

THOMAS IMBACH – Writer/Director/Producer



As one of Switzerland's most innovative and internationally renowned filmmakers, Thomas Imbach moves with virtuoso mastery between documentary and fiction. He has acquired a reputation for courageous experimentation both formally and as a storyteller. His early successes include *Well Done* (1994) and *Ghetto* (1997). The feature films *Happiness Is a Warm Gun* (2001), *Lenz* (2006) and *I Was a Swiss Banker* (2007) as well as the auto-fiction *Day Is Done* (2011) premiered at the Berlinale. His English-language period drama *Mary Queen of Scots* (2013) was selected for Toronto. His fiction feature *My Brother My Love* (2018) premiered at Locarno in Competition. With the documentary feature *Nemesis* he won the Award for "Best Cinematography" at IDFA 2020.

In Preproduction: LILI, Fiction Feature on Arthur Schnitzler's *Fräulein Else*

2023 **SAY GOD BYE**, Essay feature, 120 Min.

- Karlovy Vary IFF, Proxima Competition

2020 **NEMESIS**, Feature documentary, 35mm, 131min.

- IDFA Competition 2020: Award for "Best Cinematography"
- luxfilmfest, Best Documentary Award 2021
- Dok.fest München, DOK.edit award 2021
- Istanbul International Film Festival, Special Jury Prize 2021

2020 as producer: **MARE** by Andrea Štaka, Fiction feature, 84 min.

Coproduced by Okofilm Productions, Zurich und Dinaridi Film, Zagreb

- Berlinale 2020, Panorama, Sarajevo 2020, Competition "Best Actress"

2018 **GLAUBENBERG – MY BROTHER MY LOVE**, Fiction feature, 114 min.

Coproduced by Okofilm Productions, Swiss Radio and Television, SRG SSR

- Nominated for the Golden Leopard 2018, Locarno

2014 as producer: **CURE – The Life of Another** by Andrea Štaka, Fiction feature, 83 min.

Produced by Okofilm Productions, Coproduced by Produkcija Ziva, Deblokada Films

- Locarno 2014, Competition, Sarajevo 2014, Competition

2013 **MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS**, Fiction feature, 35mm (DCP), 119 min.

Coproduced by Okofilm Productions, Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen, SRG SSR, ARTE, Sciapode

- Nominated for the Golden Leopard 2013, Locarno
- Toronto Film Festival 2013, "Special Presentations"

2011 **DAY IS DONE** an autobiographical fiction, 35mm (DCP), 111 min.

Coproduced by Okofilm Productions, SRF Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen and ARTE

- World Premiere Berlinale 2011, Forum
- Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, Competition

2007 **I WAS A SWISS BANKER**, Fiction feature, 35mm, 75 min.

Underwater fairy tale of the Swiss Banker Roger Caviezel.

- Premiered at the 57th Berlinale
- Swiss Film Awards 2008, Nomination Best Actor
- Zurich Film Awards 2008, Special Jury award

2006 **LENZ AM BERG**, 35mm; Film Installation, 3-Channel-Projection Kunsthaus Zurich: In the Alps

2006 **LENZ**, Fiction feature, 35mm, 96 min.

Contemporary adaptation of Georg Büchner's „Lenz“

- Premiered at the 56th Berlinale

2002 **happy too**, Essay, 60 min. “happy too” parallels the Kelly-Bastian relationship with the struggles of the actors in “Happiness is a Warm Gun”

- Premiered at the International Film Festival Locarno 2002, Cinéastes du Présent

2001 **HAPPINESS IS A WARM GUN**, Fiction feature, 35mm, 92 min.

Drama on the murder of Petra Kelly (peace activist) by Gert Bastian (ex-general).

- Nominated for the Golden Leopard 2001, Locarno
- Official Selection Berlinale 2002
- Zurich Film Award 2001, Nominated for “Best Swiss Feature Film”, Quality Award (OFC)

2000 **Portrait Film** on Thomas Imbach “Die Kamera als Sonde”, Beta-SP, 60 min.
by Christoph Hübner for WDR/3Sat

1998 **NANO-BABIES**, 35mm (Cinemascope), Documentary, 45 min.

Science-Fiction essay on babies of high-tech researchers for Swiss Television/3SAT

- Commissioned by Swiss Television and 3Sat

1997 **GHETTO**, Feature documentary, 35mm, 122 Min.

Docudrama with teenagers on the sunny side of Zurich's Gold Coast

- Best Documentary, International Film Festival Mannheim
- Premio Giampaolo Paoli, International Film Festival Florence
- Quality Award (Swiss Ministry of Culture), Zurich Film Award

1994 **WELL DONE**, Feature documentary, 35mm, 75 Min.

Documentary on employees of a Swiss high-tech bank corporation.

- FIPRESCI-Prize in Leipzig
- Quality Award (OFC), Zurich Film Award, Art award of the city Lucerne

1991 **RESTLESSNESS**, 16mm, Fiction, 58 min.

Rail-movie with three homeless people in the IC-triangle ZH-BE-BS

- Nominated for the Max-Ophüls-Prize, 1991
- Quality Award (Swiss Ministry of Culture)

1988 **SCHLACHTZEICHEN**, 16mm, Docu-fiction, 56 min.

Doku-comedy about the Swiss Army

- Opening film at the Solothurn Film Festival 1988
- Quality Award (Swiss Ministry of Culture)
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Book publications by / on Thomas Imbach:

- Kino CH / CINÉMA CH, Reception, Aesthetic, History
EINE ÄSTHETIK DER WIDERSPRÜCHE. VARIATIONEN ÜBER THOMAS IMBACH
(Monographie) by Marcy Goldberg, Schüren Verlag 2008
- CINEMA 50, „Variations on a True Story“, a conversation with Thomas Imbach by Veronika Grob and Nathalie Böhler, Schüren Verlag 2005
- CINEMA 46, „Den Schleier der Wahrnehmung zerreißen“ by Marcy Goldberg
(on WELL DONE), Chronos Verlag 2001
- Dokumentarisch Arbeiten, a studio conversation with Thomas Imbach by Christoph Hübner and Gabriele Voss, Schüren Verlag 1999
- „My Filmschool“: Werner Nekes Retrospektive, Katalog 1986/87, by Thomas Imbach and Christoph Settele, Zyklus Verlag 1986

Other Activities:

- Chairman of the Board of Neugass Kino AG (Cinemas: Riffraff, Houdini, Bourbaki)
- Jury member, Dusiburger Filmwoche, 2015
- Jury member at the Zurich Film Festival, Intl. Comp. 2013
- Jury Sarajevo Film Festival, Competition, 2012
- Jury Max-Ophüls-Preis, Saarbrücken 2010
- Directing-Workshops at the international film schools in Berlin (dffb), Munich (HFF) and Cape Town 1999 – 2008
- Guest speaker at the Swiss film schools Zurich, Lausanne, Geneva, Lucerne 1994 – 2016
- Workshops at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH) 1991 – 2007