

GEBRUEDER BEETZ FILMPRODUKTION



# ERICH KAESTNER - THE OTHER FACE

A DOCUDRAMA BY GEBRUEDER BEETZ FILMPRODUKTION  
52 MIN, HD – NDR/ARTE, GERMANY 2016

---

ERICH KAESTNER IS ONE OF GERMANY'S MOST FAMOUS AUTHORS. WITH "EMIL AND THE DETECTIVES" HE REVOLUTIONISED CHILDREN'S LITERATURE. A LOT OF HIS CHILDREN'S BOOKS LIKE "THE FLYING CLASSROOM", "LOTTIE AND LISA" OR "ANNA LOUISE AND ANTON" ARE BESTSELLERS EVEN UP TO TODAY. IN OUR DOCUDRAMA WE SEE BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF THE POPULAR AUTHOR AND DISCOVER HOW MUCH FORTITUDE AND HUMAN WEAKNESS WERE FIGHTING IN HIM.

TV-PREMIERE ON ARTE:  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 2016 AT 4:50 PM

# CONTENT

## DOCUDRAMA ERICH KAESTNER - THE OTHER FACE

ABOUT THE DOCUDRAMA 03

AUTHOR & DIRECTOR ANNETTE BAUMEISTER 05

CAST & CREW 06



## ERICH KAESTNER - THE OTHER FACE

TV-PREMIERE ON ARTE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 2016 AT 4:50 PM

As children we practically devoured "The Flying Classroom," "Emil and the Detectives," and "Lottie and Lisa" – with a flashlight under the covers. Today we ask ourselves: Who was this man, Erich Kästner, who always smiled at us from the photograph on the book-jacket? What kind of person resides behind the cheerful, witty, and at times aggressive façade? What is the deal with "his doppelgänger" and the "other Erich" that he frequently talks and writes about?

At first appearance Erich Kästner seems to be a transparent person, easy to grasp: a clever sceptic, who's every spoken and written word can be taken with a grain of salt. A lyrical chronicler, who never wants to stop believing "that people could become better, if you entreat them, insult them, and laugh at them often enough." And an exceptionally gifted children's author who absorbs and records children's urban slang and haunts

like no other. His clear language and sober humour has whisked children and youths off into the world of literature – from the 1920s up to today.

The film delves into the world of a man living and writing on a razor-edge for decades. It is a surprising sight: even as a child he prevents his depressive mother from committing suicide.

A military instructor mistreats the recruit Kästner during World War I so severely that he suffers a lasting heart damage. In 1920s Berlin the author Kästner experiences a decade unleashed with debauchery, street fighting, and economic miseries. As the Nazis burn his books and poems, he watches anonymously on the Berlin Opernplatz, clenched fists in his coat pockets. Yet Erich Kästner remains in Hitler's new Germany, wants to be the eyewitness and write about it afterwards. It is a life on the brink.





## ERICH KAESTNER - THE OTHER FACE

TV-PREMIERE ON ARTE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 2016 AT 4:50 PM

While he serves the entertainment industry in the Third Reich, writing under a pseudonym and occasionally sitting at the same table with the devils, privately he writes drafts for his drawer. These are the alarmed personal interrogations of a man who feels that he is in the act of losing his integrity to the powers that be. "He was dead but lived on," writes Kästner about his doppelgänger in his "Blue Book". He realises quickly that he will not emerge from the mud of history with a clean slate. This is the shadow he will be forced to survive with.

In post-war Germany Erich Kästner does not write the novel about National Socialism. He cannot cope with it, the images from the concentration camps render him impotent and, at times, speechless. Instead he gathers material, newspaper cut-outs about doppelgängers. The consciousness that he hid himself in the Third Reich practically petrifies him. He resorts to alcohol and ensnarls himself in affairs with women.

In the 1960s he seems to realise that he may have remained in Nazi Germany, but did not write anything he should be ashamed about. He cannot get away from alcohol, but he rediscovers his words. He speaks out against rearmament, warning the people of the Federal Republic of Germany of the temptations of a totalitarian regime. The people listen to him, young and old. Instinctively his listeners recognise that this smiling man with his famous wink has gazed into the abyss at numerous times in his life. His readers sense it still today – the two sides and the historic faults in his biography, beneath the handy surface. This makes him one of the most interesting writers in the 20th century, and that is why still today children read his books under the covers in the light of a flashlight, and people cite his poems without knowing that the words are his.





## AUTHOR & DIRECTOR

ANNETTE BAUMEISTER

### BIOGRAPHY

After her A levels in 1992 Annette Baumeister studied Contemporary History, Economic and Social History and German Literary in Augsburg, Grenoble and Munich. During her studies she was working in French, American and German Archives. After working as an investigator for the ZDF end-of-year review "Hundert Jahre" she finished a practical TV-training at Story House Productions from 2000 to 2002. Since 2003 she works as a freelance author and director for national and international film productions. She loves humans and their history, has an unusual and fresh view on familiar topics and is enthusiastic about soccer and mountains. Together with her husband and her son she lives in Berlin and Los Angeles.

### FILMOGRAPHY

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2015 | Sinatra - The Voice of America. ARTE                              |
| 2015 | Emmy Göring. Die First Lady der Nazis. MDR                        |
| 2015 | Too young to die. Bruce Lee. ARTE                                 |
| 2015 | Der King und das Mädchen. Elvis & Priscilla. ARTE/ZDF             |
| 2014 | Elsa Brändström. Der Engel von Sibirien. MDR                      |
| 2014 | Die Kinder des 20. Juli 1944. ZDF                                 |
| 2014 | Too young to die. Natalie Wood - Die Macht der Prophezeiung. ARTE |





## CAST & CREW

### CAST

ERICH KÄSTNER	Matthias Bundschuh
LUISELOTTE ENDERLE	Lisa Wagner
IDA KÄSTNER	Henriette Schmidt
EMIL KÄSTNER	Tomas Spencer
CORNELIA BATTENBERG	Clelia Sarto
ERICH OHSER	Daniel Nerlich

### CREW

AUTHOR & DIRECTOR	Annette Baumeister
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Florian Schwombek
DOP	Johannes Straub
2ND DOP	Tom Bresinsky
DOP ASSISTANT	Max Rainer
SOUND EDITOR	Hagen Waechter
FILM EDITOR	Carsten Piefke

FILM EDITING ASSISTANT	Malte Haderer
COSTUME DESIGN	Stefanie Jauß
COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANTS	Carlotta Richter
ASSISTANTS	Gina Jauß
MAKE UP ARTIST	Melanie Krieg
2ND MAKE UP ARTIST	Maitie Zilius
GAFFER	Niko Mölter
BEST BOY	Hendrik Römer
COMPOSER	Nils Kacirek
VFX/CGI	Stefan Matlik
VOICE-OVER	Eike Wichmann
MIXING & SOUND DESIGN	Marina Behnke
SET DESIGN	Sascha Prangen
	Dennis Duis
	Daniel Nowak
	Sven Schmidt



## CAST & CREW

---

### EDITORIAL & PRODUCTION TEAM

---

CONSULTING	Prof. Dr. Sven Hanuschek
	Peter Beisler
IDEA	Grit Merten
ASSISTANT EDITOR	Juliane Pohl
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Melanie Clausen
	Stefanie Nowak
	Lilly Hartmann
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	Samuel Maasho
PRODUCER	Ira Beetz
	Onno Ehlers
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	Reinhardt Beetz
COMMISSIONING EDITOR	Ulrike Dotzer (NDR)
	Monika Schäfer (NDR/ARTE)
	Birgit Keller-Reddemann
	(WDR)