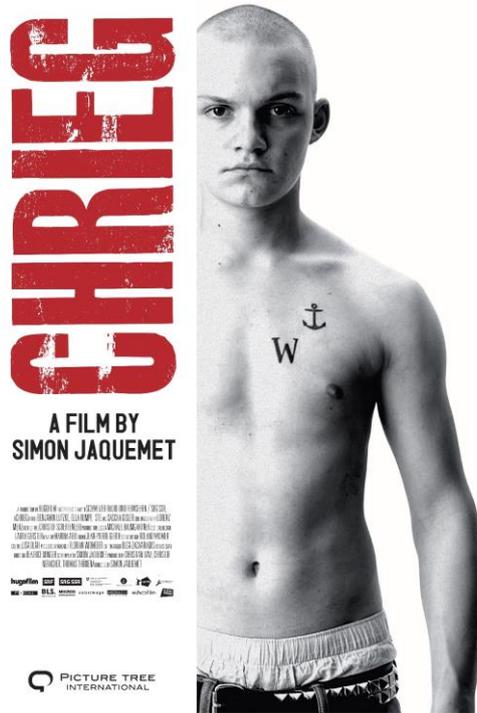


PICTURE TREE INTERNATIONAL presents



# CHRIEG

A film by  
Simon Jaquemet

Switzerland 2014 | 110 min.

Starring Benjamin Lutzke, Ste, Ella Rumpf, Sascha Gisler,  
John Leuppi, Livia S. Reinhard, Ernst Sigrist

Produced by

**hugofilm**

World Sales



## FILM FACTS

Original Title	Chrieg
Genre	Drama
Length	110 min.
Language	Swiss German

### Cast

Matteo	Benjamin Lutzke
Ali	Ella Rumpf
Anton	Ste
Dion	Sascha Gisler
Matteo's father	John Leuppi
Matteo's mother	Livia S. Reinhard
Hanspeter	Ernst Sigrist
Call girl	Ivana Nolic

### Crew

Written and directed by	Simon Jaquemet
Assistant Director	Beatrice Minger
Cinematographer	Lorenz Merz
Editor	Christof Schertenleib
Set Design	Michael Baumgartner
Costume Design	Laura Gerster
Make-Up Artist	Marina Aebi
Original Sound	Jean-Pierre Gerth
Sound Designer	Roland Widmer
Production Managers	Florian Widmeier, Franziska Arnold, Philipp Moravetz
Unit Manager	Olga Zachariadis
Casting	Lisa Oláh, Bea Minger
Producers	Christian Davi, Christof Neracher, Thomas Thümena
Executive Producer	Christian Davi

A Hugofilm production in coproduction with SRF Swiss Radio and TV/SRG SSR

Project development with support from TorinoFilmLab, Berlinale Talents – Talent Project Market 2013, Les Ateliers Premiers Plans d'Angers, Producers Pooling Program – Bundesamt für Kultur (BAK)/FOCAL

With funding from Bundesamt für Kultur (EDI), Zürcher Filmstiftung, BLS Südtirol – Alto Adige, Succès Passage Antenne, Succès Cinéma, Migros Kulturprozent, Suissimage, MEDIA Programme of the European Union, TFL Piemonte Award – Film Commission Torino Piemonte, STAGE POOL FOCAL and Ernst Göhner Stiftung

### Contacts

Production	Hugofilm Productions Ph. +41 44 240 40 77 productions@hugofilm.ch
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World sales	Picture Tree International Ph. +49 30 4208 2480 pti@picturetree-international.com
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## SYNOPSIS

Matteo is fifteen, a fragile boy. He runs into the woods carrying his baby brother. It's a desperate attempt to strike back at his oppressive father. The parents' punishment for kidnapping the baby: three months of hard work on a remote farm. On arrival, three hostile teenagers grab Matteo and lock him into a dog cage. The farmer, who was supposed to take care of the kids, has lost control. Anton, an unpredictably aggressive boy, is now in charge. He has given shelter to two other troubled, angry teenagers: Dion, a boy from Serbia, and Ali, a girl with a shaved head. Matteo is their dog. He earns their respect only when he starts to stand up against them. He joins them on a mission: they drive down to the city. A feverish night full of violence and destruction.

Their own war.

Their own revenge against grown-ups.

Against everything.

Matteo gets stronger, learns to fight and falls in love with Ali. He's finally part of the pack. The farm is their perfect hide-out, but there is no more going back.

## FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

### Festivals

San Sebastián Film Festival – New Directors Competition	September 2014
Zurich Film Festival – International Competition	September 2014
São Paulo International Film Festival – New Filmmakers Competition	October 2014
Torino Film Festival – TorinoFilmLab	November 2014
Marrakech International Film Festival – Competition	December 2014
Saarbrücken Film Festival Max Ophüls Award – Feature Competition	January 2015
Solothurn Film Festival – Swiss Panorama	January 2015
Berlin International Film Festival – Guest of Perspektive Deutsches Kino	February 2015
Guadalajara International Film Festival – Europe New Trends	March 2015
Bolzano Film Festival – Feature Competition	April 2015
Linz Crossing Europe – Competition Fiction	April 2015
Isola Cinema International Film Festival – Signals	June 2015
Karlovy Vary International Film Festival – Another View	July 2015
Fünf Seen Film Festival – Perspektive Competition	July 2015
Locarno Film Festival – Panorama Suisse	August 2015
Espoo Ciné International Film Festival	August 2015
Film Festival della Lessinia – Competition	August 2015
Montreal World Film Festival – World Greats	August 2015

### Awards

Jury Prize	Marrakech IFF	2014
Best Actor: Benjamin Lutzke	Marrakech IFF	2014
Main Prize	Max Ophüls Award	2015
Best Actor: Benjamin Lutzke	Max Ophüls Award	2015
Best Cinematography	Swiss Film Award	2015
Best Feature Film	Bolzano Film Festival	2015



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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The weight on adolescents' shoulders today is considerable. The pressure to conform to the norm appears to be increasing. Young people are flooded with images of who they should be, what they should look like and how they should behave. The few open spaces left for experimentation and rebellion are getting smaller and smaller. Every new subculture is sucked up immediately by the forces of commercialization. It seems like everything is possible, but most of it is still out of reach, especially when you grow up in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong parents. Adolescence is a bubble that makes your head spin with its loneliness and image overload. It's a scattered sense of despair and emptiness – one that's hard to understand and often expressed by means of violence.

When I was young, I heard of a kingdom beyond the mountains – or maybe I dreamt it: a place where adults had lost control and adolescents were left to themselves. This image was the starting point of the story. I developed a screenplay using diary passages written from the perspective of my main character. In effect, I send Matteo to the location and let him experience various shades of violence and youthful excess. In between, he has moments of innocent, youthful romance. These young people create their own small kingdom and become entangled in a battle against adult society. They take all the things they believe were withheld from them and seek revenge for everything – and for nothing. Matteo becomes involved in the group dynamic and gets pulled into the seductive undertow of violence: the anger in the gut, the euphoria of triumph, the warm feeling of being carried by a wave of rage and adrenaline.

The characters in my film are teenagers with little or no acting experience. We came across Benjamin Lutzke, who plays the leading role, at the meeting point at Zurich's main train station. He was the very first boy we approached in our innumerable street castings, and ultimately he won out after a long casting process involving over 1,000 candidates. I was able to shoot the film with a fantastic ensemble consisting mostly of non-professional actors but also some experienced adult actors.

In many cases, these adolescents had already gone through more in their young lives than most adults, and their real-life stories are sometimes even more dramatic and extreme than what we deal with in the film. They give my fictitious figures a spirit that goes far beyond what I could have imagined.

Simon Jaquemet

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY: SIMON JAQUEMET



Simon Jaquemet was born in 1978 and grew up on a farm near the city of Basel, Switzerland. In 2000, after attending school in Basel, he completed the preparatory course required for the film department at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). He began studies there soon after that and graduated in 2005 with the short film DIE BURG. Since then, Jaquemet has been working as a freelance film director and author. After completing his studies, he worked as a freelance director and author, directing music videos and shooting several short films. He received a number of awards for his music videos as well as the Swiss advertising film prize known as the EDI. Simon Jaquemet's short films have been invited to various international film festivals.

### Filmography (selection)

#### Feature film

2014 CHRIEG, 110 min.

#### Short films

2010 LAURA'S PARTY, 20 min.

2007 BLOCK, 13 min.

2006 RAKETE, 4 min.

2005 BLING BLING TRICK, 4 min.

2005 DIE BURG, 27 min.

#### Music Videos

My Heart belongs to Cecilia Winter – Eighteen / Breitbild – Raketa / Gimma – Engel vum Selig / Breitbild – Nacht / OBK – Ferie in Guantanamo / Black Tiger & Mc Rony – Tanz ganz langsam / QL – Gäng Wie Bäng / Gimma – Chef vo Schwiiz / Modo – Vakuum / Breitbild – Für 1 hets immer no glangt / Dada ante Portas – Save my Name / Adi Stern – Alles was du wotsch / EKR – Kiosk



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## **PRODUCERS' NOTE**

In 2010, we started developing the project with Simon Jaquemet beginning at the concept stage.

The screenplay was developed with the support of diverse international content development programmes, including TorinoFilmLab, Berlinale Talent Project Market and Ateliers Premiers Plans d'Anger. In addition to our own funds, we also received support from BAK, Zürich, Migros Kulturprozent and MEDIA.

We worked with mostly non-professional actors, which presented a special challenge. In other words, the casting was elaborate and extended. In terms of our technical team, we hired mostly talented up-and-coming technicians who were working in their positions for the first time (with some exceptions, such as our equipment manager, cinematographer and editor).

After some initial difficulties, all of the Swiss funding bodies participated in the production and the SRF/SRG came on board as co-producer. Seeing that the film was not what you would call cheap for a debut, we applied for additional financing from Italy's South Tyrol region (BLS). We were granted the funding, which is why a part of the film was shot there, and why a part of our team consisted of South Tyroleans. Our goal with this film was to make a contribution to a "new" form of Swiss cinema that meets the standards of international festivals, and also to provide our filmmaker with the perfect conditions in which to work.

It would appear that we succeeded in achieving our goal!

Christian Davi, Christof Neracher, Thomas Thümena

## **PRODUCTION PORTRAIT: HUGOFILM**

Zurich-based production company Hugofilm (Christian Davi, Christof Neracher and Thomas Thümena) was created in 1999 out of a community of filmmakers, graphic designers and visual artists in Zürich. Hugofilm became one of the biggest hopes of the Swiss film industry with its hit VITUS, which was Switzerland's most successful international film of the past decades (shortlisted for the 79th Academy Awards, theatrical releases in roughly 40 countries). Many of Hugofilm's productions screened at prestigious international film festivals, including Venice, Berlin and Sundance.

