



 **72^e** Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Generation

KALLE KOSMONAUT

EIN KMOTO FILM IN KOPRODUKTION MIT ZDF | DAS KLEINE FERNSEHSPIEL GEFÖRDERT DURCH DIE BEAUFTRAGTE DER BUNDESREGIERUNG FÜR KULTUR UND MEDIEN
KAMERA GÜNTHER KURTH ORIGINALTON PATRICK VEIGEL NIKOLAS MÜHE TINE KUGLER
ANIMATION ALIREZA DARVISH COMPOSITING SAEYUN JUNG MUSIK PHILIP BRADATSCH SCHUBERT PIANIST MARK TARATUSHKIN BEATS MIXOMIX CASA VERDE BEATS
REDAKTION ZDF JÖRG SCHNEIDER LUCAS SCHMIDT POSTPRODUKTION D-FACTO MOTION PRODUKTION KMOTO MEDIENPRODUKTION
BUCH REGIE MONTAGE PRODUKTION TINE KUGLER GÜNTHER KURTH



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien

D-FACTO MOTION
Digital Motion Factory



BLAUTON STUDIO
— SOUNDDSIGN & FOLEY —

german
films



KALLE KOSMONAUT

long term documentary / AnimaDoc, Germany 2022

99 minutes, DCP, German with English subtitles

a KMOTO film in coproduction with

ZDF – Das kleine Fernsehspiel

with funding by

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SYNOPSIS

Boyhood in Berlin. A coming-of-age story that takes place in the neighborhood around the Allee der Kosmonauten (Alley of the Cosmonauts), over a period of 10 years.

A 16-year-old boy wanders through a wasteland in Berlin. He regrets a momentous act that will change his life significantly. "I really don't know how it all started..."

We begin when Kalle is 10 years old. Alone at night in his 'hood. His first love. His Jugendweihe (civic initiation ceremony). Dangerous dares on the city's district heating pipes. Friendships and weddings. Trial, conviction, jail. The world outside keeps on turning. Grandpa misses the GDR. Grandma defeats her addiction. Mother lets off fireworks on Kalle's 18th birthday. The policewoman watches over their neighborhood. After his return from prison, Kalle begins a breathless journey back to himself.

The film is a hybrid of direct cinema, graphic novel and in-depth conversations - a long-term observation documentary and an animated journey through Kalle's head. A radically honest and at the same time poetic reflection on love, family, fate and guilt - carried by the hope for a better life.

CREW

screenplay, directed & edited by	Tine Kugler, Günther Kurth
director of photography	Günther Kurth
animation	Alireza Darvish
compositing	Saeyun Jung
music	Philip Bradatsch
sound	Patrick Veigel, Nikolas Mühe, Tine Kugler
sound design	Johann Meis
mixing	Marcel Fink
grading	Anis Fedaoui
editorial department	Jörg Schneider, Lucas Schmidt
producers	Tine Kugler, Günther Kurth
co-produced by	ZDF / Das kleine Fernsehspiel
german distributor	mindjazz pictures

10 YEARS IN THE MAKING - DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"And I am totally ready to adapt the story to whatever he is going through" said Richard Linklater in 2002 when he tackled *Boyhood*, his long-running fictional project about a boy's coming of age.

The ten years of filming with Kalle were similar. We didn't know where the journey was going when we first met Kalle in 2011 while making a documentary about latchkey kids, who take on responsibility at an early age, while their mostly single mothers work long hours.

Even back then we had a hunch that this 10-year-old boy brought with him special qualities for a film. He expresses himself well, reflects deeply and enjoys dealing with his own self - and he touches us. And apparently not only us. After the broadcast, many people contacted us offering to do something good for Kalle and were interested in his future life.

We stayed in touch with Kalle and his mother and soon decided to accompany his life while growing up for a long-term film project.

Our concept? Trust, respect and genuine interest in Kalle's world. We spent a lot of time together and got to know his environment through him, his 'hood, his stepfather, grandma and grandpa, Samuel, the social worker, and Antje, the policewoman.

Kalle's life from age 10 to 20 was our script. We didn't know that he would eventually go to prison and we would stay in contact with him only through letters for many months. We didn't know whether Kalle would want to continue with us afterwards. We didn't know how our film would end.

10 years is a long time, especially for a young person who is constantly changing and for whom things happen that we would never have expected. We are all the more pleased that the venture to commit to each other for so long worked out so well.

No giving of advice or tips - we realized that early on. When in doubt, we left the camera in the car, didn't shoot, and just listened to understand.

What is so special about long-term projects?

Watching life at work. The first love, family conflicts, cohesion despite all odds, decisions that can't be undone. Fears, dreams and hopes. And in the best case, developing a deep connection to the people involved.

Kalle Kosmonaut revolves around a childhood, youth and a Berlin 'hood - but ultimately around the question that Kalle keeps asking himself:

What is a good life?

ANIMADOC

Animations play an important role in the film visualizing Kalle's inner mind, his thoughts and emotions as well as many moments that we missed or that couldn't be filmed directly – for example during his time of imprisonment.

For this we wanted to find a special style beyond pure illustration and worked with the German-Iranian artist, Alireza Darvish, who created a unique interpretation for Kalle's (inner) worlds.



ALLEE DER KOSMONAUTEN – AVENUE of the COSMONAUTS

In 1978, the main road in East Berlin's Marzahn-Hellersdorf district was named Avenue of the Cosmonauts (Allee der Kosmonauten), in memory of GDR citizen and cosmonaut Sigmund Jähn, the first German to go into space.

It is here that Kalle's calls home, his 'hood. The distinct neighborhood and all the people in this film also reflect the history of a once divided and reunited Berlin, its GDR past and often painful reunification experiences that run through families and life stories to this day.

Thus regarding, Kalle Cosmonaut is also a very German film.





TINE KUGLER

Studied sociology and comparative literature and worked as lecturer in media sociology at the University of Konstanz. In 2002 she made her first documentary film, DIE KANZLERMACHER, about the spin doctors in the Bundestag election campaign. In 2003 DAS WUNDER VON KAUFBEUREN (co-directed by Gerald Maas) followed, a cinema documentary about Bavarian saint worship. After numerous documentaries and investigative contributions for television, work started on the long-term project KALLE KOSMONAUT in 2011.

Filmography (selection)

2002 Die Kanzlermacher, documentary; 2003 Das Wunder von Kaufbeuren, documentary; 2007 Arbeit ohne Ende, TV-documentary; 2011 Pascal allein zu Haus, TV-documentary; 2013 Alpfeiber, TV- documentary; 2015 Willkommen in Deutschland, TV- documentary; 2019 Nur die eine Welt, TV- documentary; 2022 Kalle Kosmonaut, documentary



GÜNTHER KURTH

He got his start in the film and TV business as technician at Bavaria Film, Munich. He then moved on to ProSieben, where he was most recently responsible for on-air promotion as director, editor and executive producer. In 2000 he started his own business. During the process, he discovered his passion for documentaries and founded KMOTO Film together with Tine Kugler.

KALLE KOSMONAUT is his feature film debut as director and cinematographer.

Filmography (selection))

2011 Bully Spezial Hotel Lux, TV-documentary; Pascal allein zu Haus, TV- documentary; 2012 Schätze aus der Tonne, TV-documentary; 2015 Araber im Allgäu, TV-documentary; 2019 Nur die eine Welt, TV-documentary; 2022 Kalle Kosmonaut, documentary