



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@hanneschilling.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 period	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.



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 Witwatersrand. 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)



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JOST HERING FILME IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH HANNES SCHILLING WITH THE SUPPORT OF DIE BEAUFTRAGTE DER BUNDESREGIERUNG FÜR KULTUR UND MEDIEN, GENERAL FEDERAL FILM BOARD GERMANY FILMUNIVERSITY BABELSBERG KONRAD WOLF AND PRINCE OF SONGKLA UNIVERSITY A FILM BY HANNES SCHILLING WITH ILJA STAHL, SABREE MATMING AND DENNIS SCHEUERMANN WRITTEN BY GHIAT AL MHITAWI AND HANNES SCHILLING DIRECTED BY HANNES SCHILLING PRODUCER JOST HERING DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FALCO SELIGER EDITOR MARIE FONTANEL AND PAUL GRÖBEL SOUNDDESIGN ALEXANDER WOLF SOUND-MIXING ANASTASIIA NASON- IKA AND JOHANNES LUPPA MUSIC LENA RADIVOJ POSTER MATÍAS BOETTNER © 2024 JOST HERING FILME



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