

DAVID WURAWA ANNE WIEDERHOLD JAKLIN SARKISYAN
ZORIK MOGHADAS KARI RAKKOLA ALEKSANDAR PETROVIC BRANKO SAMAROVSKI

A film by Jenny Gand

Schnee glockchen

SNOWDROP

PRESS MATERIAL

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SCHNEEGLÖCKCHEN (SNOWDROP)

A short film by Jenny Gand

Every year after snowmelt the bodies of refugees frozen to death are found at the external border of the European Union in the forests of Slovakia and Ukraine. They are called "Snowdrops".

AT 2013 | short film | 15min. | full HD (4K) | color | DCP | written & directed by: Jenny Gand | director of cinematography: Philipp Habenicht | edited by: Benedikt Rubey | music: Michael Dörfler | costume & production: Verena Schäffer

PREMIERE:

International Premiere: 21th jan. 2014 – Film Festival Max Ophüls Preis – short film competition

SYNOPSIS:

Snowdrop is a short film telling the story of a group of refugees trying to cross the EU border. It's about hope and dreams but also about real life tragedy. And eventually it's a film about the pursuit of happiness and it's power.

With the help of smugglers, a small group of refugees tries to cross the border between the Ukraine and Slovakia. Among the refugees is a 33-year-old man called Yassir from Somalia and Seda an Armenian woman with her 12-year-old daughter Armine. She attempts to flee to Austria, where her husband, Armine's father, is waiting for them. But the escape takes an unfortunate turn when Armine loses her talisman, a snowglobe...

DIRECTRESS' STATEMENT:

The picture in my mind of the so called "Snowdrops" made such a big impact on me and was so memorable, that it became the starting point for the film. I came across it some years ago when I did research on the phenomenon of sliding borders like the ones happening in the context of the EU-Eastern expansion. Growing up in eastern Berlin with a border next to myself, I do understand the need of people to leave their country and trying to start over. Nobody flees by choice and for most refugees it's the only hope for a life worth living. UNHCR reports about 42,5 billion refugees worldwide in 2011. Many of them being on the run already for several years. An important aspect for me to show was that these people have to accept dependencies because it's their only chance. Their situation forces them to trust the smugglers and the other refugees blindly on their "journey" into the unknown.

"Snowdrop" as a relatively small project still addresses a big social matter. The film wants to sensitize the viewers to the topic of fleeing and the traumas, experience of loss and fear that are caused by it. That's why we want to oppose a story, faces and life to these numbers that are so hard to comprehend. Because nobody is a refugee voluntarily, and most of the time it's the only chance to survive and start over.

MAIN CAST:

We are very happy to have **David Wurawa** on board for this project. In Autumn 2012 he played the part of an african priest in the very successful ORF-TV series „Braunschlag“ by David Schalko. „Braunschlag“ co-star and member of the ensemble of Viennas biggest theater (Burgtheater) **Branko Samarovski** is also part of the cast of „Snowdrop“. **Anne Wiederhold** (actress and manager of the „Brunnenpassage“- institute for cultural diversity in Vienna) is playing a main part in the film and next to her we are proud to have several members of Viennas armenian community in the cast: **Zork Moghadas** is director of the armenian theater-group and the now 14 year old **Jaklin Sarkisyan** is an amateur actress that has been casted by the armenian community.

DIRECTRESS:

Jenny Gand made her first feature length movie, together with the historian Lisa Retzl, with the touching documentary "Wild Mint" in 2009. "Snowdrop" is her fourth fiction short film and it will set path for the topic of her first feature film, which is currently in content development stage and which starts in the script development program "diverse stories" in april.

MUSIC:

Vienna based producer and sound-artist Michael Dörfler (tripbox) composed the music for this film, but he was also responsible for sounddesign and mixdown. This gave him the possibility to merge musical elements with noises and atmospheres to create a very unique soundtrack where the lines between sounddesign and music are blurred. Rather than putting itself in the spotlight, the music and the very detailed soundscapes are supporting the impact of the images and the cold and oppressive atmosphere of the film.

PRODUCTION & COSTUME DESIGN:

When creating production design and costumes the challenge was to find the right tone related to the story and not to fulfill common clichés. We wanted to show „normal people“, who are forced by external circumstances and find themselves suddenly in an extraordinary situation and who are probably not aware of the risks they take – like Armine and Seda. We did research in refugee centers in Vienna and shot partly on location – atmosphere and people we met in these places left their marks not only in our movie.

CAST:

David Wurawa | Anne Wiederhold | Jaklin Sarkisyan | Zorik Moghadas | Kari Rakkola
Aleksandar Petrovic | Branko Samarovski
INFO: Bio- and filmography of the actors you can find on our website, click [here](#).

PUBLIC FUNDING:

Future Fund of the Republic of Austria
Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture (BMUKK, section for educational material)

COOPERATION PARTNERS:

UNHCR // Flüchtlingsprojekt Ute Bock // Asyl in Not // Österreichisches Rotes Kreuz // Caritas // Diakonie Flüchtlingsdienst // ProjectXchange // Prosa // Concordia // Care // Lefö // Leeza // AÖF // Initiative Minderheiten // Volkshilfe

SPONSORS:

ERSTE Bank // 8cl Grafikstudio // Fluc // Original Vienna Snowglobes

CROWDFUNDING:

via Startnext - <http://www.startnext.de/en/schneegloeckchen>

LINKS: www.schneegloeckchen.at + www.facebook.com/Schneegloeckchen.Kurzfilm



FILMSTILLS:



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JENNY GAND

Director's Biography:

Jenny Gand is born in 1978 in (East-) Berlin. She completed her studies in German Literature, Philosophy and Art History in Cologne. She gained professional experience as an assistant at Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR), completed various internships and worked as an assistant in numerous film productions (such as ndf, Regina Ziegler Filmproduktion, UFA, Phoenix Film, Endemol) and in the theatre industry (Bochum Theatre, Ruhrtriennale). In 2006/07 she went to Vienna to work as an assistant director at the Burgtheater (productions with Andrea Breth and Tom Kühnel).



2008 developing new concept and project ideas like the short film "Das Telefonat" (engl. "The telephone call") as well as an exposé for a feature fiction movie that Jenny Gand's applies at Hamburg Media School (HMS) with. Although accepted she decides to instead enrol with Danube University Krems signing on a master course on film- & TV production. During this year 2008/09 she made her first feature-length documentary "Wilde Minze" (Wild Mint) together with the historian Lisa Rettl, which had its theatrical release in 2010 at the austrian cinemas and which is also released on DVD at the Falter Verlag in 2011.

In the years 2010-2013 Jenny Gand works on various projects, including a cross-media animation series for children, a storyboard for a feature film and an episode for a new TV documentary format for ServusTV. In the same time she completes several image films and music videos. "Snowdrop" is her fourth short movie and it will set path for the topic of her first feature film, which is currently in content development stage and which starts in the script development program "diverse stories" in april.

Jenny Gand is on the board of A|D|A (Austrian Directors' Association – visit www.ada-directors.com). She currently lives and works in Vienna.

JENNY GAND - Director's Filmography

Jenny Gand's first works include the short films "Der Geheimniskrämer" (engl. "The Mystery-monger" 2001), "De veritate" (2003) as well as the plays "gestern heute morgen" (engl. "yesterday today tomorrow", 2002) and "Wohnhaus Hoffnung" (engl. "The Apartement House of Hope", 2004), for which she took over the directing and writing herself. „Das Telefonat“ („The telephone call“, 2008) was the last short film she did before „Schneeglöckchen“ (engl. „Snowdrop“), and in 2009 she made her first feature length film, the documentary „Wilde Minze“ (Wild Mint). "Snowdrop" is her fourth short movie and it will set path for the topic of her first feature film, which is currently in content development stage.

For further information: www.jennygand.com and www.nachtfilm.com

INFO:

Bio- and filmography of the actors you can find on our website, click [here](#).

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