

**LOOKS**

# A WORLD DIVIDED

historical series  
6 x 52'

## **SYNOPSIS: A WORLD DIVIDED**

When World War II breaks out on September 1, 1939, the world finds itself on the brink. Six people from different countries and walks of life, whose lives and destinies touch the nexus of power, have to decide: What do they want to fight for? The series follows them into the 1960s, from the war to a world fully divided.

German rocket engineer Wernher von Braun wants to conquer space. To make his dream possible, he puts himself in service of the National Socialists, who expect him to create a miracle weapon for the German army.

In Los Alamos, New Mexico, the young physicist Joan Hinton is also active in the fight for military supremacy, as one of the few women on Robert Oppenheimer's team working on the first atomic bomb.

Hedwig Hoess is an ardent Nazi as well as proud mother. Her husband Rudolf has just been appointed Commandant of Auschwitz concentration camp. There in occupied Poland, right next to hell, Hedwig strives to build a paradise for her children.

In British Mandate Palestine, Golda Meir fights by any means necessary to save Jewish refugees who escaped the Nazis, as she nurtures the hope for a new, independent Jewish state: Israel.

From the French colony of Martinique, Frantz Fanon takes up the fight against the Germans, volunteering for military service at age 17. As a black man, he experiences the daily toll of racism in the French army. When the war ends, Frantz goes underground to help liberate Algeria from French colonial control.

In the Soviet Republic of Ukraine, Nikita Khrushchev is part of the Communist power structure. Confronted with the invasion of Kiev by the German Wehrmacht and at the same time personally targeted by Stalin's terror, he has to decide where his loyalties lie: his family or the Soviet dictator.

As these parallel narratives unfold, it becomes increasingly clear that different dreams and struggles affect each other. World War II leaves the world in ruins, with the discovery of atomic fission cementing its division. But the struggle for post-war supremacy has only just begun.

Between love and betrayal, hope and fear, power and despair, all six make their way into a new era – under the shadow of new conflicts in an ever more deeply divided world.

Radically subjective, highly emotional and told from multiple-perspectives, A WORLD DIVIDED forges a new transnational narrative from the history we thought we knew.

## KEY INFO

Length 6 x 52 Minutes  
Shooting Locations Poland, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium

Scenes with Hedwig Hoess at her family home were filmed on location in Auschwitz - where Hedwig and Rudolf Hoess lived with their children.

## CONFIRMED BROADCASTS & STREAMING

**Germany** – Online: ARTE/DAS ERSTE – October 31, 2024 – all 6 episodes available to stream

**Germany/France** – Linear: ARTE – November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 8:15 PM, 3 Episodes each day

**Germany** – Linear: DAS ERSTE – November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:50 PM, Episodes 1 & 2

**Austria** – Online: ORF – November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – all 6 episodes available to stream

**Austria** – Linear: ORF November 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> und 10<sup>th</sup>, at 11:05 PM, 2 Episodes each day

## CONCEPT, STYLE AND APPROACH

The 23 years from 1939 to 1962 mark a turning point in world history, setting the course for the present. Many pressing issues, many sources of conflict in the globalized world of today – Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, North Africa or Sudan – have their roots in these years. World War II, which was set off by Germany, was both a consequence of global developments that started earlier in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and an impetus for major events to come. The discovery of nuclear fission in Berlin, published in 1939, marked the beginning of a new era. Since then, the threat of final annihilation that it made possible has reinforced claims to power and cemented divisions in the world such as the Cold War.

This series tells the story of World War II and its consequences from a transnational perspective, and for a younger generation. National Socialism, the Holocaust and the war of extermination unleashed by Germany are core motifs in the first episodes of the series. In the years after 1945, the dominant themes that emerge are the Cold War, new sources of conflict such as the Middle East and the process of decolonization in Africa. The series concludes in 1962, when the *Front de Libération Nationale* (FLN, National Liberation Front) fights for Algeria's independence from colonial France.

A WORLD DIVIDED depicts six real-life characters from Germany, Israel, France, the Soviet Union and the USA, telling the story of their very different lives and perceptions of their world, in parallel and in a radically subjective way: Wernher von Braun, Hedwig Hoess, Nikita Khrushchev, Joan Hinton, Golda Meir and Frantz Fanon. The narration of the historical drama is the backbone of the series. Through meticulous research, the dramatic recreations come as close as possible to the historical events.

On a visual level, the drama is interwoven with rarely seen archival footage, which has been colorized for the first time for this production. This creates an unprecedented emotional closeness to the action, a feeling for the time, and a deep immersion in the events.

Sound creates an additional narrative level that brings the worlds of our protagonists to life – encompassing striking speeches by politicians using original sound, as well as a chorus of contemporary witness testimony based on diaries and letters, and a compilation of news and propaganda reports from the time.

The multi-perspective nature of the series is also reflected in the diverse, international team of creatives, historians and editors from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, China, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the UK and the US. The film was shot in the original language of the characters, in German, English, French, Hebrew, Yiddish and Russian.

With *A WORLD DIVIDED*, the creative team led by head writer Jan Peter and LOOKSfilm producer Gunnar Dedio follows up the two multi-award-winning, transnational historical series *14 – DIARIES OF THE GREAT WAR* (2014) and *CLASH OF FUTURES* (2018).

## **EPISODE 1: DREAMING OF THE MOON**

Summer 1939: The young German engineer Wernher von Braun dreams of sending people into space. When Hitler invades neighboring Poland and plunges Europe into a new world war, von Braun is prepared to do anything to avoid jeopardizing his research at Peenemünde, the German Army Research Center on the Baltic Sea. Now, von Braun is instead tasked with developing "miracle weapons" for the war.

At the same time, Joan Hinton begins her studies at Bennington College, in the US state of Vermont. She enthusiastically throws herself into nuclear physics – as one of the few women in the field at the time. She recognizes the enormous potential of the nuclear fission discovered by German researchers, as well as its great danger.

Meanwhile, the situation in Europe becomes increasingly tense: following the occupation of Poland, the Wehrmacht is advancing victoriously further into Western Europe. The stream of refugees flowing across borders is enormous. Jewish people in particular are forced to flee - including to the British Mandate of Palestine. There, the political activist Golda Meir stands up for them. But the British refuse to open their territory to more refugees – forcing Golda Meir and her fellow campaigners to resort to drastic measures.

## **EPISODE 2: GARDEN BY THE WALL**

In 1941, 32-year-old Hedwig Hoess and her children look forward to moving into their new home: Auschwitz. Her husband Rudolf has just been promoted to *Commandant* of the concentration camp. Proud and full of big plans, Hedwig sets up the official villa and tends to its spacious garden – creating a true idyll under the shadow of hell, right next to the camp's walls and watchtowers.

The shocking news that reaches Golda Meir in Tel Aviv is itself smuggled out from Auschwitz: the Nazis are systematically murdering Jews en masse in their extermination camps. At the same time, the threat is getting closer and closer to

her: German troops are advancing in North Africa - not far from the British Mandate of Palestine. But Golda Meir will not surrender without a fight.

In the summer of 1941 in Kiev, Communist party secretary Nikita Khrushchev and his family are surprised by the invasion of the Soviet Union by German troops. Khrushchev is stunned by how poorly prepared his country is for war. Stalin, the Soviet Head of State, sends Khrushchev to the front. To Stalingrad – to defend the Soviet Union against the advancing Germans at all costs. At the same time, he tries to get his family to safety.

### **EPISODE 3: HOLDING OUT AT ALL COSTS**

In 1942, the battle for Stalingrad seems to be lost for the Soviets. But giving up is out of the question for Nikita Khrushchev. Instead, he urges the troops to mount a counterattack that will turn the tide of the war. But then Khrushchev receives the news that his eldest son Leonid, a fighter pilot, is missing in action. Is Leonid dead, or worse, could he be a deserter? There is no time for mourning, because his daughter-in-law is immediately arrested. Making a quick decision, Khrushchev decides to save their young child, his granddaughter Julia, from being taken into a government home by passing her off as his own daughter. Khrushchev knows well the dire consequences that await him and his family if Stalin ever finds out about this secret.

With Allied bombing raids sweeping the German Reich, Wernher von Braun can finally celebrate the first breakthrough of his rocket research program. The "miracle weapon" that Hitler and Goebbels have been waiting for could turn the tide after the defeat at Stalingrad, the National Socialists hope. But then the research and production center in Peenemünde is unexpectedly destroyed by the British Royal Air Force. Wernher von Braun agrees to a cruel deal with the SS, who relocate the production of their rockets to an underground facility and make use of the labor of concentration camp prisoners on a massive scale.

In the former French colony of Martinique, Frantz Fanon volunteers for military service at the age of 17. As a black man, he experiences the toll of daily racism in the French army: the *Forces Françaises Libres* (FFL), in Europe. As the British and Americans land in Normandy, Fanon and his comrades advance from the south of France.

### **EPISODE 4: LITTLE BOY**

Joan Hinton completes her physics degree in 1944. The 23-year-old Joan is recruited for the top-secret "Manhattan Project" in Los Alamos. There, she is one of the few female scientists on Enrico Fermi and Robert Oppenheimer's team, who are involved in the development of the first atomic bomb. On July 16, 1945, she observes the first nuclear weapons test: the Trinity test.

Young soldier Frantz Fanon risks his life in the fight for the liberation of Alsace. All the while, he is repeatedly subjected to racial discrimination in the army. This makes Frantz increasingly doubt whether he is really fighting on the right side. In May 1945, Europe is liberated from the German occupiers and World War II ends on the continent.

Hedwig Hoess, a staunch National Socialist, flees from the Soviet troops. With her family, she retreats to northern Germany. When the British finally capture her there, she has to choose between her children and her husband. Who will she betray and hand over to the hated enemy?

At the same time, the Americans end the war in the Pacific through the use of the atomic bombs "Little Boy" in Hiroshima and "Fat Man" in Nagasaki. The whole world is shocked. Joan Hinton also has her own deep doubts. The war is over - but at what cost?

## **EPISODE 5: HOLY LAND**

In 1947, Golda Meir's great dream is finally within reach: the British are to leave the Mandate of Palestine. The newly founded United Nations decides to divide Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state. But the creation of a Jewish state requires money. A lot of money - especially in view of the fierce resistance from the Arab population and the neighboring states. Golda Meir travels through the US and raises more than \$50 Million dollars within a few weeks. When the state of Israel is proclaimed on May 14, 1948, war breaks out immediately, and the Israeli politician finds herself caught up in a new conflict.

At the same time, American physicist Joan Hinton advocates for the peaceful use of nuclear power. When she realizes that the US military is paying for her doctoral fellowship, she decides to leave and join her fiancé Sid in China. But there, a brutal civil war rages and the communists are making further advances. Will Joan Hinton decide turn her back on the United States of America forever?

Meanwhile, Wernher von Braun arrives in the United States. The Americans have brought him over to continue his rocket research, this time on their behalf. The German scientist wants to finally make his dream of flying to the moon a reality. But the US military has its doubts about his collaboration with former Nazis from Germany. Von Braun is confronted with his dark past.

## **EPISODE 6: A NEW ERA**

In Lyon, war veteran Frantz Fanon completes his medical studies. He is looking for a job as a psychiatrist and decides to accept an offer to become head physician at the largest psychiatric hospital in French Algeria. Shortly after he arrives in Algeria with his wife Josie, uprisings supporting independence from France take hold. In his clinic, Fanon treats broken fighters from both sides.

Moscow, 1953: Joseph Stalin is dead, and Stalin's death changes everything. As a result of a coup against his opponent, chief of the Soviet secret police Beria, Nikita Khrushchev is promoted to First Secretary and, at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party in 1956, announces a radical departure from Stalinism. But when uprisings against the communist dictatorships in Hungary and Poland break out, the Soviets violently crush these freedom movements.

Joan Hinton gives birth to her second son in China. Her decision is clear: she wants to stay in the People's Republic with her husband. Instead of developing nuclear weapons, she wants to use her technical knowledge to build

communism. Joan still dreams of a better life for everyone – no easy task in a world that is clearly becoming increasingly divided.

## THE PROTAGONISTS

### Joan Hinton (Meriel Hinsching)

*"After Germany was defeated, it was clear that we wouldn't need to use the bomb. But the army wanted to test it, so they didn't want Japan to surrender."*

JOAN HINTON

Joan Hinton was born in 1921 to a progressive American family, and her mother supporter her study of physics. Her tenacious and in part self-organized research eventually led her to become one of the few women involved in the top-secret "Manhattan Project," the military nuclear research project headed by Robert Oppenheimer in the New Mexico desert. Joan Hinton worked as part of a small laboratory team under the direction of Nobel Prize winner Enrico Fermi. Together with a colleague, she secretly observed the world's first test of the atomic bomb, the so-called Trinity test, on July 16, 1945.

The use of the atom bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki marked a radical turning point in Joan's life. She gave up her PhD studies in Chicago and moved to China in 1948. But instead of advancing nuclear research for the communist regime there, she turned her back on nuclear physics for good, and from then on worked on a farm with her husband and family. The US government accused her of spying for the communists and she was eventually completely erased from the annals of US nuclear research. In China, however, she is still revered today as a peacemaker.

## CAST

Meriel Hinsching, Nicolo Pasetti, Sami Loris, Nils Arndt, Silvana Damm, Franziska von Harsdorf, Dorka Gryllus, Stacy Thunes Krieger, Chen Emilie Yan, Wei-Ken Liao, Xiting Shan

Meriel Hinsching (Joan Hinton) - TV (Selected): Zwei Frauen für alle Felle (2024), Ich dich auch! (2024, 2022, 2021), Mord mit Aussicht - Flucht nach Hengasch (2023), Vernau – Döstersee (2022), Das Boot (2020, 3<sup>rd</sup> Season)

Meriel Hinsching studied acting at the EAST 15 Acting School in London, where she also had various theater engagements. She lives in Berlin.

## **Wernher von Braun (Max Wagner)**

*"War is war [...] My duty was to help win the war, whether I sympathized with the government or not."* WERNHER VON BRAUN

Wernher von Braun was born in 1912. His father, Magnus Freiherr von Braun, later served as a minister in the Weimar Republic. As the son of a privileged family, he dedicates himself to studying mechanical engineering and physics. At the same time, he begins carrying out his first rocket tests, which awaken his ambitions: He wants to turn what was at the time nothing more than science fiction stories and movies – man's conquest of the moon - into reality.

In 1937, he was appointed head of the newly founded Peenemünde Army Research Center. There, he developed the "miracle weapons" that the Nazis became so fond of, for the Wehrmacht, and ultimately for the SS. Tens of thousands of forced laborers lost their lives in the underground production of the V2 rockets. After World War II, the Americans wanted to make use of this know-how and the secret German weapons technology for their own purposes. They brought Wernher von Braun and numerous other German scientists to the United States. There, he eventually became a prominent face of US rocket and space research. Wernher von Braun's dream of a moon landing came true in 1969. For a long time, his shared responsibility for Nazi crimes was silenced.

### **CAST**

Max Wagner, Florian Bartholomäi, Christoph Glaubacker, Caroline Hartig, Adrien Papritz, Daniel Aichinger

Max Wagner (Wernher von Braun) – Feature Films (Auswahl): Last Song For Stella (2021), Das perfekte Geheimnis (2019), Der Fall Collini (2018); TV Series: Drift – Partners in Crime (2022), German Crime Story: Gefesselt (2021), Mordach – Tod in den Bergen (2021), Charité 3 (2019/2020),

Max Wagner studied acting at the Universität der Künste in Berlin and was a member of the Volkstheater München from 2011 to 2019. He lives in Hamburg.

## **Hedwig Hoess (Lara Mandoki)**

*"If you disobey, it's up the chimney with you."* HEDWIG HOESS

Hedwig Hoess was born in 1908 in Upper Lusatia, a historical region of Germany and Poland. From an early age, she was a fervent supporter of German racial ideology. As a member of the Artaman League, she and her husband Rudolf Hoess fought for German supremacy in the eastern provinces of the German Reich. Her husband Rudolf, whom Hedwig Hoess married in 1929, was a convicted criminal who earned his living as a farm laborer. Disillusioned with the Weimar Republic, the couple turned to the National Socialists early on. Rudolf's career in the SS eventually led the family to the Auschwitz concentration camp in occupied Poland in 1941.

As *Commandant* of Auschwitz, Rudolf Hoess was given a confiscated villa with a garden on the edge of the camp as a service residence. His wife Hedwig wanted to turn the place into a kind of paradise for their children. She also furnished the house and provided for her family with belongings stolen from the doomed prisoners. In April 1945, the family fled to northern Germany. While Hedwig Hoess and the children found shelter in an old sugar factory, Rudolf Hoess hid near Flensburg with forged papers. When the British military police arrested Hedwig Hoess, she finally revealed the whereabouts of her husband, who was executed after a trial in Auschwitz. However, Hedwig Hoess herself was never prosecuted.

## **CAST**

Lara Mandoki, Ludwig Blochberger, Krzysztof Wach, @davidtherott, Michel Diercks, Otis Ray Whigham, Elias Esser, Sibel Limbird, Ava Bieleke

Lara Mandoki (Hedwig Hoess): TV & Streaming (Selected): Petra geht baden (2024), Erzgebirgskrimi (2018-2024), Das Boot (2022, 4. Staffel), Landkrimi – Steirertod (2020), Am Anschlag - Die Macht der Kränkung (2020); Filme: Leberkäsjunkie (2018), Einsamkeit und Sex und Mitleid (2016)

Lara Mandoki studied acting in Munich and Los Angeles and was a member of the Münchner Kammerspiele from 2005 to 2013. She lives in München.



## **Golda Meir (Delia Mayer)**

*"We Jews in Palestine will have to defend ourselves. If we have weapons to fight with, we will fight with weapons. If not, we will throw stones. Until the bitter end."*  
GOLDA MEIR

Golda Meir was born in Kiev, in the Russian Empire, in 1898. The anti-Semitic violence she experienced during her childhood prompted her family to emigrate to the United States. Throughout her life, Golda Meir would see politics as a struggle for survival, and would stubbornly pursue her dream of a state where Jews could live safely. In 1921, with her husband Morris, she moved to the British Mandate of Palestine. During World War II, she fought tooth and nail to ensure that Jewish refugees found refuge there.

After the war, she was instrumental in the founding of the state of Israel. With diplomacy and persuasion, she fought in the USA, Europe and the neighboring Arab states for the recognition of a future Jewish state in Palestine. She was one of the 25 signatories of Israel's Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948, and as a member of the influential Mapai Labor Party, she shaped the first decades of the State of Israel. Golda Meir not only became Israel's first female ambassador to Moscow, but was also appointed Israel's first and so far only female prime minister in 1969. The momentous Yom Kippur War finally ended her political career in 1974.

## **CAST**

Delia Mayer, Rudy Ruggiero, Levi Strasser, Julia Anna Grob, Ian Thomas McMillian, Philipp Mogilnitskiy, Olek Mincer, Gottfried Breitfuß, Piotr Siwek, Roman Skorovsky, Henryk Rajfer, Rafal Dajbor, Nicolas Garin

Delia Mayer (Golda Meir) – TV & Streaming (Selected): *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* (2023), *Band of Spies* (2023), *Unorthodox* (2019), *Tatort* (als Liz Ritschard, 2011-2018); Kino: *Die letzte Pointe* (2016).

Delia Mayer studied acting in Vienna, New York and London and classical singing in Zurich. She has performed among others with the Burgtheater Wien, Theater Basel, Theater an der Wien. She was born in Hong Kong and lives in Zurich.

## **Nikita Khrushchev (Denis Rodnyansky)**

*"Stalin acted [...] by imposing his conceptions, by demanding absolute subordination to his opinion."*

NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV

Nikita Khrushchev was born in 1894 to a family of farmers in western Russia. He spent his youth in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk. He joined the Communist Party in 1918 and made a career as Stalin's protégé. Because he strictly followed the party line, he escaped the Stalinist purges. Shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, Khrushchev rose to become party leader of Ukraine. In this position, he witnessed the invasion of the Soviet Union by the German Wehrmacht. The Red Army was initially unable to counter the Nazi onslaught. Khrushchev was forced to abandon Kiev and flee with his family.

As party secretary, he was sent to the gruesome Battle of Stalingrad on Stalin's orders. There he narrowly escaped death, but the battle brought the first major turning point in the course of the war. The Red Army advance and the victory over Hitler's Germany not only led Nikita Khrushchev back to Kiev, but also to the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Moscow as Secretary after the end of the war. After Stalin's death, in September 1953, he was elected First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The farmer's son became the most powerful man in the Soviet Union, and shaped the Cold War more than any politician of the time.

## **CAST**

Denis Rodnyansky, Valery Tscheplanowa, Boris Abramov, Ilya Khodyrev, Katja Hutko, Marta Ostretsova, Stanislav Duvetter, Eva Oganyeyan

Denis Rodnyansky (Nikita Khrushchev) – TV & Film: Tonkaya rabota (2022), Pes (2015-2021), Numbers (2020), Ty tolko ver (2019), Censored (2019)

Denis Rodnyansky studied at the KNUCA - Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts, and is also a musician and singer with the East One West Band from London. He lives in France.

## **Frantz Fanon (Moussa Sylla)**

*"What matters is not to know the world but to change it."*

FRANTZ FANON

Frantz Fanon was born in 1925 on the island of Martinique, today an overseas territory of France. During the Second World War, he joined the Free French Army under General Charles de Gaulle in 1942. Fanon witnessed the liberation of Paris and was seriously wounded during fighting in Alsace. After the war, he devoted himself to studying medicine and philosophy in Lyon and was one of the few black students at the university. In 1952, he published his first book "Black Skin, White Masks", where he also described the everyday racism he had to contend with in the French army and at the university.

In 1953, Frantz Fanon went to Algeria, where he became head of the psychiatric clinic in Blida-Joinville. Shortly afterwards, the Algerian War broke out. Three years later, he joined the National Liberation Front in Algeria. Shortly before his untimely death, his most famous book "The Wretched of the Earth" was published. It is still regarded today as a major manifesto of anti-colonialism. Prominent civil rights activists such as Malcom X and movements such as the Black Panther Party or Black Lives Matter have been influenced by his works.

## **CAST**

Moussa Sylla, Claude Musungayi, Bernard Eylebosch, Jimony Ekila, Bérengère McNeese, Monon Capelle, Amine Hamidou, Emanuela Ponzano, Soufian El Boubsi, Jules Werner

Moussa Sylla (Frantz Fanon) – Feature Films (Selected): "El Salto" (ES 2024), "Jungle Jihad" (F 2020), "K Contraire" (F 2018); TV & Streaming: "The Test" (2024), "Deadly Tropics" (2021, 2. Staffel), "Lupin" (2021, Staffel 1), "Emily in Paris" (2020), "Jézabel" (2017)

## **PRODUCERS' NOTE**

We need to know the past in order to understand the present and consciously shape the future.

That is why, in the historical drama series *A WORLD DIVIDED*, we take our viewers on a journey into the past, to the time of World War II and the years that followed, when a new world began to emerge. On this journey, we will meet women and men from many different countries, who could not be more different from each other.

We want to get close to these people. We will trace their lives, with all their essential crossroads. The moments when they decide to go in one direction, or another. The encounters that shape their path and the hopes, longings, dreams and fears that guide them in their journeys.

In doing this, we want to bring history to life. Because history doesn't just happen. History is made by people. Not only by great leaders and dictators, or politicians. But by all of us.

Through our action, and our inaction. That's why in this series, we narrate history as the stories of people - fragmented, radically subjective, multi-perspective and international.

Especially in times when history seems to be repeating itself, we should not forget the influence that each and every one of us has.

REGINA BOUCHEHRI, GUNNAR DEDIO, BIRGIT RASCH

## **ABOUT THE DIRECTORS**

### **OLGA CHAJDAS**

Polish director, screenwriter and producer Olga Chajdas received the VPRO Big Screen Award in Rotterdam in 2018 for her feature film debut "Nina". In the same year, she was one of four directors on the first Polish original Netflix series "1983". Other work includes the Netflix drama "Cracow Monsters" (2022) and the HBO action series "The Border" (2014) as well as numerous award-winning TV series, including "The Deep End" (2022).

Her second feature film "Imago" (2023) celebrated its world premiere at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, where it was awarded the FIPRESCI Prize as well as the Silver Lion at the Polish Film Festival in Gdynia. Current productions include the drama series "Kabul" and the family film "Grandpa, Let's Go".

### **FRANK DEVOS**

Belgian director Frank Devos has been working in the film, television and advertising production business for almost 30 years. He has produced more than 650 TV commercials worldwide, for which he has received over 60 international awards. Devos has achieved international acclaim as a director for series such as "Highway of Love" (Chausée d'amour, 2017, most-watched SVoD series in Belgium), "Fils de" (2022) and the Netflix original series "Undercover" (since 2019, 3 seasons so far). The latter played in competition at Canneseries, the Cannes International Series Festival.

## **KEY CREATIVES**

### **Mateusz Wichłacz**

Mateusz Wichłacz has been a Director of Photography for numerous feature films, TV series and commercials. He is a member of the Polish Society of Cinematographers. In July 2024, he completed work on the thriller mini-series "Kabul". In 2023, he was co-DOP on Olga Chajdas' feature film "Imago" (Silver Lion at Gdynia Film Festival). His work also includes "1983", the first Polish original TV series for Netflix, the TV series "Chylka" (2020, nominated for the "Orły" Polish film award) and as Co-DoP the Ukrainian-Polish-Macedonian production "When The Trees Fall" (2018 Berlinale Panorama).

### **Stan Koch & Maarten Buning**

Dutch composer Stan Koch and Dutch-Trinidadian composer Maarten Buning founded their music studio in Amsterdam in 2016. They are passionate about exploring new sound textures with electronics as well as acoustic instruments. The duo are behind the music for "Sisi" (2023, various episodes of season 3), "Homeshopper's Paradise" (2022) and worked on the orchestration for "Sicario" (2015), as well as music for the trailers of Hollywood blockbusters such as "Oppenheimer" (2023), "Eternals" (Marvel, 2021) and "Kingdom Of The Planet Of The Apes" (2024), among others.

### **Jan Peter**

Jan Peter, head writer and co-creator of the series, is an award-winning German author and director. His most successful works include the series "14 - Diaries of the Great War" (2014) and "Clash of Futures" (2018). He is the co-director of the first German Netflix original documentary series "A Perfect Crime" ("Rohwedder - Einigkeit und Mord und Freiheit", 2020). Among other recent productions, he was writer and director of the TV mini-series "Willy - Betrayal of the Chancellor" ("Willy - Verrat am Kanzler", 2024).

## CREDITS

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CO-AUTHOR **JASMIN WIND**

EXECUTIVE SCRIPT CONSULTANT **EVA-MARIA FAHMÜLLER**

DIRECTED BY **OLGA CHAJDAS & FRANK DEVOS**

STARRING **MAX WAGNER LARA MANDOKI DENIS RODNYANSKY**

**MERIEL HINSCHING DELIA MAYER MOUSSA SYLLA**

CASTING **CORNELIA MARETH, CMR CASTING (BVC) ANNEKATHRIN HEUBNER**

**(BVC) PAULINA KRAJNIK KADIJA LECLERE OLGA LYUBAROVA**

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SOUND **CÉLINE BODSON ALAIN GONIVA STEFFEN GRAUBAUM CARLO THOSS**

POSTPRODUCTION SUPERVISOR **MARTIN RITTER** SOUND DESIGN **AXEL STEICHEN HUGO FERNANDEZ**

SOUND MIX **LOÏC COLLIGNON ANTHONY JURET KAI HOFFMANN**

CREATIVE PRODUCER **MARTIN PHILIPP GRAF** ARCHIVE PRODUCER **KATARINA RAKIĆ**

LINE PRODUCER **NATHALIE DIETRICH** CONSULTING PRODUCER **GUIDO SCHWAB**

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LOOKSfilm has been producing award-winning series, documentaries and feature films for international audiences for almost 30 years. Its production partners include the world's leading broadcasters and streaming platforms. Many of LOOKSfilm's more than 300 productions are dedicated to history and use multi-perspective narration, unique archive material and original storytelling techniques.

LOOKSfilm – Selected Series & Feature Film Highlights:

- ANGELA MERKEL – SCHICKSALSJAHRE EINER KANZLERIN
- MY DREAM. MY STORY (Prix Jeunesse Kid's jury Award)
- THE NATURAL HISTORY OF DESTRUCTION (Cannes Film Festival)
- DIG DEEPER – THE DISAPPEARANCE OF BIRGIT MEIER (Netflix)
- A SINISTER SECT: COLONIA DIGNIDAD (Netflix, Arte, WDR)
- AFGHANISTAN. THE WOUNDED LAND (Grimme Preis, International Focal Award)
- KIDS OF COURAGE (Prix Jeunesse, TICFF, Hörfilmpreis, Weißer Elefant, Goldener Spatz)
- CLASH OF FUTURES (Civis Medienpreis)
- 14 – DIARIES OF THE GREAT WAR (Robert Geisendörfer Preis)
- LICHT starring Maria Dragus, Devid Striesow (Romy – Österreichischer Filmpreis)
- A GENTLE CREATURE (Cannes Wettbewerb, Ukrainian Film Academy Award Beste Regie)
- MICHAEL KOHLHAAS starring Mads Mikkelsen, Bruno Ganz, David Bennent (Goldene Iris, César)

**<https://looks.film/en/productions/>**