



A small German film with a big heart!
Cinema

An authentic immigrant drama!

Blickpunkt:Film

theatrical release 02 january 2012

ATTA YAQUB

CHRISTOPH FRANKEN



fernes land

EIN FILM VON KANWAL SETHI

FERNES LAND MIT CHRISTOPH FRANKEN, ATTA YAQUB, KARINA PLACHETKA, KULBHUSHAN KHARBANDA - REGIE KANWAL SETHI - BUCH LEIS BAGDACH, KANWAL SETHI
KAMERA HANNO MORITZ KUNOW - SCHNITT CLAUDIA WOLSCHT, PETER ZORN - SZENENBILD ANNE SCHLAICH - TON JOHANNES DOBERENZ - SOUNDDSIGN UND MISCHUNG KAI TEBBEL
FILMTONGESTALTUNG - MUSIK CONRAD OLEAK - KOSTÜM ANDREA SCHEIN - MASKE NADINE TSCHÖPE, CHRISTIN LÄSSIG - OBERBELEUCHTER MATHIAS BEIER
CASTING MIRIAM LOCKER - CASTING INDIEN SHUMITA M. DIDI - REDAKTION CLAUDIA TRONNIER - PRODUZENT HOLM TADDIKEN
PRODUKTION NEUFILM LEIPZIG - IN KOPRODUKTION MIT ZDF - DAS KLEINE FERNSEHSPIEL MIT UNTERSTÜTZUNG DER MITTELDEUTSCHEN MEDIENFÖRDERUNG UND EZEF
- IM VERLEIH VON MISSINGFILMS - WWW.FERNESLAND.DE -



>>I Neufilm



PRESS REVIEWS



The mood is intense and compelling.[...].The two protagonists convincingly portray an emotional relationship, the intensity of which keeps growing. *epd film*

Clichés? Not here. „Fernes Land“ simply brings together worlds that are more similar to each other than one would have guessed. *Der Tagesspiegel*

[...] Unsentimental and grown-up, „Fernes Land“ describes a reality without feeling the compulsion to constantly offer solutions. *Blickpunkt:Film*

It does not matter if Kanwal Sethi is following his own unconventional path with its occasional a fairy tale like grace - he certainly compels us to reflect on the way, in which we in Europe deal with immigrants. *Zitty*

An authentic immigrant drama [...] It offers a glimpse into a barely perceived aspect of the German Republic. *Kino.de*

With „Fernes Land“, Kanwal Sethi has achieved an atmospheric and engaging debut which examines its theme without reservation and with an inquisitive eye for the minutiae of proximity and difference. *Tip Berlin*

Two very likeable main characters and a story told with energy [...] captivating. *Kreuzer*

The movie with it's relentless, almost documentary-like reality reminds the viewer of American immigrant and gangster dramas. *Frankenpost*



PRESS REVIEWS



Sethi depicts his situations with absolute reality and with an accurate feel for mood. *Programmkino.de*

Negotiating the grey zones between order and chaos, Sethi paints a convincing picture of life without papers, without dignity, without hope. *Exberliner*

Without resorting to sentimentality, the director unveils these parallel worlds using intense scenarios through which the two men must navigate. Being a stranger“ is never reduced to a cliché. *Filmz.de*

A sensitive drama with comic elements that tells a story of alienation in Germany. Despite the seriousness of the topic the film is a lot of fun. *Adrem*

He has a good eye for the tension, which develops when two worlds collide. He presents his story with rich, sensual imagery and a pinch of humour. *Player*

This ambitious movie draws us into a dark vortex full of action, brilliantly shot, with an impressive cast, including the supporting actors. *Noisyneighbours*



PRESS

cut-FilmPresse & MovieEvents
Michael Eckhardt
Blümnerstraße 8
04229 Leipzig
Phone 0341-2470959
Fax 0341-2470955
info@cut-film.de

DISTRIBUTOR

missingFILMs
Acrivulis & Severin GbR
Proskauer Str. 34
10247 Berlin
Phone 030-2836530
Fax 0322-22434511
www.missingfilms.de

PRODUCTION

NEUFILM
Altenburger Strasse 9
04275 Leipzig
Phone 0341 35003570
Fax 0341 35003585
info@neufilm.com
www.neufilm.com

ABOUT THE MOVIE



The Pakistani hairdresser, **Haroon**, has immigrated illegally to Germany; the German insurance broker, **Mark**, dreams of emigrating. The consequences of a car accident throw these two entirely different people together for one night. At the end of an odyssey through the alien world of illegality, they both discover that something bonds them: their desire to be far away...

In his Pakistani/German road movie, "Fernes Land," which takes us through the various cultural facets of a big city in Germany- in this case Leipzig - the director Kanwal Sethi tells the story of two men in upheaval. Both want a new outlook on life. Without doubt, their circumstances are totally different.



Mark, played by **Christoph Franken** (German Theater, Berlin), only has his own inner conflict to resolve and his own complacency to snap out of,

whereas Haroon, played by **Atta Yaqub** (Just a Kiss), is fighting for the chance to have a normal life in Germany; for a valid passport and residence permit.

Sethi, who is originally from India and living in Leipzig for the last eleven years, wrote the screenplay for his debut feature film together with **Leis Bagdach**. Using intensive, dramatic settings (camera by **Hanno Moritz Kunow**), the director shows without sentimentality the parallel worlds in which the two men are operating. „Being different“ is not a cliché nor is it stylised. It's just there and it is not going away.



SYNOPSIS



An accident - an odyssey by night and the alien world of illegality: Haroon comes from Pakistan and has been living illegally in Germany for the past three years. Mark is an insurance salesman in a small family business who is trying to come to terms with his recent break-up with his girl friend Nina.

At first glance, the two men seem to lead completely separate lives, with nothing in common whatsoever. But one winter night their lives are inextricably thrown together and everything changes.

They find in each other someone they instinctively trust and in whom they can sense the same longing; to finally find their place. Mark, in particular, has been pretending to be happy with his job for far too long. His dream is to go to Japan. He loves cooking and wants to make a living out of creating something with his own hands. Haroon doesn't want to live in constant fear of being caught anymore. He wants to open his very own Pakistani hair salon in Germany. After a mad night of adventure together in the parallel worlds of one and the same city, the two get a little closer to their dreams and to each other...



ABOUT „FERNES LAND“



Inevitably my own life as an immigrant draws me again and again to people longing to get away from here or to those, who have come to live here. For various reasons – political, economical or personal - they wanted to get away. Their destinies, circumstances, their stories fascinate me. These two protagonists, Mark and Haroon, are rooted in the world of my own experiences: an overly intellectual but at the same time sensitive Mark, a fearless but also impetuous Haroon. Their lifes circumstances might be contradictory and very different but there is one thing they both have in common: they are not going to give up.

The world Haroon lives in and his problems lies in exactly the same dark corner of societal consciousness as Marks repressed dreams. This gave me the idea to set the film at night and to use it as metaphor for Marks journey of discovery – a journey to a parallel world unknown to him and a journey to find himself. And it was astonishingly easy to compare and contrast Haroons immigration and Marks emigration, thus illustrating that the same sentiment lies behind the desire to make a new life in a new place and the hope of finding your fortune in a far away place.

Each year approximately 110,000 Germans give up their citizenship to live in other countries while on the other hand overcrowded boats carrying migrants are sinking off the coast of Italy only to reappear as short news items in the media. In the years to come almost half a billion people will be on the move worldwide. It is ridiculous to assume that migration is an unusual or exceptional disturbing part of history. The author Rudyard Kipling encapsulated this notion in his observation:

*„All things considered, there are two kinds of men in the world;
those who stay at home and those who do not.“*

FERNES LAND is a movie about those who do not stay at home.





CHRISTOPH FRANKEN ABOUT MARK

From the very beginning Mark is for me a person with two souls beating in his chest. One wants security, assurance; job, family, his own small house. The other is yearning for Japan, for sensuousness. His passion is cooking, he loves music, it is the unknown which fascinates him. I was particularly intrigued by the volcano within Mark waiting to erupt, the sensuousness and yearning in him, which is not put on. He meets Haroon at the exact right moment. Haroon has left his country in order to pursue his yearnings, his dreams. He does not believe in compromising and wants to have his own way. His journey to a world unknown to him finally causes him to wake up. He becomes bolder and by accompanying Haroon, by watching him, Marks perception of himself and the world begins to change.



ATTA YAQUB ABOUT HAROON

Perhaps because I myself am a child of immigrants and because I was working far away from my familiar surroundings in Glasgow and in a language which was foreign to me it was easy for me to empathize with Haroon and his loneliness. The more I familiarised myself with the odyssey of this illegal immigrant the better I understood how strong and courageous he is and what was driving him – he simply had nothing to lose! To be an illegal immigrant puts him under enormous pressure, he lives in a constant state of fear. But since he is Haroon he will never show it. Or is he simply not capable of showing his fear? This was a question which was troubling me all the time.

Even though Haroon has been through so much in the last years, so much pain, experienced so much contempt and indifference he still likes to live in Germany- in some way or the other! Even though this constant struggle has robbed him of his faith, I do not believe that he would retreat. He will certainly keep on trying. Haroon simply does not know how to give up - a blessing as well as a curse.



IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA



CHRISTOPH FRANKEN

was born 1978 in Cologne. He studied acting at the *Otto-Falckenberg-Schule* in Munich. From 2005 to 2009 he was working for the *Staatstheater Hannover*. Since 2009 he is acting at the *Deutsche Theater Berlin*. He appeared in a number of television productions such as *DIE AUGEN MEINER MUTTER* (2006) by Nuran David Calis, *ICH BIN DIE ANDERE* (2006) by Margarethe von Trotta and *KAMMERFLIMMERN* (2005) by Hendrik Hölzemann.



ATTA YAQUB

was born in 1979 in Scotland as son of Pakistani immigrants. He lives and works as an actor in Scotland and made his name as *Casim* in Ken Loach's celebrated drama, *JUST A KISS* (2004). Later he appeared in *NINAS HEAVENLY DELIGHT* (2006) by Prithi Parmar and in *RUNNING IN TRAFFIC* (2009) by Dale Corlett.



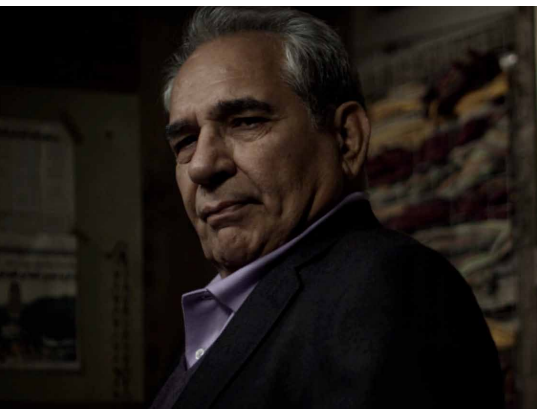
KARINA PLACHETKA

was born in Poland in 1975. After completing a degree in dance she studied acting at the *Ernst Busch* drama school in Berlin and has for some years now been a regular feature of the *Dresdner Staatsschauspiel*. On screen she was last seen in *WHISKY MIT WODKA* (2009) by Andreas Dresen, *NICHTS ALS GESPENSTER* (2007) by Martin Gypkens, *DIE SPIELWÜTIGEN* (2003) by Andreas Veiel and in *WIR* (2002) by Martin Gypkens.



KULBHUSHAN KHARABANDA

was born in 1950 in India. He belongs to the group of actors of the *New Indian Film* which made their mark in the 70s and 80s. He is one of India's most fascinating and well-known actors who has starred in over 170 films. He was awarded, amongst others, the distinguished *NATIONAL FILM AWARD* as best leading actor. Besides his role for *FERNES LAND* Khulbhushan Kharabanda appeared in *WATER* (2005) by Deepa Mehta, *LAGAAN: Once upon a time in India* (2001) by Ashutosh Gorwariker, *MONSOON WEDDING* (2001) by Deepa Mehta and *JADU KA SHANK* (1974) by Sai Paranajape.



BEHIND THE CAMERA



KANWAL SETHI



was born in Amritsar in India. After completing his class XII he established an Afro-Indian theatre group and started producing plays for independent theatres. He regularly wrote for the literature magazine *Preetlari*. In 1992 he moved to Germany. From 1994 to 1998 he studied Political Science and Economics in Dresden. During this time he also worked as projectionist, translator and language teacher.

After travelling extensively he settled down in Leipzig where he worked at the *Schauspielhaus* and as assistant director for a number of film productions, followed by his own stage productions for various independent theatres. At the same time he started work on his own film projects for which he received various grants. His short and documentary movies were screened at various international film festivals as well as the *Museum of Modern Art New York* and won a number of prizes. *FERNES LAND* is his debut feature film.

LEIS BAGDACH



was born on 26.09. 1974 in Cologne. After completing his school he finished his compulsory civil service in Hamburg. Subsequently he studied at the *Universität Leipzig*, where he graduated in German Studies and Theater Studies. Since 2002 he lives and works as a freelance author in Berlin. He wrote a number of plays, which amongst others were premiered in the *Gessnerallee* in Zurich and the Berlin *Ballhaus-Ost*.

Shortfilms written by him were screened at the *Film Festival New York*, in the *Barbican Art Gallery* in London, the *Premier Plans Festival* in Angers and the *First Steps Award* in Berlin [TERESAS ZIMMER, directed by Constanze Knoche won a prize for the best leading role]. He wrote a number of episodes for the TV-serial *EIN FALL FÜR ZWEI*. *FERNES LAND* is his movie debut as script writer. The feature film *DIE BESUCHER* (directed by Constanze Knoche), for which he also wrote the script, is going to be premiered in Munich.

BEHIND THE CAMERA



HOLM TADDIKEN

grew up in Bremerhaven and graduated in Communication and Media Science in Leipzig. Already as student he started producing short films and managing film productions. Many of these short films and student productions were successfully screened at festivals (eg. like *Münchener Filmwochen*, *L'indipendientia Barcelona*, *European Media Art Festival* and *Video Festival New York*, *Palm Springs*, *Fipatel Biarritz* etc.) and won various prizes (e.g the *Max-Ophüls-Preis*).

At the end of 2003, Holm Taddiken became self-employed and founded his own company, *Neufilm*. In the following years he produced a number of documentary movies in collaboration with MDM and MDR. Currently Neufilm is developing some new ideas for a documentary movie and a feature film. *FERNES LAND* is Holm Taddikens first full length feature film. At the same time Holm Taddiken is Managing Partner of *Cine Impuls Fernsehproduktion GmbH*, a successful service enterprise for various TV formats as well as big banner German TV- and film producers such as *Broadview TV*, *Eikon*, *Polyphon* oder *Provobis*.



HANNO MORITZ KUNOW

was born on 11.5.1974 in Berlin. After completing his class XII, he took training as a photographer. Later he worked as camera assistant for various film- and TV productions and graduated from the *Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen* in Potsdam- Babelsberg. After he graduated with a degree in cinematography 2006 he shot *Militärzauberer im Kosovo* (AT) [3Sat, directed by Stella Tinbergen, doc. 60 min], *Der irrationale Rest* [ZDF - *das kleine Fernsehspiel*, *Credofilm*, directed by Thorsten Trimpop, doc. 90 min], *Generation Model* [ZDF - *das kleine Fernsehspiel*, *Credofilm*, directed by Anne-Kristin Jahn, doc. 90 min], *Seemannsbräute* [ZDF, directed by Solveig Willkommen/Anja Flade, doc. 90 min]



BEHIND THE CAMERA



CLAUDIA WOLSCHT

is member of the BSF since 1990. Together with Catherine Laakmann and Rolf Hamacher she established the arthouse cinema *Metropolis* in Cologne in 1986. After working as assistant editor and assistant director and continuity, she is focussing on film editing since 1993. The first time she worked together with film director Dominik Graf was for the movie *GELÜBDE* (2007). In 2008 they continued their collaboration. *IM ANGESICHT DES VERBRECHENS* won the *Deutschen Fernsehpreis* as best miniseries in 2010.



CREDITS



CAST

Mark

Christoph Franken

Haroon

Atta Yaqub

Nina

Karina Plachetka

Pamma

Kulbhushan Kharbanda

Babak

Rajinder Gupta

Ahmad

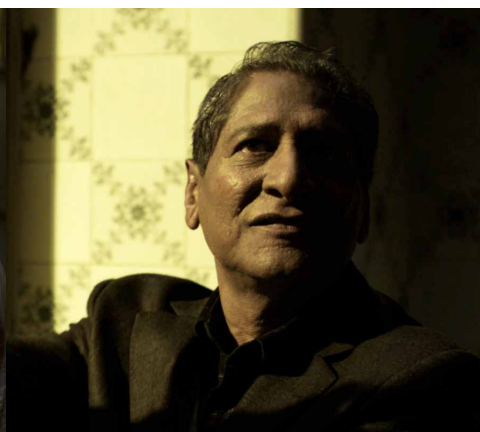
Pasha Khan

Mutter

Barbara Schnitzler

Hanna

Leila Panzig



CREDITS



CREW

<i>Idea and Direction</i>	Kanwal Sethi
<i>Screenplay</i>	Leis Bagdach and Kanwal Sethi
<i>Camera</i>	Hanno Moritz Kunow
<i>2nd Camera</i>	Alexandra Czok
<i>Editing</i>	Claudia Wolscht and Peter Zorn
<i>Scenery</i>	Anne Schlaich
<i>Wardrobe</i>	Andre Schein
<i>Make-up</i>	Nadine Tschöpe and Christin Lässig
<i>Sound</i>	Johannes Doberenz
<i>Music</i>	Conrad Oleak
<i>Casting</i>	Miriam Locker
<i>Casting India</i>	Shumita M. Didi
<i>Producer</i>	Holm Taddiken
<i>1st Production Manager</i>	Nicole Zscherny
<i>Set Production Manager</i>	Carsten Bartelt
<i>Production Assistant</i>	Constance Osterkamp
	Sophie Plessing
<i>1st Director's Assistant</i>	Vera Schmidt
<i>Script</i>	Dörte Westphal
<i>Casting Assistant</i>	Sabeth Braun
<i>Camera Assistant</i>	Konrad Lobst
<i>Gaffer</i>	Mathias Beier
<i>Lightning Technicians</i>	Martin Handrow
	Falk Oettel
	Tobias Gaede
<i>Stage Cameras</i>	Hagen Räder
<i>Art Director</i>	Kobita Seyd
<i>External Props</i>	Arndt Kühne
<i>Internal Props</i>	Christine Jahn
<i>Procuction Editor</i>	Antje Eggers
<i>Motifs</i>	Irena Walinda und Emanuel Mathias
<i>Post Production Coordination</i>	Dirk Nebel
<i>Sounddesign & Mixing</i>	Kai Tebbel Filmtongestaltung
<i>Digital Grading Colorist</i>	Rico Danschke
<i>Editor</i>	Claudia Tronnier
<i>Producer</i>	Holm Taddiken
<i>Production</i>	Neufilm Leipzig