

Flash Forward Audience Award Competition  
23rd BUSAN  
International Film Festival  
2018

HOME  
OF FILMS  
Deutscher Wettbewerb  
52. Internationale  
Hofer Filmtage  
2018

# SWIMMING

SWR

kurhaus  
production



MFG  
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

FILMAKADEMIE  
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG



## SWIMMING by Luzie Loose

Swimming tells the story of Elisa and Anthea, two 15-year-old girls in Berlin, whose friendship gives them support and orientation in a difficult time of their young lives. To maintain their bond, they develop a game that takes on a destructive dynamic. The girls turn from victims to offenders.

Swimming is the graduation film of the Berlin-based writer and director Luzie Loose. The film was produced by kurhaus productions from Baden-Baden, the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg and SWR and supported by the MFG film fund.

The renowned casting director Nina Haun was in charge of the casting, so Swimming features some of the most exciting young actors that German cinema currently has to offer, as well as some established names. Stephanie Amarell and Lisa Vicari star Elisa and Anthea. Jonathan Berlin, Alexandra Finder, Bjarne Meisel and Deborah Kaufmann play the supporting roles at their side.

The film is an ambitious project that both tells the story about an intimate friendship and takes a critical look at how young people deal with social media. The story focuses on the intimate friendship between Elisa and Anthea, which over time drifts into co-dependence. The film accompanies the girls as they grow up in the big city, fight for new freedoms, test their limits and have to deal with the problems of their parents and with peer pressure. But we also see them confronted with the new difficulties of this generation: the unrestrained use of social media and the enormous pressure that the constant flood of images in the net builds up.

In addition to the intimate and poetic cinematography of director of photography Anne Bolick, the story is also told via the teenagers' mobile phone videos. These videos were shot by the actresses themselves and bring the direct and authentic film snippets, which are used and known by every teenager, onto the big screen.

The film celebrates its world premiere at the Busan International Film Festival, one of Asia's most important film festivals, and is nominated for the Flash Forward Audience Award. The German premiere will follow at the end of October at the renowned Hofer Filmtage. The cinema release and broadcast date on SWR are planned for next year.





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## FEATURE FILM 101' DRAMA

**WORLD PREMIERE: BUSAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

Nominated for the Flash Forward Audience Award

**NATIONAL PREMIERE: HOFE INTERNATIONAL FILMFESTIVAL**

### CAST

Stephanie Amarell (ELISA), Lisa Vicari (ANTHEA), Jonathan Berlin (PIERRE),  
Alexandra Finder (ANNA, MOTHER OF ELISA) und Bjarne Meisel (CONSTI)

### TAKES PLACE IN

Berlin

### SHOT ON LOCATION IN

Berlin und Baden-Württemberg

### WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

Luzie Loose

### CINEMATOGRAPHY BY

Anne Bolick

### ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK BY

Andreas Pfeiffer / with tracks by Beach House, Haftbefehl and Tangram

### PRODUCERS

Daniel Reich & Christoph Holthof  
Lennart Lenzing & Philipp Maurice Raube

2K DCP, ASPECT RATIO: 2,35:1, COLOR  
DOLBY SURROUND 5.1

GERMAN, ENGLISH AND FRENCH SUBTITLES ARE AVAILABLE

A production of kurhaus production, Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg,  
SWR and the MFG film fund.



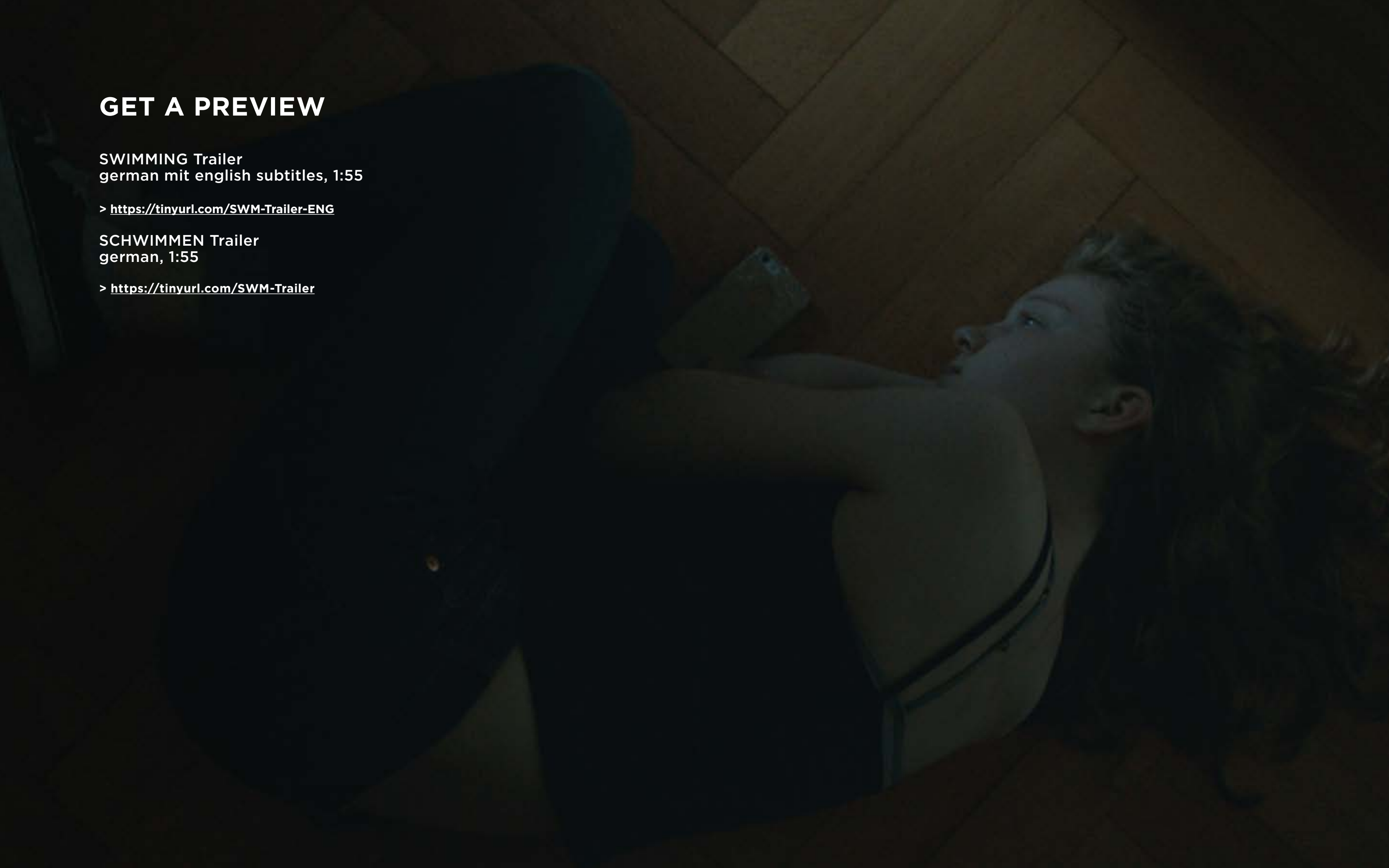
## GET A PREVIEW

SWIMMING Trailer  
german mit english subtitles, 1:55

> <https://tinyurl.com/SWM-Trailer-ENG>

SCHWIMMEN Trailer  
german, 1:55

> <https://tinyurl.com/SWM-Trailer>





## LOGLINE

Swimming tells the story of Elisa and Anthea, two 15-year-old girls in Berlin, whose friendship gives them support and orientation in a difficult time of their lives. To maintain their bond, they develop a game that takes on a destructive dynamic. The girls turn from victims to offenders.

## SYNOPSIS

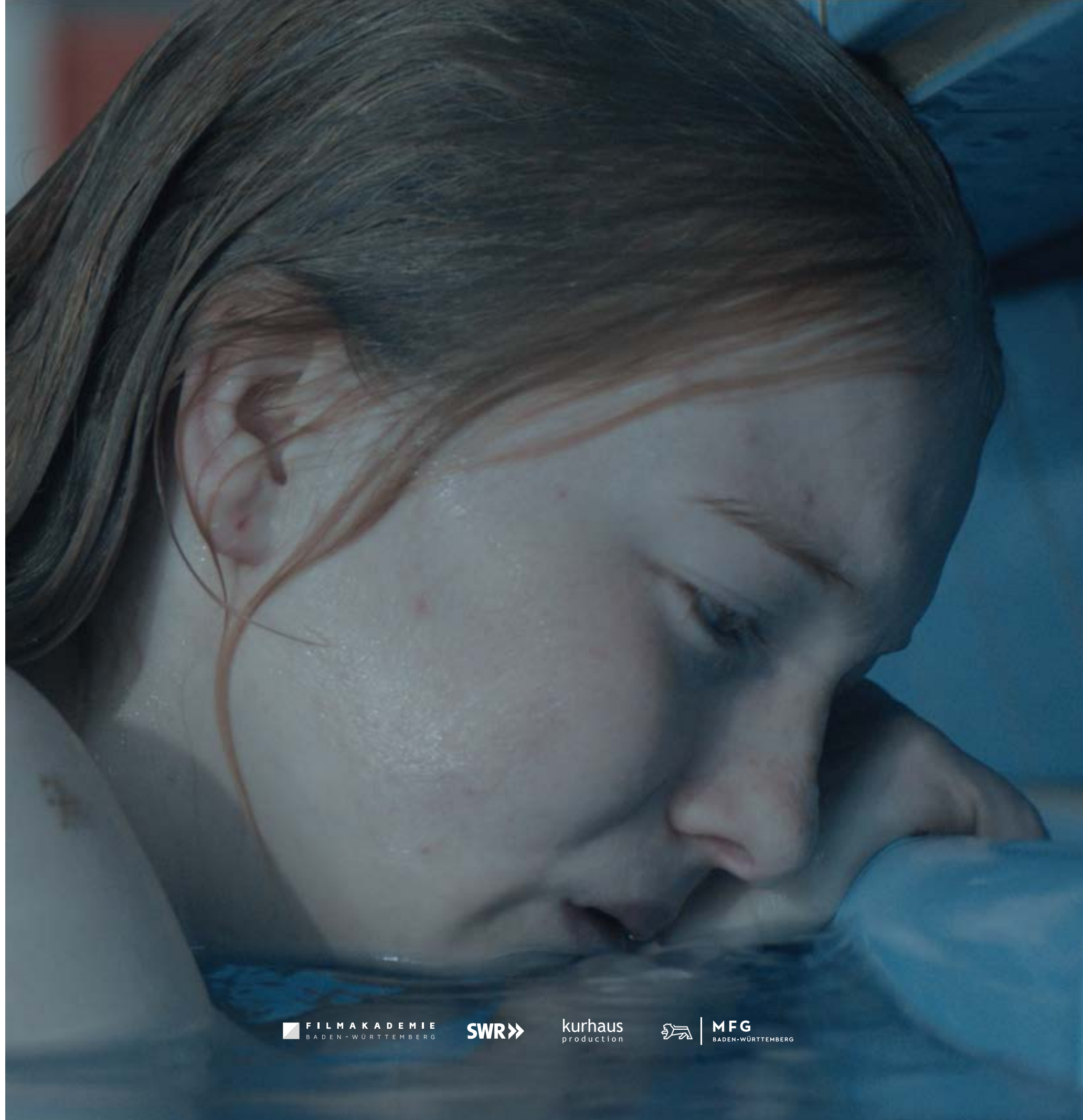
Swimming is the story of Elisa and Anthea, two very different girls whose friendship gives them support and orientation in a difficult time of their lives.

After the separation of Elisa's parents, her life is falling apart. Together with her mother Anna, she has to leave the family home and move to a small apartment in the middle of Berlin-Neukölln. Her body reacts to the stress passing out once in a while and her classmates use Elisa's vulnerability as an opportunity to make her a victim in class.

At this moment Anthea steps into her life. She is beautiful and bold and frees Elisa from her defenceless rigidity in no time at all. The two become close friends and develop a game in which they record everything they do with the cameras of their mobile phones. Soon they come up with the idea of turning the camera around and secretly filming their classmates, who have bullied Elisa earlier.

Elisa uses her mother's night shifts to go out and explore the Berlin club scene with Anthea and her older brother Pierre. She has to go along with alcohol and drugs and experiences a vibrant summer with her new friend. Anthea protects her, gives her self-confidence and stability. Their friendship fills the void caused by the separation of Elisa's parents and the lack of affection in Anthea's family.

Anthea sets the pace. In order to also appear bold and brave Elisa films one compromising video of her classmates after the other and publishes them. Soon they need this game to maintain their bond. Their intimate friendship takes on a destructive dynamic that becomes threatening for everyone who gets in the duos way.



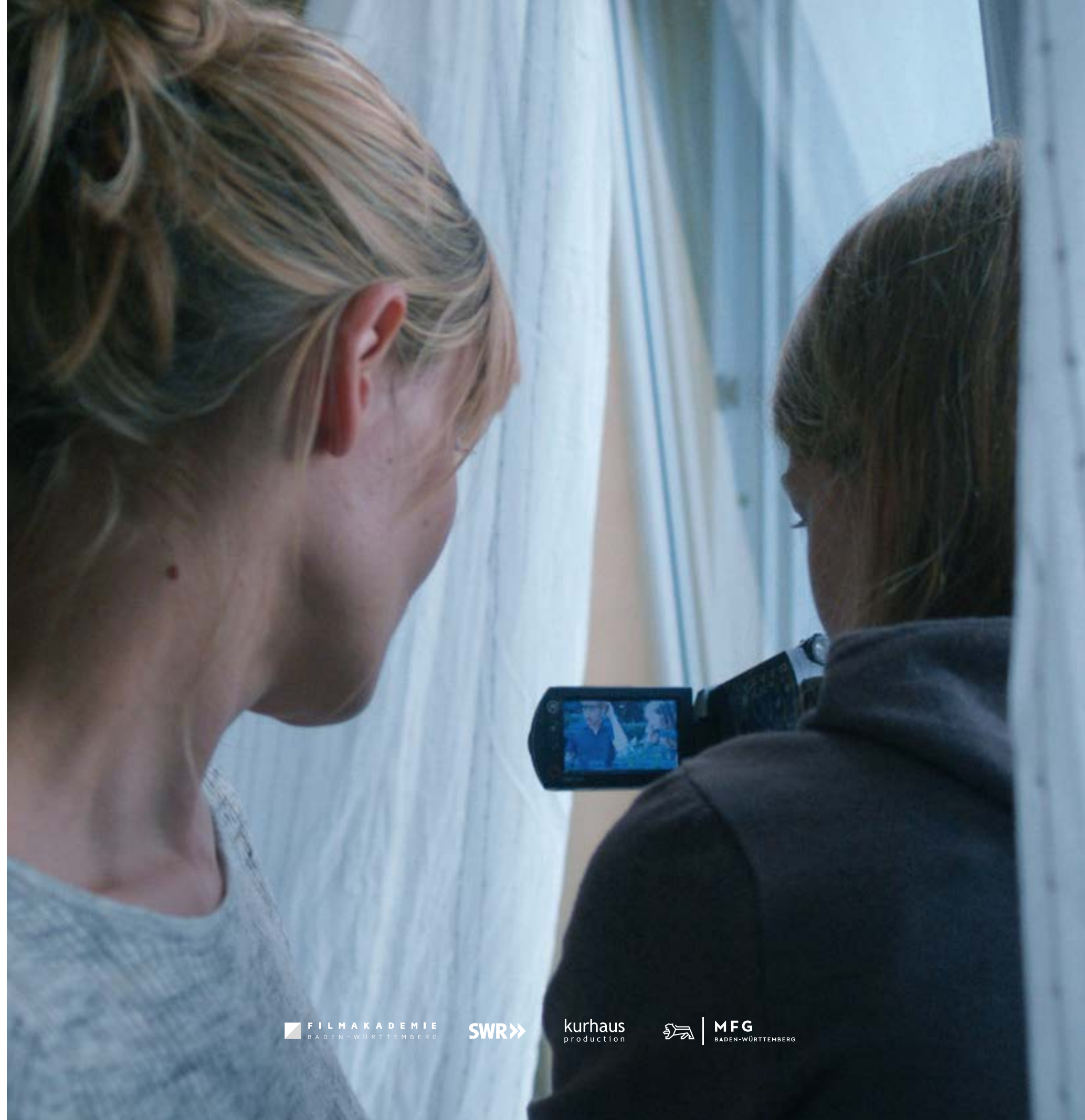


## DIRECTORS STATEMENT

In *Swimming*, Elisa and Anthea experience their first truly significant friendship - their first big love. For me as a writer and director, it's about much more than that. I dedicate myself to how children and teenagers grow up today. I observe that they grow up faster and faster in our ever-faster spinning world. They are independent, educated and cosmopolitan - but they are also overwhelmed and disoriented.

Elisa and Anthea belong to the first generation to grow up with the Internet, digital images and self-portrayal on the Internet. We observe how they develop a bizarre friendship; how they play, search for adventures and test their limits. Taking an active part in the flood of images spread on the web is an important part of girls' lives, so we made their mobile phone videos part of our film. We create a very subjective style, full of ellipsis and changes of perspective - close and unpolished.

Elisa and Anthea, like many young people of their age, live in a parallel universe in which their own rules, values and scale of emotions exist. At their age, the smallest things can take on a huge meaning. What is true and right in the adult world is far from being true and right here. Their parent's problems such as pressure to perform at work, alienation from their children or separation are completely losing their significance. In our film, Elisa and Anthea go as far as to invent their own system of vigilante justice. They do terrible things to their classmates, but in their perception this is perfectly justified. They invent their own values; give each other support and orientation. I want to bring this peculiar and unique perception to life (or recall it) for the viewer by telling the story through their eyes and close to real life.



## STEPHANIE AMARELL

Stephanie Amarell, born 1996 in Berlin, grew up on the countryside. Director Michael Haneke discovered her at the age of eleven at a casting for the feature film *The White Ribbon*. There followed many more roles in cinema and TV movies and an engagement at Junges Deutsches Theater. In spite of her unique talent, Stephanie only involves in film and theatre productions occasionally and dedicates herself very ambitiously to her history studies in Berlin. Stephanie Amarell is represented by the agency Players.

## LISA VICARI

Lisa Vicari, born 1997 in Munich, got her first role at the age of twelve in the short film *Tunnelblicke* by Julius Grimm. She then became famous for her role in the children's book adaptation *Hanni & Nanni*. With the genre film *Hell* she was nominated for the German Cinema New Talent Award and received the New Faces Award. Numerous other cinema and TV films followed - often for a young audience.

In 2017 Lisa took the role of Martha Nielsen in the successful Netflix series *Dark*. Since then, both her reputation as an actress and her fan base in social media has grown rapidly. Lisa is represented by the agency Inka Stelljes.

### IN FURTHER ROLES:

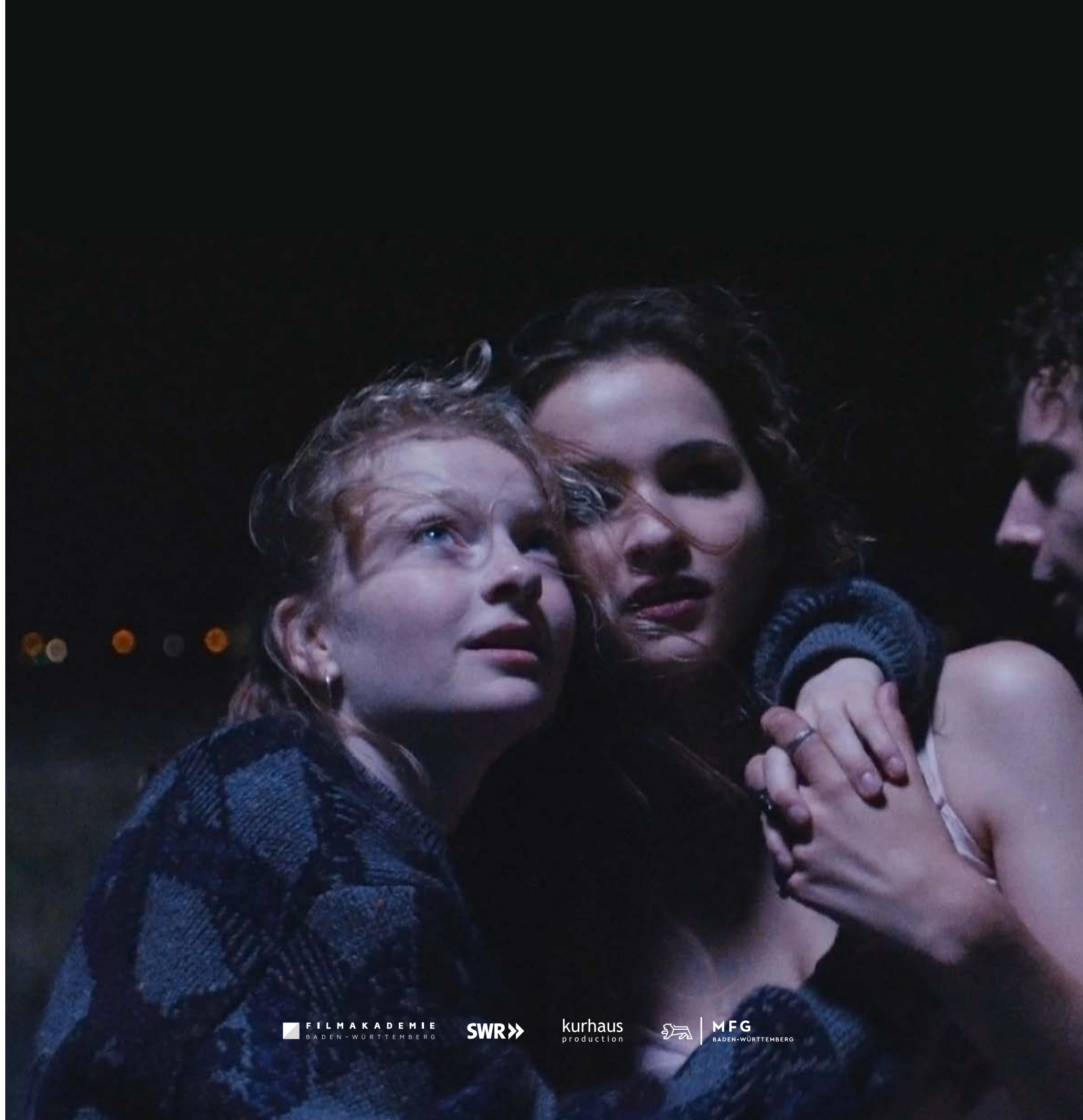
Jonathan Berlin, Alexandra Finder, Bjarne Meisel.

### AND:

Mohamed Issa, Zita Aretz, Aurelia Schäfer,  
Leonid Roth, Adrian Ernst.

### AS WELL:

Deborah Kaufmann, Christian Heiner Wolf, Jürg Plüss.





mit STEPHANIE AMARELL  
und LISA VICARI  
ALEXANDRA FINDER  
JONATHAN BERLIN  
BJARNE MEISEL  
DEBORAH KAUFMANN  
CHRISTIAN HEINER WOLF  
AURELIA SCHÄFER  
MOHAMED ISSA  
LEONID ROTH, ZITA ARETZ  
ADRIAN ERNST, FELIX  
LARI STRÜMPEL, JÜRGE  
PLÜSS, RALPH HÖNICKE  
CORNELIUS SCHWALM  
MATTHIAS WACKROW  
ROBERT KÖHLER

## THE CAST

Stephanie Amarell  
Lisa Vicari  
Alexandra Finder  
Jonathan Berlin  
Bjarne Meisel  
Deborah Kaufmann  
Christian Heiner Wolf  
Aurelia Schäfer  
Mohamed Issa  
Leonid Roth  
Zita Aretz  
Adrian Ernst  
Felix Lari Strümpel  
Jürg Plüss  
Ralph Hönicke  
Cornelius Schwalm  
Matthias Wackrow  
Robert Köhler

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Elisa  
Anthea  
Elisas Mutter  
Pierre  
Consti  
Antheas Mutter  
Antheas Vater  
Asli  
Tito  
Laurenz  
Carolina  
Alex  
Hannes  
Elisas Vater  
Schwimmlehrer  
Lehrer  
Dealer  
Partygast



## THE SHOOTING PROCESS AND THE LOCATIONS

The film was shot on 32 shooting days in Berlin and Baden-Württemberg.

The shooting began on May 1st in the middle of Berlin Kreuzberg. In this exceptional mood between party and riot on May 1st the two protagonists meet for the very first time. For the makers of the film it was clear from the beginning that this mood could not be artificially created and that the scenes have to be shot on location in midst of a real party on May 1st.

Also all club scenes were shot in Berlin clubs during real parties. A flexible camera and good contacts in the club and DJ scene made the shooting possible.

The locations in Berlin, such as the Tempelhofer Feld, the Kottbusser Tor in contrast to a villa in the Grunewald or the 'Späti' around the corner all have an important personal meaning for the makers. It has always been the goal to show Berlin and growing up in the city as authentic as possible.

The school in which scenes from the film take place is the Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Highschool in Berlin Pankow. The students of a 9th and 10th grade of this school also played Elisa and Anthea's classmates - a great experience for both the filmmakers and the students.



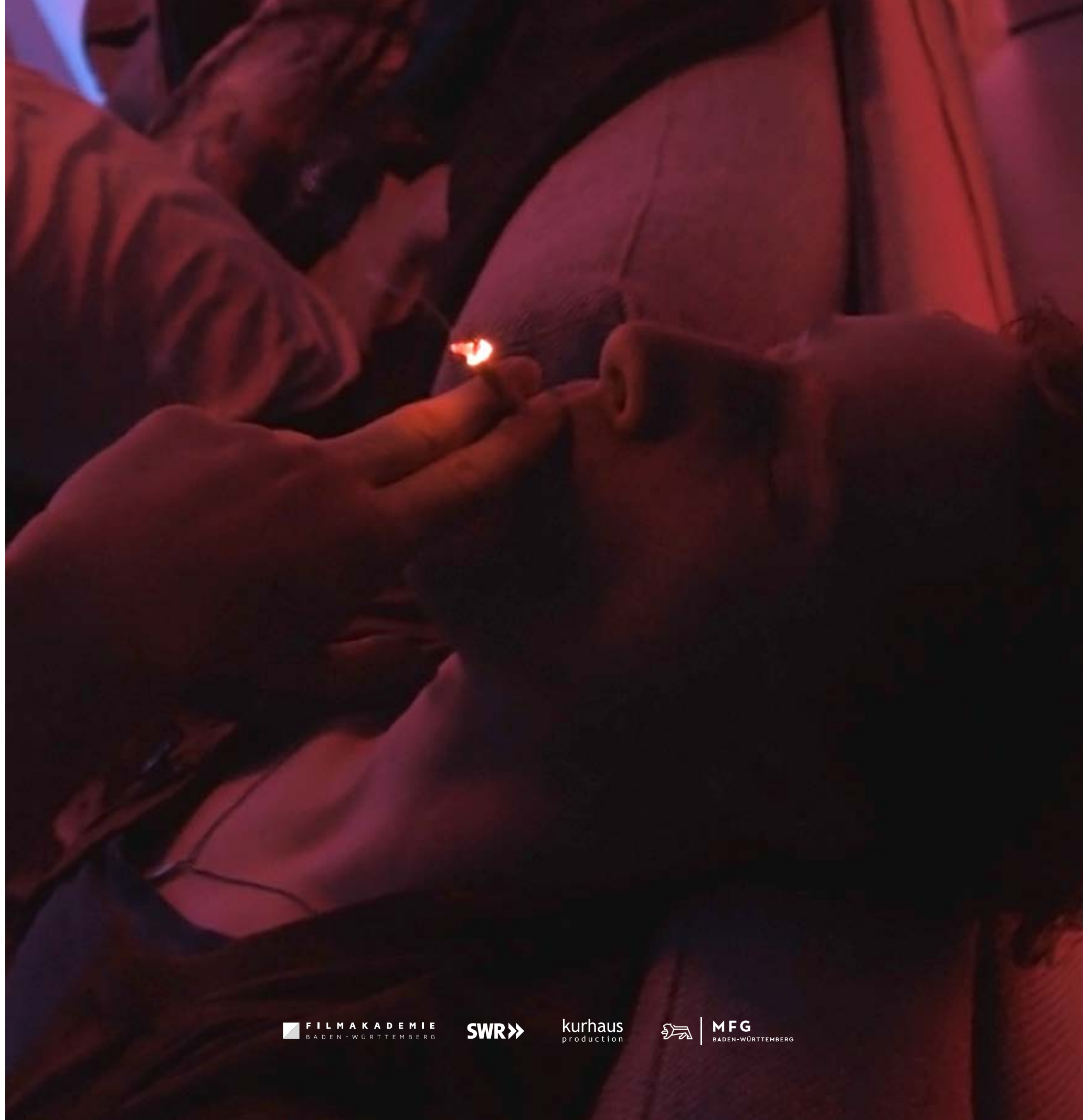


## THE MUSIC

Film musician Andreas Pfeiffer composed the soundtrack to the film. The most exciting challenge for the trained jazz musician was to produce authentic and catchy techno tracks that could be played in Berlin underground clubs.

In addition to the original soundtrack, the film also features tracks by the Frankfurt rapper Haftbefehl and techno by Tangram, Hush&Sleep and Anton Dhouran.

The credit song ‚Myth‘ was provided by the American-French indie duo Beach House. Their song makes the viewer leave the film in a melancholic yet hopeful atmosphere of departure.



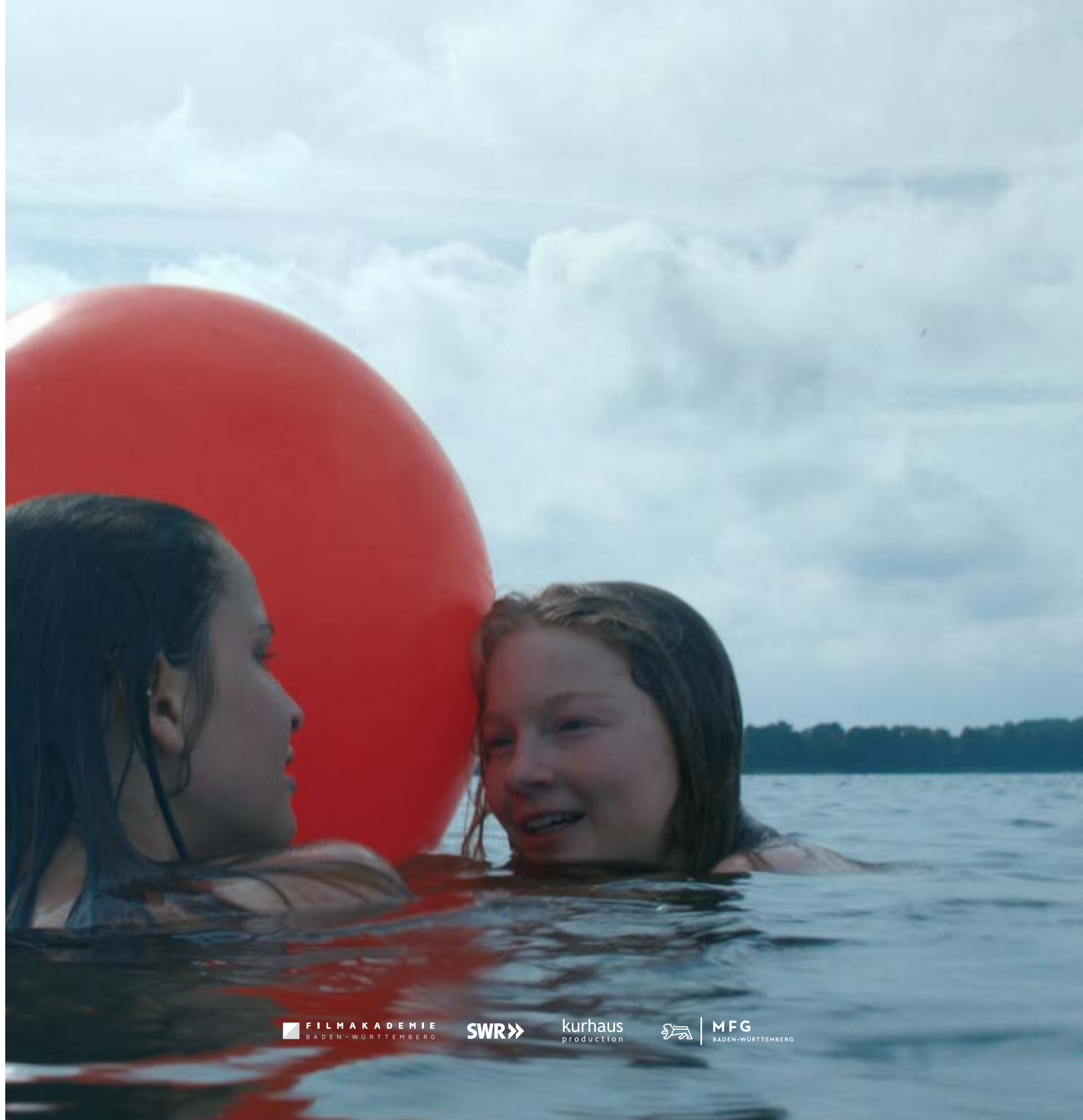




### **LUZIE LOOSE - WRITER AND DIRECTOR**

Luzie Loose was born in the exciting year of 1989 at the Baltic Sea and grew up in Berlin. She has worked for well-known German cinema and TV productions and as an assistant director at the theatre. She studied communication at the University of the Arts in Berlin and realised her own film projects. She discovered the world through filmmaking and has already worked in Paris, Istanbul, Tokyo and Berlin.

From 2011 she studied directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. During this time she received a scholarship to the renowned La Fémis in Paris, where her short film *Nouveau Monde* was realised. She then made a short film in cooperation with the Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris, which she presented at the San Sebastian Film Festival, and a fashion film for the brand Giorgio Armani. With *Swimming* she realised her first feature-length film in 2017, which will celebrate its world premiere this autumn at the Busan International Film Festival. Luzie Loose currently lives and works as a freelance writer and director in Berlin and is dedicated to the development of new films and drama series.





## KURHAUS PRODUCTION

The kurhaus production is an independent film production company in Baden Baden, which was founded in spring 2007 by Christoph Holthof and Daniel Reich.

kurhaus Production developed and produced feature and documentary films as well as documentary series for the German and international cinema and TV market.

With meanwhile ten feature film productions as well as the production of documentary series and documentaries, it has been possible to position the company broadly and versatilely. In particular the successes of "Unter Nachbarn" (broadcast on the renowned ARD primetime slot "Filmmittwoch im Ersten", and Golden-Camera-Award, for Charly Hübner) and "Freier Fall" (Berlinale 2013, 100.000 cinema visitors and international sales), kurhaus production has made a name for itself in the film industry and is supported by film fundings and broadcasters alike.

In the last three years, the production volume has increased significantly.

The good cooperation with the SWR and the MFG film fund has proved to be successful.

Further co-production partners such as ARTE, ARD Degeto, KIKA & ZDF were added.

The goal for the coming years is to further expand the infrastructure created in Baden Baden and to open up new broadcasting slots. It is important for us to work together with authors and directors whose visions we share and to find stories together which are relevant and which we would like to tell.

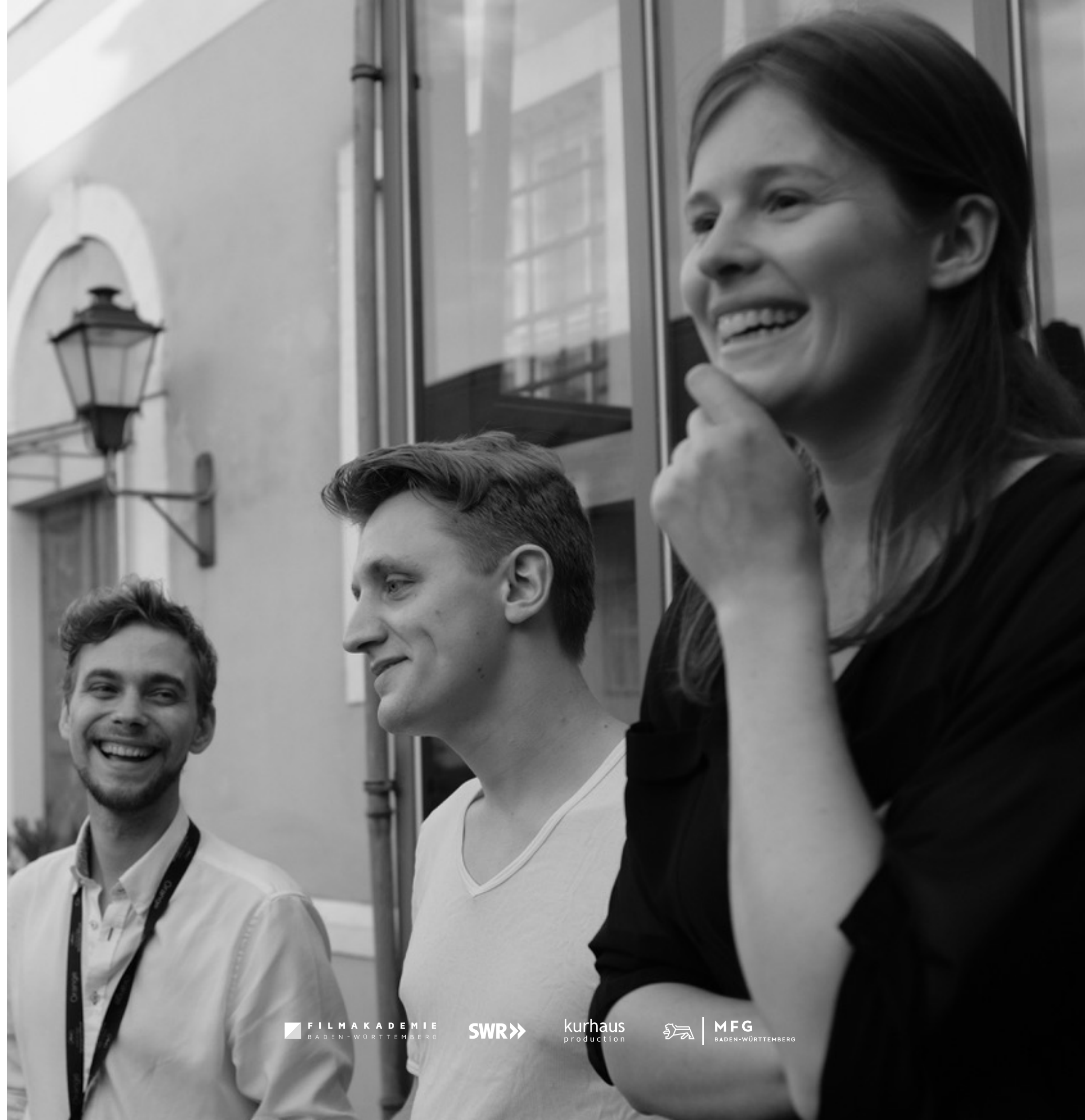


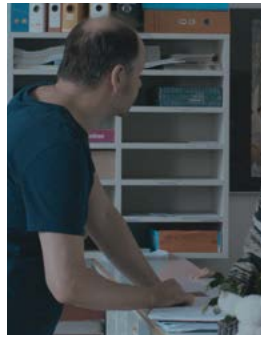


## THE CREW

**Producer: Daniel Reich & Christoph Holfhof**  
**Producer: Philipp Maurice Raube & Lennart Lenzing**  
**Commissioning Editor at SWR: Stefanie Groß**  
**Casting: Nina Haun & Patrick Dreikauss**  
**Cinematography: Anne Bolick**  
**Editor: Marco Rottig**  
**Sound: Frank Schubert**  
**Sound Supervision: Lena Beck**  
**Music: Andreas Pfeiffer**  
**Production Design: Leonie Lieberherr**  
**Costume Design: Melanie Salfert**  
**Make Up Artist Heidi Wick**  
**Production Manager: Sebastian Ebert**  
**Unit Manager: Lena Marie Plaß**  
**Additional Producer: Magdalena Wolff**

The whole production crew and especially Luzie Loose and director of photography Anne Bolick speak out for more women in front and behind the camera (for example in the association Pro Quote Film) therefore we it was an important matter to all of us to fill a significant number of positions in the crew with women.





# DIGITAL PRESSKIT

**Press pictures**  
in web- und printresolution

**Press texts**  
about the Film  
Facts  
Logline  
Synopsis  
Directors Statement  
Cast  
Crew





## CONTACT

We publish all updates and news about the film on our Instagram account and would be really thankful if you refer to it:

📷 @schwimmen\_film

If you need further information or pictures, please feel free to contact us at any time:

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### SOCIAL MEDIA:

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Instagram: @schwimmen\_film

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# SWIMMING

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