



presents

THE TOWER

a film by
Christian Schwochow

Based on the acclaimed novel *The Tower: Tales from a Vanished Land*

3 hrs., Germany, 2013

In German with English Subtitles

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Synopsis

A searing look at Communist East Germany in its final decade, *The Tower (Der Turm)* reveals the intimate realities of life behind the Berlin Wall. Based on Uwe Tellkamp's acclaimed novel *The Tower: Tales from a Vanished Land*, which won the 2008 German Book Prize and was heralded by *Die Zeit* as "one of the most important books of European post-War literature", this riveting series introduces viewers to respected senior surgeon Richard Hoffmann, his wife Anne, their teenage son Christian, and their community of privileged intellectuals in suburban Dresden.

Their story unfolds in 1982, when the cracks in the repressive police state's façade are beginning to surface. Despite the restrictions, the educated few still enjoy some advantages under the system. The Hoffmans gather often with family and friends for warm dinner parties rich with derisive political banter, live classical music, and spirited discussions, holding out for a better future. But even as Richard has high hopes and strict demands for studious Christian, he hides a passionate double life and shocking secrets that come back to haunt him. Against this tense climate of fear and mistrust, with the secret police lurking ominously in the background, choices are made and actions taken that have devastating repercussions. Starring Jan Josef Liefers (*The Baader Meinhof Complex*) and Claudia Michelsen (*Fay Grim*) in flawless performances, *The Tower* is an unflinching portrait of a pivotal time in modern German history.

Director's Bio

attributed to Wikipedia

Christian Schwochow grew up in Leipzig and East Berlin and lived in Hannover since 1990. As a child he starred in many radio plays broadcast in the GDR. As a teenager he was publisher and editor in chief of the Lower Saxon youth magazine *Shot!* After graduating from high school in 1998, he worked as an author, speaker and reporter for various radio stations. From 2002 to 2008, he studied Directing at the Baden-Württemberg Film Academy. His study concluded with the feature film *Novemberkind* as his final project.

He wrote the screenplays for his two feature films *Marta and Her Flying Grandfather* and *Novemberkind* along with his mother, writer and director Heide Schwochow. The 2-part TV miniseries *The Tower: Tales from a Vanished Land*, based on the acclaimed novel by Uwe Tellkamp, brought Schwochow the 2013 Grimme Award. His film *West* premiered in 2013 at the Canadian World Film Festival in Montreal, where he was awarded the FIPRESCI prize. Jördis Triebel, the film's leading actress, was also honored by the festival as Best Actress.

In 2013, Schwochow celebrated his theatrical directing debut with the staging of Lot Vekemans' two-person drama *Poison* at the Deutsches Theater in Berlin.

Schwochow lives in Berlin with his wife and daughter.

Cast

Richard Hoffmann: Jan Josef Liefers

Christian Hoffmann: Sebastian Urzendowsky

Anne Hoffmann: Claudia Michelsen

Josta Fischer: Nadja Uhl

Crew

Director: Christian Schwochow

Writers: Thomas Kirchner, Uwe Tellkamp (Novel)

Producer: Nico Hofmann, Matthias Adler, Benjamin Benedict

Cinematography: Frank Lamm

Original Music: Anja Dührberg, Johanna Ragwitz

A teamWorx production in co-production with MDR and ARD Degeto as well as BR, NDR, WDR, SWR und RBB for ARD in association with Beta Film, Germany.

About Music Box Films

Founded in 2007, Music Box Films is a leading distributor of international, American independent, and documentary content in North America along with the best in international TV series and mini-series.

Releases in 2014 included Roger Michell's LE WEEK-END, written by Hanif Kureishi and starring Jim Broadbent; the Emmy Award winning French-language series "The Returned"; Pawel Pawlikowski's IDA, the official Polish submission to the Academy Awards®; and the Sundance Audience Award-winning documentary THE GREEN PRINCE.

Upcoming releases include award-winning documentary WATCHERS OF THE SKY, Dominik Graf's BELOVED SISTERS, Germany's official submission to the Academy Awards®, and Shlomi and Ronit Elkabetz's GETT: THE TRIAL OF VIVIANE AMSALEM, Israel's official submission to the Academy Awards®.

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