**Good News**

Feature film, fiction, 75 minutes, black and white, Germany, Thailand, 2024

**Logline**

The journalist Leo hopes to finally make an international breakthrough with a report about

a rebel group in Thailand. His friend Mawar helps him make local contacts. In return, Leo

promises to support him in starting over in Germany. But when the editors sending him the

photographer Julian without asking, Leo becomes increasingly entangled in a web of lies

and morally questionable decisions.

**Awards**

Prize for the socially relevant film - Film Festival Max Ophüls Prize 2024

Best Director - Achtung Berlin Film Festival 2024

Best acting role “Mawar” - Achtung Berlin Film Festival 2024

**Contact**

Director: Hannes Schilling, kontakt@hannesschilling.com

Producer: Jost Hering Filme, j.hering@josthering.de



**PRODUCTION**

Director Hannes Schilling

Screenplay Ghiath Al Mhitawi und Hannes Schilling

Producer Jost Hering Filme

DOP Falco Seliger

Editors Marie Fontanel und Paul Gröbel

Sounddesign Alexander Wolf

Soundmixing Anastasiia Nasonkina

Filmmusic Lena Radivoj

Stagedesign Pisuthpak Sukwisit

Actor Role Leo Ilja Stahl

Actor Role Mawar Sabree Matming

Actor Role Julian Dennis Scheuermann

Languages German, English, Thai and Malay

Shooting perioid July 2022

Location Pattani (South Thailand) and Berlin



**Long synopsis**

Hoping for his international breakthrough as a journalist, Leo left his life in Germany behind to report on a secret rebel group in the south of Thailand. Between his research, Leo spends time with his friend Mawar, who dreams of a better future in Germany. Leo offers him help, but the time with Mawar and his family reminds Leo painfully of his own life

in Berlin. In the midst of the lengthy research, Leo's fear of losing contact with his daughter

grows. In order to be able to leave earlier, Leo makes a serious mistake. He writes the article without ever having had any real contact with the rebels. But when the photographer Julian suddenly shows up to take photos of the rebels, Leo catapults himself into a moral downward spiral.

The film "Good News" takes a close look at the challenges journalists face in the pursuit of their careers while torn between ethical principles and professional success. The focus is on Leo, a journalist who is desperately trying to create an explosive report and is increasingly losing his personal values and relationships in the process. The story highlights the delicate boundaries between ethics and ambition, friendship and betrayal, and asks how far a person is willing to go to achieve their personal and professional goals.

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**Directors Note**

In September 2019 I took part in a student exchange program in South Africa. There, while preparing for a documentary, I came across an unexpected area of tension: the short film was supposed to tell the life of a black familymother who, as a cleaning lady, commutes back and forth daily between a white gated community and her township. I quickly realized that I would need local support to make the film. Due to lack of money, I worked with friends in Johannesburg. But on my first trips to the township, where crime is to be expected, I found myself in an ethical dilemma: Should I expose my friends to possible dangers for a film? Can I use the trust of my private relationships for this project? When do I abuse relationships?

In my case it was a free artistic student project without existential pressure. But what if your entire life depends on the success of a project? How far would someone go, especially with more dangerous topics like a rebel group? “Good News” is my filmic examination of these questions. The film takes a look at the ethical limits of media professionals who depend on the success of their projects. When is trust abused and what

risk is acceptable?







**Producers**

**Hannes Schilling Director, Co-Producer, Screenwriter**

Born in 1989 in Erfurt, studied “Audiovisual Media” in Berlin from 2009-2015. 2014 semester abroad in Jerusalem “Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design Jerusalem”. Since 2015 she has been studying directing at the Babelsberg Film University. His second-year film “AFTER THE FEST” was nominated for the German Short Film Prize. His BA graduation film “The Proband” won the German Short Film Prize in 2019. September 2019 Exchange program in Johannesburg University of Wiswatersrand. Master’s student in feature film directing since 2019. In preparation for his MA final film “Good News” he was a visiting student at the Prince of Songkla University in Thailand from 2021. 2024 Good News (75min, feature film)

2019 Waldstück (30min, Documentary)

2019 Der Proband (30min, Narrative, short)

2017 Nach dem Fest (15min, Narrative, short)

**Jost Hering, Producer**

Jost Hering has been working as a freelance film producer since autumn 1989. Since then

he has produced around 50 productions as a producer or co-producer. Jost Hering Films

pursues the goal of developing, financing and producing/producing “sophisticated feature

and documentary films” for television and cinema audiences. Most of the films were made

in collaboration with public broadcasters and were also released in cinemas. Other

partners include numerous foreign TV channels, funding agencies and producers.

2023 Drifter (79 min, Narrative)

2022 Fossil (90min, Narrative)

2020 Futur Drei (92min, Narrative)

2019 Kokon (94min, Narrative)

