

RIVAL

a film by MARCUS LENZ



RIVAL | HANFGARN & UFER in coproduction with WILDFILMS and BELKA STRELKA and ZDF/3sat | with YELIZAR NAZARENKO | UDO SAMEL | MARIA BRUNI | funded by THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER FOR CULTURE AND THE MEDIA and FILM UND MEDIENSTIFTUNG NRW und NORDMEDIA | Script LARS HUBRICH and MARCUS LENZ | Director of Photography FRANK AMANN | Editing HANSJÖRG WEISSBRICH and BERND EUSCHER | Art Director BEATRICE SCHULTZ | Original Sound OLEKSANDR SHATKOVSKIY | Composer CAROLINE SIEGERS and EVGUENI GALPERIN | Costume Designer STEFANIE JAUSS Soundmix DOMINIK AVENWEDDE | Assistant Director NATALIJA YEFIMKINA | Production Managers ANKE HARTWIG and ANASTASYA BURMENKO | Filming Equipment CHAUSSEE SOUNDVISION and MBF FILMTECHNIK | Postproduction BASIS BERLIN | Commissioning Editors INGRID GRÄNZ and MAIK PLATZEN | Coproducers Ukraine MARINA OREKHOVA and YURA BELIY Coproducers PATRICK WALDMANN and MARCUS LENZ | Produced by GUNTER HANFGARN and ANDREA UFER

PLUTO
FILM

HANFGARN & UFER
FILMPRODUKTION

wildfilms

ZDF

3sat

Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien

nordmedia

Film und Medien
Stiftung NRW

BelkaStrelka

CHAUSSEE
SOUNDVISION

MBF
FILMTECHNIK

EUROPEAN WORK
IN PROGRESS
COLOGNE

BASIS
BERLIN
POSTPRODUCTION

ekran+

CINEMATCH

RIVAL

a film by **Marcus Lenz**

Germany, 2020, 96 mins color, German + Ukrainian,
English subtitles

Producers

Gunter Hanfgarn
and Andrea Ufer

World Sales:

Pluto Film
Schliemanstrasse 5
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www.plutofilm.de
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Production Company:

HANFGARN & UFER
Apostel-Paulus-Str 6
10823 Berlin

+49 30 84 85 5000
info@hu-film.de

Web:

www.plutofilm.de/films/rival/0059

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/rivalefilm

Trailer:

www.vimeo.com/463431447

Original title:	RIVAL
Genre:	Drama
Country of production:	Germany
Year of production:	2020
Length:	96 min
Shooting format:	2K
Screening format:	DCP 2K (2048x858) (1:2,39; 5.1, un-encrypted)
Language:	German and Ukrainian
Subtitles:	English
Color or b/w:	Color
Technical Details:	24 fps and 25 fps (TV-Version) Sound 5.1; Aspect ratio: 1:2,39
Shooting dates:	18. July – 10. Aug 2018 (Germany) 17. Aug. – 13. Sept. (Ukraine)
Shooting locations	Braunschweig, Germany and surroundings Vorzel, Ukraine and surroundings
World Premiere:	Busan IFF, South Korea
Festivals	AFI Fest, USA Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Estonia Hofer Filmtage, Germany Braunschweig FF, Germany

LOGLINE

His mother belongs to him. Only to him.

SYNOPSIS

Hidden in a van, 9-year-old Roman crosses borders from Ukraine to Germany to be reunited with his mother Oksana. But he finds her not alone. She lives with a 62-year-old widower, working illegally as his caretaker. When Roman finds his mother in bed with the old man, he desperately struggles for her attention. Then, Oksana falls seriously ill, and mother and son are separated once more. Roman finds himself trapped in a remote place, cut off from civilization, and totally dependent on his rival.



FILM PHOTOS



CREDITS:

Cast:

ROMAN: Yelizar Nazarenko

GERT SCHWARZ: Udo Samel

OKSANA: Maria Bruni

Directed by: Marcus Lenz

Written by: Marcus Lenz, Lars Hubrich

Director of Photography: Frank Amann

Edited by: Hansjörg Weissbrich, Bernd Euscher

Production Designer: Beatrice Schultz

Sound Designer: Jonathan Ritzel

Sound Mixer: Dominik Avenwedde

Music: Caroline Siegers, Evgueni Galperine

Stills photographer: Mila Teshaieva

Commissioning editors: Ingrid Gränz and Maik Platzen (ZDF/3sat)

Associate Producers: Marina Orekhova, Yuriy Belyi

Coproducers: Marcus Lenz and Patrick Waldmann

Produced by : Gunter Hanfgarn, Andrea Ufer

Shooting equipment + vehicles: MBF Filmtechnik, Maik Sündram,
Marcel Hesselbarth
Chaussee Soundvision, Torben Seemann
25 p cine support GmbH, Roman Avianus,
Jonas Knudsen

Lenses: Celere, Lars Anderson, Steven Kisilevich,
Arndt Henning

Post-production: Basis Postproduktion Berlin

Associate Producer: BelkaStrelka, Kiev

Coproducer: Wildfilms, Düsseldorf

Production Company: HANFGARN & UFER, Berlin

Supported by: Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien
Film- und Medienstiftung NRW
Nordmedia



Marcus Lenz

29. Sept 1969 in Hattingen

Marcus Lenz grew up in the Ruhr area and studied directing and cinematography at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dfbb) under lecturers such as Bela Tarr, Wolfgang Becker, Slavomir Idziak, Michael Ballhaus and Mike Leigh. Since graduating he has been directing documentaries and feature films. His experiences in these different fields lead to a particular working style that combines the advantages of both. He was always fascinated in documentary work to experience the surprising, cliché-free stories that real life writes, while working in feature film offers the ability to dramatize these stories and consolidate them in an atmospheric way. Marcus film ideas are often born after encounters with real people out of which the screenplays' imaginary characters grow.

Grants, sponsorships and awards

2016	nominated for Grimme Award for “Kein Weg Zurück” (production)
2015	“1000 Ameisen” suggested for the German Screenplay Award
2014	Cinematch 25p grant for best feature film project
2013	MEDIA Program of the European Union. Selected for the Ekran program at the Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing, Warsaw
2010	“Tahiti Rose” suggested for the German Screenplay Award
2009	MEDIA Program of the European Union. Selected for the Ekran program at the Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing, Warsaw
2008	Sponsorship by the DEFA Foundation for “Salto Mortale für den Fünfjahresplan”
2005	New Berlin Film Award, Achtung Berlin, Best Film for “Close”
2004	FIRST STEPS AWARD: nominated for best feature-length film in the “New German Cinema” series at the Munich Film Festival; nominated Förderpreis Deutscher Film, “best Directing” category for “Close”
2001	Award for best camerawork for the feature film “Respirar” at the Festival Iberico de Cine in Badajoz

Director’s Filmography (Feature films and short films):

CLOSE (2004)	Feature film, <i>90 min</i> Sabotage Film + ZDF, Das kleine Fernsehspiel Filmfest München Shanghai Film Festival Karlovy Vary Fresh Film Festival Göteborg International Filmfestival St Petersburg Kinoforum Filmfestival Achtung Berlin
DEUTSCHE ANGST (2001)	<i>60min</i> Irrlicht-film + dffb
ALLES IST NIE (1998)	Short film, dffb
IMMER UND IMMER (1997)	Short film, dffb
KOPF (1995)	Short film

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The templates for my characters Roman, Schwarz and Oksana are real people whom I have personally encountered. During the shooting of a documentary, I spent a lot of time with a real “Roman”, from his first minute in Germany, his first conversation with “Schwarz” up to the day when he first attended a German primary school.

From the very beginning, I was fascinated by the powerful but hard-to-define dependencies between the characters in this love triangle. Questions rose in my mind: what prevents us from getting into contact with each other? And what does it do to us, when the fear to be isolated becomes reality?

We experience the world of RIVAL through the boy's eyes. Using a style that combines documentary-like observation and aesthetic accentuation, I wanted my audience to experience young Roman's perspective. How does a child perceive the world? What does he look at, and how does he see what's there? This way, we share a perspective that can forget the world surrounding it and enhance the real world with fantasies.

Shooting with a child requires a particular openness and flexibility, allowing room for spontaneous impulses in which the child actor's intuitions can blossom. Yelizar Nazarenko, our wonderful child-actor, never got to see the script. Nor did he know how the story would develop or end. I described particular situations to him and asked him to show me how he would feel and what he would do.

He enriched the film with his wild curiosity and his overflowing energy. There are no educated acting skills in the boy yet, and what he shows is so raw, honest and unfiltered, that I couldn't stop watching.

RIVAL tries to frame the intense interior view of a childlike soul that has lost its place in the world, but which grows tremendous strength. Roman will never lose faith that he will be able to live together with his mother, come what may.





Gunter Hanfgarn & Andrea Ufer (*producers*):

Up from the start we were intrigued by Marcus' story, set against the backdrop of two problems we see in a lot of western countries — the nursing crisis and poverty emigration. RIVALE tells the story of interdependence and illegality in none of the known ways. His escape hurls Roman, a nine-year-old Ukrainian boy, on a catapult into the foreign world of the German province. We see the world through his eyes, understand his rebellion and learn to like the enemy who is with him. The film offers surprising twists and turns, although the hope for an easy resolution is in vain. Marcus Lenz avoids clichés and delivers no black and white picture, but many shades of gray for existential terms such as love and jealousy, attachment and freedom, fear and care. A story like life, a story that resonates for a long time. The project wasn't easy to finance, but thanks to a devoted and creative bi-national team we managed to produce this extraordinary film.
