

# HOTEL ASTORIA

AN ANIMATED DOCUMENTARY  
BY ALINA CYRANEK & FALK SCHUSTER

## PRESSKIT

**DOX** Leipzig  
Audience  
Competition  
Golden Section  
Short 2020



Regim:  
Bandel:  
Archiv-Nr.:  
Rand-Nr.:  
Gütersloher



[WWW.HOTEL-ASTORIA.ORG](http://WWW.HOTEL-ASTORIA.ORG)

Eine hug films Produktion in Zusammenarbeit mit MDR • Layout & Animation Falk Schuster Alexander Schmidt Tim Romanowsky • Compositing Julian Quitsch  
Sounddesign, Musik & Tonmischung Florian Marquardt • Produzenten Alina Cyranek & Falk Schuster • Buch: Alina Cyranek • Regie Alina Cyranek & Falk Schuster 2020



Mitteldeutsche  
Medienförderung

KUNSTSTIFTUNG  
SACHSEN-ANHALT



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien





## HOTEL ASTORIA

### SHORT SYNOPSIS

**Leipzig, 1996.** The receptionist shows the White Suite at the Hotel Astoria. She says she still has hope that a guardian angel will save the Astoria. But seven years after the fall of the Wall, the curtain also falls on the legendary hotel.

Political change of the late 1980s was also felt at the Astoria. Memories of this exclusive place are brought to life through a mixture of archive material and animation. We learn about the hard work in hospitality and the absurdities of everyday life in the GDR, about turtle soup in a country that was known for an economy of scarcity, and about the hotel bar where prostitutes, tourists, and Stasi agents had their drinks.

These contradictions are also reflected in the statements of the staff and guests. Some recall a culture of fear, while others describe it as the best time of their lives. The film shows that different historical experiences can coexist - that's where you find the grey areas between propaganda and reality. **Because truth is a matter of opinion.**



Hotel Astoria  
Animated Documentary  
2K, Color, 28 min  
Germany, 2020  
DCP with EN subs



# HOTEL ASTORIA TEAM

## **Directed by**

Alina Cyranek & Falk Schuster

## **Idea & Script**

Alina Cyranek

## **Script Consulting**

Claudia Nagel

## **Layout and Animation**

Falk Schuster

## **Alexander Schmidt**

Tim Romanowsky

## **Compositing**

Julian Quitsch

## **Sounddesign, Music and Re-Recording**

Florian Marquardt

## **Production**

hug films – Alina Cyranek, Falk Schuster

## **Co-Produktion**

MDR – Thomas Beyer, Ulrich Brochhagen

## **Funded by**

Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung

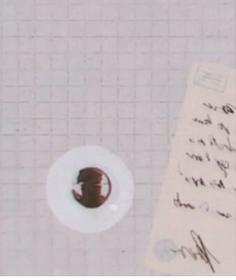
Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien

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Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen

Thüringer Staatskanzlei



## HOTEL ASTORIA

# BIOGRAPHY ALINA CYRANEK & FALK SCHUSTER



**Alina Cyranek** completed a double master's degree in media art at Bauhaus University Weimar and Tongji University Shanghai and works as a director and producer in Leipzig. Themes such as transience and memory frequently appear in her work. For the realization she uses different media formats and elements, for which she has received a number of awards. Alina is a member of the Filmverband Sachsen, where she also serves on the board. Since 2019, she has been a jury member at the German Film and Media Evaluation Board (FBW) in Wiesbaden.

**Falk Schuster** studied design at the Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle and founded the animation studio animated stories. His works often play with and combine different animation techniques. His range of work includes free animation films, mixed media films as well as commissioned productions. His productions have won a variety of awards. Since 2014, Falk Schuster has held teaching positions at the Kunsthochschule Halle and the HFF Munich. He lives and works in Halle (Saale).

**hug films** was founded by the two in July 2018 and is dedicated to the development and production of high-quality, content-rich and innovative documentaries and animated films in various forms and formats. In doing so, they want to stimulate and help shape social discourse across generations. The basis and starting point of their joint work is the belief in the inexhaustible wealth of stories from life, the power of images and sounds as well as the desire to observe details and convey them in film.

[www.hug-films.com](http://www.hug-films.com)



# HOTEL ASTORIA

## FILMOGRAPHY ALINA CYRANEK

**2019 – The Party Manual** – Writer, Director, Editor

Found Footage, HD, s/w | Color, 5 min

i.a. Filmfestival Münster, Filmfest Weiterstadt, Filmfest Dresden, Séquence Short Film Festival Toulouse, ISFF Detmold, Grenzland-Filmtage Selb, Internationale Kurzfilmwoche Regensburg

**2018 – I love my carL** – Writer, Director, Ink & Paint

2D Animation, HD, s/w, 6 min

Funded by MDM, Thüringer Staatskanzlei, DIAF, Crowdfunding platform Startnext

i.a. Filmfest Dresden, Guanajuato International Film Festival, Filmfest Weiterstadt, MONSTRA

Lissabon, Chicago International Children's Film Festival, Cinemira Budapest International Children's Film Festival

**2016 – Ein Haufen Liebe** – Producer, Writer, Director, DoP, Sound

Documentary, HD, Color, 91 min, Germany

Funded by Kulturamt Tübingen, Crowdfunding platform VisionBakery

**2014 – Fading** – Producer, Writer, Director, DoP, Editor

Experimental, 16 mm, Color, 4 min, Germany

Funded by U.S. Consulate General, Crowdfunding platform VisionBakery

i.a. Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival, Erarta Motion Pictures Festival St. Petersburg, Filmfest Dresden, backup festival Weimar, South Texas Underground Film Festival

**2014 – Szenen eines Abschieds** – Producer, Writer, Director, DoP, Editor

Documentary, HD, Color, 22 min, Germany

i.a. Filmfest Dresden, Halbtotale Münster, Kurzsüchtig Leipzig, FerFilm Festival, Qabila Feilm Festival Cairo

Jury Award Best Documentary at Bamberger Kurzfilmtage

Jury Award Best Documentary at FerFilm Festival, Kosovo

Audience Award Best in Show at Chicago Feminist Film Festival

Jury Award Best Short Documentary at Women Over 50 Festival, UK

**2012 – fractured** – Producer, Writer, Director

Experimental, Super 8, s/w, 4 min, China

i.a. Regensburger Kurzfilmwoche, FILMZ Mainz, Open Cinema St. Petersburg, Filmfest Dresden Jury and Audience Award at Filmforum Selbstgedrehtes in Halle/Saale



## HOTEL ASTORIA FILMOGRAPHY FALK SCHUSTER

**2018 „Daughter“** – Producer, Writer, Director  
Animadok, HD, Color, 8 min, Germany  
- Prädikat Besonders wertvoll

**2015 „wider horizons“** – Co-producer, Writer, Director  
Animadok, HD, Color, 29 min, Germany  
- 2016 Förderpreis des Landes Sachsen auf dem Int. Kurzfilmfestival Dresden  
- 2016 „Kurzsüchtig“ Filmfestival Leipzig „Publikumspreis“  
- 2017 Goldener Reiter auf den Bamberger Kurzfilmtagen

**2013 „A racers sketchbook“** – Producer, Writer, Director  
Animation HD, s/w , 4 min, Germany  
- 2013 „Int. Trickfilmfestival Stuttgart“ (ITFS), Animated Com Award

**2011 „Out on a limb“** – Producer, Writer, Director  
Animation HD, s/w , 5 min, Germany  
- 2011 ausgezeichnet als Bester dt. Animationsfilm auf dem „DOK Leipzig“  
- 2011 Bester Animationsfilm auf dem „Shanghai International Filmfestival“  
- 2011 Special Jury Award auf dem „CICDAF“ China

**2009 „Laufende Geschäfte“** – Producer, Writer, Director  
Animation HD, Color , 9 min, Germany  
- 2009 „Flensburger Kurzfilmfestival“ Bester Animationsfilm  
- 2010 „Kurzsüchtig“ Filmfestival Leipzig „Publikumspreis“  
- 2010 Aufführung beim Trickfilmfestival in Annecy  
- 2010 Bester Mitteldeutscher Animationsfilm „MDR UNICATO Award“  
- 2010 Bester Nachwuchsfilm auf dem 20min/max in Ingolstadt



## HOTEL ASTORIA CONTACT

### **hug films GbR**

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