

PICTURE TREE INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTS

A FILM BY

MARC ROTHMUND

WEEKEND REBELS

 PICTURE TREE
INTERNATIONAL

ORIGINAL TITLE: Wochenendrebellen
GENRE: Drama, Comedy, Biopic
LENGTH: 110 min
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Germany
LANGUAGE: German
DIRECTOR: Marc Rothemund
SCREENWRITER & EP: Richard Kropf
PRODUCERS: Justyna Muesch, Quirin Berg, Max Wiedemann
PRODUCTION COMPANY: Wiedemann & Berg Film
DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTOR: LEONINE Studios
WORLD SALES: Picture Tree International



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Screenplay based upon the book
WOCHENENDREBELLEN.
Based on a true story.

10 YEAR OLD JASON, who is autistic, needs the routines he has set up and that are non-negotiable. His Dad MIRCO (Florian David Fitz) and his mom FATIME (Aylin Tezel) have both worked a lot to keep things together but Jason's special situation is a challenge for the young family.

When it is suggested to the family that Jason should transfer to a special needs school, Mirco faces a challenge: He makes his son promise to find a favorite soccer club with him. In return, Jason promises to make every effort to stop letting himself be provoked at school. But Jason's criteria for choosing a soccer club are special and Mirco didn't expect Jason to have to see all the 1st, 2nd and 3rd division clubs live in the stadium before he makes up his mind. And on top of it all, the club must not have a silly mascot, must be environmentally sustainable, must have handicapped-accessible toilets, must not have Nazis among its fans, the players must not wear shoes that are too colorful, and must not form any swearing-in circles before the game!

Father and son travel to Germany's soccer stadiums and in the process Mirco finally really learns to understand his special son and how to deal with his disability. Their soccer weekends become an escape from everyday life for both of them and a great adventure as they become WEEKEND REBELS. Both find what they weren't necessarily looking for but definitely needed, and learn what is really possible when you understand that to love is a verb.

SHORT SYNOPSIS



DIRECTOR BIO

MARC ROTHEMUND

Marc Rothemund began his career as an assistant for his father, the director Sigi Rothemund and as an assistant director of Helmut Dietl, Bernd Eichinger, Dominik Graf and Gérard Corbiau. Marc's feature debut LOVE SCENES FROM PLANET EARTH ("Das merkwürdige Verhalten geschlechtsreifer Großstädter zur Paarungszeit" - 1998) premiered at the Berlin Film Festival and won the Bavarian Film Award for best young director. He then went on to direct the teen comedy box-office hit ANTS IN THE PANTS ("Harte Jungs" - 2000). Marc's international breakthrough came with SOPHIE SCHOLL - THE FINAL DAYS (2005), which was awarded the Silver Bear for best director in the Berlin IFF official competition. The film also received a nomination at the 78th Academy Awards. Marc has continued this success in his career with his films achieving commercial and critical acclaim, including the titles MY BLIND DATE WITH LIFE (2017) and THIS CRAZY HEART ("Dieses Bescheuerte Herz" - 2018). WEEKEND REBELS ("Wochenendrebellen") is his latest film, with a domestic release by LEONINE Studios anticipated in Fall 2023.

JUSTYNA MUESCH

WEEKEND REBELS is a story about seeking and finding true joy and excitement. A movie that will touch audiences, make them laugh, cry, think and reflect. A movie about soccer as a communal experience which will delight not just fans but a wider audience. A project we as producers are committed to bring to life with all our heart, energy and passion.

The film is a very special father-son story. Mirco, without giving it much thought, agrees to help his son find a favorite soccer team. These weekends will be unusual because Jason is not like other children: he is autistic. His life is regulated by countless rules necessary for him to cope with the sensory overload of his daily life. Rules which must be strictly adhered to, otherwise Jason will become unbearable to those around him. Yet on the weekends, when father and son hit the road, new rules apply. Jason has one goal: to find his favorite soccer team according to unusual selection criteria.

On this quest, Mirco will learn to accept his son the way he is. Mirco will realize the goal is not only to find a favorite soccer team for Jason, but rather that the journey itself is the goal. Slowly, Mirco will start to reconsider how he truly wants to spend his life. He will understand that these moments shared with his son mean more to him than his job. This narrative essence is timely, as many parents feel torn between the demands of work and family life. Whether father or mother, whether child with or without autism – it's about putting the "we" before the "I" and finding answers to the question of what really matters in life. In the course of the story, Mirco learns to reconsider his answers to this question. These trips and the moments he and his son share on them forge a close bond between them, closer than Mirco had ever dared to hope.

WEEKEND REBELS also is a love story. The marriage between Mirco and his wife Fatime is put to a hard test by Jason, and the father-son trips gradually change their relationship. Fatime falls in love with her husband all over again as he puts their son's happiness before his own. Mirco and Fatime see each other with respect and appreciation and, throughout the story, facing the challenge of raising a son on the autistic spectrum,

their love grows instead of withering.

The prolific and multiple award-winning screenwriter Richard Kropf tells this momentous story with a light touch, a sense of humor, quick wit and poignant moments. The tone is always full of warmth and empathy for the characters. The script, based upon the autobiographical novel by Mirco von Juterczenka, and personally endorsed by Mirco and Jason, authentically and empathetically shows what makes Jason "tick", the challenges he experiences in daily life and interacting with his peers – without moralizing or wagging a finger at the circumstances.

Acclaimed multiple award-winning director Marc Rothemund was the ideal choice to bring WEEKEND REBELS to the big screen with aplomb, delicacy, and warmth towards the characters with his assured style and intelligent humor. Throughout his extensive filmography, Marc Rothemund has reached audiences of millions, continually displaying his outstanding talent and his particular sensibility in capturing emotions and authenticity. His own experience as a father and big soccer fan made this a passion project for him, and we could not have wished for anyone more suitable to direct this film.

PRODUCER STATEMENT

A man and a young boy are sitting on a train, looking at a smartphone together. The man is on the right, wearing a brown sweater, and the boy is on the left, wearing a blue vest over a grey sweater. They are both looking at the phone held by the man. The background shows a window with a view of a landscape.

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

WIEDEMANN & BERG FILM

A pioneering spirit, the focus on quality, collaborations with outstanding creative talent and an amazing team have made Wiedemann & Berg one of the most successful production companies in Germany. Wiedemann & Berg Film was founded in 2003 by Justyna Muesch, Quirin Berg and Max Wiedemann. Their first feature film, *THE LIVES OF OTHERS*, the directing debut of Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, won an Academy Award® for Best Foreign Language Film in 2007, while *NEVER LOOK AWAY* was nominated for two Academy Awards® in 2019. Other number one hits include Baran bo Odar's hacker-thriller *WHO AM I - NO SYSTEM IS SAFE*, Simon Verhoeven's comedy *WELCOME TO GERMANY* - which with nearly 3.9 million admissions was the most successful German film of 2016, or *NIGHTLIFE*, the most successful German movie of 2020. In addition to *WEEKEND REBELS*, further projects like *FIFTY FIFTY* and the international production *GIRL YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE* are currently in production. Wiedemann & Berg Film is a LEONINE company.

A photograph of two people lying on their backs on a green lawn. The person on the left is wearing a tan sweater and a grey jacket, looking up at the sky. The person on the right is wearing a dark blue jacket and a black beanie, also looking up. A red backpack is visible between them.

WORLD SALES

PICTURE TREE INTERNATIONAL

Picture Tree International (PTI) is an energetic and fast-growing world sales company with its headquarters in Berlin. The core business is worldwide licensing across all platforms, with the company maintaining a presence at all the major film and television markets. Alongside licensing, PTI is also able to act as your German co-producer and local distributor via a fully integrated business model that offers producers individual sales and financing strategies in a results-driven and transparent partnership, something essential in today's ever changing audio-visual industry landscape. PTI's line-up of up to 15 films a year is designed to ensure the right mix of arthouse and crossover productions to fully maximize the revenue potential of each film. Picture Tree International was founded in December 2012 by Andreas Rothbauer and has been run jointly by his partner and Co-Managing Director Yuan Rothbauer since 2017.

Florian David Fitz	Mirco
Cecilio Andresen	Jason
Aylin Tezel	Fatime
Joachim Król	Opa Gerd
Petra Marie Cammin	Ömchen
Milena Dreissig	Fr. Dr. Folke
Leslie Malton	Fr. Brinkhaus
Tilo Nest	Pr. Reinhard Sieben
Michaela Wiebusch	Lehrerin Schönwälder
Ilknur Boyraz	Rektorin Bussart

CAST LIST