

Music Box Films presents
I N T H E A I S L E S

Dir. Thomas Stuber



GERMANY / 2018 / RUNNING TIME 125 MINUTES / ORIGINAL TITLE: IN DEN GÄNGEN

PRESS NOTES

Publicity Contacts

New York/National:

Nathaniel Baruch
nbaruchpr@gmail.com
917-306-9585

Los Angeles:

Jordan Moore
Jordan@laemml.com
310-478-8989

Regional Publicity:

Becky Schultz
bschultz@musicboxfilms.com
312-508-5360

Music Box Films Contacts

Theatrical Bookings:

Kyle Westphal
kwestphal@musicboxfilms.com
312-508-5359

Marketing:

Becky Schultz
bschultz@musicboxfilms.com
312-508-5360

Exhibitor Relations:

Julia Davis
jdavis@musicboxfilms.com
312-508-5363

L O G L I N E

An affecting and bittersweet glimpse into the shared connections of a motley group of nightshift workers at a big box store, including the reclusive newbie Christian (Franz Rogowski) and the charming but mysterious Marion (Sandra Hüller).

S Y N O P S I S

When the reclusive Christian (Franz Rogowski, *TRANSIT*) takes a job working the night shift at a big box store, his new manager, Bruno from the Beverage Department (Peter Kurth, *BABYLON BERLIN*), teaches him the lay of the land and the delicacy it takes to operate a forklift. Christian becomes enamored by his charming but mysterious co-worker "Sweets Marion" (Sandra Hüller, *TONI ERDMANN*), with whom he begins to share flirtatious break room coffees and conversations. But Marion has secrets of her own and when she suddenly goes on sick leave, Christian is tempted to fall into habits of his dark past. An affecting and bittersweet glimpse into the shared connections of a motley group of workers, *IN THE AISLES* quietly celebrates the beauty in the day-to-day and the collective pride we take in our jobs with dark humor and nuance.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I immediately dreamt about adapting Clemens Meyer's short story IN THE AISLES to screen when I first started reading his collection of short stories ALL THE LIGHTS. I couldn't let go of the idea of the lonesome young man who dives into the nightly aisles of a wholesale supermarket. The rustle of the nearby Autobahn on the loading ramp, the secret cigarette on the shift, the coffee machine, the boss of the night, who shakes everyone's hand at the end of the shift. Meyer's story has immense depth and tragedy, but needs such few details to come alive. Many things remain unspoken, the conclusions often remain untold. The reader, and now the audience, needs to puzzle the pieces together. Love and death in the wholesale market. "Sweets"-Marion, Bruno, Rudi, Irina and "Pallets"-Klaus - they all rise above themselves. What remains is the realization that community, warmth and a little bit of happiness are only possible in the aisles of the wholesale market.

– Thomas Stuber

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Finally a romantic film. A romantic film that takes place in the aisles of a wholesale market. A romantic film based on the short story by German cult author Clemens Meyer, directed by Student Oscar winner Thomas Stuber.

This is exactly the film we wanted to make from the very beginning! A film that loves and cherishes its characters and reveals humanity in a setting where we wouldn't necessarily expect it.

A film that seems utterly "genuine," but isn't a documentary; rather, its subtle poetry unfolds through its unique visual images.

Thanks to the outstanding script that had already been honored with the German Screenplay Award before shooting began, to Franz Rogowski, Sandra Hüller, Peter Kurth and all the other incredible actors, an amazing team behind the camera, and Thomas Stuber's keen instinct and talent, we are filled with joy to realize that we have made exactly the film that we all dreamed of making for four years.

A film in the tradition of poetic realism, which hasn't been given much space in contemporary German cinema up to now, but which has so often captivated us on the international scene.

And so we hope that many people in the movie theaters of the world will take Christian, Marion, Bruno, and their unique world into their hearts, and after IN THE AISLES, when anyone sees a forklift at the supermarket, they will only think of the ocean.

A B O U T F R A N Z R O G O W S K I (C H R I S T I A N)

Franz Rogowski was born in 1986 in Freiburg. He worked as a dancer and performer at the Thalia Theater in Hamburg and Schaubühne in Berlin under such directors as Falk Richter and Nicolas Stemmann. In 2013 Rogowski received the Förderpreis Neues Deutsches Kino from the Filmfest München for his performance in Jakob Lass's LOVE STEAKS. This was followed by an appearance in VICTORIA under the direction of Sebastian Schipper, which received a Silver Bear for Best Cinematography at the Berlinale and won prizes in six categories at the German Film Awards.

Rogowski subsequently played the leading role in Jan Henrik Stahlberg's BEDBUGS. From 2015 to 2017 he was an ensemble member of the Münchner Kammerspiele, and in 2016 appeared in Michael Haneke's HAPPY END and Terrence Malick's RADEGUND.

Franz Rogowski is a European Shooting Star at the 2018 Berlinale and will feature in the leading role in two world premieres at the Berlinale Competition – Thomas Stuber's IN THE AISLES and Christian Petzold's TRANSIT.

A B O U T S A N D R A H Ü L L E R (M A R I O N)

Sandra Hüller, born in 1978 in Suhl, studied at the Hochschule für Schauspielkunst Ernst Busch in Berlin and later performed at the theaters in Jena, Leipzig, Basel, Berlin, Hanover, and Munich. In 2004 Hüller took on her first film role as the epileptic Michaela Klinger in Hans-Christian Schmid's film REQUIEM (2004). For this performance she received a Silver Bear, a German Film Award, and a nomination for a European Film Award, among other honors. In the following years Hüller collaborated closely with Johan Simons at the Münchner Kammerspiele and Ruhrtriennale while continuing to appear in films, including MADONNEN (2007) with Maria Speth and BROWNIAN MOVEMENT with Nanouk Leopold. Her role in Jan Schomburg's feature film debut ABOVE US ONLY SKY (2011) earned her a further German Film Award nomination. For her performance in Frauke Finsterwalder's FINSTERWORLD (2013), she won the 2014 German Film Award for Best Supporting Actress. TONI ERDMANN, in which she played the female lead, celebrated its premiere in Cannes and was nominated for an Oscar at the 2017 Academy Awards as Best Foreign Language Film; Sandra Hüller received a European Film Award for her role. She will now be seen in one of the leading roles in Thomas Stuber's IN THE AISLES, which will celebrate its world premiere at the Berlinale Competition.

A B O U T P E T E R K U R T H (B R U N O)

Peter Kurth, born in 1957, studied at the Staatliche Schauspielschule Rostock. In addition to his work in the theater, which has led him to the stages of Magdeburg, Leipzig, Hamburg, Berlin, and most recently Stuttgart (among other cities), he can be seen in numerous film and television productions. In 2014 he was named Actor of the Year by Theater heute. For his portrayal of Herbert in the 2015 film A HEAVY HEART, he won a German Film Award and Deutscher Schauspielerpreis as Best Actor. Kurth can currently be seen in the series BABYLON BERLIN directed by Tom Tykwer, Hendrik Handloegten, and Achim von Borries. In 2018 he will be celebrating a film premiere at the Berlinale with IN THE AISLES, also directed by Thomas Stuber. With BABYLON, Peter Kurth was nominated for the 2018 Deutscher Fernsehpreis in the categories Best Drama Series and Best Actor.

ABOUT PETER MATJASKO (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

Peter Matjasko was born in 1978 in Frankfurt am Main and first studied film and media at the Fachhochschule Dortmund with a specialization in cinematography, before transferring to the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in 2004. He was awarded the German Cinematographer Award for his cinematographic composition in the short horror film AKUMI (2005), and further nominations followed for the short films THE GRANDFATHER (2009) and OF DOGS AND HORSES (2011). With director Thomas Stuber, Peter Matjasko also filmed the character and milieu study A HEAVY HEART (2015), for which he received a German Film Award nomination for Best Cinematography.

CREDITS

Franz Rogowski... Christian

Sandra Hüller... Marion

Peter Kurth... Bruno

Andreas Leupold

Michael Specht

Steffen Scheumann

Ramona Kunze-Libnow

Henning Pekar

Matthias Brenner

Gerdy Zint

Directed by... Thomas Stuber

Written by... Clemens Meyer, Thomas Stuber

Based on the short story.... IN THE AISLES

Producers... Jochen Laube, Fabian Maubach

Associate Producers... Martin Frühmorgen, Undine Filter, Thomas Král

Director of Photography... Peter Matjasko

Casting by... Anja Dührberg, Karen Wendland

Set designer... Jenny Roesler

Costume designer... Juliane Maier, Christian Röhrs

Makeup artist... Hanna Hackbeil

Editor... Kaya Inan

Music supervision... Milena Fessmann

Production... Sommerhaus Filmproduktion GmbH

Co-production... Rotor Film, Departures Film

Released by Music Box Films

A B O U T M U S I C B O X F I L M S

Music Box Films is a North American distributor of acclaimed international, independent, and documentary features. Recent releases include Robert Schwentke's absurdist WWII thriller *THE CAPTAIN*, this year's French Oscar submission for Best Foreign Language Film, Emmanuel Finkiel's *MEMOIR OF WAR*, Pernille Fischer Christensen's *BECOMING ASTRID*, and Christian Petzold's *TRANSIT*. Upcoming releases include Thomas Stuber's romantic drama *IN THE AISLES*, Claudio Giovanessi's *PIRANHAS*, and François Ozon's *BY THE GRACE OF GOD*. Music Box Films is independently owned and operated by the Southport Music Box Corporation, which also owns and operates the Music Box Theatre, Chicago's premiere venue for independent and foreign films. For more information, please visit www.musicboxfilms.com.