

# PARTISAN

**Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz 1992-2017**

Ein Film von Andreas Deinert, Moritz Denis, Matthias Ehlert, Wolfgang Gaube, Rosa Grünberg, Eike Hosenfeld, Michael Kaczmarek, Thomas Kleinwächter, Lutz Pehnert  
Caroline Peters, Susann Schimk, Johannes Schneeweiß, Jens Stubenrauch, Christoph Sturm, Jörg Theil, Mieke Ulfig, Adama Ulrich

Mit Kathrin Angerer, Henry Hübchen, Susanne Düllmann, Karin Ugowski, Katrin Knappe, Alexander Scheer, Martin Wuttke, Frank Castorf, Herbert Fritsch, Sophie Rois, Marc Hosemann  
Lilith Stangenberg, Wolfram Koch, Elisabeth Zump, Ingo Günther, Herbert Sand, Wilfried Ortmann, Walfriede Schmitt, Heide Kipp, Annett Kruschke, Ulrich Voß, Harald Warmbrunn  
Winfried Wagner, Magne Hovard Brekke, Jon-Kaare Koppe, Peter-René Lüdicke, Bruno Cathomas, Kurt Naumann, Gerd Preusche, Torsten Ranft, Joachim Tomaschewsky, Jürgen Rothert  
Klaus Mertens, Bodo Krämer, Sabine Svoboda, Harry Merkel, Christiane Schober, Claudia Michelsen, Meral Yüzgülec, Astrid Meyerfeldt, Annkathrin Bürger, Dietmar Huhn, Hans-Uwe Bauer  
Andreas Speichert, Frank Meißner, Susanne Strätz, Robert Hunger-Bühler, Lajos Talamonti, Steve Binetti, Christoph Schlingensiefel, Wilfried Rott, Adriano Almeida, Walter Bickmann  
Christian Camus, Jean Chaize, Amy Coleman, Christina Comtesse, Beatrice Cordua, Ana Veronica Coutinho, Brigitte Cuvelier, Gernot Frischling, Andrea Hovenbitzer, Susana Ibañez  
Martin Kasper, Kristine Keil, Monica Kodato, Martin Lämmerhirt, Ireneu Marcovecchio, Mauricio Oliveira, Mauricio Ribeiro, Liliana Saldaña, Aliksey Schoettle, Christian Schwaan  
Joachim Siska, Pavel Straka, Kate Strong, Nilson Soares, Osvaldo Ventriglia, Olivia Grigolli, Ruedi Häusermann, Ueli Jäggi, Jürg Kienberger, Valery Tschepplanowa, Bert Neumann, Lars Rudolph  
Hendrik Arnst, Corinna Harfouch, Michael Klobe, Bernhard Schütz, Stephan Richter, Hildegard Alex, Rosemarie Bärhold, Silvia Rieger, Milan Peschel, Frank Büttner, Thelma Buabeng  
Daniel Zillmann, Hanna Hilsdorf, Krzysztof Raczkowski, Matthias Matschke, Matthias Pees, Jeanette Spasova, Cordelia Wege, Stefan Bienek, Irm Hermann, Margarita Breitkreuz  
Fabian Hinrichs, Christine Groß, Catrin Striebeck, Inga Busch, Patrick Güldenber, Rocco Mylord, Jeanne Balibar, Petra Guthe, Tora Augestad, Marc Bodnar, Raphael Clamer  
Bendix Dethleffsen, Altea Garrido, Cathrin Böhme, Ulli Zelle, Georg Friedrich, Sir Henry, Florian Anderer, Jan Bluthardt, Werner Eng, Annika Meier, Ruth Rosenfeld, Axel Wandtke  
Hubert Wild, Michael Rowalska, Taiko Saito, Frank Büttner, Fabrizio Tentoni, Boris Hermel, Kriton Klingler, Connor Rapp, Angela Guerreiro, Abdoul Kader Traoré u.v.a

# SCREENINGS

## 68. Berlin International Film Festival section Panorama

February 21st 2018, 6 pm, Kino International (world premiere)

February 22nd 2018, 1 pm, CineStar 7

February 25th 2018, 1 pm, CineStar 7

# WITH

Alexander Scheer  
Sophie Rois  
Henry Hübchen  
Christiane Schober (prompter)  
Martin Wuttke  
Frank Meißner & Andreas Speichert (stage managers)  
Herbert Fritsch  
Marc Hosemann  
Hendrik Arnst  
Kathrin Angerer  
Lilith Stangenberg  
Frank Castorf

# CREW

Author	Lutz Pehnert
Director	Lutz Pehnert Matthias Ehlert Adama Ulrich
Cinematographer	Wolfgang Gaube
Additional Cinematography	Andreas Deinert Harald Mellwig
Sound Recordist	Johannes Schneeweiß
Editor	Thomas Kleinwächter Christoph Sturm
Narrator	Caroline Peters
Music	Moritz Denis
Grading	Christoph Sturm
Sound Design	Jörg Theil
Sound Mix	Michael Kaczmarek
Graphics	Mieke Ulfig
Production Assistant	Rosa Grünberg
Commissioning Editor	Jens Stubenrauch
Producer	Susann Schimk

A co-production of solo:film GmbH  
with Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

Length	130 min
Screening format	DCP 1:1,85
Sound	Dolby Surround 5.1.
Language	German
Subtitles	English

## SYNOPSIS

In a society that increasingly resists new ways of thinking and aesthetic transgressions, Frank Castorf calls theatre “the last partisan”. As its director since the early 1990s, Castorf made the Berlin Volksbühne a place of new departures and the avant-garde. By reacting radically to social upheavals and testing new theatrical methods, the Volksbühne became Germany’s most important theatre, enjoying great international appeal. The film accompanies Castorf on his farewell production of “Faust”, while also providing a glimpse of the engine room of this theatre factory. Comrades-in-arms, including the actors Sophie Rois, Herbert Fritsch, and Alexander Scheer, recall the theatre’s unique work environment, while news flashbacks bring to life the events of the past 25 years. PARTISAN is a tribute to a theatre and its staff. Though the Volksbühne is no longer with us, its influence will continue to be felt as a powerful example of aesthetic individuality.

## DIRECTOR’S NOTES

For many years, the Volksbühne on Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz was a very important place for all three of us. As young people in the 1990s, during the early years of the Castorf troupe, we danced at opening night parties, argued in the theatre canteen until we were blue in the face, and we felt part of a place that demonstrated, like no other, that East Germany could be cool and had a lot of new things to offer when it came to aesthetics. Later we were mesmerized by the great Dostoyevsky evenings, where we began to grasp that theater, theory, novels and film did not need to be entirely separate genres.

When we realized that this era would soon irrevocably come to an end, we decided -- independently of one another -- to document this farewell on film. We were losing a piece of home, one that would soon live on only in scattered memories.

Since we had known one another for a long time, we decided not to compete, but instead to make this film together - without much time to prepare and without funding - but with the greatest love for the subject matter.

# LUTZ PEHNERT



Lutz Pehnert was born in Berlin in 1961. After his apprenticeship as a typesetter, he worked for the daily newspaper 'Junge Welt' from 1982 until 1995 and wrote for several magazines. Since 1995 he has been working as a freelance author and director for TV. He realizes portraits of artists, history and travel documentaries. In 1996 the film 'Brand' about an alcoholic brigade in the steel mill in Brandenburg was presented at Berlin International Film Festival in the section 'Forum'. In 2011 he received the Grimme Award for his multipart documentary 'DDR Ahoi!' about the history of East German seafaring.

## FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

DEUTSCHLAND, DEINE KÜNSTLER: KATRIN SASS  
2016, solo:film / ARD / MDR  
documentary, 45 min, HD

IMMER BEREIT! - JUNGE PIONIERE IN DER DDR  
2016, Moers Media / ZDFinfo  
documentary, 45 min, HD

GRENZLAND: VOM BALTIKUM BIS ZUR AKROPOLIS  
2016, RBB  
part 3/documentary, 45 min, HD

OSTROCK - ZWISCHEN LIEBE UND ZORN  
2015, Hoferichter & Jacobs / MDR  
documentary, 90 min, HD

DIE OSTDEUTSCHEN (THE EAST GERMANS)  
2014, credo:film / RBB  
documentary, 5x80 min, HD

DDR AHOI! (GDR AHOY!)  
2010 / 2011, Hoferichter & Jacobs / MDR / NDR  
documentary, 3x45 min, HD

DEUTSCHLAND, DEINE KÜNSTLER: KATHARINA THALBACH  
2008, lu.pe.film / RBB / SWR  
documentary, 45 min, DigiBeta

MA VIE: WOLFGANG KOHLHAASE (MY LIFE: WOLFGANG KOHLHAASE)  
2006, Cine plus / RBB / arte  
documentary, 45 min, HD

BRAND  
1996, Tele Potsdam / RBB  
documentary, 43 min, DigiBeta

# MATTHIAS EHLERT



Born in Berlin in 1967, Matthias Ehlert studied philosophy, German studies and history at Humboldt-University and at Freie Universität Berlin. Since 1992 journalistic work, amongst others: 1995-1999 television reporter for ARD, 1999-2003 editor for "F.A.Z." and theatre critic for "Berliner Seiten", 2004-2005 editor of "Welt am Sonntag", 2006-2007 editor-in-chief of "Netzzeitung", 2008-2011 editor of "AD-Architectural Digest" and since 2012, deputy editor-in-chief of "Weltkunst", published by ZEIT Verlag.

## FILMOGRAPHY (DOCUMENTARY FILMS)

- 1996 BRAND (Berlin International Film Festival, section „Forum“)
- 2001 TATORT OSTDEUTSCHLAND
- 2004 EUROPAS ERBE – EIN KONTINENT IM SPIEGEL DER GESCHICHTE

# ADAMA ULRICH



Born in Berlin, Adama Ulrich studied cultural theory/ aesthetics, theatre history and ethnography at Humboldt-University Berlin and earned her doctorate in theatre studies in 1993. Until 1995 she worked as a trainee at Ostdeutscher Rundfunk Brandenburg. Since then she has been working as a freelance author for TV and radio.

Her specialties are portraits as well as documentaries from Germany and from abroad. Numerous scholarships and her interest in other cultures led her repeatedly on cinematic journeys to Africa, Latin America and the US.

## FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2017 | GEO-REPORTAGE. DIE SANFTEN BISONS VOM YELLOWSTONE NATIONALPARK<br>(The gentle bison of the Yellowstone National Park), 52 min, arte  |
| 2017 | MENSCHEN HAUTNAH. GISELA ON THE ROAD, 43 min, WDR  |
| 2016 | AFRO.DEUTSCHLAND, (Afro-Germany) Co-Autorin, 56/52/42 min, DW  |
| 2014 | HOT ROADS – BURUNDI, 45 min, arte/ZDF  |
| 2014 | MISSION INCOGNITO. ULRICH MATTHES, 30 min, arte/ZDF  |
| 2012 | VERGESSENE VÖLKER EUROPAS. DIE KASCHUBEN, 45 min, arte/MDR   |
| 2008 | MA VIE – FRANK CASTORF, 45 min, arte/ZDF   |
| 2003 | IM REVIER DER GOTTLOSEN (The District of the Godless), 30 min., ARD  |
| 1999 | MEIN LAND, MEINE LIEBE: IN WÖRTERN WOHNEN – JONATHAN COE IN BIRMINGHAM UND LONDON<br>(My Country, My Love: Living in Words – Jonathan Coe in Birmingham and London) 30 min, arte/ZDF |
| 1998 | COPS, GANGS, BRONX – WO BÜRGER WIEDER SICHER LEBEN<br>(Cops, Gangs, Bronx – Where Residents Live Securely Once Again) 45 min, arte/MDR   |
| 1998 | REICHE LEUTE KENNE ICH NICHT –DER MODEMACHER WOLFGANG JOOP<br>(I Don't Know Rich People – The Fashion Designer Wolfgang Joop) 30 min, Deutsche Welle TV                              |

# SOLO:FILM GMBH

solo:film GmbH was founded in 2016 by Susann Schimk. After 15 years of experience as a producer for credo:film GmbH it was time to create a new company, a platform for even more charming – challenging German and European films, television programs and online formats.

Susann Schimk is a member of the German Film Academy, the European Film Academy and since 2016 a member of the Commission for Fiction at the Zurich Film Foundation.

## FILMOGRAPHY

**PARTISAN**, documentary, 130 min, HD  
author: Lutz Pehnert, director: Lutz Pehnert, Matthias Ehlert, Adama Ulrich  
cinematographer: Wolfgang Gaube  
coproduction rbb

**MONTAGS IN DRESDEN (MERKEL MUST GO)**, documentary, 83 min/52 min, HD  
author, director: Sabine Michel, cinematographer: Martin Langner  
coproduction MDR, rbb; MDM, Kulturstiftung Sachsen  
world sales: Visible Films

**TALKING MONEY**, documentary, 83 min/52 min, 4K/2K/HD  
director, cinematographer: Sebastian Winkels  
coproduction Catpics AG, Zazarfilm Ltd., rbb, SRF  
MBB, FHSB, GNFC, Succès Passage Antenne, German Films  
distribution: déjà-vu Film (Germany); world sales: NEW DOCS

**DIE VOLKSBÜHNE AM ROSA-LUXEMBURG-PLATZ**, documentary series, 45 min, HD  
author, director: Lutz Pehnert, cinematographer: Wolfgang Gaube  
coproduction rbb

**DIE VILLA MASSIMO**, documentary, 86 min, Cinemascope iPhone  
film by Iain Dilthey  
supported by FiLMiC Pro, Moondog Labs, Beastgrip

**DEUTSCHLAND, DEINE KÜNSTLER – KATRIN SASS**, documentary series, 45 min, HD  
director: Lutz Pehnert, cinematographer: Wolfgang Gaube  
TV service production (ARD, MDR)

**HAVING A CIGARETTE WITH ÁLVARO SIZA**, documentary, 52 min, HD  
director: Iain Dilthey, cinematographer: Isabelle Casez  
cooperation Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, Deutsche Welle  
world sales: Magnetfilm GmbH

# IN PRODUCTION

HOPPEGARTEN, documentary series, 45 min, HD  
author, director: Lutz Pehnert, cinematographer: Wolfgang Gaube  
TV service production (rbb)

AUSLANDSKADER, documentary, 45 min, HD  
author, director: Sabine Michel  
coproduction rbb; Bundesstiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur

# IN DEVELOPMENT

LASVEGAS, fiction, 90 min, HD, color  
author, director: Kolja Malik, cinematographer: Jieun Yi  
Kuratorium junger deutscher Film

THE DESIRE, fiction, 90 min, HD  
author, director: Iain Dilthey, cinematographer: Hans Fromm

KATTE, fiction, 90 min, HD  
author, director: Kolja Malik  
BKM screenplay funding

# CONTACT

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