

JOSEPH HADER KRISTINA KLEBE ROBERT STADLOBER DEVID STRIESOW ROELAND WIESNEKKER



AXEL PRAHL

# KAFKA'S THE BURROW

A FILM BY JOCHEN ALEXANDER FREYDANK



19th **BUSAN**  
International Film Festival  
2-11 October, 2014



30<sup>th</sup> **WARSAW**  
FILM FESTIVAL  
10-19 OCTOBER 2014



# KAFKA'S THE BURROW

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

„Anything might happen!“ Franz Kafka (The Burrow)

KAFKA'S THE BURROW is based on the unfinished novel of the same name by Franz Kafka, which has never previously been adapted for film. It tells the story of a man in his prime who, having seemingly achieved everything, has entrenched himself in his burrow, a fortress-like apartment complex. But no matter how hard he tries to ignore it, there it is: the world outside.

Surveillance cameras should ensure his safety and security, but the nightmare outside can't be stopped: They know he is there, they want him, they want his wealth... and they are on their way.

Kafka's THE BURROW is a film about isolation and dissociation, fear and loneliness in our time.





# KAFKA'S THE BURROW

## SYNOPSIS

When surveillance creates a nightmare ...

Franz is in his late forties. He has achieved something, has fulfilled his dreams, and now he lives with his family in his condominium. Well situated, in a good area. A place of rest and respite, of solitude and safety, and Franz is proud of it. His home is his burrow.

What he doesn't realize: he is not alone in his burrow – someone else is also there. Still unnoticed by Franz. Quite near him. The threat is real. A noise startles Franz. He tries to ignore it, hoping it just can't be there, but with each passing moment he feels more and more that he is not alone.

At first, Franz leaves his home every day. He goes to town. To do his job. He almost feels more liberated outside than in the seclusion of his home. Soon, however, the fear for his burrow drives him to return. But he does not enter the building. He watches the entrance from the outside. Could it actually be safer outside? Only out there can he comprehend the potential sources of danger.

For a very long time he remains outside. And is mugged.

Franz loses his job. His family disappears.

Totally exhausted, he finally returns to his home.

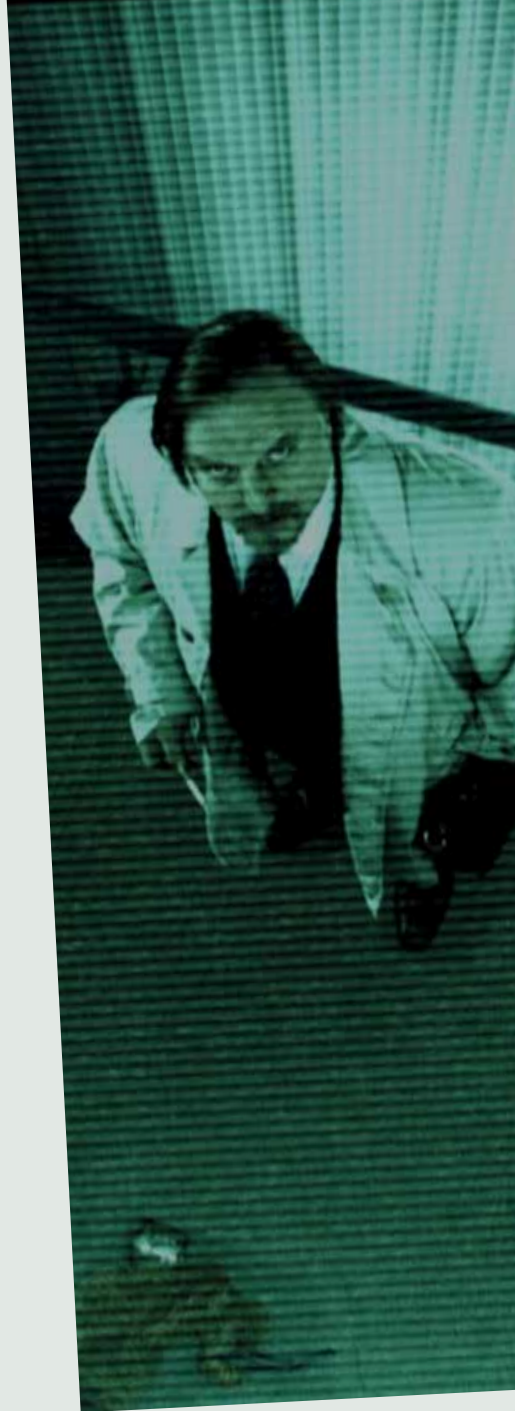
Surveillance should make him feel safe but it turns out to be a big nightmare.

Someone else is in his burrow. Franz wants to defend himself, wants to find the noise, the intruder. Franz changes, becomes harder, wants to defend himself. In his battle against the threat, Franz starts, imperceptibly at first but then more and more conspicuously, to destroy all that which is dearest to him. But he cannot find the intruder.

Finally, the chase is on – but the hunter becomes the hunted. Franz takes refuge in the depths of the building. In his anxiety, he destroys water lines and power lines. Darkness, chaos.

Where do the dead bodies in his apartment come from? Water floods the burrow. Franz flees through areas of the high-rise building in which he has never before set foot. A different world. A world of supply ducts and sewers. And little by little, his persecutor gets closer... Or is there more than just one?

And finally, they face each other. The intruder and Franz.





# KAFKA'S THE BURROW

## FACTS

Literary Adaptation/ Drama, Germany 2014

Screenplay	Jochen Alexander Freydank based on the story by Franz Kafka
Director	Jochen Alexander Freydank
DOP	Egon Werdin
Editor	Philipp Schmitt
Casting	Karen Wendland
Set design	Tom Hornig
Costume	Heike Fadembrecht
Make up	Wolfgang Böge
Music	Rainer Oleak
Producer	Jochen Alexander Freydank

Production Company	Mephisto Film
Supported by	DFFF, Saarmedien, Nordmedia, ARTE, SR, BR
Distribution	Neue Visionen
Works sales	Beta Cinema

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

Format	DCP, 24 fps, cinemascope
Sound	Dolby digital
Duration	110 min





# KAFKA'S THE BURROW

## CAST

Franz:	Axel Prahl
Franz's wife:	Kristina Klebe
Janitor:	Josef Hader
Neighbour:	Roeland Wiesnekker
Workman:	Devid Striesow
Security Guard I:	Robert Stadlober
Security Guard II:	Fritz Roth







# KAFKA'S THE BURROW

## PROTAGONIST

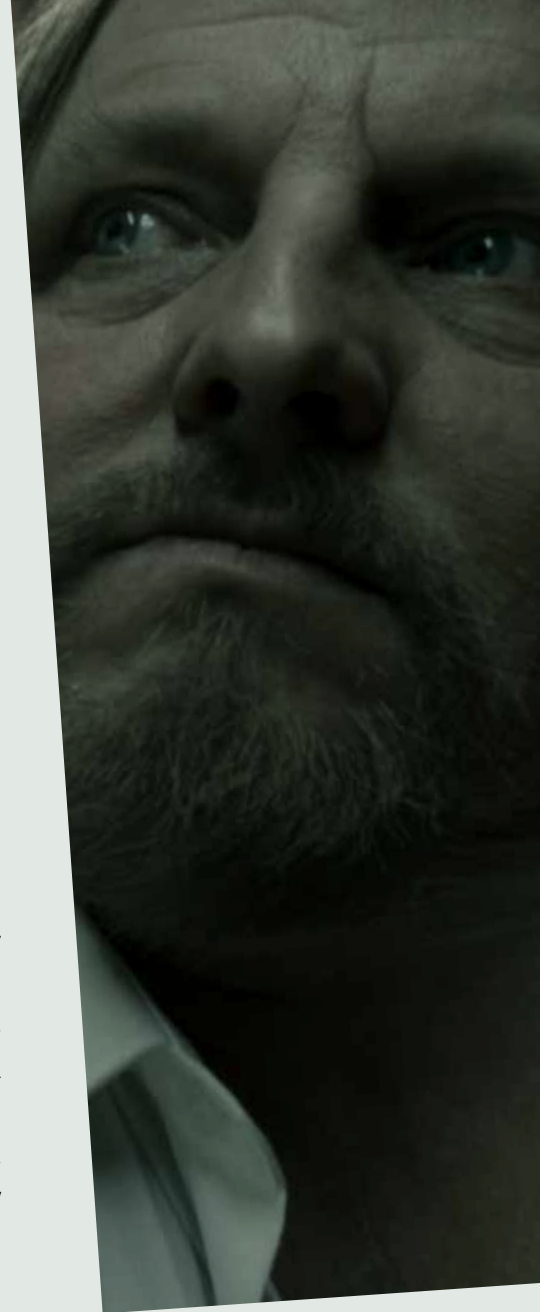
Axel Prahl

Franz: Axel Prahl

Axel Prahl grew up in Neustadt in Holstein. After his A levels he chose to live as a street musician in Spain for a couple of month, and then studied music and mathematics at the University of Education in Kiel for five semesters. He then transferred to the Stage School in Kiel and studied acting from 1982 to 1985 during which he signed a young actor's contract at the Theatre Kiel. Before he started working at the Schleswig-Holstein State Theatre (1986-1992) he went on tour several times. Then followed engagements at the Renaissance Theatre, the Grips Theatre (1933-1999), and at the intimate theatre of the Deutsches Theatre in Berlin.

Axel Prahl's 1992 television debut was in Max Färberböck SLEEPING DOGS. In NIGHTSHAPES by Andreas Dresen, Prahl's first feature film in 1999, he played a police officer in a supporting role. The film NIGHT SHAPES also marks the beginning of a successful collaboration with director Andreas Dresen: For THE POLICEWOMAN (2000), GRILLPOINT (2002) and WILLENBROCK (2005) Axel Prahl received numerous acting awards, including twice the Adolf Grimme Award with gold.

Since 2002 he forms, together with Jan Josef Liefers, as the detective chief superintendent Frank Thiel, the investigative team in the city of Münster for the popular long-running German TV-show TATORT ("CRIME SCENE").





Franz's wife: Kristina Klebe

The New York City born actress Kristina Klebe grew up in Germany, France, Italy and the USA. She finished her theatre and film studies at Dartmouth College with honors. Her career began on the theatre stages of New York and then led her to cinema. She played, among others, guest roles in the American hit series CSI Miami and LAW & ORDER and was seen in 2007 in the horror classic HALLOWEEN re-make by Rob Zombie.

Janitor: Josef Hader

Josef Hader is the most popular actor of indie-cinema in Austria, known for his dark humor and incredible performance. He was born in 1962 in Upper Austria. While still at school, he started his first cabaret trials and in 1990 received the German Cabaret Prize. Josef Hader played his first leading role in the TV movie CAPPUCINO MELANGE (1993) by Paul Harather. With the successful feature film INDIA (1993) by Paul Harather, he became known to a large audience, the film was based on the satire piece, with the same name, by Josef Hader and Alfred Dorfer. After a multi-year tour with his solo program PRIVATE, he received, for his role in the feature film THE RAID (2000) by Florian Flicker, the Best Actor Award at the Locarno Film Festival. Josef Hader celebrated great successes with film adaptations of novels by Wolf Haas, COME SWEET DEATH (2000), SILENTIUM (2004) and THE BONE MAN (2009) by Wolfgang Murnberger, in which he was involved as a screenwriter and played the leading role. For his role in the television movie A HALF LIFE (2009) by Nicholas Leytner, he was awarded the German Television Award and the Adolf Grimme Award. Josef Hader is, in addition to his career as an actor, successful as a comedian with solo programs like HADER PLAYS HADER. In 2011, he received the „Göttingen Moose“, Germany's only satire prize.

Neighbour: Roeland Wiesnekker

The Swiss film and theatre actor Roeland Wienekker attended the Theatre Academy in Zurich from 1986 to 1989, and received his first permanent engagement at the Schauspielhaus Bochum even before he graduated. For his portrayal of Pyotr in Gorky's THE LAST he was nominated in 1990 as the best German young actor of the year. His first film role was in 1989 in the short film KARL by Urs Buehler. For his role as Herbert Strähl in film STRÄHL he won the 2005 Swiss Film Award for Best Actor, for which he was nominated again in 2010 for his role in THE CARETAKER by Lutz Konermann. He starred in AUF DER STRECKE which was nominated in 2009 for an Academy Award.







Workman: Devid Striesow

Devid Striesow was born in 1973 in Rügen and grew up in Rostock. He studied at the „Ernst Busch“ School of Dramatic Arts in Berlin. In 2004, he was distinguished by the magazine „Theatre Heute“ as the Best Young Actor of the Year. For his role in Hans-Christian Schmid's film LIGHTS (2002) he was nominated for Best Supporting Actor for the German Film Award. In 2007, Devid Striesow received the German Film Award for the Best Supporting Actor in the Oscar ®-winning movie THE COUNTERFEITERS by Stefan Ruzowitzky. In addition to numerous roles in feature films such as YELLA (2007) by Christian Petzold or THIS IS LOVE (2008) by Matthias Glasner, Devid Striesow has appeared in various TV productions. In 2011, he was awarded, as the best male actor for the film THREE by Tom Tykwer, the German Film Critics Award.

Security Guard I: Robert Stadlober

The Austrian actor and musician grew up in Styria until he moved to Berlin in 1989. At age eleven, Robert Stadlober worked as a voice actor and gave his voice, among others, to the main character in THE TREASURE PLANET (2002) by Ron Clements and John Musker. After numerous small appearances in TV and feature films, in 1999 he received his first major role in SONNENALLEE (SUN STREET) by Leander Haussmann. The breakthrough was in 2000 with CRAZY by Hans-Christian Schmid, the screen adaptation of the bestselling novel with the same name. For his performance, Robert won the Bavarian Film Awards in 2001 and was nominated for the German Film Awards. In the Montreal Film Festival, he was awarded for his performance as punk in ANGELS AND JOE (2001) by Vanessa Jopp, the Best Actor award. Numerous well-known roles in film productions such as WASTE YOUR YOUTH (2003) by Benjamin Quabeck, KRABAT (2008) by Marco Kreuzpaintner and TO THE HORIZON, THEN LEFT (2012) by Bernd Böhlich.

Security Guard II: Fritz Roth

The German actor Fritz Roth, born in 1955 in North Rhine-Westphalia, Bad Laasphe, stood first on the theatre stage before he took over in 2002 roles in films such as WOLFSBURG by Christian Petzold or GOODBYE LENIN by Wolfgang Becker. Only a year later, the appearance of Gerd in Muxmäuschenstill by Marcus Mittermeier, which won among others Max Ophüls Prize in 2004, gave him a nomination for the German Film Award in 2004 for the Best Supporting Actor. This was followed by films like Hilde (2008) by Kai Wessel, or UNKNOWN (2010) by Jaume Collet-Serra, with Liam Neeson in the title role.







# KAFKA'S THE BURROW

DIRECTOR

Jochen Alexander Freydank - short biography

Jochen Alexander Freydank was born in 1967 in East Berlin. He started his career in the early 90s as an editor and assistant director for various television and film productions. Parallel to his work as director, Freydank also wrote screenplays for TV movies and series. He also produced one of Germany's most successful TV series. In 1999 he founded his film production company, Mephisto Film.

His first short film was the macabre comedy HAPPY END, followed by the short film EMERGENCY. In 2002, Jochen Freydank made the satiric short film DUTY, which had its world premiere at the Montreal World Film Festival and was subsequently shown at more than 40 other international festivals. Freydank then directed, co-wrote and produced the short film Toyland, which won more than 30 international awards. In February, 2009, TOYLAND won the the OSCAR for best live-action short film. Freydank is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Freydank directed commercials, stage plays and several TV movies, among them HOMEFRONT, ALLMÄCHTIG, KÜSTENNEBEL and the tragicomedy UND WEG BIST DU that won the best directors award at Bayerischer Fernsehpreis. In 2014 Freydank completed his feature film directorial debut, KAFKA'S THE BURROW, which he also wrote and produced. From the idea to the actual production, it took him ten years to get this movie made.





# KAFKA'S THE BURROW

DIRECTOR'S NOTES - JOCHEN ALEXANDER FREYDANK

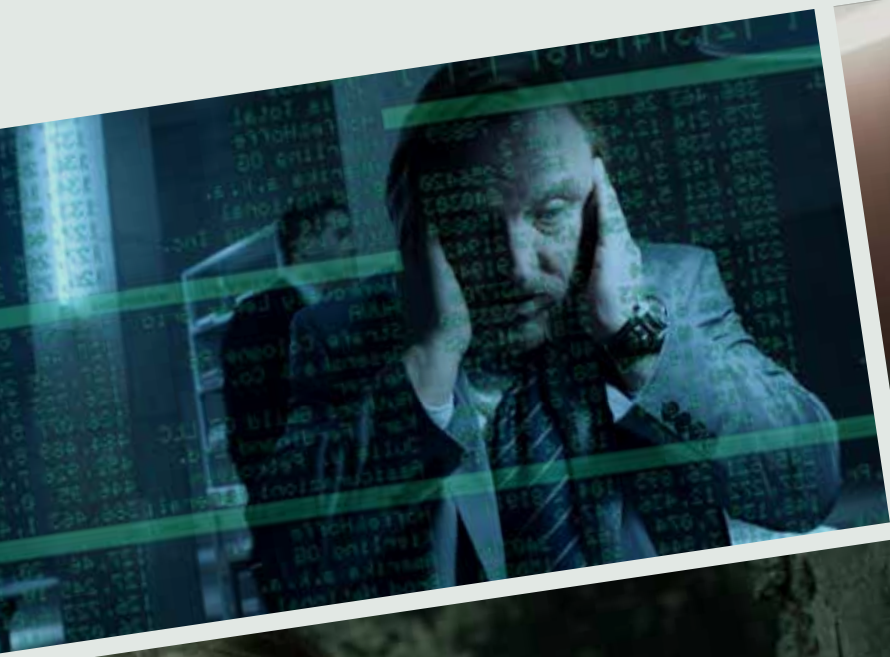
This is the movie I had to do. A film based on an unfinished novel by Franz Kafka, never before adapted for film – until now. When I started to work on this film, I had no idea that it would take me about ten years from the initial idea to the actual production. I wrote, directed and (alas) produced KAFKA'S THE BURROW. (Financing was a drama in itself.) And here it is.

Kafka was ahead of his time. His language is so modern, so precise, that I decided to leave it unchanged. When I started to work on this movie, I had no idea that in 2013 mass surveillance and the violation of privacy would be such a major problem. Does it make us safer? Growing up in East Germany, a so-called totalitarian state, I should be used to it – but I'm not!

Shooting this film was one of the most rewarding experiences in my film life. I was blessed with a team devoted to the project as well as with wonderful actors who were both excited to do the movie and convinced that KAFKA'S THE BURROW had to be made. My thanks to all of them.



KAFKA'S  
**DER BAU**



KAFKA'S  
DER BAU





WORLD SALES - BETA CINEMA

Beta Cinema has established itself as a „boutique-operation“ for independent feature films with strong theatrical potential. Beta Cinema’s philosophy is to keep its selective acquisition policy of 10 to 12 titles per year in order to fully develop the theatrical potential of each title according to its individual character.

BETA CINEMA

Beta Cinema’s portfolio includes outstanding productions like the international box office hit THE PHYSICIAN, Berlin 2014 Silver Bear-winning STATIONS OF THE CROSS, Berlin 2013 Golden Bear-winning CHILD’S POSE, Academy Award 2011-nominated IN DARKNESS, Cannes 2008 Jury Prize-winning and Academy Award-nominated IL DIVO, Academy Award 2007-winning THE COUNTERFEITERS, Academy Award 2007 nominated MONGOL, Academy Award 2006-winning THE LIVES OF OTHERS and the Academy Award 2004-nominated DOWNFALL.

## CONTACT

Mephisto Film GmbH  
Oderstr. 20  
10247 Berlin

www.mephistofilm.de  
info@mephistofilm.de  
Fon: +49 30 7545 0267  
Fax: +49 30 7545 0268

## CONTACT BETA CINEMA -PRESS-

Dorothee Stoewahse  
Mob: + 49 170 63 84 627  
Munich Office: + 49 89 67 34 69 15  
Dorothee.Stoewahse@betafilm.com

## CONTACT BETA CINEMA -WORLD SALES-

Beta Cinema, Dirk Schuerhoff /  
Thorsten Ritter / Tassilo Hallbauer  
Tel: + 49 89 67 34 69 828,  
Fax: + 49 89 67 34 69 888  
beta@betacinema.com  
www.betacinema.com



AXEL PRAHL

# KAFKA'S THE BURROW

A FILM BY JOCHEN ALEXANDER FREYDANK



**19th BUSAN International Film Festival**  
2-11 October, 2014

**30<sup>th</sup> WARSAW FILM FESTIVAL**  
10-19 OCTOBER 2014

a MEPHISTO FILM production in association with SR ARTE BR unter participation of JUMPING HORSE PICTURES CINE-MOBIL STUDIO MITTE MARABU MEDIA DOWNSTAIRS FILMS  
starring AXEL PRAHL also starring JOSEPH HADER KRISTINA KLEBE ROBERT STADLOBER DEVID STRIESOW ROELAND WIESNEKKER casting KAREN WENDLAND production designer TOM HORNIG director of photography EGON WERDIN  
editor PHILIPP SCHMITT music RAINER OLEAK costume HEIKE FADEMRECHT make up KLAUS BÖGE sound recording JÖRG WIEGLEB sound mix JÖRG HÖHNE vfx supervisor FRANK KAMINSKI  
associate producers DIRK FUNKE JAKOB HEIN funded by DFFF SAARLAND MEDIEN NORDMEDIA written, directed and produced by JOCHEN ALEXANDER FREYDANK copyright MEPHISTO FILM GmbH 2014

[kafkas-the-burrow.com](http://kafkas-the-burrow.com)

