



next door

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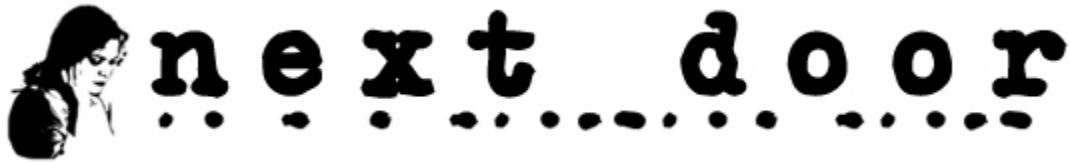
A **1meter60 Film** Production

next door



Synopsis

Silke lived in a pre-fab block with her daughter. She's been hearing children's screams every day from next door since the new neighbours had moved in. She is anxious about the child maybe being treated badly, but instead she closes her eyes to the things going on next door, for terrible reasons.



Short Plot

A child's crying next door. Everyday, over and over again. SILKE never saw the neighbours' child. She has enough problems herself: She has no job and almost no money. Silke cannot pay for her daughter's keyboard lessons and they are all the world to little MICHI. At least, MRS. BAUM from downstairs brings over some shabby clothes from time to time so Michi gets some new clothes.

The screaming is unbearable

The child next door is crying over and over again. Silke is anxious about that. She hears the parents shouting at each other as she is eavesdropping at the wall. She is unsure about what to do now, as she knows very well what it is like to not being able to calm down your own child. Michi used to cry whole nights through as a baby child. Once, Mrs. Baum came up – they, until today, never ever again talked about what happened then. The steady screaming gets unbearable. One night, Silke eventually decides to go over to her neighbours' flat, but she is hesitating and finally flits back into her flat when her NEIGHBOUR despairingly flies into the corridor. The screaming stops and Silke can sleep again.

Live more conveniently?

Silke doesn't hear the screaming any more. She put wardrobes before the wall. And if that's not enough she turns the radio up or allows Michi to play keyboard without earphones on. She doesn't think about the screaming any more, but when the neighbours move out she recognises the flowerboxes on the balcony. She sneaks into her neighbours' flat and starts digging the earth in the flowerboxes. She doesn't find a child's body but her own past instead: Back then it was too late, ten years ago when Mrs. Baum came to her after the child's screaming wouldn't stop. She hasn't only stifled the crying with the pillow but together with the crying she stifled Michi's twin-sister.

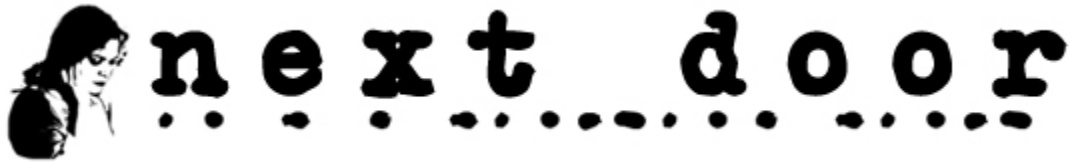


Background

Almost weekly, there are news on all channels throughout the country about children being murdered. There are shocking example cases like the nine-fold murder in Brandenburg, or the death of a number of infants, or the case of Jessica in Hamburg who starved to death. They cause country-wide anger and consternation. Murderers are pilloried and repudiated with utmost pathos.

Why?

Parents in particular cannot understand how someone can murder their own child. Nevertheless, they know too well the ups and downs and the emotional limits a child can bring along with it. Especially infants and toddlers can reduce to despair even the most patient mums and dads. Often, aggression against the child on part of the parents is caused by ignorance of the children's needs, the children's inaccessibility to rational arguments and infelicity of communication.



Even if this rarely results in the death of the child, parents tell about situations in which they do not recognise themselves any more due to aggression against their child. This feeling of helplessness is even enhanced if the parent's environment is not able to back up the mums and dads and if friends and family are not able to catch them in their sorrow.

Close your eyes

When should the neighbours intervene? When is going over to the neighbours' flat not just an embarrassment but absolute necessity and help? Is every scream of a child also a scream for help which one has to follow? This question about intervening or ignoring is a question to be answered not only by the neighbour but also by society.

The inhibition threshold regarding violence seems to be lower especially in an environment without perspectives but with poverty, violence, and a lack of education. Additionally, living anonymously, supported by pre-fab blocks, may be one of the reasons why children are murdered more often there. As a rule, murderers alone are blamed which often fails.

Artistic view

These are topics which are dealt with in „Next Door“. The film emotionally deals with the topic of child murder in raising questions without lapsing into stereotype clichés, and it scandalises without calling for the stake. With all the helplessness that goes along with it, the film shows one thing above all: Turn to it and act against it. Probably, a short movie cannot provide a final solution to the problem and that's not what „Next Door“ intends to, at all. The movie more wants to provoke a discussion on the topic of child murder.

Wolfgang Bauer

Director, Script, Editing

- Born on 5 July 1976 in Berlin, Germany
- Training as Radio- and TV engineer (1996-2000)
- Internship with the TV production company „machwerk“ (2000)
- Course of studies "Media Design" at the „Bauhaus-Universität Weimar“ (since 2000)
- Videooperator during the production of „Mowtown“ (2002)
- Director's internship during Andreas Dresens movie production of „Willenbrock“ (Germany, 2003/2004)
- Father to his daughter Lale (2004)
- Editor for the „Motionworks“ filmproduction Erfurt, Germany (since 2006)
- Camera & Editor for the TV journal „mdr Thüringen Journal“ (since 2006)



Filmography Wolfgang Bauer

2006 Outsourcing
Satire, 6 Min.

Editing

*Murnau-Shortmovie Award
2007, Next Generation Rolle
2007 by German Films, Showing
in Cannes*

**Faculty of Civil Engineering
Bauhaus-Universität Weimar**
Imagefilm, 6 Min.

Camera

**Der Schlaf und das Flüstern
[The Sleep and the whisper]**
Movie Script, 120 Min.

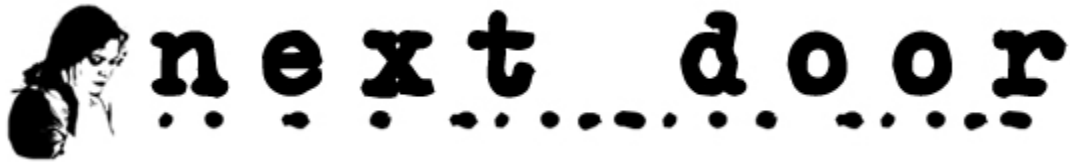
Author

**2005 Ettersburg - Dahin soll meine
Brieftaube fliegen**
**[Ettersburg – That's where my carrier
pigeon shall fly]**
Media production, 90 Min.

Camera
(Director: Yvonne
Andrä)

*Showing at
Ettersburg Castle*

2004	Pauls Schulweg <i>[Paul's way to school]</i> Documentary, 52 Min.	Co-Director, Camera, Editing	
	WILLENBROCK Lebenszeit Filmdreh Making-Of, 45 Min.	Director, Camera, Editing	„Making of“ on the Willenbrock DVD
	Mozartbrot Tragicomedy, 15 Min.	Editing	Prize of honour – “Brno Sixteen” Audience' prize – “Halbbilder Short movie festival” 2nd Prize “Bär in Silber” – “Festival der Nationen” 2nd Prize – “Landesfilmfestival Thüringen” 3rd Prize – “Short Shots Berlin” Audience' Prize – “Shortmoves Halle” Acknowledgements – “Movie festival Eberswalde” Nomination – “Werkleitz AWARD 2005”, Showing at TV station MDR 2006
	Ein BISSchen Liebe <i>[A bit(e) of Love]</i> Comedy, 25 Min.	Script, Director, Editing	Movie festival Open Eyes
2003	Wir sind die Kinder von der Herderschule <i>[That's us, the children of the Herder School]</i> Documentary, 35 Min.	Camera, Editing (Director: Hannelore Unterberg)	Showing at TV station 3sat
	Yidishe Nekht, Yidishe Tek Documentary, 35 Min.	Camera, DVD	
	Der gute Herr Barkel <i>[The good Mr. Barkel]</i> Comedy, 15 Min.	Script, Co- Director, Editing	2nd Prize “Art of Film Dessau”
2002	Nelken für Reisch <i>[Carnations for Reisch]</i> Documentary, 35 Min.	Script, Camera-Assistant, Editing	Showing at the: “Akademie der Künste”, Berlin, “Filmmuseum”, Potsdam, “Kino Toni”, Berlin, “Mon Ami”, Weimar
2001	11. Weimarer Stadtlau <i>[Weimar City Run]</i> Coverage, 15 Min.	Camera, Editing	



Elisabeth Heckel (*Silke*)

Born in Weimar in 1980, Elisabeth Heckel studied Drama at the *Universität der Künste*, Berlin. Until now, she played several guest parts at the *Deutsche Theater*, Berlin, the *Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz*, the theatrehouse *Gessnerallee* in Zurich, the *Maxim-Gorki-Theatre*, Berlin, the *Deutsche Nationaltheater*, Weimar, *Kampnagel*, Hamburg, the "*Junge-Hunde-Festival*", Meiningen, the *Sophiensaele*, Berlin, the *Ruhrfestspiele*, Recklinghausen as well as *bat*, Berlin. Since the beginning of the season 2005/06 she has been a permanent member of the ensemble at the „*Theater an der Parkaue*“, Berlin. The part of Silke was the first time she played a main character in a film.



Karin Düwel (Mrs. Baum)

Karin Düwel was born in Berlin in 1954. Between 1973 and 1976 she has been studying at the Public Drama School in Rostock, Germany. Apart from engagements in Rudolstadt, Chemnitz, Rostock and Berlin, she worked regularly for the production companies DFF and DEFA after graduation. Since 1990 she has been playing in several cinema and television movies.

Josephine Tancke (Michi)

Josephine Tancke was born in Weimar in 1995. She is attending the grammar school in Weimar. The part of Michi is her first part in a movie ever.

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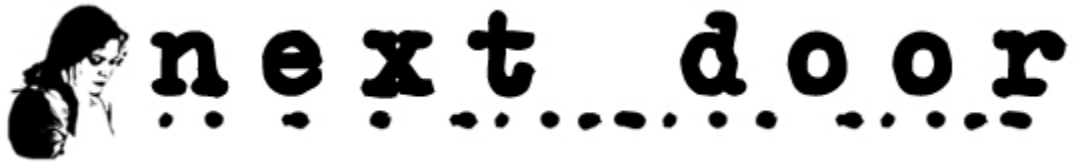
Ina Piontek (Neighbour)

Born in 1978, Ina Piontek studied at the "Ernst Busch" Drama school, Berlin. Since the season 2005/06 she has been a permanent member of the ensemble of the *Deutsches Nationaltheater*, Weimar.

Matthias Reichwald (Neighbour)

Born in 1981, Matthias Reichwald studied at the "Ernst Busch" Drama school, Berlin. As an artist and director he has been a permanent member of the ensemble at the *Deutsches Nationaltheater*, Weimar since the season 2005/2006.





Cast and Crew

Cast:

ELIZABETH HECKEL – Silke

KARIN DÜWEL - Mrs. Baum

JOSEPHINE TANCKE - Michi

INA PIONTEK – Neighbour

MATTHIAS REICHWALD - Neighbour

Crew:

Screenwriter and Director: WOLFGANG BAUER

Based upon a short story by STEFAN PETERMANN

Director of Photographie: URS ZIMMERMANN

Sound Editor STEFAN PETERMANN

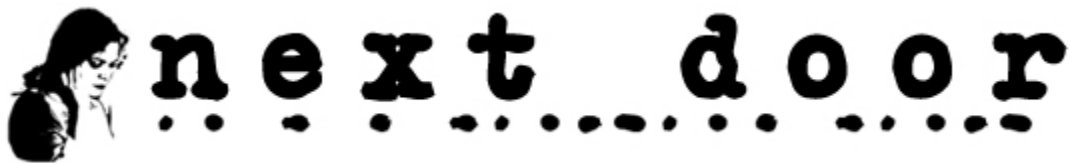
Makeup Artist: PEGGY EBERT

Production Designer: YVONNE ANDRÄ

Editing: WOLFGANG BAUER

Line Producer: THOMAS HEILMANN


Producer: YVONNE ANDRÄ



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Bauhaus-Universität Weimar
Sparkasse Mittelthüringen
Theater an der Parkaue, Berlin

A



production

www.1meter60-film.de