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#### Curriculum vitae

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Michael Koch was born in Lucerne (Switzerland) in 1982. From 2003 - 2008 he studied at the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne.

His short films have been shown at over 100 international film festivals and won several awards. His graduation film "Polar" received a Special Mention at the 2009 Berlin International Film Festival and won both the German Camera Award and the German Short Film Award.

Koch's debut feature film "Marija" had its world premiere in Competition at the Locarno International Film Festival in 2016. The film was internationally screened at several festivals such as in Toronto, Busan, Angers and Gothenburg, winning numerous national and international awards.

His second feature film "Drii Winter" (A Piece Of Sky) was invited to the international Competition at the 72nd Berlin International Film Festival and received a Special Mention from the jury. The film screened at over 50 festivals and won prizes in Chicago, Thessaloniki and Gent.

In 2023 the film was awarded with the Swiss Film Award for Best Feature Film. "Drii Winter" (A Piece Of Sky) was Switzerland's official submission for the International Feature Film competition at the 95th Academy Awards®

Koch lives and works together with his wife and three children in Basel and Berlin.



# DRII WINTER (A PIECE OF SKY)

136 Min. / DCP 2K 24fps / 1:1.37 / Color / 5.1. Sound / 2022

**In a remote mountain village high in the Swiss Alps, the fledgling love between Anna and Marco is put to a severe test. But Anna holds on to her love for Marco – against all odds.**

“The Berlinale offers a great discovery from Switzerland!” — *Daniel Kothenschulte, Frankfurter Rundschau*

“This quiet Swiss mountain drama makes you feel how magical cinema can be. Without a lot of words, without loud drama and without acting stars.” — *Brigitte Häring, SRF*

“Drii Winter by Swiss director Michael Koch stood out far from the competition as having the most tightly packed narrative.” — *Hannah Pilarczyk, Der Spiegel*

“A Piece of Sky is both beautifully made and a thing of beauty in itself.” — *Stephanie Bunbury, Deadline*

“A stark, affecting, sometimes enigmatic, superbly executed piece.” — *Jonathan Romney, Screen Daily*

“Stunning image-making fills out the stark storytelling in Swiss director Michael Koch's potent, stoically moving second feature.” — *Guy Lodge, Variety*

A hugofilm features production, in co-production with Pandora Film Produktion, Schweizer Fernsehen SRF and ARTE

## CAST

**Michèle Brand, Simon Wisler, Daniela Barmettler, Sepp Aschwanden, Daniel Imholz, Elin Zraggen**

## CREW

**Director and screenplay** Michael Koch  
**Assistant director** Chloé Le Grand  
**Producer** Christof Neracher  
**Co-producers** Claudia Steffen, Christoph Friedel  
**Cinematographer** Armin Dierolf  
**Editor** Florian Riegel  
**Music** Tobias Koch, Jannik Giger  
**Production design & costume design** Sara Giancane  
**Props** Jessica Schmid, Leonia Brenner  
**Wardrobe** Miriam Stöcklin  
**Makeup** Sabine Flückiger, Ronald Fahm  
**Sound** Jean-Pierre Gerth  
**Camera assistant** Linus Rieser  
**Dolly grip** Bernd Mayer  
**Key grip** Mark Warnecke  
**Sound design** Tobias Koch  
**Re-recording mixer** Matthias Lempert  
**Production management** Florian Widmeier  
**International distributor** New Europe Film Sales

## FESTIVALS (selection)

- Berlin International Film Festival
- Tapei Film Festival 2022
- Karlovy Vary Int. Film Festival 2022
- New Horizons IFF 2022
- Guanajuato Int. Film Festival 2022
- Motovun Film Festival 2022
- Locarno Int. Film Festival 2022
- Hong Kong IFF 2022
- Vancouver Int. Film Festival 2022
- Festival du Nouveau Cinéma Montreal 2022
- Film Fest Gent 2022
- Chicago Int. Film Festival 2022
- Haifa Int. Film Festival 2022
- Mostra Sao Paulo 2022
- Viennale 2022
- Bergen Int. Film Festival 2022
- Bogota Int. Film Festival 2022
- Thessaloniki Int Film Festival 2022
- Goa Int. Film Festival 2022

## Awards (selection)

- Special Mention *Berlin International Film Festival 2022*
- Best International Feature Film, *Guanajuato International Film Festival*
- Roger Ebert Award 2022 *Chicago International Film Festival*
- Jury Award, Silver Alexander *Thessaloniki Int. Film Festival 2022*
- Best Feature Film *Swiss Film Award 2023*
- Official Swiss submission
- Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences International Feature Film 2023



# MARIJA

101 Min. / DCP 2K 24fps / 1:1.85 / Color / 5.1. Sound / 2016

**Marija is a cleaner in a hotel, but dreams of a freer, self-determined life. Intent on turning her dream into reality, she is prepared to subordinate her body, her social relationships and finally her own feelings to her declared goal.**

“A haunting social and character study. Margarita Breitkreiz shines in it as an unscrupulous seeker of happiness.”  
— *Alfred Schlienger, Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

“A quiet, impressive feature film debut that never exploits its social realism.” — *Andreas Busche, Tagesspiegel*

“Margarita Breitkreiz is a discovery. The haunting portrait of a young woman who denies herself feelings in order not to be consumed herself.” — *Knut Elstermann, Radioeins*

“This tightly packed portrait of a woman, which does without music, knows no compromises, neither in its realistic style nor in its undramatic, observant portrayal of the immigrant milieu.” — *Alexandra Wach, Filmdienst*

“Margarita Breitkreiz endows this tense character study with a credible urgency that makes it one of the year’s most powerful looks at the crisis of the working class.” — *Eric Kohn, IndieWire*

“An incisive, confidently unsentimental debut feature for writer-director Michael Koch, this steel-cut slice of life persistently avoids easy ethical dichotomies.” — *Guy Lodge, Variety*

Pandora Film Produktion in co-production with hugofilm, Little Shark Entertainment, WDR, ARTE and Schweizer Fernsehen SRF

## CAST

**Margarita Breitkreiz, Georg Friedrich  
Olga Dinnokova, Sahin Eryilmaz**

## CREW

**Director and screenplay** Michael Koch  
**Producers** Claudia Steffen, Christoph Friedel (Pandora Film Produktion)  
**Co-producers** Christof Neracher (hugofilm)  
**Screenplay** Michael Koch, Juliane Großheim  
**Cinematographer** Bernhard Keller  
**Editor** Florian Riegel  
**Production design** Petra Barchi  
**Makeup** Astrid Weber  
**Costume design** Peri De Braganca  
**Sound design** Tobias Koch, Maurizio Staerkle-Drux  
**Sound** Jean-Pierre Gerth  
**Key grip** Henry Notroff  
**Casting** Susanne Ritter

## FESTIVALS (selection)

— Festival del Film Locarno 2016  
— Toronto Int. Film Festival 2016  
— Busan Int. Film Festival 2016  
— Semana Int. de Cine de Valladolid 2016  
— Kyiv Int. Film Festival Molodist 2016  
— Solothurner Filmtage 2017  
— Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis 2017  
— Festival Premier Plans d’Angers 2017  
— Göteborg Film Festival 2017  
— Glasgow Film Festival 2017  
— Festival Int. du Film d’Amour, Mons 2017  
— Bergamo Film Meeting 2017  
— Guadalajara Int. Film Festival 2017  
— Int. Film Festival Prague – Febiofest 2017  
— Festival of German Films New York 2017  
— Minneapolis St.Paul Int. Film Festival 2017  
— Riviera Int. Film Festival 2017  
— European Film Festival Romania 2017  
— Visions sociales, Cannes 2017  
— Festival de Cine Independente de Bogotá  
— Arras Film Festival 2017  
— Cairo International Film Festival 2017

## AWARDS

— Special mention, Ecumenical Jury  
— *L’ambiente è qualità di vita award, Festival del Film Locarno 2016*  
— *Basler Film- und Medienkunstpreis 2016*  
— Nominated for best feature film, *Schweizer Filmpreis 2017*  
— Best Actress + Best Actor  
*Festival Premier Plans d’Angers 2017.*  
— Jury Prize + Best Actress, *Festival Int. du Film d’Amour de Mons 2017.*  
— Amnesty International Febiofest Award, *Int. Film Festival Prague Febiofest 2017.*  
— Zürcher Filmpreis 2017





## POLAR

29 Min. / 16mm, Blow-up 35mm / 2008

**Luis travels to the mountains to reconnect with his father, who lives in a remote village. There he finds out his father has a new family. Torn between anger, incomprehension and the desire for emotional closeness, Luis tries to draw his father out.**

“Polar has a perfect density that is unparalleled even in short film. Michael Koch and his team have extracted a mere concentrate of the narrative from the original material. Anything that could distract from the essential, every basically unnecessary embellishment has been jettisoned and gives way to an astonishingly focused clarity. Polar is a masterpiece of reduction that only short film can achieve.”

— *Oliver Baumgarten, Schnitt, das Filmmagazin 03/09*

“The masterful camera consistently stays with the characters and captures the barren landscape in such a way that it seems to reflect the state of their souls. This results in reduction on all levels for a film of great atmospheric density that is deeply moving without being in the least sentimental.”

— *Jurybegründung Deutscher Kurzfilmpreis in Gold 2009*

A production of Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln and Kinomaton München in co-production with Dschoint Ventschr and Schweizer Fernsehen SRF

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### CAST

**Max Brauer**  
**André Hennicke**  
**Maria Kwiatkowsky**

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### CREW

**Director** Michael Koch  
**Screenplay** Juliane Grossheim, Michael Koch  
**Cinematographer** Bernhard Keller  
**Editor** Stefan Stabenow  
**Production design** Valerie Hess, Stefanie Schaad  
**Costume design** Juliane Maier  
**Makeup** Marina Aebi  
**Key grip** Henry Notroff  
**Sound** Benjamin Simon, Marc Wesemann, Jonas Hummel  
**Sound design** Knut Jensen  
**Music** Huck Finn  
**Producer** Elena von Saucken  
**Production** Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln and Kinomaton München in co-production with Dschoint Ventschr and Schweizer Fernsehen

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### FESTIVALS (selection)

— Berlin International Film Festival, 2009  
— Int. Kurzfilmtage Winterthur 2008  
— Int. Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen 2009  
— Filmfest Dresden 2009  
— Int. Kurz Film Festival Hamburg  
— Cinema Corto in Bra Festival 2009  
— Warsaw Int. Film Festival 2009  
— São Paulo Int. Short Film Festival  
— Kiev Int. Film Festival „Molodist“  
— Alcine, Festival de Cine Alcalà de Henares 2009

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### AWARDS

— *Honorable mention*, Berlin International Film Festival, Perspektive Deutsches Kino, 2009  
— *Best Swiss Short*, Int. Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, 2008  
— *Goldener Reiter*, Bester Deutscher Film, Filmfest Dresden, 2009  
— *Nominated for Best Film and Best Screenplay*, First Steps Awards 2009  
— *Nominated for Babelsberger Medienpreis 2009*, for Best Graduate Film  
— *Deutscher Kamerapreis 2009*, Kategorie Kurzfilm  
— *Deutscher Kurzfilmpreis in Gold 2009*, Kategorie Bester Spielfilm 7 - 30 Min.



## WIR SIND DIR TREU

9 Min. / MiniDV, Blow-up 35mm / 2005

**Game after game, he gives his all for the team, inspiring the audience to sing, choreographing the crowd and motivating them to offer their best performance. A film about the highs and lows of being a fan.**

“The film takes us away into the world of football without showing a single second of the game. It touches us in the sober observation of its protagonist, not only unveiling the highs and lows of being a fan, but also making us think about the complicated relationship between the individual and the masses. ‘Wir Sind Dir Treu’ stands out from the national competition for its cheeky modesty.”

— *Int. Kurzfilmtage Winterthur jury statement*

“The crowd animator at FC Basel’s home games doesn’t follow the match. Michael Koch has a fantastic eye for detail in this pumping, pulsating short piece about power, groups and art – anything but football. But the camera catches the anxiety in his face. He cannot let their attention slip for a second. Whatever happens on the pitch behind him, where the real stars are performing, he has to keep the crowd at his control. In the throbbing close-ups of the animator, Koch’s video is also a portrait of the artist at work. There’s no life for him outside this stadium, outside the audience. He is their king, but he is their slave.”

— *Silver Impakt Award 2006*

Produced by Kunsthochschule für Medien  
Köln and Michael Koch

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### CREW

**Director, screenplay, editor,** Michael Koch

**Kamera** Andrea Gsell, Michael Koch

**Ton** Nica Giuliani

**Production** Kunsthochschule für Medien  
Köln und Michael Koch

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### FESTIVALS (selection)

- Int. Hofer Filmtage, 2005
- Int. Kurzfilmtage Winterthur 2005
- Int. Short Film Festival Cologne 2005
- Solothurner Filmtage 2006
- Festival International du Court Métrage de Clermont-Ferrand 2006
- IndieLisboa 2006
- Int. Videofestival Bochum 2006
- Filmkunstfest Schwerin 2006
- Corto in Bra 2006
- Int. Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen 2006
- Festival de Cannes „Tous les Cinémas du Monde“ 2006
- Hamburg Int. Short Film Festival 2006
- Norwegian Short Film Festival Grimstad
- Int. Film Festival Huesca 2006
- Toronto Short Film Festival 2006
- Int. Odense Filmfestival 2006
- Sao Paulo Int. Short Film Festival
- Impakt Festival, Utrecht 2006
- Tinklai Int. Short Film Festival 2006
- Uppsala Int. Short Film Festival
- Milano Film Festival 2006
- 50th London Film Festival, 2006
- Molodist, Kiev Int. Film Festival 2006
- Munich Int Festival of Film Schools
- Cork Film Festival, 2006
- Beirut Int. Documentary Festival, 2006
- Filmfestival Max-Ophüls Preis 2007
- Festival Int. del Cortometraje de Santiago de Chile, 2007

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### AWARDS

- *Best Swiss Short*, Int. Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, 2005
- *Jury Award*, Int. Short Film Festival Cologne 2005
- *le prix Canal+*, Festival int. du court métrage de Clermont-Ferrand, 2006
- *Audience Award*, Documenta Madrid
- *Förderpreis Kurzfilm*, Filmkunstfest Schwerin, 2006
- *Special Mention*, Int. Filmfestival Huesca
- *Silver Impakt Award*, Impakt, 2006
- *Special Mention*, Milano Film Festival
- *Bester Dokumentarfilm*, Munich Int. Festival of Film Schools, 2006
- *ARTE-Kurzfilm-Preis*, Munich Int. Festival of Film Schools, 2006
- *Prädikat "Besonders Wertvoll"* and *Kurzfilm des Monats Juni 2007*, Filmbewertungsstelle Wiesbaden 2007