

WHY HASN'T EVERYTHING DISAPPEARED YET

a film by Stefan Koutzev

with

JUHO LEE, LAURA SCHROEDER, DANA KANTARDZHIEVA, BOJAN KANTARDZHIEV,
CHANMIN KIM, KIHUUN PARK, JAE SUN LEE, UWE PARGEN, GEORGIA KOUMARÁ,
PHILINE REIMER & THE VOICES OF JOHN BERGERHAUSEN, YUNA-LEE PFAU

Concept, Writing, Directing & Editing by **Stefan Koutzev** Drawings by **Juho Lee**

based on the character "Sori" created by Stefan Koutzev & Juho Lee

Cinematography **Bernard Mescherowsky** Sound Recording Farah Wind, Andreas Herrmann

Set Producer **Youssef Mahfouz** Assistant Director **Yonca Yildirim** Script & Continuity **Eva Swiatkowski** Set &

Costume Design **Thera de Freitas** Gaffer **Paul Hüpel, Ayham Khalifeh**

Steady Cam **Patrick Gregg** Focus **Ha Neui Kim, Marja Funke, Jan Karger, Kris Bublevskaia**

Field Recordings & Foley **Hyemin Jung, Stefan Koutzev** Sound Design **Gerrit Kuge & Stefan Koutzev** Mix **Judit**

h Nordbrock Color Grading **Fabiana Cardalda** VFX **Pavel Hernandez Méndez**

Translations **Erin Hong, Ha Neu Kim** Poster Design **Siva Chand**

Dramaturgical Advising **Laura Schroeder** Project Consultants **Alejandro Bachmann, Geraldine Bajard**

Production **lautmalfilm Stefan Koutzev / Academy of Media Arts Cologne**

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WHY HASN'T EVERYTHING DISAPPEARED YET

D, KOR, BG / 2026 / 98min / DCP 2K / 1,78:1 / 5.1 Dolby Surround

CAST Juho Lee, Laura Schroeder, Dana Kantardzhieva, Bojan Kantardzhiev, Chanmin Kim, Kihuun Park, Jae Sun Lee, Uwe Pargen, Georgia Koumará, Philine Reimer
VOICES John Bergerhausen, Yuna-Lee Pfau

CONCEPT / SCRIPT / DIRECTING / EDITING Stefan Koutzev

DRAWINGS Juho Lee

CINEMATOGRAPHY Bernard Mescherowsky

SOUND RECORDING Farah Wind, Andreas Herrmann

DRAMTURGICAL ADVISING Laura Schroeder

CONSULTANTS Alejandro Bachmann, Geraldine Bajard, Rita Schwarze

SET & COSTUME DESIGN Thera de Freitas, Laurin Weber

LIGHTS Paul Hüpel, Ayham Khalifeh, Niels Gössel

SOUND ASST. Anastasia Osoianu, Nils Kammerloch

SET PRODUCER Youssef Mahfouz, Matthias Tharang

UNIT MANAGER Miri Klischat, John Bergerhausen

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Yonca Yildirim

SCRIPT/ CONTINUITY Eva Swiatkowski

STEADY CAM Patrick Gregg

FOCUS PULLER Ha Neui Kim, Marja Funke, Jan Karger

2.AC Kris Bublevskaia, Heorgie Biba

RUNNER Justus Hanfland, Lucas Dülligen

EDITING CONSULTING Laura Schroeder, Rita Schwarze

FIELD RECORDINGS & FOLEY Hyemin Jung & Stefan Koutzev

DIALOGUE EDITING Johannes Grote

SOUND DESIGN Gerrit Kuge & Stefan Koutzev

SOUND MIX Judith Nordbrock

COLOR GRADING Fabiana Cardalda

VFX/ RETOUCH Pavel Hernandez Méndez

TRANSLATION Erin Hong, Ha Neu Kim, Daseul Kang

POSTER DESIGN Siva Chand

PRODUCTION

Stefan Koutzev / lautmalfilm / Academy of Media Arts Cologne

CONTACT

Press & PR Management Festivals & Distribution - Ute Dilger

Academy of Media Arts Cologne - ute.dilger@khm.de

<https://en.khm.de/kontakt/> Heumarkt 14, 50678 Köln, Germany

Stefan Koutzev / latmalfilm koutzevstefan@gmail.com

+4915736564133 www.koutzev.com

PRESS KIT

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SYNOPSIS

Two young siblings from Bulgaria realise they are all alone on the wrong bus heading to Cologne. For now, their story ends and a new one begins: Sori has been working aimlessly as a gallery assistant after dropping out of university and hiding the truth from his family back in Seoul. All by himself in Germany, he finds comfort in drawing intricate worlds of sketches, while drifting through an urban life of fleeting encounters that only mimic belonging but never quite fulfil it. As Sori's military service at the North Korean border resurfaces evermore, the waning days of a slow summer take over the narration: Childhood memories shift to the next estranged everyday object, encounters unfold from one character to another location with no point of return. The more Sori turns himself over to the life around him, the more it asks where home is.

LOGLINE

It's been a long time since Sori left Seoul after his military service to live in Germany. As he drifts through a slow summer, a longing blossoms more and more within him and his enigmatic drawings.

Trailer - Warum ist nicht schon alles verschwunden



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

WHY HASN'T EVERYTHING DISAPPEARED YET is an endeavor to translate our memories and experiences into a cinematic form, exploring themes of origin, childhood, detachment and a migrant perspective devoid of belonging. This film reflects on people who come from other countries; it's about an isolated state of being and it expresses the tension between the present and the distant homes that have become estranged and difficult to reach.

My encounter with Juho Lee, who embodies the fictional character Sori, was a major inspiration for this film, as were his own experiences moving from Korea to Germany. Our exchange resonated deeply with my own family history, particularly my mother's migration from Bulgaria, which is the reason I am still in Germany today. While writing the screenplay and collaborating with Juho to create the protagonist, I wanted to shape a narrative combining both of our migrational backgrounds, memories and elements of our lives in Cologne. Another crucial impulse for telling this story came from learning about one major difference between myself and him, like many South Korean men I've come to know in Germany: I was never inevitably trained in military combat for a possible future war against North Korea. This realisation marked me, just as the absurd idea that militarism could be a reason for people to leave conservative homes around the world. I believe that our film captures this individual perspective and a state of mind within the broader context of the ongoing global arms race that increasingly affects societies today. For most of the cast, I felt inspired by their very biographies, and that's why the interest for memories is important for this film, as is the very first thing characters remember from their childhood. There's just something about the past and childhood memories that connect us all beyond borders and origin, and that's very reassuring to me.

Growing up bilingual, navigating identities between Bulgaria and Germany, I have come to realise that my only true connection to those places today, lies in the languages I speak, and perhaps, in the end, it is not much more than that. I liked the idea to shoot major parts of the film in a language I do not speak. By doing so, I deliberately placed myself in the position of an outsider, allowing a different space to speak and to observe characters more deeply, while reflecting on the presence of language barriers on a film set which mirror the isolation of the protagonist abroad.

This film is framed within a larger context: one of global movements, contemporary transportation and strange transit spaces. It invites to feel both comforted and intrigued by a crescendo of locations in constant flux; marginal spaces that offer no real home, yet where one can feel entirely on their own.

I hope this film provides audiences with calm, tender encounters that gently ask: *Who is this person? Where are they going? What can I truly know about them?* With this, I do not wish to impose political judgment or speak on behalf of anyone else, but rather to foster an atmosphere of empathy, understanding and a shared sense of loneliness. I believe it is the small nuances that open our awareness to the broader picture of displacement. To confront rigid opinions and narratives about foreigners, we must also challenge narrative and dramaturgical forms of cinema. Thus, the time closely spent with these unique faces turns to show their meaning and their own representation.



Biography

Stefan Koutzev, born in 1993 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, is an author and director whose work focuses on narrative storytelling, hybrid documentary, as well as experimental films and sound art. He's interested in themes like migration, home, work, character studies and liminal or marginal spaces.

After completing the European Film College in Ebeltoft, Denmark and attending film studies at Academy of Fine Arts Hamburg and the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, he is currently pursuing a diploma degree at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne.

His works, including RESTBESTAND (Unsold Copies, 2025), HAUSPAUSEN (2024) and SCHWÄRMEN (2021), were screened at several international film festivals.

His debut fiction feature WHY HASN'T EVERYTHING DISAPPEARED YET is a multilingual examination of belonging and migration and will premiere at the Bright Future Section at the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

For further information: www.koutzev.com



Selected Filmography

WARUM IST NICHT SCHON ALLES VERSCHWUNDEN

(WHY HASN'T EVERYTHING DISAPPEARED YET)

2026, International Film Festival Rotterdam

RESTBESTAND

(UNSOLD COPIES) 2025, screened at Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Odense International Film Festival, Beijing International Short Film Festival, Stockholm International Film Festival

HAUSPAUSEN

2024, DOK Leipzig German Competition

REQUISIT

2023, short fiction

SPINNER LIGHT

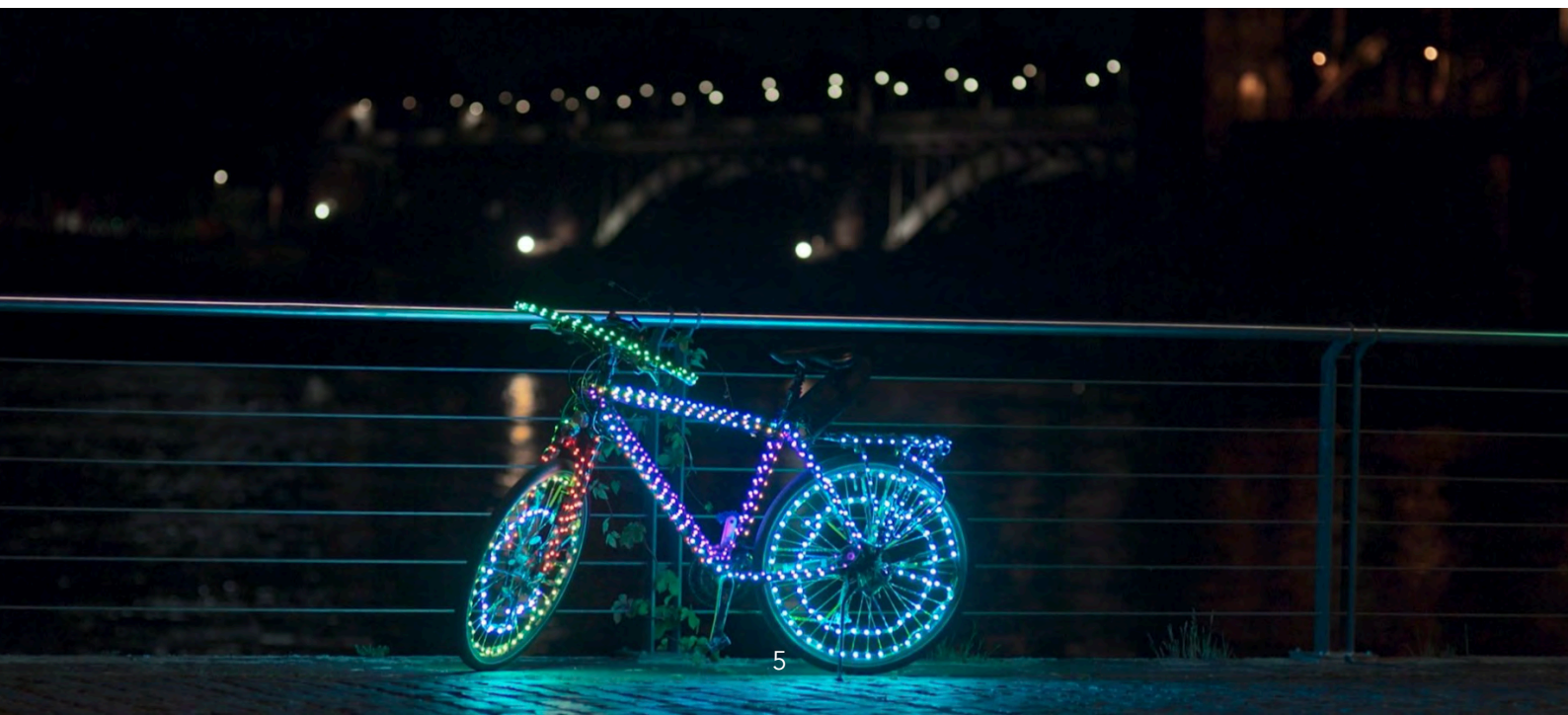
2022, dance film, choreographer Charles A. Washington, *commissioned by Hellerau - European Centre of The Arts Dresden*

SCHWÄRMEN

2021, screened at Internationale Filmwoche Regensburg, Küstendorf International Film & Music Festival, bpb Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung

IT'S OKAY TO EAT FISH; BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE ANY FEELINGS

2018, screened at Polish International Film Festival, Dresdner Schmalfilmtage



Complete Credit List

CAST

Sori - Lee Juho
Sister - Dana Kantardzhieva
Brother - Bojan Kantardzhiev
Esther - Laura Schroeder
Co-Worker - Kihuun Park
Guitarist - Chanmin Kim
Mother - Jae Sun Lee
Thereminist - Georgia Koumara
Ciclist - Uwe Pargen
Curator - Philine Reimer
Voice of Ruben - John Bergerhausen
Voice of Galerist - Yuna-Lee Pfau
Voice of Yelling Child - Arturo Calle

CREW

Scriptwriter, Director, Producer, Editor - Stefan Koutzev
Assistant Director: Yonca Yildirim
Script & Continuity: Eva Swiatkowski
Dramaturgical Advising: Laura Schroeder
Set Producer: Youssef Mahfouz, Matthias Tharang
Production Assistant: Justus Hanfland
Location Manager: Miri Klischat, John Bergerhausen, Justus Hanfland
Cinematography / DOP: Bernard Mescherowsky
1. AC: Ha Neui Kim, Marja Funke, Jan Karger
2. AC: Kris Bublevskaia, Heorgie Biba
Steady Cam Operator: Patrick Gregg
Original Sound Recordist: Farah Wind, Andreas Herrmann
Sound Asst.: Anastasia Osoianu, Shokoufeh Eftekhari, Nils Kammerloch, Roman Trost
Gaffer: Paul Hüpel
Light Assistants: Niels Gössel, Ayham Khalife
Grip: Heorgie Biba
Set Design, Props & Costume: Thera de Freitas
Props Asst.: Laurin Weber
Drawings: Juho Lee
Editing Consultant: Rita Schwarze, Laura Schroeder, Almourad Adeeb, Renxing Zhou
Sound Design: Gerrit Kuge & Stefan Koutzev
Sound Editing: Johannes Grote, Judith Nordbrock
Foley & Field Recordings: Hyemin Jung, Emma Kreka, Stefan Koutzev
Sound Mix, Judith Nordbrock, Ralf Schipke
VFX: Pavel Hernández Méndez
Color Grading & DCP: Fabiana Cardalda
Runners: Justus Hanfland, Lucas Dülligen
Extras: Yonca Yildirim, Matthias Tharang, Heorgie Biba, Justus Hanfland
Catering: Casper Strachwitz & Anan Ashour
Project Consultants: Alejandro Bachmann, Geraldine Bajard, Rita Schwarze, Laura Schroeder, Pia Marais, Valerie Heine
Project Office Supervision: Susanne Ritter, Petra Clemens
Translations: Erin Hong, Duhyoung Kim, Ha Neui Kim, Eunji Kim, Daseul Kang, Stefan Koutzev





CONTACT

Stefan Koutzev / lautmalfilm
Karolingerring 5, 50678 Köln , Germany
koutzevstefan@gmail.com
+4915736564133
www.koutzev.com



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