WESTERN
a film by Valeska Grisebach

2017 / 120 minutes / 1.85:1 / DCP / Dolby Digital 5.1
In German, Bulgarian and English with English subtitles

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Press Materials:
SYNOPSIS

An intense, slow-burning thriller, WESTERN follows a group of German construction workers installing a hydroelectric plant in remote rural Bulgaria. The foreign land awakens the men’s sense of adventure, but tensions mount when Meinhard, the strong, silent newcomer to the group, starts mixing with the local villagers. The two sides speak different languages and share a troubled history. Can they learn to trust each other—or is the stage being set for a showdown?

With sweeping cinematography and tightly modulated pacing, WESTERN tells a universal story of masculinity and xenophobia on the contemporary frontier of Eastern Europe. Drawing remarkably nuanced performances from a cast of non-professionals, Valeska Grisebach uses the trappings of the western genre to poke and prod at current anxieties about borders and our relationships with our neighbors.

CAST & CREW

Meinhard Neumann ......................... Meinhard
Reinhardt Wetrek ............................. Vincent
Syuleyman Alilov Lefitov ................... Adrian
Veneta Frangova ............................. Veneta
Vyara Borisova ............................... Vyara
Kevin Bashev ................................. Wanko

Written and Directed by Valeska Grisebach
Producers: Jonas Dornbach, Janine Jackowski, Maren Ade, Valeska Grisebach, Michel Merkt
Director of Photography: Bernhard Keller
Editor: Bettina Böhler
Casting: Katrin Vorderwülbecke, Yoana Ilieva
Production Design: Beatrice Shultz
Art Direction: Michael Randel
Costume Design: Veronika Albert
Produced by Komplizen Film
World Sales: Films Boutique
Distribution: Cinema Guild
DIRECTOR’S BIO

Valeska Grisebach’s directorial debut, BE MY STAR (2001), earned a FIPRESCI Prize special mention at the Toronto International Film Festival and won the Torino Film Festival’s main prize. Her second feature film, LONGING (2006), received many awards at international festivals, including the Special Jury Award in Buenos Aires, the Grand Prix of Asturias at the Gijón International Film Festival, and the Special Jury Award at the Warsaw International Film Festival. Her latest, WESTERN (2017), made its world premiere in the Un Certain Regard section of the 2017 Cannes Film Festival and has received awards from several international festivals.

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Official Selection - Cannes Film Festival, Un Certain Regard, 2017
Official Selection - Toronto International Film Festival, 2017
Official Selection - New York Film Festival, 2017
Winner – Best International Film Honorable Mention, Jerusalem Film Festival
Winner – Best Director, Art Film Fest Košice, Slovakia
Winner – Best Film, Motovun Film Festival, Croatia
Winner – FIPRESCI Prize, Motovun Film Festival, Croatia
Winner – Grand Prix, New Horizons International Film Festival, Poland
Winner – FIPRESCI Prize, New Horizons International Film Festival, Poland