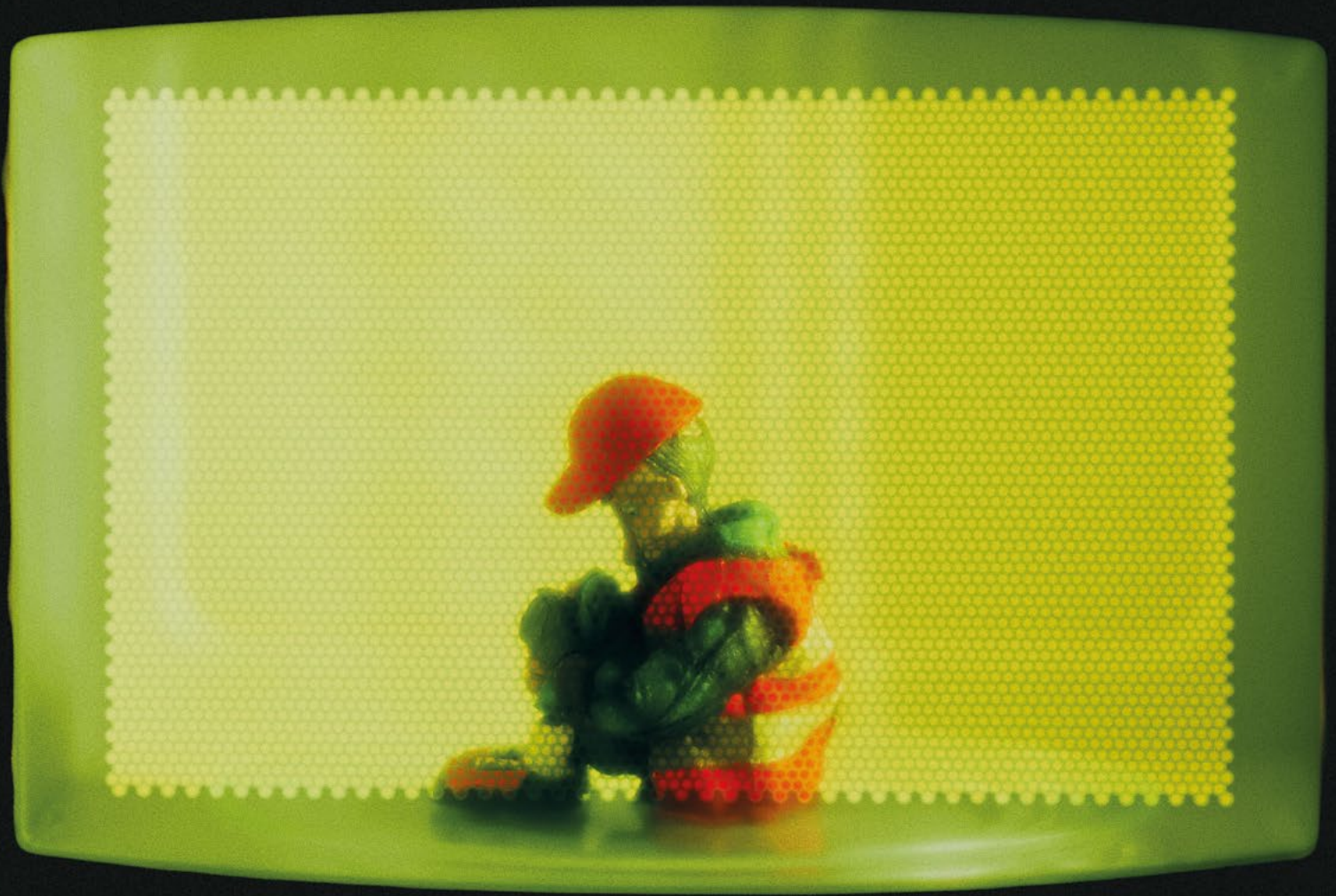


DETLEV



Written & Directed by
Produced by
Editor
Cinematography
Production Design
Music
Sound Supervisor
Sound Design
Storyboard
Vfx Supervisor
Pipeline TD
LED Installation

FERDINAND EHRHARDT
SASKIA STIRN & FERDINAND EHRHARDT
ANDREAS BOTHE
SEBASTIAN GANSCHOW & LEONI GORA
CÉLINE AHLBRECHT
CLEMENS GUTJAHR
MANIK MÖLLERS
SAMUEL KRUPKE
ELIAS WEINBERGER
NIKLAS WOLFF
PAUL GOLTER
TOM TOLLE

Animation Lead
Animation

GREGOR WITTICH
FERDINAND EHRHARDT
VALERIJA DIADIUKH
ILYA LORENZ BARRETT
ARNE HAIN
MONA KEIL
LYDIA SCHÜTTENGRUBER
LEO NEUMANN
JULIA SKALA
OSCAR JACOBSON
PETER SCHNEIDER
DAVID GORDON SMITH
KONRAD WIPP
SEBASTIAN GANSCHOW
ARNE HAIN

Character Design

Voice Actors

Puppets

Contents

Logline	3
Synopsis	3
Director's Note	3
The Director & Producer	6
The Team	7
Credits	8
Cast	9
Fact Sheet	10
Interview with the Director	11+12
Press Review	13
HAWAII TOAST RECIPE	14
Official Selection & Awards	15+16
Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg & Animationsinstitut	18

Contact Information

Press

Theresa Seitz
+49 7141 969 82 864
theresa.seitz@filmakademie.de

Social Media

Amelie Kant
+49 7141 969 82 831
amelie.kant@filmakademie.de

Director

Ferdinand Ehrhardt
+49 176 607 294 70
ferdinandehrhardt.film@gmail.com
ferdi-ehrhardt@t-online.de

Producer

Saskia Stirn
saskiastirn@gmail.com

Production Company/School

Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg
Sigrid Gairing - Distribution
+49 7141 969 82 856
sigrid.gairing@filmakademie.de

Distribution

Fabian&Fred
Fabian Driehorst
+49 403 344 27 40
distribution@fabianfred.com

Links

Film

[Stream \(Passwort: "Hawaii!"\)](#)

Trailer

Instagram

[@detlev.mov](#)

[@ferdinand.ehrhardt](#)

Institutions

[Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg](#)

[Animationsinstitut](#)



Logline

Detlev doesn't have a problem.
Why should he have a problem?
He's obviously doing great.

Synopsis

A constantly freezing man in his forties drives to a lonely petrol station every evening and orders a microwaved Toast Hawaii. Detlev indulges in this in a bizarre ritual, because it's the only thing that warms him in his daily life. But when he is observed by a stranger one night, his world begins to crumble into shameful pieces.

Director's Note

Loneliness is one of the biggest problems of our time and many people, especially men, although it's 2024, still lack the ability to open up about their inner wounds. I believe that we need more stories of understanding and overcoming the closet and the dangerous maelstrom of shame. Because together is all we have.



“A bizarre and haunting film — visceral, stylish and nightmarish. I was both attracted and repelled and found it a persuasive, but wholly unpredictable narrative.”

Peter Lord, Aardman





Ferdinand Ehrhardt – Director & Producer



Ferdinand Ehrhardt, born 1999, grew up in Dresden, Germany. Acting out scenes with his brother's stuffed animals in his childhood bedroom somehow led to him studying Animation at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg's Animationsinstitut. There, he tried his hand at several approaches of audio-visual storytelling and graduated with his stop-motion short DETLEV in 2024. He lives and works as a freelance filmmaker in Leipzig.

Filmography

DETLEV (2024)	12:50 min	graduation film Director, Co-Producer
OBERVOGELGESANG (2021)	6:22 min	student film Director
IM WIND (2019)	5:47 min	student film Co-Director, Producer

Saskia Stirn – Producer



Saskia Stirn was born in Southern Germany in 1986. After first successes at local short film festivals, she studied Communication Design and Social Design in Germany, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, resulting in two Masters degrees in 2019. She then continued her studies at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg's Animationsinstitut and graduated with a diploma in Animation/Effects Producing in 2023.

The Team

Andreas Bothe - Editor, born 1997 near Munich. Growing up as a working-class child, he developed an interest in socio-political topics at an early age. During his studies in film editing at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg he pursued this interest by exploring various political topics in his film collaborations as an editor: Germany's political shift to the right, its male loneliness epidemic and feminist self-determination, amongst others. His films have been shown at numerous national and international film festivals and have received several awards and nominations including the Grimme Award, German Documentary Award and three nominations for the German Short Film Award.

Sebastian Ganschow - Director of Photography, Sebastian Ganschow - Director of Photography, was born and raised in Hamburg, Germany, along with three sisters. After starting out as a set runner in the film industry, he soon moved to the camera department and ultimately went to Ludwigsburg to master the ancient arts of Cinematography at the renowned Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. He now lives in Berlin and works as Director of Photography in fiction, documentary, and - whenever he gets the chance - stop-motion.

Leoni Gora - Director of Photography, was born in Baden-Württemberg in 1996. During her Communication Design studies (B.A.), she discovered her interest in film. She deepened her passion for camera work and began her studies at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in 2021. She had the opportunity to study Camera for a year at La Fémis in Paris on a scholarship in 2023/2024.

Manik Möllers - Sound Supervisor, graduated in Sound Design at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg and has shaped the sound of award-winning commercials and films. He also made a mark in gaming audio with his work on the BAFTA-awarded game Alan Wake.

Clemens Gutjahr - Musician, is an award winning film composer. He scored Academy Award-nominated animated films and worked for a feature documentary, which premiered in German cinemas. He is also involved in games and plays live as a jazz pianist.

Gregor Wittich - Lead Animator, was born and raised in Dresden. As part of their animation studies at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg's Animationsinstitut, they worked as an Animator and Character Designer on different films, for example the Student Academy Award nominated THE UNDYING PAIN OF EXISTENCE and the Student Academy Award winning A SPARROW'S SONG. They also discovered their love for stop motion when working as Lead Animator on DETLEV. Since graduating, they worked as a set-builder and designer at Studio Soi in Ludwigsburg.

Arne Hain - Puppets, is a German Animation Director and Stop-Motion Artist known for his handcrafted, character-driven storytelling. A graduate of Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg's Animationsinstitut, Hain combines traditional and digital techniques, always tailoring the visual style to the project's tone. His diverse credits range from Phil Tippett's MAD GOD and STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER to commercials and award-winning shorts like THE LAST BAR.

Credits

Writer & Director	Ferdinand Ehrhardt
Producer	Saskia Stirn, Ferdinand Ehrhardt
Editor & Co-Writer	Andreas Bothe
Sound Supervisor (Lead Sound Design)	Manik Mollers
Music	Clemens Gutjahr
Directors of Photography	Sebastian Ganschow, Leoni Gora
Animation Lead	Gregor Wittich
Animation	Ferdinand Ehrhardt , Valeriia Diadiukh, Ilya Lorenz Barrett, Arne Hain, Mona Keil, Lydia Schuttengruber, Leo Neumann, Benjamin Wahl
Voice Acting	
Detlev	Peter Schneider
Narrator & Son	David Gordon Smith
Dirk	Konrad Wipp
Jan-Eric	Sebastian Ganschow
Storyboard	Elias Weinberger
Production Design	Celine Ahlbrecht
VFX Supervisor	Niklas Wolff
Pipeline TD	Paul Golter
Sound Design	Samuel Krupke
Re-Recording Mixer	Manik Mollers
Voice Recordings	Vincent Egerter, Perschya Chehrazi
Foley Artist	Elias Gurtler
Foley Edit & Mix	Jan Heitland
Sound Design Assistant	Robert Haag
Character Design	Julia Skala, Oscar Jacobson
Puppet Making	Arne Hain
Costumes	Elias Weinberger
LED Installation	Tom Tolle
Set Builders	Fiona Bock, Daniel Ullrich, Bjarne Schmerer, Oscar Jacobson, Emily Flade, Nils Schimitzek, Nadine Muller, Taddeus Ehrhardt, Amelie Kahlo, Valeriia Diadiukh, Chiara Poma Rinklef, Larissa Pfau, Lars Dubb, Saskia Stirn, Niklas Wolff, Ferdinand Erhardt
3D Modeling	Car Valeska Bruns
Design Hawaii Toast Box	Hazel Jankowski
Color Script	Julia Skala
Compositing	Ferdinand Ehrhardt, Caroline Keulertz, Leo Neumann
Color Grading	Jakob Sinsel
Title & Credits Design	Elia Kim Schick
Gore Operator	Vincent Maurer

Cast

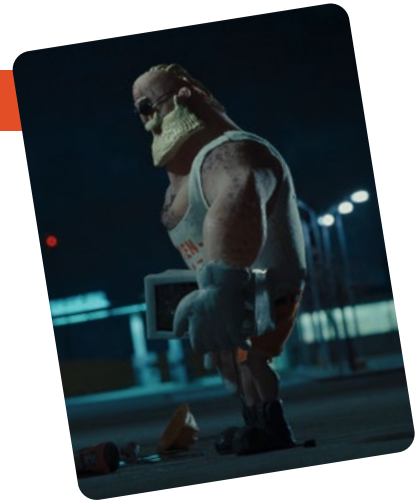
DETLEV

Age: 46
 Hair color: Brown
 Eye color: Blue
 Occupation: Street sweeper driver
 Hobbies: Brooding
 Favorite food: Toast Hawaii from the gas station
 Greatest fear: Going to therapy
 Life motto: "It's fine."



DIRK

Age: 56
 Hair color: Blonde
 Eye color: Blue
 Occupation: Construction worker
 Hobbies: Fitness
 Favorite food: Beer is his bread
 Greatest fear: Spiders... and secretly dying alone
 Life motto: "Have you ever tried asking for a hug?"



JAN-ERIC

Age: 15
 Hair color: Red
 Eye color: Blue
 Occupation: Student by day, (illegal) gas station attendant by night
 Hobbies: Doomscrolling while getting goosebumps by Steve Jablonsky Soundtracks
 Favorite food: Strawberry vape
 Greatest fear: His Reddit nickname getting leaked
 Life motto: "The usual?"



Fact Sheet

Original Title	DETLEV
International Title	DETLEV
Format	2:1
Sound	Stereo, 5.1, 7.1, DOLBY ATMOS
Process	Color
Resolution	2048x1024
Runtime	12:50 min
Country	Germany
Language	English
Subtitles	English, German, French and Spanish
Date of Completion	23.04.2024
World Premiere	01.10.2024
Technique	Stop-Motion, Puppet Animation
Software	Dragonframe, NukeX, DaVinci Resolve, Avid Media Composer, Premiere, After Effects
Genre	Drama
Funds	Caligari-Preis des Fördervereins der Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg
Graduation Film	2024 graduation film Animationsinstitut of Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg
Country of Production	Germany
FSK rating	12+

Interview with the Director

How did you come up with this story in the first place, and what fascinated you about it?

The origin was a text message from my father. He wrote: "Don't tell Mom, but I'm sitting here at the highway rest stop and crying." Immediately, the image formed in my mind of a man sitting far out at a rest stop – alone, vulnerable, and unable to talk about his feelings. At first, I thought I was telling a story about my father, maybe about many fathers of my friends. But as the work progressed, I realized: there's a little Detlev in me as well. That made the story very personal and at the same time a universal tale about loneliness and shame.

What makes this character so interesting in your opinion?

Detlev is a perpetually cold forty-something who believes everything is fine – even though nothing really is. He clings to little rituals, like his beloved Toast Hawaii, which supposedly gives him warmth. At the same time, he avoids any form of closeness. In contrast stands Dirk, a construction worker who outwardly embodies the opposite, but inwardly carries similar abysses. And then there's Jan-Eric, the jaded teenager, who works at the gas station and doesn't understand why this man shows up every night. These three characters reflect different ways of dealing with loneliness.

Can you tell us a bit about the creative process?

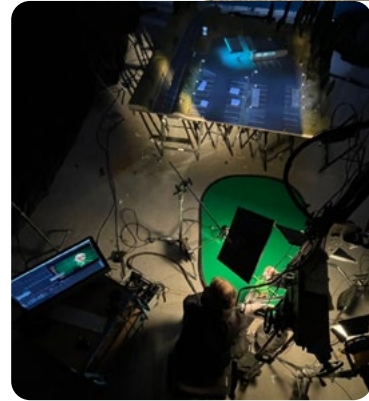
It was important to me that the puppets reveal their inner selves at first glance. Detlev's face is deliberately asymmetrical – as if he were ready to run away at any moment. The world of the film was meant to feel real, ugly, warm, cold, and at the same time slightly surreal. Works like *SWISS ARMY MAN*, *EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE*, *THE SHIVERING TRUTH* and Wes Anderson's *FANTASTIC MR. FOX* were a source of inspiration.

Please tell us about your team. How did you work together?

The core team consisted of students of Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg and its Animationsinstitut – over the course of production they became friends. You can feel their dedication in the finished film. During preproduction and set building, up to 40 people were working in parallel at times. I commuted daily between the editing room, the workshop, and puppet construction. During animation and postproduction, the team became smaller, but many team members working in core positions stayed on until the end. This collective energy is what made *DETLEV* possible in the first place.

How long did production take??

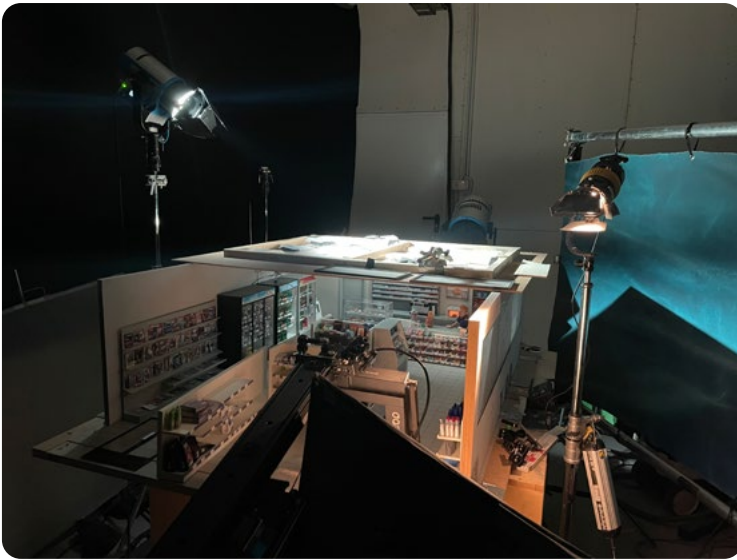
Three years passed from the first sketch to the internal premiere. The entire film was produced on campus in Ludwigsburg.



Interview with the Director

Which challenges did you face in the process?

After the set was completed, I spent many months almost alone in the studio. Stop-motion sets are sealed-off, dark places without daylight and without contact to the outside world. Ten months in this environment really took a toll on me. At some point, I realized that I myself had started to live like Detlev: isolated, taciturn, exhausted. That was a painful but important moment. I learned to take better care of myself and to plan future projects more collaboratively.



What does this film mean to you?

DETLEV is the first film that I directed on my own – and at the same time my largest project to date. For the first time, I feel that I've created a work I'll still be satisfied with long after its completion. That makes me very proud.

What is the core message of DETLEV?

Loneliness is one of the major issues of our time. Men in particular still struggle to talk about their inner wounds. I wanted to tell a story that shows how dangerous shame can be – and how healing connection is. Solidarity is all we have.

Can you tell us an anecdote from set?

During production we had a bitterly cold winter, and our first studio was badly insulated. We animated wrapped in blankets at just above freezing. The shivering puppet was moved by equally shivering fingers. Luckily, after a few weeks we were able to move to a warmer studio. I'll never forget that frosty "method animation" phase.

What's next for you?

I'm currently working in Leipzig with the studio The Hidden Institute on a new short film – my post-graduation debut. At the same time, I'm writing two feature-length screenplays. My dream is to one day realise my own feature film.



Press Review

Detlev – A Fragile Ritual in Stop Motion
October 14, 2025 – Stop Motion Magazine

The 13 Must-Watch Short Films at the 2025 SXSW Film Festival
March 05, 2025 – Directors Notes

German Short Film Awards 2025 presented in Hamburg for the fourth time
21.11.2025 – Blickpunkt:Film

Deutscher Kurzfilmpreis 2025 in Hamburg verliehen
20.11.2025 – Die Zeit

Sechs Werke mit Deutschem Kurzfilmpreis ausgezeichnet
21.11.2025 – Deutschlandfunk Kultur

Deutscher Kurzfilmpreis 2025 vergeben
21.11.2025 – Deutschlandfunk

Deutscher Kurzfilmpreis 2025 in Hamburg verliehen
20.11.2025 – ntv

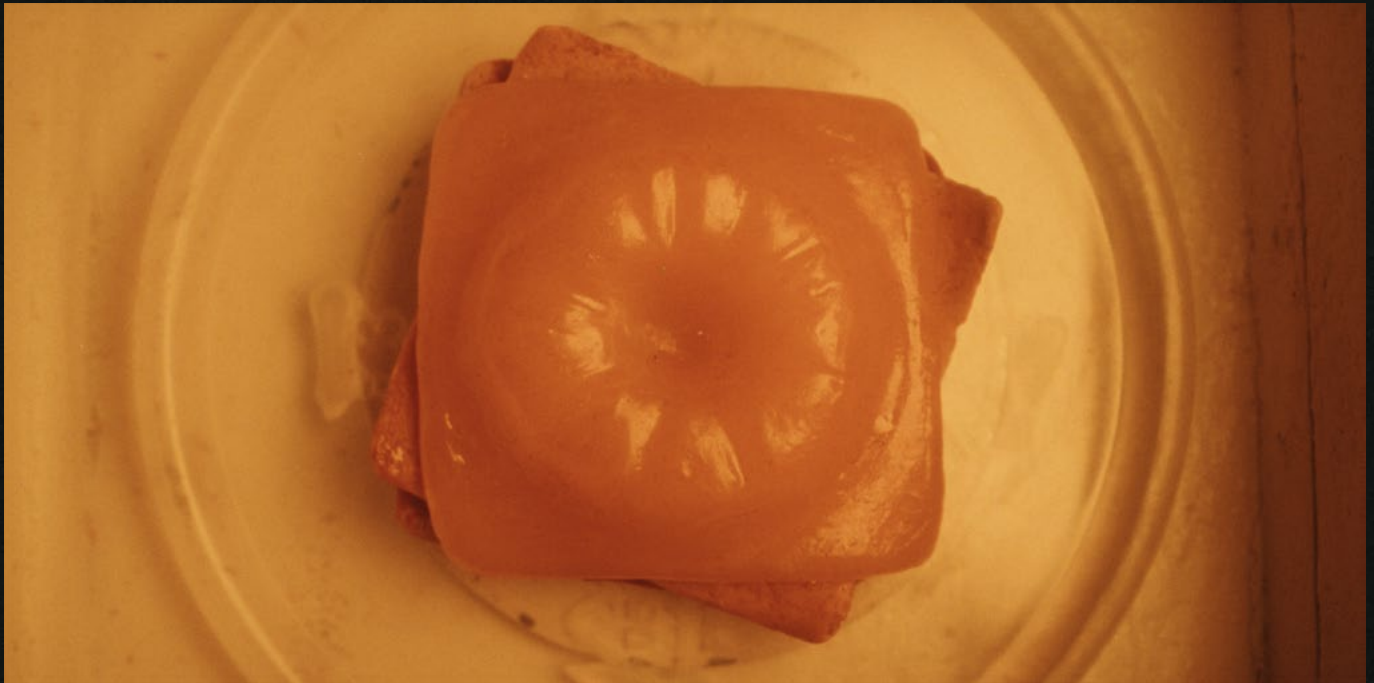
Deutsche Kurzfilmpreise 2025 zum vierten Mal in Hamburg verliehen
21.11.2025 – The Spot



HAWAII TOAST RECIPE

Ingredients:

- 1x slice of toast
(of course — the foundation of our culinary adventure)
- 1x slice of processed ham
(for emotional stability)
- 1x ring of pineapple
(for life's bittersweet touch)
- 1 cl tears of lonely animators
(optional, but absolutely essential for authenticity)



Preparation:

1. Stack everything on top of each other — mindfully, like the way you stack your feelings.
2. Into the microwave with grill function. Important: Do not put yourself inside as well. We know it's tempting, but no.
3. Wait. Admire. As the cheese slowly melts, so does the hard shell around your heart.
4. Share. Preferably with a friend. Or: hug someone. If no friend is around, gently press the toast to your face (Warning: we assume no liability for any injuries!).
5. Enjoy. Spoon by spoon — or bite by bite — savor the taste of togetherness, loss, and a hint of melancholy.

Pro Tip:

In DETLEV, Toast Hawaii isn't just food. It's a symbol. A piece of happiness nestled between layers of loneliness and cheese.

Official Selection & Awards

100+ Festivals, 25+ Awards,
For consideration 98th Academy Awards



Official Selection & Awards

2025

Piaff (Paris International Animation Festival)
SXSW (Austin, Texas)
Monstra (Lissabon, Portugal)
Cinequest (San Jose)
Kurzfilmwoche Regensburg
Filmfest Dresden
20minmax Filmfestival Ingolstadt
Annecy Graduation Comp.
BIFF (Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival)
Capital City Filmfest
Go Short (Nijmegen)
Psarokokalo Festival (Greece)
Neisse Film Festival
Cine Lebu (Chile)
Animatex Cairo
Acid'Anime (Paris)
FILMKUNSFEST MV (Kurzfilmnacht)
The Norwegian Short Film Festival (Grimstad)
Stop Motion Our Fest (Bueno Aires)
LINOLEUM Animation Festival (Kyiv)
Imaginaria - Animated Film Festival (Conversano)
FAB - Festival of Animation Berlin (GER)
Fantoche (Baden, CH)
Monstrale (Halle, DE)
Animix (Tel Aviv, ISR)
FLIPBOOK Film Festival (Student Competition) (Skopje, MKD)
Festival Internacional de Escuelas de Cine - Uruguay
Tirana International Short Film Festival (Tirana, ALB)
CIFI Calgary (Calgary, CAN)
Etuida & Anima International Film Festival (Krakow, POL)
BITBANG Animation Film Festival (Buenos Aires, ARG)
Festival Internacional De Animación AnimAura (Morelia, MEX)
SPASM (Montreal, CAN)
Leeds International Film Festival (Leeds, GB)
Denver Film Festival (Denver, USA)
Show me Shorts (NZ)
LFF Lublin Film Festival (Lublin, POL)
Festival Ciné Junior (Paris, FRA)
Filmz Mainz (Mainz, GER)

2024

Animage (Recife, BRA)
New Chitose Airport Filmfestival (Sapporo, Japan)
TIAF (Taichung, TWN)
Animanima (Čačak, Serbien)
Internationale Hofer Filmtage
Anima (Cordoba, Argentinien)
Flensburger Kurzfilmtage
London International Animation Festival
Filmfest Düsseldorf





Since its foundation in 1991, Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg has successfully established itself as one of the leading international film schools. To date, 8 Student Academy Awards® for FABW productions emphasise our high-quality standards.

Here, theory and practice merge, and creativity meets international perspectives – all embedded in a family atmosphere. Our wide range of study programmes covers almost every area of film and media production. We attach particular importance to communicating with our students on an equal footing.



The Animationsinstitut at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg is one of the world's leading educational institutions for Animation, VFX, Technical Directing, Animation/Effects Producing, and Interactive Media. The program uniquely combines artistic excellence and technological innovation, expressed in both filmic and interactive formats. The Research and Development department conducts projects with national and international partners, focusing on technical innovations for film and media productions. Studies are practice-oriented and project-based, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration across all Filmakademie departments and early professional networking. International guest lecturers teach at the institute, whose student projects win major awards such as the Student Oscars, VES Awards, and the German Computer Game Award. Many alumni work in leading studios or found start-ups. The institute also co-develops the programme for the FMX conference.







CONTACT INFORMATION

Press Theresa Seitz
[+49 7141 969 82 864](tel:+49714196982864)
theresa.seitz@filmakademie.de

Social Media Amelie Kant
[+49 7141 969 82 831](tel:+49714196982831)
amelie.kant@filmakademie.de

Director Ferdinand Ehrhardt
[+49 176 607 294 70](tel:+4917660729470)
ferdinandehrhardt.film@gmail.com
ferdi-ehrhardt@t-online.de

Producer Saskia Stirn
saskiastirn@gmail.com

Production Company / School Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg
Sigrid Gairing - Distribution
[+49 7141 969 82 856](tel:+49714196982856)
sigrid.gairing@filmakademie.de

Distribution Fabian&Fred
Fabian Driehorst
[+49 403 344 27 40](tel:+494033442740)
distribution@fabianfred.com