

A Cinema Guild release



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:

[http://www.cinemaguild.com/theatrical/western\\_press.htm](http://www.cinemaguild.com/theatrical/western_press.htm)

## **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