Three women. Three generations. One Fate.

Hannelore Elsner
Franziska Weisz
Nike Seitz

Hanna's sleeping Dogs

A film by Andreas Gruber
Hanna’s sleeping Dogs

THREE WOMAN. THREE GENERATIONS. ONE FATE.

CAST
Hannelore Elsner, Nike Seitl, Franziska Weisz

DIRECTOR
Andreas Gruber

SCREENPLAY
Andreas Gruber

PRODUCERS
based on the novel by Elisabeth Escher

PRODUCTION
Fritjof Hohagen, Andreas Gruber
enigma film, Provinzfilm

CO-PRODUCTION
Mixtvision Film, oryx media, Bayerischer Rundfunk, ORF

GENRE
Drama

LENGTH
120 min.

COUNTRY
Germany, Austria

LANGUAGE
German

SYNOPSIS

There’s a very good reason why you should let sleeping dogs lie, as 9-year-old Johanna discovers. Growing up a good Catholic girl in the provincial Austrian town of Wels in the late 1960s, she learns from her grandmother her family’s secret: they are Jewish. Life now starts to change, uncomfortably so: the caretaker bullies her, the religion teacher ignores her and her traumatised mother stops talking to people. Both older women know exactly who were the very worst Nazis back then. After the war they reinvented themselves as devout Catholics. Johanna, however, is determined not to hide, she wants to be proud of her heritage and now becomes Hanna. But the „sleeping dogs“ are awake, they are starting to bark and they still have their teeth.

HANNA’S SLEEPING DOGS is based on the novel SCHLAFENDE HUNDE by Elisabeth Escher, in which she recounts her true life experience. Writer-director Andreas Gruber grew up with her in Wels in the 1960s and is thus also personally familiar with the story’s milieu.

DIRECTOR
Andreas Gruber

Multiple award-winning writer-director Andreas Gruber was born in 1954 in Wels, Austria. He is best known for THE QUALITY OF MERCY (1994), which won a special Jury Award in San Sebastian and was the most successful Austrian film at the box office in 1994, DEBT OF LOVE (1997) and WELCOME HOME (2004), all of which were invited to numerous film festivals right across the globe. He is currently a professor at the University of Television and Film (HFF) Munich, where he teaches directing, scripting and production.