

THOMAS IMBACH – Writer/Director/Cinematographer/Editor



Thomas Imbach (*1962) is an independent filmmaker based in Zurich. With his production company *Bachim Films* he produced his own work until 2007. Then he founded *Okofilm* together with Director/ Producer Andrea Štaka. All his films have been released theatrically. He has won numerous awards for his work, both in Switzerland and abroad. With *Well Done* (1994) and *Ghetto* (1997) he established his trademark audio-visual style based on a combination of cinema- verité camera-work and fast-paced computer-controlled editing. His fiction features *Happiness is a Warm Gun* (nominated for the Golden Leopard at Locarno), *Lenz* (2006), *I was a Swiss Banker* (2007) and the fictive autobiography *Day is Done* (2011) all premiered at the Berlinale. His new feature film *Mary Queen of Scots* celebrated its premiere in Locarno and Toronto Film festival in 2013.

In production:

A HOUSE IS BUILT, Feature essay, 90 min.

Coproduced by Okofilm Productions and Bachim Films

As producer: **MARE** by Andrea Štaka, Fiction feature film, 90 min.

Coproduced by Okofilm Productions, Zurich und Dinaridi Film, Zagreb

2018 **GLAUBENBERG**, Fiction feature film, 114 min.

Coproduced by Okofilm Productions, Swiss Radio and Television, SRG SSR

- World Premiere: Locarno 2018, competition

2014 as producer: **CURE – The Life of Another** by Andrea Štaka, Fiction feature film, 83 min.

Produced by Okofilm Productions, Coproduced by Produkcija Ziva, Deblokada Films

- Locarno 2014 (Competition), Sarajevo 2014 (Competition)

2015 **WELL DONE**, Film installation, Kunsthau Zurich: EUROPA, 06/2015 – 09/2015

2013 **MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS**, Fiction feature film, 35mm (DCP), 120 min.

Coproduced by Okofilm Productions, Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen, SRG SSR, ARTE, Sciapode Productions

- World Premiere: Locarno 2013, competition

- International Premiere: Toronto Film Festival 2013, "Special Presentations"

2011 **DAY IS DONE** an autobiographical fiction, 35mm (DCP), 111 min.

Coproduction: Okofilm, Zurich, SRF Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen and ARTE

- World Premiere Berlinale 2011, Forum

- Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, Competition

2007 **I WAS A SWISS BANKER**, Drama, 35mm, 75 min.

Underwater fairy tale of the Swiss Banker Roger Caviezel.

- Premiered at the 57th Berlinale

- Swiss Film Awards 2008, Nomination Best Actor

- Zurich Film Awards 2008, Special Jury award

2007 – 2011 **Retrospectives**: Happiness Is A Warm Gun, THE THOMAS IMBACH FILMS in: BERLIN, Arsenal-Kino, WIEN, Votiv-Kino, US-tour (08/09): HOUSTON/TX, Museum of Fine Arts, SAN ANTONIO/TX, European Film Festival, WASHINGTON D.C., National Gallery of Arts, DENVER/CO, Denver Film Festival, New York City, Anthology Film Archives, 13. BAFICI Festivals in Buenos Aires.

2006 **LENZ AM BERG**, 35mm; Film Installation, 3-Channel-Projection Kunsthaus Zurich: In the Alps

2006 **LENZ**, Drama 35mm, 96 min.

Contemporary adaptation of Georg Büchner's „Lenz“

- Premiered at the 56th Berlinale

2002 **happy too**, Digi-Beta, 60 min. “happy too” parallels the Kelly-Bastian relationship with the struggles of the actors in “Happiness is a Warm Gun”

- Premiered at the International Film Festival Locarno 2002, Cinéastes du Présent

2001 **HAPPINESS IS A WARM GUN**, Drama, 35mm, 92 min.

Drama on the mystic death of the lovers Petra Kelly und Gert Bastian.

- Nominated for the Golden Leopard 2001, International Film Festival Locarno
- Official Selection Berlinale 2002
- Zurich Film Prize, 2001, Nominated for “Best Swiss Feature Film”, Quality Award (OFC)

2000 **Portrait Film** on Thomas Imbach “Die Kamera als Sonde”, Beta-SP, 60 min.

by Christoph Hübner for WDR/3Sat

1998 **NANO-BABIES**, 35mm (Cinemascope), 45 min.

Science-Fiction essay on babies of high-tech researchers for Swiss Television/3SAT

- Commissioned by Swiss Television and 3Sat

1997 **GHETTO**, Feature documentary, 35mm, 122 Min.

Docudrama with teenagers on the sunny side of Zurich's Gold Coast

- Best Documentary, International Film Festival Mannheim
- Premio Giampaolo Paoli, International Film Festival Florence
- Quality Award (Swiss Ministry of Culture), Zurich Film Prize

1994 **WELL DONE**, Feature documentary, 35mm, 75 Min.

Documentary on employees of a Swiss high-tech bank corporation.

- FIPRESCI-Prize in Leipzig
- Quality Award (OFC), Zurich Film Prize, Art award of the city Lucerne

1991 **RESTLESSNESS**, 16mm, 58 min.

Rail-movie with three homeless people in the IC-triangle ZH-BE-BS

- Nominated for the Max-Ophüls-Prize, 1991
- Quality Award (Swiss Ministry of Culture)

1988 **SCHLACHTZEICHEN**, 16mm, 56 min.

Doku-comedy about the Swiss Army

- Opening film at the Solothurn Film Festival
- Quality Award (Swiss Ministry of Culture)

Book publications by / on Thomas Imbach:

- Kino CH / CINÉMA CH, Reception, Aesthetic, History
EINE ÄSTHETIK DER WIDERSPRÜCHE. VARIATIONEN ÜBER THOMAS IMBACH
(Monographie) by Marcy Goldberg, Schüren Verlag 2008
- CINEMA 50, „Variations on a True Story“, a conversation with Thomas Imbach by Veronika Grob and Nathalie Böhler, Schüren Verlag 2005
- CINEMA 46, „Den Schleier der Wahrnehmung zerreißen“ by Marcy Goldberg
(on WELL DONE), Chronos Verlag 2001
- Dokumentarisch Arbeiten, a studio conversation with Thomas Imbach by Christoph Hübner and Gabriele Voss, Schüren Verlag 1999
- „My Filmschool“: Werner Nekes Retrospektive, Katalog 1986/87, by Thomas Imbach and Christoph Settele, Zyklus Verlag 1986

Other Activities:

- Jury member, ARTE award, Dusiburger Filmwoche, 2015
- Jury member at the Zurich Film Festival, Intl. Comp. 2013
- Jury Sarajevo Film Festival, Competition, 2012
- Jury Max-Ophüls-Preis, Saarbrücken 2010
- Jury member at the Hessen Film Foundation, Frankfurt, 2008
- Directing-Workshop at the international film schools in Berlin (dffb), Munich (HFF) and Cape Town 1999 – 2008
- Guest speaker at the Swiss film schools Zurich, Lausanne, Geneva, Lucerne 1994 – 2016
- Workshops at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH) 1991 – 2007