



COMPETITION
GOLDENER SPATZ
DEUTSCHES KINDER MEDIEN
FESTIVAL 2021



OFFICIAL SELECTION
KINDERFILMFEST
MÜNCHEN
2021



WINNER
GIFFONI FILM FESTIVAL
BEST FILM
ELEMENTS +10
2021



OFFICIAL SELECTION
61. ZLIN FILM
FESTIVAL
2021

NIGHT FOREST

A cinematic adventure by André Hörmann & Katrin Milhahn

A young boy in a grey hoodie and dark pants is riding a blue bicycle on a paved path. A friend is sitting on his back, wearing a blue jacket and a backpack. The background is a blurred forest with green and yellow trees, suggesting a summer setting. The scene is captured with a motion blur effect, giving a sense of speed and movement.

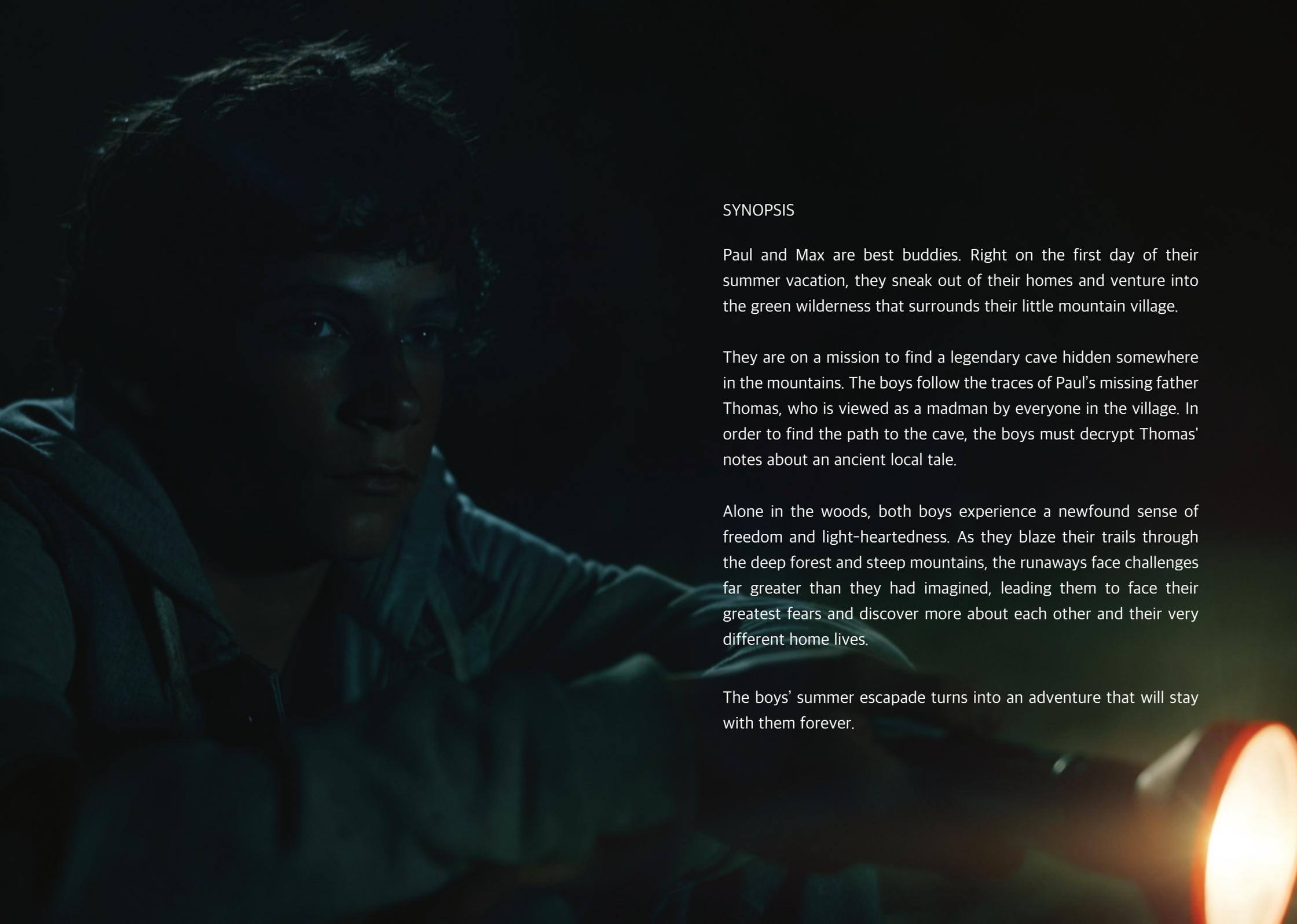
Paul and Max are best friends. At the beginning of the summer holidays they run away into the mystic wilderness, following the clues left behind by Paul's father. On their journey, the boys face challenges far greater than they imagined, leading them to face their biggest fears and discover their true strengths.



"A tender and profound story of two boys on an adventure
in the Black Forest — the perfect summer film!"

Filmfest Munich

TRAILER: vimeo.com/574483279/ffc0f0ce40



SYNOPSIS

Paul and Max are best buddies. Right on the first day of their summer vacation, they sneak out of their homes and venture into the green wilderness that surrounds their little mountain village.

They are on a mission to find a legendary cave hidden somewhere in the mountains. The boys follow the traces of Paul's missing father Thomas, who is viewed as a madman by everyone in the village. In order to find the path to the cave, the boys must decrypt Thomas' notes about an ancient local tale.

Alone in the woods, both boys experience a newfound sense of freedom and light-heartedness. As they blaze their trails through the deep forest and steep mountains, the runaways face challenges far greater than they had imagined, leading them to face their greatest fears and discover more about each other and their very different home lives.

The boys' summer escapade turns into an adventure that will stay with them forever.

MAIN CHARACTERS

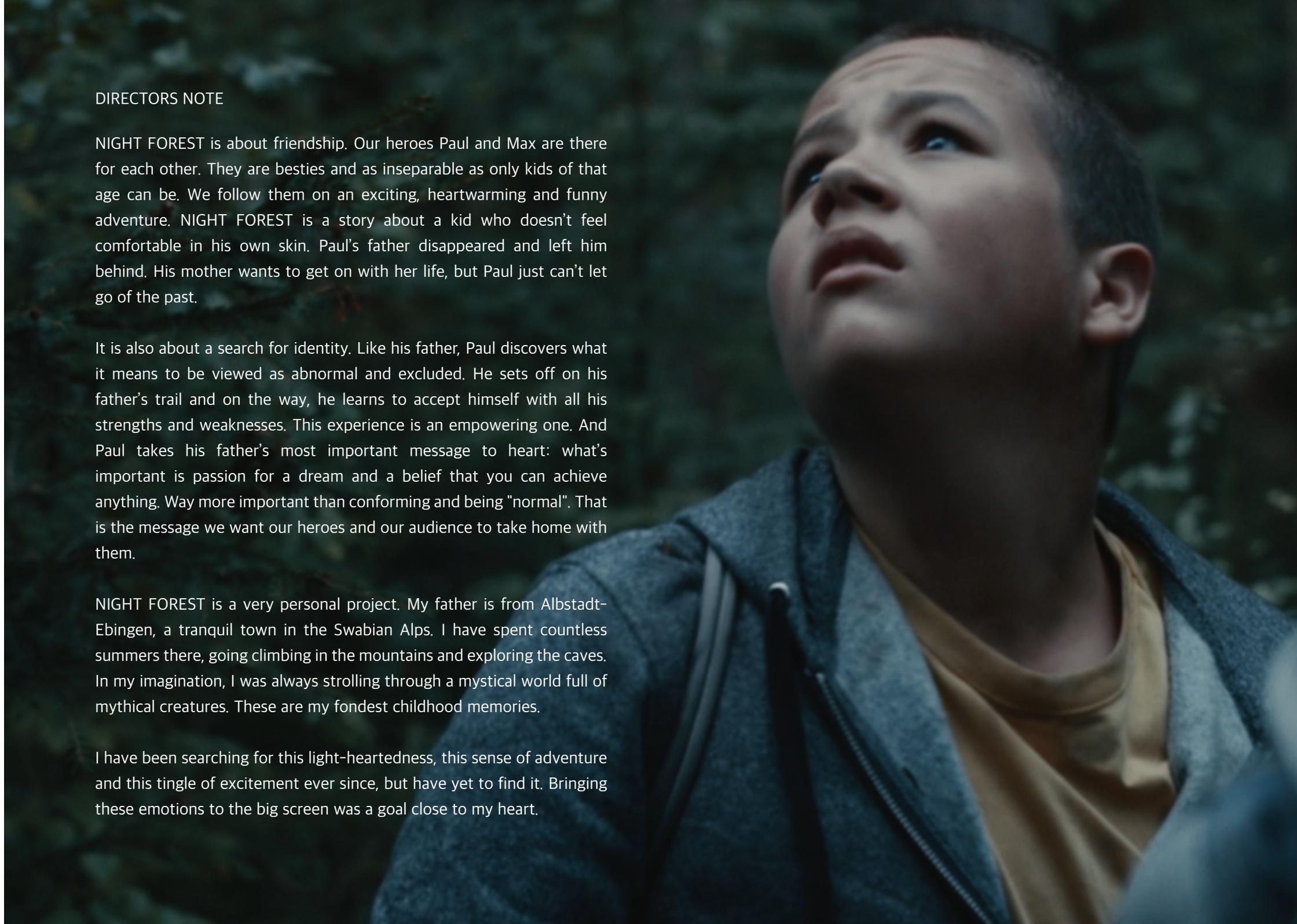
PAUL (12) is different than his classmates. He is sensitive, almost an introvert. This is hardly surprising: he lives in constant fear that he inherited his father's bipolar disorder. And he is mad. At his father Thomas, because he disappeared. At his mother Sabine, because first of all she let down Thomas and then she went and replaced him with her new boyfriend Johannes. And he is mad at himself for not dealing with all of this better.

Fortunately, he has his best buddy Max, who sticks with him through thick and thin. When they follow Thomas' trail deep into the woods of the mountain wilderness, Paul has to face his inner demons.

How can butcher's son **MAX (12)** help not being cool and athletic? He frequently risks getting a black eye when he stands up to the stupid bullies in his class. To make matters worse, his teachers don't believe he'll get any further than graduating high school. This frustrates him, because he tries so hard to be different than his father. And when this frustration gets too much, he sometimes loses his cool.

Max likes to take refuge in the superhero stories that he and Paul come up with, in PlayStation games and, of course, in books. He devours everything he can get his hands on. Preferably fantasy adventures.



A young boy with short dark hair is looking upwards with a thoughtful expression. He is wearing a grey zip-up hoodie over a yellow t-shirt. The background is a dark, out-of-focus forest with green foliage. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

DIRECTORS NOTE

NIGHT FOREST is about friendship. Our heroes Paul and Max are there for each other. They are besties and as inseparable as only kids of that age can be. We follow them on an exciting, heartwarming and funny adventure. NIGHT FOREST is a story about a kid who doesn't feel comfortable in his own skin. Paul's father disappeared and left him behind. His mother wants to get on with her life, but Paul just can't let go of the past.

It is also about a search for identity. Like his father, Paul discovers what it means to be viewed as abnormal and excluded. He sets off on his father's trail and on the way, he learns to accept himself with all his strengths and weaknesses. This experience is an empowering one. And Paul takes his father's most important message to heart: what's important is passion for a dream and a belief that you can achieve anything. Way more important than conforming and being "normal". That is the message we want our heroes and our audience to take home with them.

NIGHT FOREST is a very personal project. My father is from Albstadt-Ebingen, a tranquil town in the Swabian Alps. I have spent countless summers there, going climbing in the mountains and exploring the caves. In my imagination, I was always strolling through a mystical world full of mythical creatures. These are my fondest childhood memories.

I have been searching for this light-heartedness, this sense of adventure and this tingle of excitement ever since, but have yet to find it. Bringing these emotions to the big screen was a goal close to my heart.



DIRECTOR - ANDRE HÖRMANN



Documentary filmmaker Andre Hörmann studied Social Sciences at Humboldt University in Berlin, film directing at Potsdam Film University and is an alumni of the Professional Program in Screenwriting at UCLA, Los Angeles. Hörmann has received scholarships from the Goethe Institut's Villa Kamogawa, from the Villa Aurora and the DAAD. He has taught film at Babelsberg Film University, at the Universities of Marburg and Ulm, and in Mumbai and Chicago.

His films have been screened at international film festivals, such as Sundance, IDFA, DOK Leipzig, Hiroshima Int. Animation Festival, DocAviv, Sydney IFF, TIFF Toronto, SXSW, Doc NYC, Chicago IFF, Palm Springs Shortfest, and IFFK Krakow, and garnered various awards. His latest documentary RINGSIDE premiered at Berlinale 2019 in the Generation 14plus section. He lives and works in Munich and Los Angeles.

FILMOGRAPHY (Selection)

- 2020 Night Forest, 96min, feature,
The Young American, 90min, documentary, in production
Nepal-Dem Himmel Nah, 2x45min, documentary
- 2019 Ringside, 90min, documentary
Isidro der Langläufer 25min, documentary
Arshan - Der kleine Sopran 25min, documentary
- 2018 Crowley - Cowboy Up, 15min, documentary
OBON, 15min, Animadocumentary
Die Töchter des Karakorum, 45min, documentary
- 2017 Seanna - Allein in Hollywood, 15min, documentary
Ari und das Totenfest, 25min, documentary
- 2016 Die Berliner Nouvelle Vague, 52min, documentary
Tsering - Nur der Himmel ist höher, 25min, documentary
Cieras Song, 25min, documentary
- 2015 Gaurav und die Drachen, 25min, documentary
Crowley - Jeder Cowboy braucht sein Pferd, 15min, documentary
- 2014 Mo - Ich kann Fliegen, 15min, documentary
Andrew - Mit Pauken und Trompeten, 25min, documentary
- 2013 Sharuk sucht das Glück, 25min, documentary
Bhavini - Ich will nur tanzen, 15min, documentary
- 2012 Loden, der kleine Mönch, 25min, documentary

CO-DIRECTOR - KATRIN MILHAHN



Katrin Milhahn was born 1975 in Munich. She went to a journalist school and studied screenplay and dramaturgy at HFF Potsdam.

FILMOGRAPHY (Selection)

- 2021 Night Forest, feature, screenplay, co-director
- 2020 ST. MAIK, season 3, tv series, screenplay (2 episodes)
- 2018 ST. MAIK, season 2, tv series, screenplay (2 episodes)
LILIANE SUSEWIND, feature, screenplay with Antonia Rothe-Liermann
- 2017 WE WERE JUST PLAYING, feature, screenplay
with Antonia Rothe-Liermann
ST. MAIK, season 1, tv series, screenplay 2 episodes
- 2016 HANNI UND NANNI - MEHR ALS BESTE FREUNDE, feature
screenplay with Antonia Rothe-Liermann
AUF DER ANDEREN SEITE IST DAS GRAS VIEL GRÜNER, feature
screenplay with Stefan Barth, Pepe Danquart, Antonia Rothe-Liermann
- 2015 ENTE GUT , feature screenplay with Antonia Rothe-Liermann
nominee for Deutschen Drehbuchpreis, Berlinale 2016,
audience award Montreal Children ´s Film Festival
- 2013 SCHLAFLOS IN ISTANBUL, tv feature, screenplay
- 2011 FORMENTERA, feature
screenplay with Antonia Rothe-Liermann and Ann-Kristin Reyels
opening film Forum Berlinale
POLNISCHE OSTERN, feature, screenplay with Jakob Ziemnicki
- 2010 LIEBESKUSS AM BOSPORUS, tv film, screenplay
SOLANGE DU SCHLIEFST, tv film, screenplay with Antonia Rothe-Liermann
- 2009 GRENZLAND, feature, screenplay with Antonia Rothe-Liermann
UNSCHULDIG, tv series, pilot & two episodes, screenplay
- 2006 ATEMLOS, short film, screenplay, nominee for First Steps award
MONDSCHKEINKINDER, feature, screenplay
audience award beim Max Ophüls Prize, Golden Sparrow for
best children's film, special Jury award at Montreal Children Film Festival,
- 2005 KUSSKUSS, feature, screenplay with Sören Senn, First Prize at Cinequest
International Film Festival San José,

KURHAUS PRODUCTION

kurhaus production develops and produces documentaries and feature films, which tell big stories in small places. After years in Berlin, Paris, St. Petersburg and New York came the gradual realization: provincial is a description of character and not of location. This is why we develop material from, for and against the times.

kurhaus production is an independent film production company in Baden-Baden, founded in 2007 by Christoph Holthof and Daniel Reich. With twelve feature films and the production of various documentaries and docu-series under its belt, kurhaus has made its mark on the German TV and cinema market. Our excellent cooperation with SWR and MFG Film Fund Baden-Württemberg has gone from strength to strength over the years and new partnerships have been forged with ARTE, ARD Degeto, KIKA & ZDF.

FILMOGRAPHY (Selection)

- 2021 NIGHT FOREST, feature film
SWR, NDR, BKM, MFG film fund, DFFF, KjdF
- 2018 SWIMMING, feature film
SWR, MFG Film Fund, Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg
Hofer Goldpreis - Hofer Filmtage 2018
- 2017 STRANGE DAUGHTER, feature film
SWR, MFG Film Fund
best film - Biberacher Filmfestspiele 2017
- 2013 FREE FALL, feature film
SWR, MFG Film Fund
Opening film Berlinale Perspektive Deutsches Kino
best film, Günther Rohrbach Preis 2013
- 2011 THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR, feature film
SWR, MFG Film Fund
Golden Camera for Charly Hübner



FACTS

| | |
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| genre | adventure, children's film |
| length | 96 min |
| format | cinemascope |
| production producers | kurhaus production Christoph Holthof Daniel Reich |
| written & directed by | Andre Hörmann Katrin Milhahn |
| cast | Levi Eisenblätter Jonas Oeßel Marc Limpach Meike Droste |
| funded by | SWR, NDR BKM, MFG Filmförderung, DFFF, KjdF |
| distribution | Farbfilm Verleih |
| completion language | June 2021 German |
| contact | Norman Bernien +49 7221 30 21 906 bernien@kurhausproduction.de |



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production

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