

Homa Faghiri

Janet Rothe

Natalia Rudziewicz

Thandi Sebe

Ina Maria Jaich



Viva Forever

Buch & Regie Sinje Köhler



Eine Produktion der FILMAKADEMIE BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG in Koproduktion mit dem ZDF - DAS KLEINE FERNSEHSPIEL


mit HOMA FAGHIRI INA MARIA JAICH JANET ROTHE NATALIA RUDZIEWICZ THANDI SEBE

Kamera FABIAN GAMPER Schnitt DAVID KURUC O-Ton LUKAS KORDWIG BAL-ATON BORI STEFAN BÜCK

Sounddesign MAXIMILIAN RODEGRA Kostümbild TERESA GROSSER Maskenbild HEIDI WICK DÉSIRÉE SCHOBER JENNY WEHRLI

Szenenbild KATHERINE HALBACH Musik FREYA ARDE vfx TIM KAMSINKI Titeldesign DAGMAR VOIT

Redaktion VARINKA LINK & BURKHARD ALTHOFF Produktion KATHRIN RODEMEIER & NILS GUSTENHOFEN Drehbuch & Regie SINJE KÖHLER

 **FILMAKADEMIE**
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

 Das kleine
Fernsehspiel

VIVA FOREVER

One holiday, five girlfriends, six life crisis - la Dolce Vita?



PRESS KIT

Writer & Director: Sinje Köhler
(99 min, Germany, 2021)

Languages: German, Italian with English subtitles

A co-production between Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg and
ZDF Das kleine Fernsehspiel



vivaforever_film

Stills and further press material can be found on www.vivaforever-film.com

Contact:

Nils Gustenhofen

Phone: +49 163 7209616

E-Mail: gustenhofen@gmail.com

Kathrin Rodemeier

Phone: +49 176 80182137

E-Mail: kathrin@rodemeier.de

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Synopsis

Every year since high school, Francesca, Sophie, Amali, Fana, Luz and Lotte spend a few days in summer at Lake Garda. But this time, Lotte doesn't join the beloved tradition. Her decision remains mysterious for the friends, fueling long-kept doubts about the value of this friendship that has become more superficial throughout the years. Now in their late twenties, the friends have grown apart, lifestyles and personalities have changed. The Lotte-topic becomes an "elephant in the room", slowly poisoning the holiday vibes until it all escalates on the last day. Hurtful truths and accusations come to light. The friends start to realise that they relied too much on the past, taking their friendship for granted. For the first time in years, they are honest with them-selves, committing to define their friendship in the here and now.

Press release

VIVA FOREVER arises from an attitude towards life and probably the central dilemma of our generation: the insatiable urge for change versus the longing to finally arrive. On this one vacation, these two poles clash so strongly that personal sensitivities finally cut the common bond. And yet this is countered by a deep love and longing to live this friendship in the here and now, despite all the doubts.

After the short film "Freibadsinfonie", which was nominated for the Student Oscar and won several awards, writer and director Sinje Köhler celebrates her feature film debut with VIVA FOREVER. For this, the proven team came together once again: Cinematographer Fabian Gamper, who won the German Camera Award for "Freibadsinfonie", editor David Kuruc and producer Kathrin Rodemeier. The main cast is made up of young newcomers, whose composition was based on one premise in particular: to paint a versatile, diverse and, above all, authentic picture of women of our generation.

A cameo by popstar Jasmin Wagner as "Blümchen" provides a special appearance in the film and a good dose of 90s nostalgia.

Plot

Six girls in their late twenties, Francesca, Sophie, Amali, Fana, Luz and Lotte have been an inseparable clique since their school days. This summer, as every year, they are going to Francesca's parents' vacation home on Lake Garda. The clique has known each other for over 15 years now, and during that time they have grown apart not only in terms of location. Their lives as well as their personalities have also developed in different directions. The friendship construct is mainly based on their shared past and stagnates due to many unspoken conflicts. Yet the love from the past days is still present and when the friends see each other three to four times a year, it almost feels like it used to.

Every year it is getting more and more difficult to organize a vacation together and this summer they only managed five days. But this time they are only five, because Lotte, out of a spontaneous decision, did not join them and prefers to go on vacation alone. No one knows the reason for her decision.

Lotte is no longer available from that point on, and the lack of communication leaves a lot of room for their own interpretations. In the following days, the friends try to make the best of their vacation. During the day, the "Lotte" topic is mostly silenced, but in the evening it is discussed all the more in bed.

Little by little, the women begin to question the entire friendship construct, as well as the friends themselves. Little things, personal characteristics and tics of the others suddenly become more important and begin to cover the vacation like a spreading fungus with an unpleasant note. Francesca's cleaning mania, the wedding venues that are never good enough, Amali's obsessive addiction to harmony, Sophie's bad mood, Fana's egotism, and Luz's arrogant criticism drive a wedge into the otherwise well-functioning ensemble.

The strict schedule, the different life crises and all kinds of revealed secrets finally bring the barrel to overflow on an otherwise cheerful evening. The situation escalates and all the underlying conflicts come to the table. The friends pull themselves together and realize that they have rested too much on the past. They are honest with themselves and decide on their friendship, which is defined anew in the here and now.

About the filmmakers

Writer and director Sinje Köhler



2021	VIVA FOREVER
2017	HERZILEIN
2017	FREIBADSINFONIE
2016	KLASSENKAMPF
2015	DIE SCHAUSPIELERIN UND DER GRAF
2014	ICH
2012	NADJA & LARA

Director Sinje Köhler was born in Darmstadt in 1988. After one semester, she exchanged her dry studies in political science for the "Motion Pictures" course at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences

With her 38-minute bachelor film "Nadja & Lara" she won the "Hessischer Hochschulfilmpreis" award. In 2020, she completed her studies in directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg.

Her film "Freibadsinfonie" was nominated for the internationally renowned Student Academy Award and won numerous prizes at national festivals.

In 2019, she shot the feature-length film VIVA FOREVER in co-production with ZDF Das kleine Fernsehspiel, which will premiere at the 38th Munich Film Festival.

Since June 2020, Sinje Köhler has been a participant in the prestigious mentoring program "Into the Wild" for female filmmakers. She works freelance as a screenwriter and director.

Producer Nils Gustenhofen

After studying screenwriting in the UK, Nils Gustenhofen worked as a writer and script editor on numerous German and English-language projects. Since 2017, he has been studying "International Production" at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. As a writer and producer, he has since completed various projects, including the commercial "Tools for Life", which received a nomination for the First Steps Award 2020.

In 2019, he produced the feature documentary "Summerwar," which won awards at international festivals, including "Best European Documentary" at the Odessa Film Festival.

The film also received a nomination for the German Documentary Film Award.

With the tragicomedy VIVA FOREVER, which he developed together with Kathrin Rodemeier and Sinje Köhler during his studies, he makes his feature film debut.

Nils Gustenhofen has been a VFF scholarship holder since 2020 and is currently preparing his fictional diploma film, which he is writing and producing.

Producer Kathrin Rodemeier

Kathrin Rodemeier studied film production at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg from 2015 to 2020. During this time, Kathrin Rodemeier was a VFF scholarship holder for two years and produced numerous films in the documentary and fictional fields.

The film "Freibadsinfonie" (directed by Sinje Köhler) about a day at the outdoor pool was nominated for the Student Oscar and received national and international attention at numerous festivals.

She developed her first feature film VIVA FOREVER (directed by Sinje Köhler) together with Sinje Köhler and Nils Gustenhofen and produced the film as part of her diploma in co-production with ZDF Das kleine Fernsehspiel.

Kathrin Rodemeier is working as a producer for the production company epikfilm in Cologne since 2020.

Director of Photography Fabian Gamper

Fabian Gamper was born in Switzerland in 1985. After school he worked as a snowboard teacher and traveled the world with his backpack. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Film from the Zurich University of the Arts in 2010, he worked as a second camera assistant on feature and television films in Switzerland and Germany.

Since October 2012 he studied cinematography at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. During both courses of study, he shot numerous award-winning projects as a cinematographer. With the short film "Freibadsinfonie" by Sinje Köhler, Fabian was honored with the German Camera Award 2018 "Best Camera in a Short Film". The film, which was shot in black and white, was also nominated for the "Student Oscar 2017". His first feature film as a cinematographer - "Die Tochter" (103 min.) by Mascha Schilinski - celebrated its world premiere at the Berlinale 2017 (Perspektive section). The film was screened at over forty festivals worldwide and received several international awards, including the main prize "Best Film" five times, including at the Filmkunstfestival MV.

Editor David Kuruc

David Kuruc was born and raised in Stuttgart. He studied media arts for six semesters at the Bauhaus University in Weimar. In 2013, he began his studies at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg with a focus on editing, graduating in 2020. Since then he lives and works in Berlin as a freelance editor for feature film and commercial productions.

Director's Statement

Just like in VIVA FOREVER, I also go to Lake Garda every year with my group of friends from school days. Both the characters and the plot are largely autobiographical. The love and deep bond with my friends has shaped me and made me who I am today. I am very grateful to them for the years we spent together, and yet not long ago I had doubts about the future of our friendship. We had developed in different directions, rarely saw each other, conflicts were silenced, a certain superficiality had taken root. Nevertheless, I held on to all that. I was torn between my personal desire for constancy and my urge for self-realization.

Our late twenties are an intense time. Out of millions of possibilities, we have already set certain courses for the future and made compromises along the way. Life is waiting in the wings. However, it is also a time to reflect, doubt, and possibly reorient oneself once again independently of family and societal pressures. This process can be difficult, sad and very painful. In order to reach for new things, you may have to let go of the old ones - after all, a woman or man only has two hands. The crisis is inevitable.

In VIVA FOREVER, different attitudes to life and different characters collide. It's about a deep friendship that has slipped into superficiality and the question of what this friendship actually means in the here and now. It's about societal roles of women and constraints that one tries to satisfy and about one's own needs, which may not conform to them.

This film is not about the big, objective existential drama. VIVA FOREVER is about the personal drama. The drama is subjective, which is no less existential and relevant. In the supposedly harmonious mood of a vacation, subtle nuances of conflicts are at stake. It was important to me to depict the reality of my life and that of my environment authentically, respectfully, and yet always with a slight wink.

VIVA FOREVER is an ode to female friendship with all its quirks, contradictions, its depth, magic and warmth.

- Sinje Köhler

Producer's Note

The central theme of VIVA FOREVER comes directly from the reality of our lives: In our late twenties, we have moved dozens of times, opened new chapters and met new people. We realize how much we have changed in the process, especially when we meet the people who meant the world to us in the past: The clique from our youth, people who partied and suffered with us and who know more about us than our ex-partners. Ten years after graduating from high school, the regular Skype calls have become less frequent. People have taken different directions, live in sometimes completely different worlds. A question becomes louder that was unthinkable just ten years ago: Are we too different today to still be friends? Is the "BFF" commitment from back then perhaps not so "forever" after all? VIVA FOREVER was born out of a feeling towards life and probably the central dilemma of our generation: the insatiable urge for change versus the longing to finally arrive. During this one vacation, these two poles clash so strongly that personal sensitivities finally cut the common bond. And yet, on the other hand, there is a deep love and longing to live this friendship in the here and now, despite all the doubts.

We deliberately wanted to break the supposed heaviness of the subject: VIVA FOREVER is a fun film that captures the emotional moments of our protagonists as well as the silly ones. Sinje Köhler captivates with her extraordinary talent to tell the drama not in the melodramatic, but in the small moments and in-between tones. What we are looking for is an intimacy with our characters that allows us to share in their doubts, hopes and realizations, and in which we see ourselves mirrored.

- Nils Gustenhofen & Kathrin Rodemeier

About the cast

Homa Faghiri as AMALI

Homa Faghiri saw the light of day as the third and youngest child of Iranian immigrants in Freiburg, Germany. Early on, she developed a taste for (mostly comedic) entertainment for her family. Her first roles followed in kindergarten (including "Blümchen Siebenblatt" and "Das tapfere Schneiderlein"), and later in the Theater club of Freiburg's Goethe Gymnasium. As a logical consequence for this small-town artistic career, she moved to Berlin and studied acting. Since 2013 Homa Faghiri has been a member of the ensemble of the European Children's and Youth Theater EUKITEA, being part of various theater productions, exercising activities as a spokesperson and still striving to entertain her family and friends. With VIVA FOREVER Homa Faghiri celebrates her feature film debut.



Janet Rothe as LUZ

Janet Rothe (born in Schwerin, Germany) is a German actress, performer and singer from Berlin. After studying acting at the University of the Arts in Berlin, she was first engaged at the Neumarkt Theater under the artistic direction of Peter Kastenmüller. After Neumarkt Theater she works as a freelance performer mainly in collaboration with the Swedish video artist Markus Öhrn. Among others, they work at Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, Wiener Festwochen, Wiesbaden Biennale, Impulse Festival, in Montpellier and Stockholm. With the production "Domestic Violence" they were nominated for the Nestroy Theater Prize in 2018. In 2019, they won the special prize for the production "3 Episodes of Life". In addition to her acting work, Janet Rothe studies music therapy at the University of the Arts in Berlin and works in the social sector.



Ina Maria Jaich as SOPHIE

Ina Maria Jaich studied acting at the Academy of Performing Arts in Ulm. She worked as an actress at various theaters in Europe, including Heimathafen Neukölln, Thalia Theater Hamburg, NTGent, Werk X Vienna.

This was followed by roles in television films and series under directors such as Christian Klandt , Rainer Kaufmann, Sophie Linnenbaum or Alexei Popogrebski. Ina Maria Jaich plays the main role in the 5-part festival trailer of the "Diagonale Festival of Austrian Film" 2020/21, directed by Jennifer Mattes. In 2020 she worked with Luk Perceval and Steven Heene for the project "Hour of Truth" in Ghent. Ina Maria Jaich is the director of the music video "Mountains Die" by singer Lea W. Frey.



Thandi Sebe as FANA

Born in Berlin in 1988, the German-South African artist Thandi Sebe grew up in Cape Town. After graduating from high school, she returned to Berlin and studied at Humboldt University. Since 2015, she has been working as an actress and writer for film and theater between her two hometowns, Cape Town and Berlin. At Ballhaus Naunynstrasse she staged, among others, two of her own plays "Jung, giftig und Schwarz" with Amina Eisner and "Call me Queen". Her screenplay "Motherhood" was funded by the BKM and she is currently working on a series development for Rat Pack Film in Munich. In addition to her own projects in South Africa, Thandi works as an actress and voice-over artist for film and television.



Natalia Rudziewicz as FRANCESCA

Natalia Rudziewicz first appeared in front of the camera at the age of 14 and has since appeared in more than 80 TV and feature films.

After studying acting at the Bavarian Theater Academy, she played both leading and supporting roles in numerous productions such as "Solo für Weiss", "Der Staatsfeind", "Rufmord" and the award-winning TV multi-part series "Charité." With one of the five leading roles in the tragicomedy VIVA FOREVER, Natalia returns to Filmfest München again this year and celebrates her premiere in the competition section.

In the summer of 2020, Natalia founded the campaign "Das Kino braucht euch - #endlichwiederkino", in which numerous colleagues declared their love for cinema. Natalia volunteers to host regular reading sessions on Youtube.



Credits

Cast

Amali	Homa Faghiri
Fana	Thandi Sebe
Francesca	Natalia Rudziewicz
Luz	Janet Rothe
Sophie	Ina Maria Jaich
Blümchen	Jasmin Wagner
Federico	David Brizzi
Lars	Timo Weisschnur
Carabinieri 1	Ricardo Angelini
Tabea	Meggie Alisa Aubele
Amadeo	David Auer
Flower shop owner	Alessandro Bressanello
Carabinieri 2	Federico Brighenti
Gabriella Ianello	Verena Buratti
Jacopo	Matteo Forni
Man in Club	Rafael Fülöp
Amalis mum	Ruzica Hajdari
Girl in Club	Katherine Halbach
Girl in Club	Ronja Hemmersbach
Girl in Club	Farina Rottmann
Björn	Nils Malten
Konstantin	Christian R. Meyer
Karaoke presenter	Sebastiano Meli
Double bass player	Stefano Viglia Ron
Guitarist	Domenico La Porta
Lotte	Charlotte Sagert
Maike	Vanessa Weimann

Team

Writer & director Sinje Köhler

Producers Kathrin Rodemeier
Nils Gustenhofen

Director of photography Fabian Gamper
Editing David Kuruc
Music Freya Arde

1st assistant camera Greta Cadlolo
2nd assistant camera Marina Mattern
Knut Kuhles
Jaron Kühmstedt

1st AD Nicolai Hildebrandt
Gaffer Jan Hierscher
Electrician Lukas Eicher
Original sound Lukas Kordwig
Bal-Aton Bori
Stefan Bück

Boom operator Arash Akrami
Sound design Maximilian Rodegra
Foley artist Henrike Sommer
Foley editor David Krüger
ADR technician Mike Woloszyn
Drums Katharina Lattke

Guitar, cello, bass, ukulele Freya Arde
Music Supervisor Pirmin Marti
Music producer "Original songs" Luk Zimmermann
Music producer "Karaoke song" Moritz Peter

Production design Katherine Halbach
Set decorator Charlotte Sagert
SFX supervisor Arnold Kuntner
Colour grading Timm Kröger
VFX artist Tim Kaminski
Motion design Dagmar Voit
Trailer editing Tobias Dietz
Custome design Teresa Grosser
Custome design assistants Cecilia Segato
Mara Laibacher

Wardrobe Saskia Götze
Makeup Heidi Wick
Désirée Schober

Jenny Wehrli
 Makeup assistant Neha Bigatti
 Set manager Dagmar Voit
 Produktion coordinaton Tobias Dietz
 Production assistants Ronja Hemmersbach
 Farina Rottmann
 Hannah Buhr
 Lena Hohm
 Production drivers Jutta Köhler
 Peter Köhler
 Location Scouting Giulio Tonincelli
 Lisa Consolini
 Gilda Panizza
 Manuel Dalla Bona
 Location management Sandra Frank
 Peter Frank
 Catering Judith Schellenbauer
 Ron Feller
 Photographies Luz Karla Grossmann
 Andreas Velten
 Translations Yael Brunnert
 Jannik Berridge
 Alessandra Meixner
 Armine Louadah

 Line producer Thomas Lechner
 Co-producer Joachim Weiler

 Production management ZDF Frederic Krause
 Commissioning editors Varinka Link
 Burkhard Althoff