

HANDS OF A MOTHER

(orig. title: DIE HÄNDE MEINER MUTTER)



Drama, 106 min.

Germany, 2016

Written & directed by: Florian Eichinger

Producers: Mike Beilfuß, Florian Eichinger, Matthias Greving, Cord Lappe

Main cast: Andreas Döhler, Jessica Schwarz, Katrin Pollitt, Heiko Pinkowski

A Kinescope Film production in cooperation with Bergfilm in coproduction with ZDF Das Kleine Fernsehspiel

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Niedersachsen/Bremen mbH and Deutscher Filmförderfonds

SYNOPSIS

At a family gathering on a boat, 39-year-old engineer Markus remembers for the first time what his mother Renate did to him when he was a child. From then on, Markus and his wife Monika have to face an unthinkable truth, a violation, that a mother would seem incapable of.

BACKGROUND

HANDS OF A MOTHER is a family drama with unexpected gender roles.

The story that writer and director Florian Eichinger tells in HANDS OF A MOTHER is based on a series of extensive interviews with several people directly affected by child abuse committed by women. The script-writing process was supervised by two renowned psychologists.

According to the *German independent federal commissioner on questions of sexual child abuse*, in 80-90 percent of all cases, sexual abuse is perpetrated by men and male teenagers, in about 10-20 percent of the cases, the perpetrators are women and female teenagers.

So far, in Germany not a lot of research has been conducted about abusive women. However, it can be assumed that sexual abuse perpetrated by women is less frequently discovered because women are generally thought not to be capable of committing those kind of deeds.

DIRECTOR

Florian Eichinger started as a TV editor in the 1990s. After directing commercials and music videos, his theatrical feature films WITHOUT YOU I'M NOTHING (BERGFEST, 2008) and NORDSTRAND (2013) were invited to numerous international film festivals and won several national and international awards. Eichinger's films question gender stereotypes and aim to explore human complexity against the background of interpersonal conflicts. His new film HANDS OF A MOTHER (DIE HÄNDE MEINER MUTTER, 2016) is the final part of his trilogy about the interlacements of domestic violence.

