

CHRISTOPH  
BACH

WALTER  
SCHULTHEIB

INKA  
FRIEDRICH

ULRIKE  
FOLKERTS

# GLOBAL PLAYER



Ein Film von  
**HANNES STÖHR**

Produktion: SARAGE FILMS und STÖHR FILM in Kooperation mit ARD DEGETO, Bayerischer Rundfunk und ARTE  
GLOBALE PLAYER: ANITA KUKUNOK, KAREN VERDELAND, KRISTOPH SCHUBERTZ, HENRIETTE WILLEN, BEATRICE BRESNER, HARVEY FRIEDMAN, AVEL FISCHER, ANNELORE, DANIEL WITTE  
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# GLOBAL PLAYER

Dramatic comedy by **Hannes Stoehr**  
(Feature film, 95 minutes, color, Germany 2013)

The family-run company "Bogenschuetz & Sons" has produced solid textile machines in Hechingen, a small Swabian city in southern Germany, for generations. But nowadays demand is down since Asian competitors are cheaper. Michael Bogenschuetz (39, junior boss) is forced to negotiate on a sale with the Chinese behind his father's back. But father Paul (90, senior partner) finds out and tries to get help from Michael's sisters Marlies (45) and Marianne (49) to rescue his life's work ...

**GLOBAL PLAYER** tragicomically portraits a family, middle-class and entrepreneurial, in times of globalization.

After his sensational debut "Berlin is in Germany" (Panorama Audience Award, Berlinale 2001), after "One day in Europe" (in Berlinale Competition 2005) and his cult film "Berlin Calling" (2008, e.g. ARTE Audience Award), Hannes Stoehr has yet succeeded in another outstanding film:

**GLOBAL PLAYER** tells a humorous family-story and deals with the generational conflict and the clash of two cultures in a dramatically changing world. In Hannes Stoehr's typical realistic approach, the film highlights vital aspects of present and past. The story is at the same time regional and global.

**GLOBAL PLAYER** asks *the* crucial question about Europe's strongest economy: can Germany cope with China? David versus Goliath ...

"Bogenschuetz & Sons" is a fictitious company, but the story of the film is based on real paradigms. And like Shakespeare's 'King Lear' the patriarch Paul Bogenschuetz, 90 years of age and a WW II veteran, looks at his offspring wondering whether they are really prepared for the things to come. At the end of his life he has to offer an important advice: Nobody wants war!

The awesome German cast is lead by **Christoph Bach**, winner of the German TV Award for "Dutschke", who plays Michael Bogenschuetz. The grand Swabian actor **Walter Schultheiss** plays the role of his father Paul Bogenschuetz. **Inka Friedrich**, who became particularly well-known in cinemas by the film "Summer in Berlin", plays Marlies Bogenschuetz. **Ulrike Folkerts** (famous through "Tatort", Germany's best-known crime serial) acts as Marianne Bogenschuetz. **Hans-Jochen Wagner** plays the role of bank boss Wissmann. From the regional stage "Theater Lindenhof" from Burladingen-Melchingen in the Swabian province, there is **Stefan Hallmayer** (Matthias Bogenschuetz), **Uwe Zellmer** (textile manufacturer Beck) and **Berthold Biesinger** (crafter Kleinmann). **Monika Anna Wojtyllo**, **Rita Lengyel**, **JinJin Harder**, **Kevin Chen**, **Henriette Mueller**, **Harvey Friedman**, **Dominik Kuhn**, **Yu Fang**, **Zengquan Guo**, **Guohua Shi** and **Axel Fischer** play further important characters.



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sabotage films gmbh | kastanienallee 56 | 10119 berlin | telefon +49.30.440 30 89-0  
fax +49.30.440 30 89-9 | mail@sabotage-films.de | www.sabotage-films.de

## Detailed synopsis of the film "GLOBAL PLAYER":

The family-run business "**Bogenschuetz & Sons**" has produced solid textile machines in the Swabian city Hechingen for generations. But nowadays, demand is down and the employees have been on short-time work for months. The competition with the new global power China seems overwhelming. **Michael Bogenschuetz** (39), junior boss of the firm, has the water up the neck. The company loses money on every newly produced machine and the staff is getting increasingly worried. Michael tries to gain new orders, which is very difficult. The bank refuses new loans without receiving new securities. Michael already signed his house over to the bank without his family knowing. He lives off the salary of his wife, **Silke Bogenschuetz** (38) who works as a teacher. So, Michael is bound to enter into negotiations with Chinese investors in order to avert the impending insolvency behind the back of his father, **Paul Bogenschuetz** (90 and senior partner with the power of veto).

To celebrate the ninetieth birthday of the patriarch, Michael's sisters and co-shareholders come to pay a visit: the funky, "green" **Marlies** (45) with her 18 year-old daughter Salome from Cologne and the considerate **Marianne** (49) from Berlin. Paul is upset about his daughters not bringing their partners along. Except Michael, all children have lost touch with the rough-and-ready "old man" who is living in the industrialist's mansion by himself, backed up by his Polish housekeeper **Agnieschka** (30). The oldest brother **Matthias** (52), who lives in Thailand as dropout, did not come to visit at all. Later that evening, Michael lets his sisters in on the situation of the firm. Marlies and Marianne are shocked - they did not know the condition was that bad.

When the Chinese entrepreneur **Chong Wang** (35), together with his interpreter **Lin Ling** (27) and the **Chinese team of negotiators** arrive to take a look at the company's factory, Paul Bogenschuetz assumes that Michael wants to sell the firm to the Chinese competitors. Father and son, the latter who is considering the Chinese as potential partners, get into a heated debate - the Chinese are baffled.

The patriarch decides to disinherit his children. The family members are forced to sign over their houses – Paul wants to save the firm, his life's work, by using that new capital. Paul doesn't exclude himself by that and signs over his house to the bank, too. Together with his housekeeper Agnieschka, he travels to Cologne and Berlin to visit his daughters. Michael thinks this is a bad idea but regardless, he cannot hold his father back from leaving. While Paul travels through Germany, Michael tries to obtain a life-saving order for the company – without success.

On his travels, Paul learns new things about his children: His youngest daughter Marlies is not just the alternative single mother who he thought she was, but a modern entrepreneur and manager of several successful yoga centers. His oldest daughter Marianne, a translator of literature, never introduced her husband **Andrew**, 50, an American musician and Jew, to her father - for a good reason: Andrew never wanted to meet a German from Paul's generation. Now it comes to the serious debate.

Paul's initiative revives the family spirit. Marianne establishes an emotional connection to her father again. Marlies, who had not been taken serious for so long, contributes a good business idea at the right time and supports Michael in the negotiations with the Chinese. But the Chinese only have one goal: They want to buy "Bogenschuetz & Sons". They are not interested in cooperation ...





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## CAST

Michael Bogenschuetz	Christoph Bach
Paul Bogenschuetz	Walter Schultheiss
Marlies Bogenschuetz	Inka Friedrich
Marianne Bogenschuetz	Ulrike Folkerts
Matthias Bogenschuetz	Stefan Hallmayer
Agnieschka Gutek	Monika Anna Wojtyllo
Silke Bogenschuetz	Rita Lengyel
Interpreter Lin Ling	JinJin Harder
Chong Wang	Kevin Chen
Mr Wu	Yu Fang
Mr Zong Chang	Guohua Shi
Mr Li	Zengquan Guo
Bank boss	Hans-Jochen Wagner
Secretary Ms Schulz	Henriette Mueller
Crafter Kleinmann	Berthold Biesinger
Andrew Tannenbaum	Harvey Friedman
Crafter Fischer	Axel Fischer
Textile manufacturer Beck	Uwe Zellmer
Used car dealer	Dominik Kuhn

et al.

**CREW**

Cinematography	Andreas Doub
Editing	Simone Klier
Casting	Karen Wendland
Costume design	Sabine Greunig
Production design	Barbara Falkner, Adán Hernández S.
Music	Florian Appl feat. Paul & Fritz Kalkbrenner
Make-up	Nadine Scherer, Christina Baier
2nd unit	Max Penzel
Light	Stefan Bodenhaupt
Grip	Holger Frey
Original sound	Patrick Veigel
Sound design	Martin Fruehmorgen
Re-recording mixer	Robby Jaeger
Assistant director	Tanja Daeberitz
Production accountant	Janina Bukowski
Production manager	Franziska Jahnke, Jianwei Han
Line producer	Karsten Aurich
Dramatic adviser	Annedore v. Donop
Commissioning editors	Claudia Graessel, Hubert von Spreti, Andreas Schreitmueller, Jochen Koelsch, Monika Lobkowicz
Producers	Karsten Aurich, Annedore v. Donop, Hannes Stoehr
Written and directed	Hannes Stoehr
Production	sabotage films GmbH with Stoehrfilm GmbH in co-production with ARD Degeto, Bayerischer Rundfunk, ARTE

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*Production Report featured in  
German Films Quarterly 01/2013*

*Director Hannes Stoehr, whose previous films include BERLIN CALLING and ONE DAY IN EUROPE, rediscovered his native roots in Baden-Württemberg and traveled to Shanghai for his latest film GLOBAL PLAYER.*

*"After being 20 years away from my home town, it was a real eye-opener to see how tough the people are and that globalization is taking place in the provinces and not only in the big cities," he remarks.*

*While the film's action is inspired by real-life events he has observed in his home town over recent years, the family textile company of Bogenschütz & Söhne is fictional, but he has achieved an authenticity to the setting by casting actors originating from the south-west corner of Germany – such as the veteran actor Walter Schultheiss as the 90-year-old patriarch, his son Michael, played by Christoph Bach, who is trying to negotiate a deal with the Chinese behind his father's back to save the company, and one of the two daughters played by Inka Friedrich who are recruited by their father to stop the son's plans – as well as local professionals from the Theater Lindenhof, and 'real' people as the factory workforce.*

*"That's something I have always liked about Hannes' films and this stylistic approach runs through them all," says producer Annedore von Donop about the casting. "It is a refreshing mixture, and the authenticity of the real people – with their unforgettable faces – can be really surprising."*

*"In many respects, the film's action is similar to Shakespeare's King Lear and it is a very universal story," Stoehr adds, while von Donop points out that the film also addresses the question of one generation handing over to another and the conflicts and confrontations flaring up within a family.*

*As producer Karsten Aurich notes, shooting in China might seem a daunting proposition, but they were lucky to find a local service producer in Shanghai who not only knew the right locations, but had studied in Berlin and so spoke fluent German.*

*Martin Blaney, German Films Quarterly*

#### **HANNES STOEHR about the music in his film:**

"The film GLOBAL PLAYER draws strength from its contrasts: The past of 90-year-old Paul Bogenschuetz versus the present in which Michael Bogenschütz and his siblings live; the small town Hechingen versus the metropolis Shanghai. We found it musically appealing to mix classical with electronic music let these contrasts communicate with each other and merge.

Florian Appl already composed the music for "Berlin is in Germany" (2001), for my crime serial film, WDR-Tatort "Odin's Revenge" (2003) and for "One Day in Europe" (2005). Then came "Berlin Calling" (2008), a feature film with Paul Kalkbrenner and his music. His brother Fritz Kalkbrenner sung the theme song "Sky and Sand". Now, in my new film, there was the possibility of a collaboration between Florian Appl and the Kalkbrenner brothers."

(Soundtrack available at **Suol**)

## PRESS COMMENTS

**"Successful mix between satire and drama."**

Blickpunkt:Film, tk

**"Hannes Stoehr has made a funny and intelligent film about his South German homeland in the process of globalisation."**

Tip Berlin, Christina Moles Kaupp

**"A film that takes the most creative skills of Hollywood to Swabia (area in South Germany) – the liaison between the lust to think and the lust to laugh."**

Stuttgarter Zeitung, Thomas Klingemaier

**"'Global Player' – iridescent between drama and silent comedy – is, in the best sense of the meaning, a homeland film, but without any folkloristic kitsch. (...) 'Global Player' parallels all questions of globalisation a story of a family with a rich tradition that has become alien to each other. The crisis pulls everybody closer together again."**

dpa

**"Serious. Profound. Funny. Convincing. Tremendously filmed. Terrifically narrated."**

Schwarzwaelder Bote, Klaus Stopper

**"A warm-hearted comedy with tragic elements. Cinema with heart and brain!"**

Gong, F. Roemer

**"The director and screenwriter Hannes Stoehr and the actors intertwine graveness with drollness, ethnological curiosity with patriotism, the joy to entertain with the seriousness of a portrait about a crisis."**

Stuttgarter Zeitung, Thomas Klingemaier

**"(...) a portrait of today, composed with sensitive humour."**

Stuttgarter Nachrichten, Thomas Morawitzky

**"A well narrated , impressively photographed and convincingly acted tragicomedy of the entertaining kind."**

Programmkino.de, Dieter Osswald

**"Christoph Bach is outstanding (...) a contemporary entrepreneurial drama."**

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Hans-Joerg Rother

**"Director Hannes Stoehr has managed to balance sincerity and humour. This is not just due to the good script but also to the wonderful actors – most of all Walter Schultheiss as senior boss. The story is about Europe versus Asia, young against old – or: Europe together with Asia and elders together with younger generations. How an imminent bankruptcy tears a family apart and binds them back together, as well as the clever solution unwinding the end is worth a trip to the movies."**

Blitz, Carola Kinzel

**"Christoph Bach, Freiburg-born Inka Friedrich and Ulrike Folkerts as Bogenschuetz's children are very convincing. You can only admire JinJin Harder for her genius pokerface while translating as well as her nearly accent-free German."**

Badische Zeitung, Heidi Ossenbergl

**"At 89 years of age, Walter Schultheiss is the star and real discovery of the film Global Player (...) – in the key scene Schultheiss performs just brilliantly (...)."**

Zeit Magazin, Jana Simon

**"This is tragicomic as well as entertaining, as Hannes Stoehr along with Andreas Dresen is the only German director who currently creates everyday life stories while underlining them lovingly with humour. After his great audience success of 'Berlin is in Germany' and 'Berlin Calling' – which was in cinemas for over a year and has become a cult film –, Hannes Stoehr has made a province and family drama, a clever and entertaining comment on globalisation far away from the big metropolises."**

Deutschlandradio Kultur, Joerg Taszman

**"Very close to reality and one of the very rare proves that economics can be exciting and entertaining."**

Manager Magazin, Wolfgang Hirn



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**"A story enriched with silent humour that keeps being interesting all the way (...).  
A substantially brilliant and highly topical family film."**

Zitty, Martin Schwarz

**"A well researched , very fine film."**

Handelsblatt, Anja Mueller

**"That everyone is talking about 'Global Player' (...) is due to three actors along many others:  
Stefan Hallmayer, Berthold Biesinger and Uwe Zellmer from the Melchinger Lindenhof  
Theatre."**

Suedwestpresse, Hardy Kromer

**"Other countries celebrate military achievements on their national holidays whereas the  
founding myth of modern Germany is the economic miracle, and Walter Schultheiss as the  
family's patriarch Paul Bogenschuetz (...) personifies this in an enchanting and touching way."**

Schwarzwaelder Bote, Klaus Stopper

**"From the hip metropolitan scene to the rural countryside: After his celebrated Berlin trilogy  
( 'Berlin is in Germany', 'One day in Europe', 'Berlin Calling'), Hannes Stoehr returned to his  
home Baden-Wuerttemberg to make his highly topical film 'Global Player'."**

dpa, Focus.de, Stern.de

**"To sum it up: Sympathetic mixture of economic drama and patriotic homeland comedy with  
outstanding actors that screens exactly the right mix between tragic and merriment."**

www.spielofilm.de, Bjoern Schneider

**"Exquisitly photographed (...) a fine film."**

Muenchner Merkur, kat

**"The comedy (...) uses the dialect as a catalyst for an authentic and thoughtful perspective  
of globalisation as a burden and as a chance."**

Abendzeitung Muenchen, Teresa Gross

**"A lot of Swabian is spoken in the film and a lot of Maultaschen (South German delicacy) are  
served, yet the film is not a schmaltzy patriotic one. It is not a film by a Swabian for Swabians.  
The Swabian Alb is everywhere – in East Westphalia and Central Hesse, in Upper Bavaria and  
Lower Saxony. Wherever German middleclass meets global competition, this story will be  
repeated as shown or likewise."**

Manager Magazin, Wolfgang Hirn

**"A complex film, a drama with lots of humour, understandable for non-Swabians, too.  
Christoph Bach convincingly performs as the torn junior boss and Walter Schultheiss (...)  
embodies his role of the senior boss with great grandeur."**

Die Welt, Hans-Georg Rodek





## Biography HANNES STOEHR:

**Hannes Stoehr**, born in 1970 in Stuttgart/Germany; high school graduation in Hechingen/Germany; community service at Lebenshilfe Zollernalb; European Law Studies (Spanish & English) in Passau/Germany (pre-degree); Erasmus scholarship in Santiago de Compostela; 1995-1999 Screenplay and Director Studies at German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dffb); several work stays in Spain, England, U.S.A., Central & South America; since 2005 also guest lecturer (screenwriting & directing) at Film Academy Baden-Württemberg and at German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dffb); 2006 screenwriting scholarship at Villa Aurora, Los Angeles; lives in Berlin.

### Filmography (selection):

www.stoehrfilm.eu

#### **BERLIN IS IN GERMANY (2001), feature film, 35 mm, 95 min, written & directed**

Berlin International Film Festival 2001: Panorama Audience Award  
 FilmKunstFest Schwerin 2001: Audience Award  
 Festival International de Cinema Jove, Valencia 2001: Luna de Plata  
 Studio Hamburg "Nachwuchspreis" 2001: \* 1st prize Hannes Stoehr  
 Deutscher Kritikerpreis 2002: Best Film  
 Preis der deutschen Filmkritik 2001: Best Actor – Leading Role (Joerg Schuettauf)  
 Festival du Premier Film Annonay 2002: Prix Spécial du Jury  
 Festival Henri Langlois, Poitiers 2002: Prix Spécial du Jury  
 New Faces Award 2002: Best Director (Hannes Stoehr)  
 Rolf-Hans Mueller Preis für Filmmusik 2001: Best Music (Florian Appl)  
 Film festivals (selection): Berlin 2001, Panorama; Moscow 2001; Jerusalem 2001;  
 The Museum of Modern Art, New York 2001; Los Angeles 2001 (AFI); Istanbul 2002;  
 Leeds 2002; New Delhi 2002; Singapore 2002; Hong Kong 2002  
 Distribution: D (Piffi), ES (Sherlock), FR (K Films), TURKEY (Belge Films), GB (Peccadillo) et al.

#### **ODIN'S REVENGE (2003), WDR Tatort Cologne, 90 min, written & directed**

Nominated for CIVIS Media Prize for Integration 2004: European CIVIS Television Prize Entertainment & German CIVIS Television Prize Entertainment

#### **ONE DAY IN EUROPE (2005), feature film, 35 mm, 100 min, written & directed**

Berlin International Film Festival Competition 2005  
 Official Pre-selection German Film Awards 2005: Best Screenplay (Hannes Stoehr),  
 Best Actor – Supporting Role (Miguel de Lira & Luidmila Svetkova)  
 Film festivals (selection): Berlin 2005 (Competition); Istanbul 2005; Warsaw 2005;  
 Shanghai 2005; Brussels 2005; Vancouver 2005; Busan 2005; Hamptons 2005;  
 São Paulo 2005; Seville 2005; Hawaii 2005; Damascus 2005  
 Distribution: D (Piffi), ESP (Notro), RUS (Rusfilm), GREAT BRITAIN (Peccadillo), JAPAN, POLAND (Gutek) et al.

#### **BERLIN CALLING (2008), feature film, 35 mm, 105 min, written & directed**

Official Pre-selection German Film Award 2008: Best Film, Best Editing (Anne Fabini),  
 Best Screenplay (Hannes Stoehr), Best Music (Paul Kalkbrenner)  
 FBW Wiesbaden, September 2009: Best DVD  
 ARTE FilmFestival 2010: ARTE Audience Award  
 Film festivals (selection): Locarno 2008, Piazza Grande; Hamburg 2008;  
 Warsaw 2008; Leeds 2008; Gijón 2008; Angers 2009; Miami 2009; Austin-SXSW 2009;  
 Istanbul IF 2009; Budapest 2009; Copenhagen 2009; Santiago de Chile 2009  
 Distribution: D (Movienet), ESP (Karma), ITALY (Ubu), UNGARN (Best Hollyw.), POLAND (Solopan),  
 ARGENTINA (Eclectique), AUSTRIA (Polyfilm) et al.

#### **FORTY EIGHTERS (2009)**

Western, 120 min, screenplay

#### **PAUL KALKBRENNER 2010 – A LIVE DOCUMENTARY (2010)**

Documentary, 2 Disc DVD Release, 120 min, storyliner & dramatic advisor

#### **MY HUNGARY IN BERLIN (2011)**

Documentary, 90 Min, directed by Rita Lengyel, producer

#### **HOPPER VU PAR... (2012)**

TV series for ARTE France, Alexa, written & directed



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