble at “Münchener Kammerspiele”, where he continued to work with Johan Simons as well as choreograph Meg Stuart, directors Tian Gebing, Alvis Hermanis, Sebastian Nübling, Luk Perceval, René Pollesch, Karl Wokalek and Barbara Wysocka.

For his performance in Johan Simons’ production “Winterreise” Kristof Van Boven was elected as most talented young actor of 2011 by professional journal “Theater heute”. Furthermore he received in 2012 the award “Kunstpreis der Akademie der Künste Berlin” in category performing arts and in 2013 the award “Gordana-Kosanovic-Schauspielerpreis” from Theater Mülheim an der Ruhr.

From 2015 until 2018 he is part of the ensemble of Thalia Theater. Here he works with the directors Bastian Kraft, Luk Perceval, Sebastian Nübling, Ene-Liis Semper & Tiit Ojasoo and Johan Simons.

His performance as “Elisa” in “Pygamlion” from George B. Shaw directed by Ene-Liis Semper & Tiit Ojasoo at Thalia Theater is awarded with Rolf-Mares-Theatre-Award 2016 for extraordinary artistic achievement.

Filmography (selection)

2019 Gasman
2009 Kasimir und Karoline

Theater (selection)

2018 Hexenjagd
2017 Tod eines Handlungsreisenden
2016 Pygamlion
2016 Wut / Rage
2015 Until our Hearts Stop







Mathis van der Meer

DER GASMAN

REGIE: FRANK WINTER



MARTIN PRINOTH

Director of Photography | Co-Producer



Martin Prinoth is filmmaker, producer and cameraman. Born in 1983 in Bolzano, Italy he studied communication science in Salzburg and thereafter visual communication at Hochschule für bildende Künste in Hamburg. His debut film “Die fünfte Himmelsrichtung” received several nominations and prizes and was shown at international film festivals.

As cameraman he has a continual working relationship with Arne Körner, Furthermore he is working at theater and opera with Nicolas Stemann, Ene-Liis Semper & Tiit Ojasoo and Mpumelelo P. Grootboom. Together with Arne Körner and Akin E. Sipal he founds the production company Against Reality Pictures. 2017 he received the Gerd Ruge scholarship.

Filmography (selection)

- 2019 Gasmann
- 2017 Die fünfte Himmelsrichtung (director)
- 2016 World Climate Conference
- 2015 The Bicycle
- 2015 Ein Endspiel
- 2014 Winter (director)
- 2013 Kein Licht II
- 2013 Le creature del Vesuvio (director)

MAX SÄNGER

Director of Photography



Max Sänger was born in 1987 in Bonn. Following his aborted study of Cultural- and Social Anthropology in Vienna he moved to Hamburg. He studied until 2016 documentary film at “Hochschule für bildende Künste”. His graduate thesis film “Spineless Kingdom” at “Duisburger Filmwoche” received an award and at “Internationales Kurzfilmfestival Hamburg” the Jury Award in the Hamburg competition. He is working as freelance cameraman.

Filmography (selection)

- 2019 Gasman
- 2019 Mille Piani
- 2018 27. Februar
- 2017 A Walk in Mermaid's Shoes
- 2016 Spinless Kingdom (director)
- 2013 Far'Falastin (director)
- 2015 Cuba COR Libre

AKIN SIPAL

Autor | Co-Producer



Akin Emanuel Şipal was born in 1991 in Essen. He studied film at Hochschule für bildende Künste Hamburg. His first play “Vor Wien“ won the German competition “In Zukunft” (Future) 2012 and for „Santa Monica“ he received the literature price from Hamburg Department of Culture.

Şipal participated as scriptwriter in several short films and feature films that were shown at festivals such as Festival des Films du Monde de Montréal (Prix du Jury for “The Bicycle”), Internationale Hofer Filmtage, International Short Film Festival Hamburg or Dok Leipzig. Şipal’s essay film “Baba Evi“ had it’s first show in 2016 at dokfilmwoche hamburg. During the 2016 / 2017 season Sipal was house author at Nationaltheater Mannheim. Since the season 2017 / 2018 he is guest dramatic adviser and house author at Theater Bremen.

Filmography (selection)

- 2019 Gasman
- 2017 Die fünfte Himmelsrichtung
- 2016 Baba Evi (director)
- 2015 The Bicycle
- 2015 Krieg im Frieden
- 2013 Deprem Meprem (director)

KONSTANTIN VON ZUR MÜHLEN

Producer



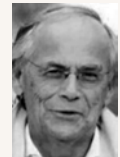
Born into a film family von zur Mühlen studied Diplom Kaufmann at FU Berlin. Since end of the 90’s he is a film producer with emphasis on documentary films. In 2001 he founded Chronos Media GmbH. A number of cinema and TV films where made, amongst others the VOD-hit “Spirit of Berlin” with more than 35 million demands. “Spirit of Berlin” is one of many films from a long cooperation with Arne Körner.

Filmography (selection)

- 2019 Gasman
- 2017 Spirit of Liberation (director)
- 2005 Reich und Republik

UWE ZIMMERMANN

Producer



As investor and architect Zimmermann has formed the view of Hamburger Außenalster. Since many years he is an art collector and cineaste. From early on he supported “Gasman“ and made this his debut as film producer.





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