

Thomas IMBACH



Thomas Imbach (born 1962) is an independent filmmaker based in Zurich/Switzerland. 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 feature films *Happiness is a Warm Gun* (which was nominated for the Golden Leopard at Locarno in 2001), *Lenz* (2006) and *I was a Swiss Banker* (2007) all premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival.

In Preproduction/Financing:

MARY'S RIDE, Fiction feature film, 100 min.

Coproduction: Okofilm, Zurich, Samson Films, Dublin and Sciapode, Paris

CURE (Girls), Fiction feature film, director: Andrea Štaka (as producer)

Coproduction: Okofilm, Zurich, Živa Produkcija, Zagreb and ZDF/Das kleine Fernsehspiel/ARTE

Filmography:

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
- BAFICI, Buenos Aires 2011, Competition
- Planete Doc Festival Warsaw, Competition

2011

Retrospective at the 13. BAFICI Festivals in Buenos Aires: *I Was a Swiss Banker*, *Lenz*, *Happiness Is a Warm Gun*, *Well Done*

2007

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

Underwater fairy tale of the Swiss Banker Roger Caviezel.

- Premiered at the 57th International Film Festival Berlin
- Swiss Film Awards 2008, Nomination Best Actor
- Zurich Film Awards 2008, Special Jury award

2007 – 2009 **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* a.o.

2006 **LENZ AM BERG**, 35mm; Film Installation, 3-Channel-Projection
Kunsthhaus Zurich: In the Alps, 10/2006 – 01/2007

2006

LENZ, Drama 35mm, 98 min.

Contemporary adaptation of Georg Büchner's „Lenz“

- Premiered at the 56th International Film Festival Berlin

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 International Film Festival Berlin 2002
- Zurich Film Prize, 2001
- Nominated for “Best Swiss Feature Film”, 2001
- Quality Award (Swiss Ministry of Culture)

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 (Swiss Ministry of Culture)
- Art award of the city Lucerne
- Zurich Film Prize

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
- Student 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, Zyklop Verlag 1986

Other Activities:

- Jury member at the Hessen Film Foundation, Frankfurt, since 2008
- Directing-Workshop at the international film schools in Berlin (dffb), Munich (hff)
and Cape Town 99-08
- Guest speaker at the Swiss film schools Zurich, Lausanne, Geneva, Lucerne 94-09
- Workshops at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich 91-07