

PICTURE TREE INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

CHASING **THE LINE**

A FILM BY
ANDREAS SCHMIED

 PICTURE TREE
INTERNATIONAL



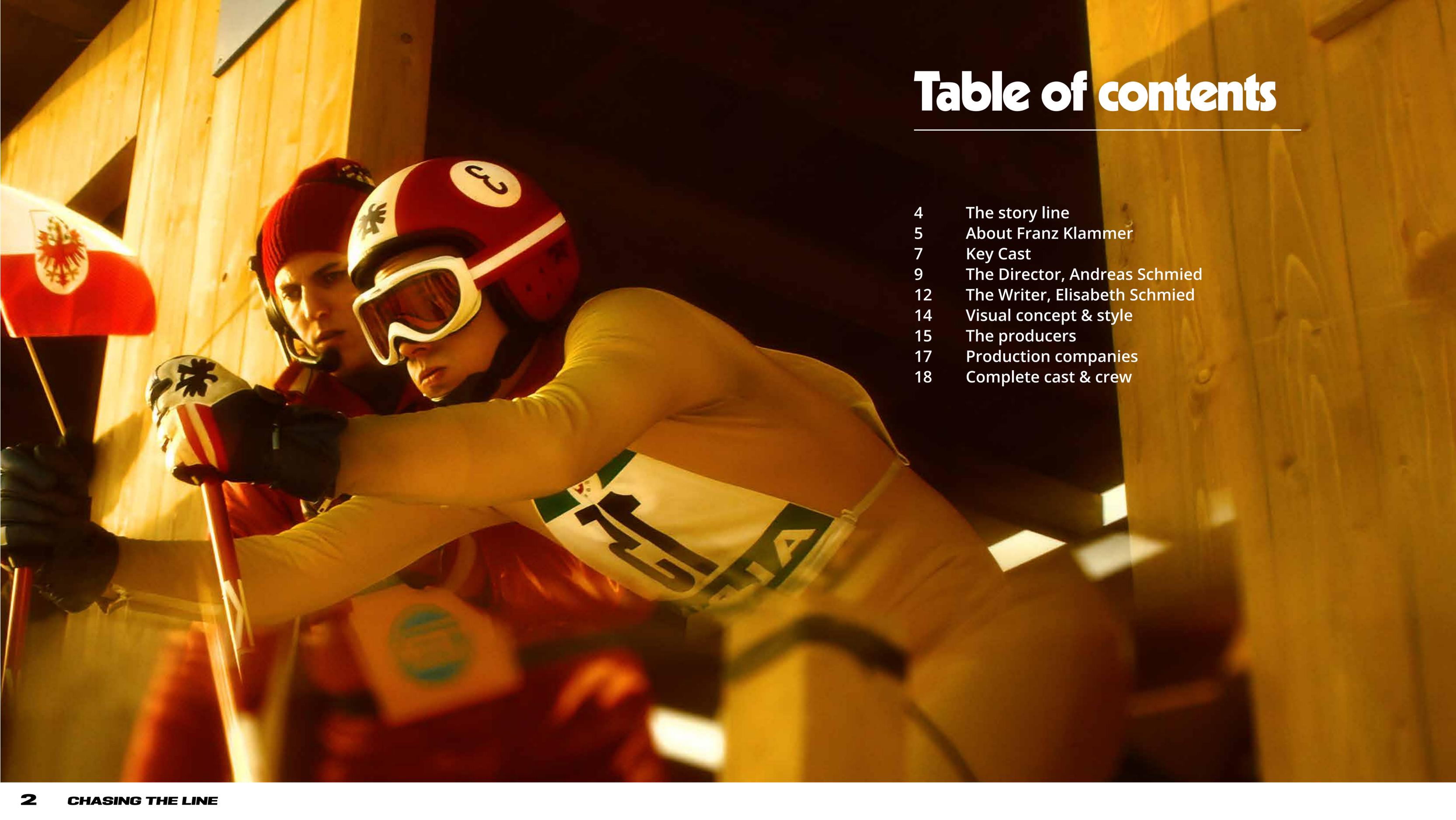


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Chasing the Line

Produced by Epo-Film and Samsara Film and coproduced by Sabotage Films Vienna. It was made in cooperation with Servus TV and with the support of the Austrian Film Institute (ÖFI), Film Industry Support Austria (FISA), Kärnten Werbung GmbH, ORF Film/Television Agreement, Vienna Film Fund, Cine Tirol, and Carinthia Film Commission.

TITLE Chasing the Line

ORIGINAL TITLE Klammer

DIRECTOR Andreas Schmied

CAST Julian Waldner, Valerie Huber, Doris Dexl, Arnold Dörfler, Marii Weichsler, Wolfgang Oliver, Fabian Schiffkorn, Robert Reinagl, Wiltrud Schreiner, Harry Lampl, Noah L. Perktold

LENGTH 100'

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN Austria 2021

YEAR OF PRODUCTION 2021

PRODUCTION COMPANIES epo-film, Samsara Film, Sabotage Films Vienna

WORLD SALES Picture Tree International



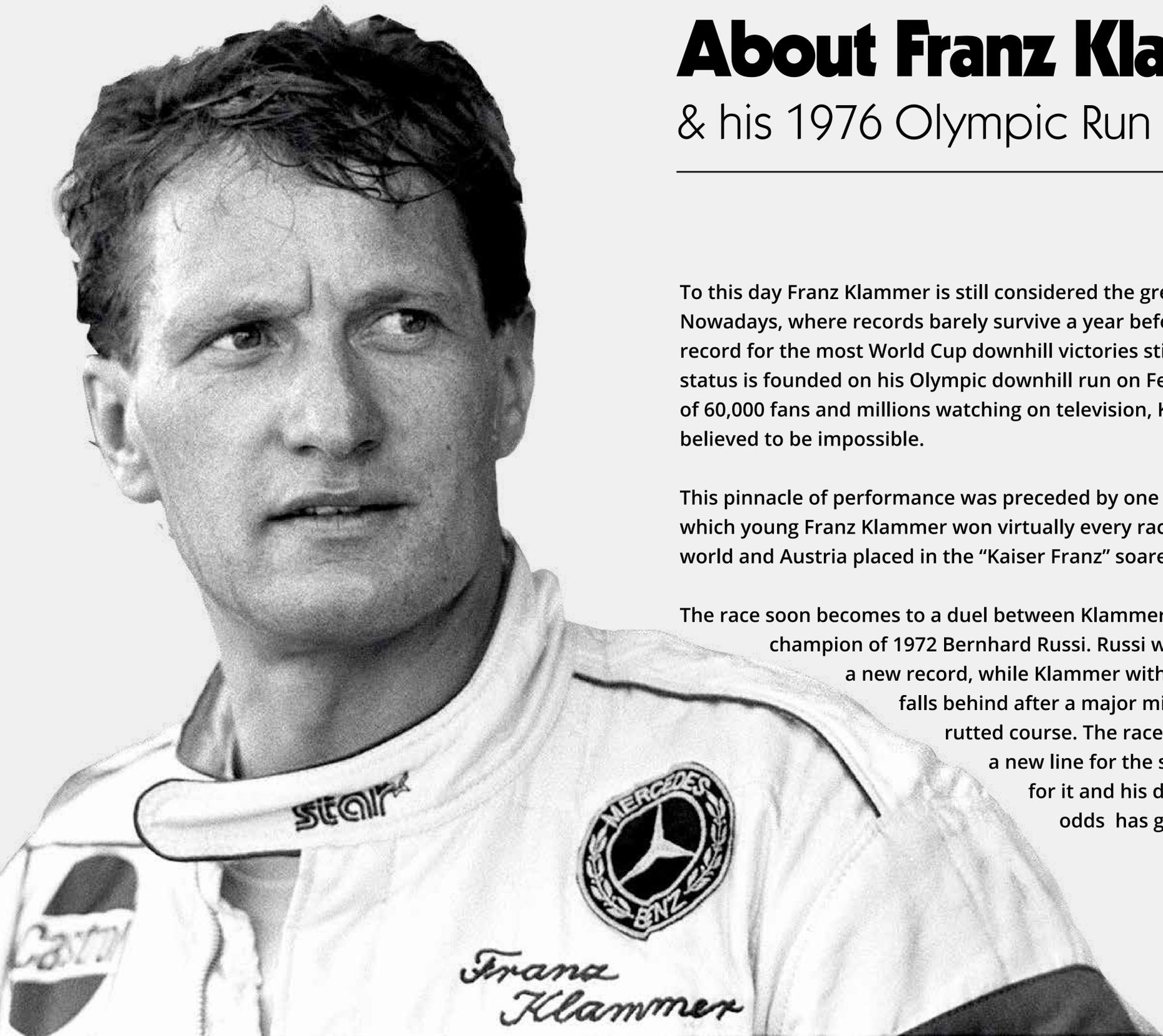
The Storyline

Barely 22, Franz Klammer finds himself at the “eye of the storm” when he shows up for the men’s downhill competition at the 1976 Winter Olympic Games. Since the previous season the charismatic newcomer has won virtually every race.

The pressure from the media and the public and the hopes of an entire nation are off the scales. His sponsor is pushing him to switch equipment right before the competition, the weather is getting steadily worse, and his toughest rivals know that Franz has to do better than just a flawless run.

Franz senses that he has to find his own path and that only the love of his life can give him the strength to do that. This is the most important race of his life in which he skis a line that nobody even thought was possible and which will make him to this day a legend in the sport of downhill skiing.





About Franz Klammer & his 1976 Olympic Run

To this day Franz Klammer is still considered the greatest downhiller of all time. Nowadays, where records barely survive a year before being broken again, his record for the most World Cup downhill victories still stands today. His legendary status is founded on his Olympic downhill run on February 5, 1976. Before a crowd of 60,000 fans and millions watching on television, Klammer finds the line previously believed to be impossible.

This pinnacle of performance was preceded by one and a half skiing seasons, in which young Franz Klammer won virtually every race and the expectations that the world and Austria placed in the "Kaiser Franz" soared to astronomic heights.

The race soon becomes to a duel between Klammer and the Swiss Olympic champion of 1972 Bernhard Russi. Russi with start number 1 promptly sets a new record, while Klammer with start number 15 immediately falls behind after a major mistake on the already heavily rutted course. The race seems lost. But Klammer, finds a new line for the second half of the run, makes up for it and his daring run that let him turn the odds has gone down in sports history.



About Franz Klammer

& his 1976 Olympic Run

Vienna is like a ghost town. Stores and schools close early, the streets are deserted. Everyone is following the race. Around the world, too, ski fever spreads like never before, and in the USA Frank Gifford and Bob Beattie's coverage of the race on ABC is still regarded today as sports television's finest hour.

Franz Klammer's new and risky downhill skiing style that took the most direct line inspired ski generations to come, ushering in carving, which continues to be a style-defining technique today.

Franz Klammer continues to be a public figure. In 1998 he started the "Klammer Foundation" to help young, injured athletes. He is also an ambassador for the climate protection organization R20 Regions of Climate Action.

Since 1979, Franz has been married to Eva, whose affection and strength helped carry him to victory in 1976. They have two daughters and two grandsons and live in Vienna.



The Director

Andreas Schmied

Franz Klammer's life is the heroic tale of an Austrian boy who grew up on a mountain farm in Carinthia and who, because of his exceptional talent and courage in probably the most spectacular downhill run in sports history, became a living legend revered to this day by the greatest athletes of his sport.

Our visual concept will bring to the screen riveting ski sequences and powerful emotions combined with a modern staging of 70s flair to give viewers first-hand experience of the overwhelming tension of that day.

In CHASING THE LINE we take the viewer back to relive and remember the spectacular downhill run and how the legend was born. Like in RUSH or BORG VS. MCENROE the protagonists are rebels always riding the edge who, like Franz Klammer, push their physical and mental ability to the limit. Franz Klammer and his generation of athletes owe this popularity and hero worship to their constant and conscious confrontation with risk and their defiance of all conventions.

CHASING THE LINE is also the heartwarming love story of Franz and his future wife Eva, who supported him to victory with her strength and unwavering dedication, a love story that is still very much alive today.





The Director

Andreas Schmied

Statement

“For every race there is an ideal line, that is the optimal way to ski the course. But if you follow that line, you won’t win,” Klammer told us the first time we met to talk.”

This statement inspired me from the beginning. It made me curious. What did Franz Klammer risk to be able to race at Mount Patscherkofel? Which obstacles did he defy, which doubts did he overcome? What was the secret of his success? And what has he learned from the setbacks in his career?

His answers were inspiring and entertaining. The love for his sport, his eye for what is important, his ability to shake off the constraints others placed on him, and the way he just stayed the same loveable stubborn guy he always was. In the end, Franz always stood alone at the starting gate. He risked and won everything – in sports as well as in life and love.

I am glad to be able to tell the story of this Austrian legend, whose fame reaches beyond all borders, as an inspiring epic of a modern-day hero in the form of a compact and gripping sports movie mixed with a wonderful love story.

The Director

Andreas Schmied

Biography

Born in Styria in 1976, studied English and German philology in Graz. While still a student, he directed off-theater productions and worked in film as an editor and unit manager. In 1997 he founded the Filmschmiede to produce image and music videos, among other projects. In 1998 he moved to Vienna, where he lives with his wife and son. In 2001 he founded Sofa Safari TV Produktion, where he mainly produced promotion videos and TV shows.

His feature film debut **TAKING IT BACK** (2013) starring Michael Ostrowski and Hilde Dalik, which he wrote and directed, won the Audience Award at the Austin Film Festival in 2014 in the category Best Foreign Language Film. Schmied was also nominated as screenwriter for the Thomas Pluch Screenplay Award. In 2017 he founded Samsara Filmproduktion GmbH with Loredana Rehekampff.

With his new company he directed the feature comedies **LOVE MACHINE** (2018), which became the highest grossing film at their local box office, and **HEAD OVER HEELS** (2019)

Andreas Schmied is married to the author and screenwriter Elisabeth Schmied.



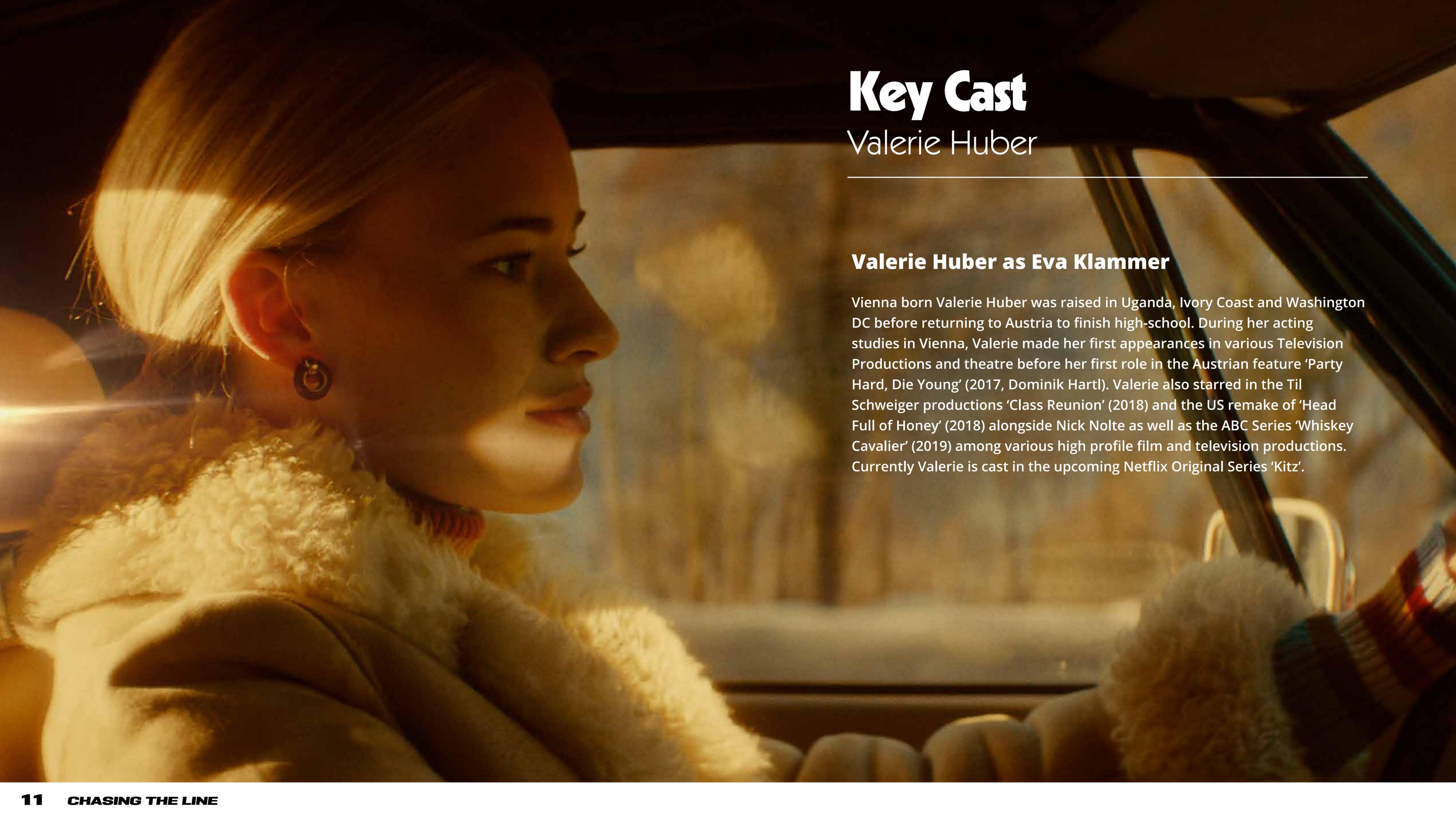
Key Cast

Julian Waldner

Julian Waldner as Franz Klammer

Julian Waldner was born and raised in the Austrian region Carinthia as was skiing legend Franz Klammer. Julian studied acting at the prestigious Max Reinhardt Seminar in Vienna and has worked for several prolific theatre stages in Austria. His first appearance as a screen actor was in the crime series 'Wenn Du wüßtest wie schön es hier ist' (2015, Andreas Prochaska). 'Chasing The Line' is Julian's first lead role in a major feature film production.



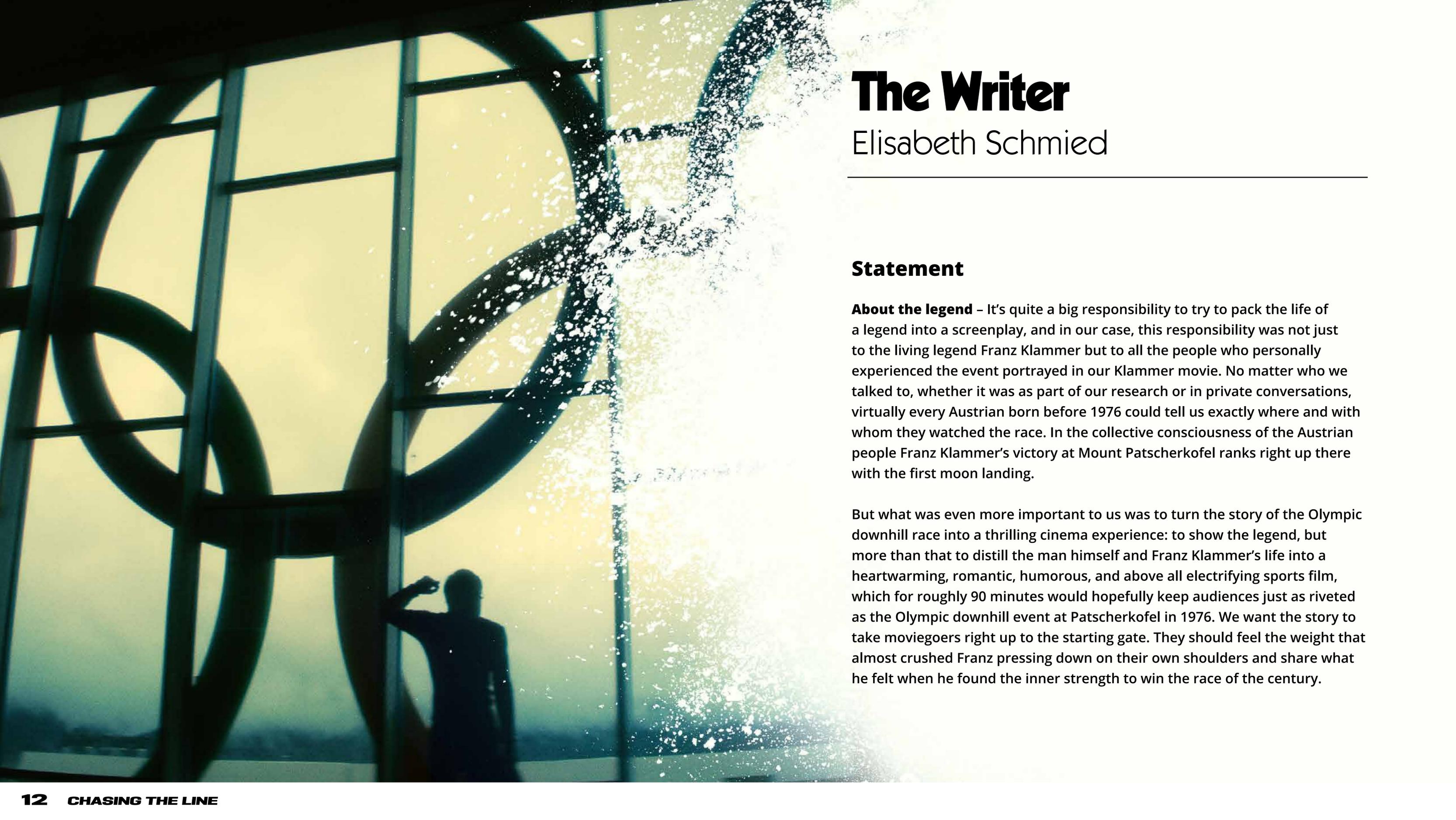


Key Cast

Valerie Huber

Valerie Huber as Eva Klammer

Vienna born Valerie Huber was raised in Uganda, Ivory Coast and Washington DC before returning to Austria to finish high-school. During her acting studies in Vienna, Valerie made her first appearances in various Television Productions and theatre before her first role in the Austrian feature 'Party Hard, Die Young' (2017, Dominik Hartl). Valerie also starred in the Til Schweiger productions 'Class Reunion' (2018) and the US remake of 'Head Full of Honey' (2018) alongside Nick Nolte as well as the ABC Series 'Whiskey Cavalier' (2019) among various high profile film and television productions. Currently Valerie is cast in the upcoming Netflix Original Series 'Kitz'.



The Writer

Elisabeth Schmied

Statement

About the legend – It's quite a big responsibility to try to pack the life of a legend into a screenplay, and in our case, this responsibility was not just to the living legend Franz Klammer but to all the people who personally experienced the event portrayed in our Klammer movie. No matter who we talked to, whether it was as part of our research or in private conversations, virtually every Austrian born before 1976 could tell us exactly where and with whom they watched the race. In the collective consciousness of the Austrian people Franz Klammer's victory at Mount Patscherkofel ranks right up there with the first moon landing.

But what was even more important to us was to turn the story of the Olympic downhill race into a thrilling cinema experience: to show the legend, but more than that to distill the man himself and Franz Klammer's life into a heartwarming, romantic, humorous, and above all electrifying sports film, which for roughly 90 minutes would hopefully keep audiences just as riveted as the Olympic downhill event at Patscherkofel in 1976. We want the story to take moviegoers right up to the starting gate. They should feel the weight that almost crushed Franz pressing down on their own shoulders and share what he felt when he found the inner strength to win the race of the century.

The Writer

Elisabeth Schmied

Statement

About working on the script – “For every race there is an ideal line, that is the optimal way to ski the course. But if you follow that line, you won’t win,” Klammer told us the first time we met. This statement inspired us, made us curious.

We wanted to know which path Franz had to leave to achieve his greatest victory. What obstacles did he defy, which doubts did he overcome? What was the secret of his success? And what has he learned from the setbacks in his career? A lot of what he told us only really became clear once we added his wife’s perspective of the events.

In the end, she gave him the strength to find his own line, to hold on to the love for his sport and shake off the constraints others placed on him. After doing a lot of research, we had a picture of the personal journey of the hero Franz Klammer, which we dramaturgically packed into the corset of the actual, historical events of the 1976 Winter Olympic Games.

Biography

Elisabeth Schmied is an Austrian author and screenwriter. Her work includes successful youth fiction novels and numerous short stories. Following her work on the Franz Klammer project CHASING THE LINE, she is currently working on the international series “Children of Mars” (Neue Super) and the feature film LIFE COACH (Samsara) as well as developing several TV movies and series. www.elisabethschmied.com



Visual Concept & Style

Statement

We throw the audience straight into the action. Directness, youthful impulsiveness, and a powerful visual language with the unmistakable influence of videoclip aesthetics dynamizes the world of CHASING THE LINE.

With an energetic and vibrant narrative style and the use of zooms, the camera pulls the audience directly into the action and gives us the big picture of spectacular scope and the magnitude of the 1976 Olympics.

With an extreme degree of visual sophistication, we use historical anamorphic lenses coupled with cutting-edge digital recording technology to produce a very modern movie, which images transport the viewer back to the 1970s without seeming old-fashioned.

CHASING THE LINE also stands out for its bold and unconventional visuals. The camera is in constant motion, revealing unusual perspectives, and daring editing sequences heighten the film's dynamic.

One of the greatest challenges is the logistic and technical task of shooting Franz Klammer's gold-medal-winning run. In addition to the absolute must of spectacular ski racing sequences we also focused on and make palpable how our hero experienced the most important seconds of his career.

The Producers

Jakob Pochlatko, Loredana Rehekampff, Andreas Schmied

Statement

In 2016, the UK's newspaper The Guardian wrote that Franz Klammer had started a whole new era in the sport of skiing. And no event had ever persuaded more people to get into skiing than Franz Klammer's 1976 Olympic downhill run on the Patscherkofel. ABC broadcasted a special about the Downhill Racer "The Kaiser" Franz Klammer, and after that, half America watched Klammer make the mountain shake before a crowd of 60,000 spectators in Innsbruck.

Filming this story whose drama is truly unique in Austrian sports history is a great challenge, especially since Franz Klammer has already turned down countless previous film offers. So, it wasn't until last year, when Andreas Schmied found the right approach to the Klammer phenomenon, that things started to happen. Andreas, who wrote the screenplay with his wife Elisabeth, and who will be directing the film, was fascinated from the start. But what had been the key? Our idea was to create an unmistakable approach for getting to the bottom of the Klammer phenomenon in a 100-minute-long breathtaking entertaining movie. We didn't think the classic biopic could live up to the subject matter.



The Producers

Jakob Pochlatko, Loredana Rehekampff, Andreas Schmied

Statement

As the most important chapter of Franz Klammer's career February 5, 1976 had to be at the center of it all, and Elisabeth and Andreas Schmied managed to get Franz Klammer and his wife Eva on board in the project as key consultants. Klammer's biography is inextricably linked to that momentous day in February. "Without Patscherkofel, I wouldn't be the person I am today," he admitted years ago. Overnight, the farm boy from Mooswald in Carinthia was the "Kaiser", and he still feels the effects of that success today. This chapter in Klammer's life is not only historically interesting, it also offers the filmmaker the framework to show Franz Klammer as a person on an emotional level while keeping the audience in well mind.

To achieve all this, we aim to shoot the kind of state-of-the-art ski sequences that have never been seen on the big screen before. For this we have enlisted no one less talented than Gerald Salmina (STREIF – ONE HELL OF A RIDE), who will be heading the second unit. We will be shooting at the original downhill course on the Patscherkofel under strictly monitored conditions with the newest camera technology in order to transpose the drama of a (historical) ski race for the cinema audience.

Our focus on the audience is one of our main concerns because despite the film's realism, CHASING THE LINE is at heart a stirring feature film. CHASING THE LINE is a work of fiction that tells a story based on real events with dramaturgical license to exaggerate. The audience should be able to

feel what Klammer feels, share his excitement, anguish, love. A moving, emotional cinema experience packed with an adrenaline rush and brilliant actors. CHASING THE LINE does not focus on the myth of this exceptional athlete but takes a look behind the scenes to discover the person and tell the story behind a man, who caused such a sensation not just in Austria but all over the world.

CHASING THE LINE – an inspiring ski story for a big audience!

Production Companies

Statement

EPO-FILM

Epo-Film, founded in 1954, is a privately owned top-tier Austrian production company providing international high-profile content for cinema and TV. Epo-film produces features, TV movies, TV series, nature and documentary films with a focus on international co-productions. Recent productions include highly acclaimed works such as *The Tobacconist*, *Pagan Peak* or *Breathing*.

SAMSARA FILMPRODUKTION

Samsara Filmproduktion is an Austrian production company based in Vienna. The company was founded in 2017 by Loredana Rehekampff and Andreas Schmied. Our focus lies on national and international cinema and TV projects developed and produced in close creative collaboration with the filmmakers. Our goal is to create entertaining and intelligent stories for the audience. We pride ourselves on putting our focus on script development and responsible and modern film producing. Our credo: "Think outside the box!"

SABOTAGE FILMS VIENNA

Sabotage Films was founded in Vienna in 1998 by Thomas Brunner and Gernot Schaffler. Sabotage's work ranges from television commercials, web specials, short films, music videos, feature and documentary films to high-end art shows. The company has received various awards at advertising festivals from Cannes to New York.



Complete Cast & Crew

Cast

JULIAN WALDNER	Franz
VALERIE HUBER	Eva
DORIS DREXL	Franz's mother
ARNOLD DÖRFLER	Franz's father
MARII WEICHLER	Barbara
WOLFGANG OLIVER	Charly Kahr
FABIAN SCHIFFKORN	Langwallner
ROBERT REINAGL	Pepi Fischer
WILTRUD SCHREINER	Selma Sturmberger
HARRY LAMPL	Heinz Prüller
NOAH L. PERKTOLD	Werner Grissmann

Contact

PICTURE TREE INTERNATIONAL GMBH
Husemannstr. 7 10435 Berlin
+49 30 42082480
pti@picturetree-international.com
www.picturetree-international.com

Crew

DIRECTOR	Andreas Schmied
SCREENPLAY	Elisabeth & Andreas Schmied
LINE PRODUCERS	Jakob Pochlatko, epo-film Loredana Rehekampff, Samsara Film
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Bernhard Schmatz
CASTING	Nicole Schmied Casting
EDITOR	Gerd Berner
DOP	Xiaosu "Xax" Han & Andreas Thalhammer
ACTION UNIT SKI SHOOTING	Gerald Salmina / Planet Watch
SOUND	Herbert Verdino
COMPOSER	Manfred Plessl
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	Rudolf Czettel
COSTUMES	Theresa Ebner-Lazek
MAKEUP & SFX MAKEUP	Sam Dopona & Verena Eichtinger
PRODUCERS	epo-film produktionsges.m.b.h Samsara Filmproduktion GmbH
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS EPO-FILM	Jakob Pochlatko Dieter Pochlatko
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SAMSARA FILM	Loredana Rehekampff Andreas Schmied
CO-PRODUCERS	Sabotage Films Vienna Gernot Schaffler; Thomas Brunner
WORLD DISTRIBUTION	Picture Tree International





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pti@picturetree-international.com



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