



# ALBERT SCHWEITZER

JEROEN KRABBÉ, BARBARA HERSHEY  
JUDITH GODRÈCHE, SAMUEL WEST, JEANETTE HAIN  
PATRICE NAIAMBANA, JONATHAN FIRTH,  
and ARMIN ROHDE

directed by GAVIN MILLAR

**NFP** presents a co-production of **Salinas Filmgesellschaft KG**,  
**Two Oceans Production (Pty) Ltd.** and **ARD Degeto**,  
in association with **arte**, funded by **Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung**,  
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**Department: Trade and Industry, Republic of South Africa**

## PRESS INFORMATION

[www.ALBERTSCHWEITZER-THEMOVIE.com](http://www.ALBERTSCHWEITZER-THEMOVIE.com)

**Cast**

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Albert Schweitzer  | Jeroen Krabbé       |
| Helene Schweitzer  | Barbara Hershey     |
| Thérèse Bourdin    | Judith Godrèche     |
| Phil Figgis        | Samuel West         |
| Rhena Schweitzer   | Jeanette Hain       |
| Louis Ngouta       | Patrice Naiambana   |
| Dr. David Fuller   | Jonathan Firth      |
| Albert Einstein    | Armin Rohde         |
| Senior Nurse Anna  | Eleonore Weisgerber |
| Dr. Erik Hals      | Hans-Werner Meyer   |
| Nurse Susi Sandler | Jennifer Ulrich     |

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**Crew**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Director                | Gavin Millar   |
| Screenplay              | Gavin Millar, David Howard                                 |
| Original Screenplay     | James Brabazon   |
| Producer                | Eliza Mellor   |
| Executive Producers     | Alexander Thies, Charles A. Seiller,<br>Christian P. Stehr |
| produced by             | Alexander Thies  |
| Co-Producer             | Giselher Venzke, Bertha Spieker,<br>Hans-Wolfgang Jurgan   |
| Line Producer           | Oliver Lürer   |
| Casting                 | Emma Style, Nina Haun, Ana Feyder                          |
| Director of Photography | Cinders Forshaw BSC  |
| Production Design       | Tom Hannam   |
| Film Editor             | Oli Weiss  |
| Costume Design          | Moira Meyer, Wolfgang Ender                                |
| Make-up Design          | Ayten Morgenstern, Derrick Bosch                           |
| Music composed by       | Colin Towns  |
| Still Photographer      | Stefan Falke   |

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|-----------------|---|
| Shooting period | June 18 <sup>th</sup> until August 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2008 |
| Language        | English   |
| Locations       | South Africa (Cape Town, Port St. Johns)                  |

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**Technical specifications**

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Printed film format | 35 mm, 1:2.35 (Cinemascope) |
| Runtime             | ca. 114 min                 |
| Sound mix           | Dolby SRD 5.1               |

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## PROLOGUE

### “REVERENCE FOR LIFE” OR, WHY ALBERT SCHWEITZER?

*“I am life that wants to live – surrounded by life that wants to live.”*

The feature film SCHWEITZER (working title) focuses on one of the greatest humanitarians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Albert Schweitzer. By the age of thirty Schweitzer had made his name as a theologian and philosopher, as the author of a book about Johann Sebastian Bach that even today is recognized as a definitive biography, and as an acclaimed interpreter of Bach’s organ works.

Then Schweitzer abruptly changed course, studying medicine and, together with his wife, Helene, deciding to go to Africa and establish a hospital to help the poorest of the poor. For Schweitzer, it was the place where he would best be able to realize his plan to dedicate himself to service to humanity. For him, being a Christian was more than a mere theory or attendance at religious rituals. It was at the root of his desire to strive to help reduce the guilt the European powers had accumulated with their colonial policies in Africa up to that time.

When World War I broke out, Schweitzer wrestled in Africa with the problem of presenting mankind with a philosophy that would help people to affirm the world and their own existence. In September, 1915, on a long journey up the Ogowe River, he was suddenly struck by the phrase that embodied this nascent philosophy, “Reverence for Life:”

*“At the very moment when, at sunset, we were making our way through a herd of hippopotamuses, there flashed upon my mind, unforeseen and unsought, the phrase ‘Reverence for Life.’ The path in the thicket had become visible. Now I had my way to the idea in which world and life affirmation and ethics are contained side by side!”*

By putting the ethical agenda of “Reverence for Life” into action, Schweitzer himself exemplified how the ethics deriving from a compelling philosophy can provide a very practical guideline for human existence.

In building a hospital at Lambarene in Africa, Schweitzer gave the world a concrete example of translating those ethics into a significant project that accommodated indigenous customs and needs – a revolutionary concept at the time. Lambarene was financed entirely with funds that Schweitzer and his wife raised by giving lectures and performing organ music. And although Lambarene is partially

supported by the Gabonese Republic today, it remains a private non-profit organization.

Schweitzer's ethics also provided the basis for his opposition to nuclear armaments, although originally he did not consider himself qualified to voice political or scientific statements. However, when many of his friends and well-known scientists, including Albert Einstein, urged him to join the protests against the atomic bomb and nuclear testing, he recognized his responsibility and pleaded for a stop to the tests. It took years until Schweitzer's appeals and those of the other scientists were heeded in high places. In the wake of the Cuban missile crisis, the Partial Test Ban Treaty was at last signed on October 10, 1963, banning all nuclear tests in the atmosphere and underwater. That treaty is still in force today.

In the tradition of Schweitzer's dedicated work and his "Reverence for Life," the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), established in 1980, has sought to condemn nuclear arms worldwide. For its commitment, the IPPNW was honored with the UNESCO Peace Prize in 1984, and with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985.

In 1954, Schweitzer himself accepted the Nobel Peace Prize for "his work in establishing a jungle hospital at Lambarene...and for his efforts on behalf of the brotherhood of nations." In 1999, the same prize was awarded to "Médecins sans frontières" (Doctors without Borders) with the following justification: "By showing each victim a human face, by showing respect for his or her human dignity, the fearless and selfless aid worked creates hope for peace and reconciliation." Without a doubt, Schweitzer was the inspired forerunner of this kind of engagement.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

1949 – the early years of the Cold War. Albert Schweitzer has become one of the most admired men in the world, thanks to his philosophy of "Reverence for Life" which he lives out in his hospital in Lambarene/West Africa. When he is urged by Albert Einstein to speak out against the hydrogen bomb tests, U.S. national security agencies consider this a denunciation of Western politics. A smear campaign is launched to discredit the septuagenarian's reputation and to silence him. The investigative journalist Phil Figgis is sent to Lambarene to dig up dirt on Schweitzer and initiate a mutiny of some of the hospital doctors and local government representatives. Schweitzer is pressurized, the hospital might even be closed down. Will he resist, follow his conscience and still speak out against the nuclear weapons and the armament race?

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For nearly a hundred years the name of Albert Schweitzer has been a synonym for hands-on humanity, for active involvement in charity causes. In 2009 director Gavin Millar (“Complicity,” “Danny the Champion of the World”) will present a landmark drama of the Alsace-born medical legend of the African jungle and Peace Nobel prize laureate. The titlerole is played by Jeroen Krabbé (“Left Luggage,” “The Fourth Man”), and Barbara Hershey (“The Portrait of a Lady,” “Hannah and Her Sisters,” “Lantana”) will portray Schweitzer’s wife and assistant Helene. The international high-profile cast also includes Judith Godrèche, Samuel West, Jeanette Hain, Patrice Naiambana, Jonathan Firth, and Armin Rohde. The Salinas Filmgesellschaft will produce „Schweitzer“ in South Africa as a co-production with Two Oceans Production.

## **SYNOPSIS**

In 1949 – early in the Cold War – Albert Schweitzer is recognized as one of the most eminent men in the world, thanks to his renowned hospital at Lambarene in West Africa and to his philosophy of “Reverence for Life” which he lives out in his jungle hospital.

While traveling through the United States, where he and his wife, Helene, raise funds for Lambarene by lecturing and performing concerts, Schweitzer is urged by Albert Einstein to speak out against the dangers of impending hydrogen bomb tests. The U.S. government considers them essential in its struggle to outstrip the Soviet Union. In this regard, U.S. security services consider any statement against “the bomb” to be a threat to Western civilization. And while they can easily intimidate Einstein, an American citizen, by threatening to revoke his citizenship, Schweitzer is a different matter – as a European, he cannot be pressured in the same way.

Phil Figgis is hired to dig up dirt on Schweitzer and destroy his good name and worldwide reputation. Figgis initiates a smear campaign, alleging an abandoned wife, a neglected daughter, and above all insinuating that the famous hospital compound deep in the African jungle is an unsanitary disgrace. Posing as a PR man, Figgis recruits the unsuspecting photographer Thérèse Bourdin and uses her access to the Schweitzers’ inner circle to approach the media-wary couple and gather inside information.

Figgis finds, however, that interviewing Helene Schweitzer and their daughter Rhena does not pan out: they both remain loyal to Schweitzer. So, a trip is arranged to the hospital itself. Figgis and Bourdin meet staff members who feel that Schweitzer’s methods are out of date and are therefore planning a takeover. Sanitation is indeed a

problem in the compound: it is designed as an African village and animals roam loose, their droppings everywhere; donated modern medical equipment is left to rot in the jungle; medications are dumped in the river. And in the middle of it all, Schweitzer unwaveringly pursues his work as “le grand docteur.”

Bourdin has no clue what Figgis is up to and obliges him in taking candid photographs. Figgis also takes advantage of the presence of Gabonese officials, as the local so-called transitional government wants to get rid of the white management of the hospital and close it down – by force, if necessary.

Schweitzer seems unperturbed. He has a tougher decision to make: should he really speak out against the threat of nuclear arms? He, a doctor representing a small jungle hospital in a remote part of the world? He is surprised when Helene and Rhena arrive in Lambarene. Although Schweitzer is elated, he realizes that they wouldn't visit him without a special reason. His wife and daughter implore him to realize that his life's work is at stake if he openly condemns the nuclear tests. But Schweitzer can not and will not let down Einstein and all the other scientists who face grave danger by speaking out. Balancing his responsibility for Lambarene with his duty to warn the world against one of the greatest perils ever, he finally decides to raise his voice – against the arms race and in favor of “Reverence for Life.”

With the collusion of the officials of the transitional Gabonese government, Figgis tries to fulfill his mission of discrediting Schweitzer. And he seems to be succeeding; it appears Schweitzer has no choice but to give up Lambarene. Then, in his darkest hour, help arrives when he least expects it....

## **BIOGRAPHY ALBERT SCHWEITZER**

- 1875 Born in Kaysersberg, Upper Alsace; Family moves to Guensbach
- 1893 Studies theology and philosophy at the University of Strasbourg;  
Organ lessons with Charles Marie Widor in Paris
- 1896 Resolves to find a profession that will allow him to serve humanity when he reaches the age of 30
- 1904 Makes professional decision to study medicine after reading report about the miserable situation of the Congo mission
- 1905 Begins medical studies
- 1910 Finishes his medical studies
- 1912 Marries Helene Bresslau
- 1913 Leaves Guensbach for Africa with Helene
- 1914 In detention at Labrene

- 1917 Interned with Helene in Bordeaux, France
- 1918 Returns to Alsace; Assistant pastor at St. Nicolai
- 1919 Daughter Rena, born on his birthday
- 1920 Travels to Sweden; gives lectures and organ concerts to cover debts
- 1923 Builds a house for Helene and Rhena in Koenigsfeld
- 1924 Makes second trip to Africa, without Helene
- 1925 Builds new hospital
- 1927 Relocation of the hospital; concerts and lectures in Europe
- 1928 Receives Goethe Award from the city of Frankfurt
- 1929 Makes third trip to Africa; Helene returns to Europe for health reasons;  
Schweitzer declines a call to the University of Leipzig
- 1939 Albert Schweitzer remains at Lambarene until 1948
- 1941 Helene arrives at Lambarene
- 1949 Travels to U.S. for Goethe Bicentennial speech in Aspen, Colorado
- 1951 Receives Peace Prize of the German Book trade
- 1953 Receives Nobel Prize for the year 1952
- 1953 Constructs a village for lepers
- 1954 Delivers Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, Oslo, Norway
- 1957 Makes appeals against nuclear weapons tests; Helene's death
- 1958 Delivers radio speeches against the dangers of hydrogen bombs
- 1965 Dies at Lambarene, age 90

## **BIOGRAPHY HELENE SCHWEITZER**

Helene Bresslau was born in Berlin, the second child of historian Harry Bresslau and Caroline Isay. Barred as a Jew from a regular professorship, her father followed a call to Strasbourg with his family in 1890.

In 1898, Helene Bresslau met Albert Schweitzer. A close friendship and connection developed. Like Albert, Helene believed that her fortunate childhood and youth had obligated her to help disadvantaged people. And as the child of Jewish parents, she had experienced first-hand how her parents had had to struggle for the life of privilege they had achieved.

As a complement to her social work "and with a view to future joint work with Albert in Africa" Helene completed an additional course of study leading to a nursing degree. The couple married in 1912 and left Europe for Africa the next year. At Albert's side, Helene experienced their first years in Lambarene, in the French Congo, as the happiest time of her life.

It was Helene's tragic fate, ultimately, not to spend her life sharing in Albert's work in the way she had wished. Due to health problems and out of consideration for the needs of their young daughter, Rhena, born in 1919, Helene was unable – with the exception of a few brief sojourns – to return to Africa.

Nonetheless, as an unflagging champion and tireless fundraiser for his jungle hospital, Helene both literally and figuratively supported Albert until her death in 1957.

## ABOUT THE CAST

JEROEN KRABBÉ

*Albert Schweitzer*

In 1944, Jeroen Krabbé was born into a family of artists based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He was the youngest student ever to be accepted into the Academy of the Arts in Amsterdam. Today he is an artist of international renown and comprehensive oeuvre.

As an actor he originally made his name in the Dutch films of director Paul Verhoeven: "Soldaat van Oranje" (Soldier of Orange, 1977) and "De vierde man" (The Fourth Man, 1983). His Hollywood debut in 1986 was the comedy "Jumpin' Jack Flash" starring Whoopi Goldberg. Since then Jeroen Krabbé has been a versatile screen presence in a wide variety of international productions – be it as a cynical villain, contentious neighbor, arrogant lounge lizard, loving father or irreproachable patriarch. As a KGB general he confronted James Bond (Timothy Dalton) in "The Living Daylights;" in "No Mercy" he drove Richard Gere and Kim Basinger into the swamp; in "The Prince of Tides" he was Barbra Streisand's husband; and in "Farinelli" he portrayed the great composer Georg Friedrich Handel.

Jeroen Krabbé has personally directed two films: his debut, in 1997, was "Left Luggage," winning him several awards including the Blue Angel of the Berlin Film Festival in 1998, the prize of the Guild of German Art House Cinemas, the prize of the International Film Festival in Emden, the Golden Calf and the Grolsch Award of the Netherlands Film Festival. In 1999 Jeroen Krabbé served as a member of the jury of the Berlin Film Festival. His second film as a director was the adaptation of the novel "The Discovery of Heaven" (2001) by Harry Mulisch starring Stephen Fry and Flora Montgomery. In both films Krabbé also starred.

His feature films include "Leef!," "Snuff-Movie," "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo," "Off Screen," "Ocean's Twelve," "Fogbound," "An Ideal Husband," "Ever After," "Dangerous Beauty," "The Disappearance of Garcia Lorca," "Immortal Beloved," "King of the Hill," "The Fugitive," "Voor een verlooren soldaat" (For a Lost Soldier), "Kafka," and "Robin Hood."

On TV Krabbé could be seen in "Dalziel and Pascoe," "Jesus," "The Odyssey," "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles: Paris, May 1919," and "Stalin."

BARBARA HERSHEY

*Helene Schweitzer*

Multi-award-winning actress Barbara Hershey has showcased her talent in some of Hollywood's most memorable films, television movies, miniseries and series.

Hershey, winner of an Emmy and Golden Globe Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Miniseries or Special for "A Killing in a Small Town" also garnered unprecedented back-to-back Best Actress Awards at the Cannes Film Festival for her performances in "Shy People" and "A World Apart."

The Hollywood native made her feature film debut in "With Six You Get Eggroll." And with roles in "The Baby Maker" and "Boxcar Bertha" Hershey quickly advanced to starring roles.

The 1980's catapulted Hershey's film career to star status. She starred in "The Stunt Man" with Peter O'Toole; "The Right Stuff" with Ed Harris, Sam Shepard, and Scott Glenn; "The Natural" with Robert Redford and Robert Duvall; "Hannah and Her Sisters" with Woody Allen, Mia Farrow, Dianne Wiest, and Michael Caine; "Hoosiers" with Gene Hackman and Dennis Hopper; "Tin Men" with Richard Dreyfuss and Danny DeVito; "Shy People" with Jill Clayburgh; "The Last Temptation of Christ" with Willem Dafoe and Harvey Keitel; "Beaches" with Bette Midler and John Heard, and "A World Apart" with Tim Roth.

Hershey triumphantly returned to television in 1990 with her award-winning performance as 'Candy Morrison' in "A Killing in a Small Town" with Brian Dennehy and Hal Holbrook. She continued her string of television successes with her portrayal of 'Clara Allen' in the miniseries "Return to Lonesome Dove" with Jon Voight and Louis Gossett, Jr. and also with her role as 'Dr. Francesca Alberghetti' in David E. Kelly's "Chicago Hope" on CBS.

During the same period, Hershey remained active in feature films. She was nominated for an Oscar and Golden Globe for her performance in "The Portrait of a Lady" with Nicole Kidman and John Malkovich and also starred in Merchant-Ivory's "A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries," and the award-winning "Lantana" from acclaimed Australian director Ray Lawrence.

Hershey's upcoming films, "The Bird Can't Fly" directed by Threes Anna and "Love Comes Lately" directed by Jan Schuette, both recently premiered to critical acclaim at the San Sebastian and Toronto Film Festivals, respectively.

Hershey will next be seen starring with Shirley MacLaine in "Anne of Green Gables." Directed by Kevin Sullivan, this made for TV film will air on PBS in 2009.

Hershey resides in Los Angeles.

## JUDITH GODRÈCHE

*Thérèse Bourdin*

Paris native Judith Godrèche was eight when she appeared in “L’été prochain” (Next Summer). She rose to international prominence with her performance in Jacques Doillon’s acclaimed “La fille de 15 ans” (The 15 year old Girl). In 1991, for her work in “La désenchantée” (The Disenchanted), she received a César nomination as most promising actress. Two additional César nominations followed for her performances in “L’auberge espagnole” (The Spanish Apartment) and “France boutique.”

She also appeared in Jerzy Skolimowski’s “Ferdynand” (30 Door Key) with Iain Glen, as well as “Paris s’éveille” (Paris Awakens), “Tango,” “Beaumarchais, l’insolent” (Beaumarchais the Scoundrel; as Marie-Antoinette), “Ridicule,” “The Man in the Iron Mask” starring Leonardo DiCaprio, “Bimboland” with Gérard Depardieu, “Entropy” with Stephen Dorff, “South Kensington” starring Rupert Everett, “Quicksand” with Michael Keaton and Michael Caine, “Tout pour plaire” (Thirty-Five Something), and “J’veux pas que tu t’en ailles” (Please Don’t Go).

In theatre, Judith Godrèche has been nominated for two Molière Awards and was directed by Michel Balc and Jorge Lavelli.

She recently completed “Pink Panther 2” starring Steve Martin and Jean Reno. Later this year she will be seen in the French comedy “Home Sweet Home.”

## SAMUEL WEST

*Phil Figgis*

Samuel West was born in London, and studied English at Oxford University.

On stage he has played the title rôles in “Richard II” and “Hamlet” for the Royal Shakespeare Company, winning the Critics Circle award for the latter. He has also directed eight plays and two operas, and was from 2005 to 2007 the artistic director of Sheffield Theatres.

His performance in the film “Howards End” was nominated for a BAFTA award. In 1999 he received a Canadian Academy Award Best Actor nomination for the film “Rupert’s Land.” His features also include “Van Helsing,” “Complicity” (directed by Gavin Millar), “Notting Hill,” Franco Zeffirelli’s “Jane Eyre,” and “Carrington.” He plays the voice of Pongo in Disney’s “101 Dalmatians II: Patch’s London Adventure.”

As a reciter, West has appeared with all the major British orchestras, as well as the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington/DC.

On TV Samuel West has been seen in “The Chronicles of Narnia,” “Longitude,” “Cambridge Spies,” “Ring of the Nibelungs” (as King Gunther), and “Waking the Dead,”

among many others. He played Ted Heath in the recent BBC drama "Margaret Thatcher: The Long Walk to Finchley."

#### JEANETTE HAIN

*Rhena Schweitzer*

Munich native Jeanette Hain was planning a career as a director when she was spotted by director Sherry Horman and cast as the lead in the telefilm "Liebe und Verhaengnis" (aka: Die Cellistin). Her many TV appearances include "Die Frau des Architekten" and a guest-starring role in the series "Der Elefant" (Unsolved) for Sat.1. Also for Sat.1, she starred in the series "Bis in die Spitzen" (Blow Dry). In 2005 she was cast in the telefilm "Einmal so wie ich will" and in four episodes of the series "Ørnen: En krimi-odyssé" (The Eagle), directed by Danish Dogme-helmer Søren Kragh-Jacobsen. In 2008 she will star in the new crime drama series "Sueden," based on the novels by Friedrich Ani and also starring Ulrich Noethen.

On the big screen Jeanette Hain starred in successful productions such as "TKKG und die raetselhafte Mind-Machine," "Frau Rettich, die Czerni und ich" (Mrs. Rettich, Czerni and I), "Welcome Home," "Bibi Blocksberg," "Sass," "Das Trio" (The Trio), and "Abschied – Brechts letzter Sommer" (The Farewell). With Emily Blunt and Rupert Friend she will appear in the upcoming British production „The Young Victoria,“ directed by Jean-Marc Vallée. As a guest star she will be seen in Steven Daldry's "The Reader," adapted from the best selling novel by Bernhard Schlink, and in the historical thriller "The Countess," starring and directed by Julie Delpy.

In 2004 Jeanette Hain won the Golden Nymph award for her performance in "Die Frau des Architekten." In 1999 she was honored with the DIVA Award (German Entertainment Award).

#### PATRICE NAIAMBANA

*Louis N'Gouta*

On stage, Patrice Naiambana is currently appearing in "The Histories" as a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company in London. For the same company he will play the title role of "Othello" in London and New York in January, 2009.

His TV performances include "Highlander: The Source," "Silent Witness," "Casualty," "Judge John Deed," "Absolute Power," "Doc Martin," and "In Exile."

## JONATHAN FIRTH

### *Dr. David Fuller*

Jonathan Firth hails from Essex, England. He graduated from the London Central School of Speech and Drama in 1989 and made his name on television as Fred Vincy in the mini-series "Middlemarch" (1994) and as Sergeant Troy in the acclaimed TV remake of "Far From the Madding Crowd" (1998). In 2001 he portrayed Prince Albert in the A & E production of "Victoria & Albert."

On the big screen he appeared in "Luther," in the French thriller "Six Pack," "Truel," "An Ideal Husband" (as Lord Arthur Goring), and in Peter Kosminsky's adaptation of "Wuthering Heights." His TV appearances include "Nuclear Secrets," "Jericho," and "In the Beginning."

## ARMIN ROHDE

### *Albert Einstein*

Armin Rohde was born in 1955. He learned his craft at the Folkwang-Hochschule in Essen/Germany and also studied with Pierre Byland, training for his clown appearances. He has already been honored with many Film Awards such as the Adolf Grimme Award for "Dienstreise – Was fuer eine Nacht," in 2004, the Bambi Award for the TV production "Das Wunder von Lengede" (A Light in Dark Places), and the Jupiter Award as Best Actor in 2003. In the year 2000 he received the Golden Camera as Best Character Actor.

Recent appearances include the features "Up! Up! To the Sky," "Alter & Schoenheit" (to be released 2009), "Freche Maedchen" as well as the telefilms "Die Bluecherbande," "Verrueckt nach Emma," and "Schade um das schoene Geld." Roles on the big-screen include Til Schweiger's "Keinohrhasen" (Rabbit Without Ears) and "Barfuß" (Barefoot), "Taking Sides," "Marlene" (as Emil Jannings), Tom Tykwer's "Lola rennt" (Run, Lola, Run), and Helmut Dietl's "Rossini" and "Schtonk".

Rohde's numerous TV appearances include the 13-part series "Auf Achse," "Das Gelbe vom Ei," directed by Lars Becker (1998), the „Pommery“ anthology for ZDF, directed by Manfred Stelzer (2002–2004), and seven episodes of the anthology "Nachtschicht," directed by Lars Becker. On stage Armin Rohde appeared in "Richard III," "Triumph der Liebe," "Warten auf Godot" (Waiting for Godot), Molière's "Menschenfeind" (The Misanthrope), "Oedipus," "Drei-Groschen-Oper" (Three-Penny Opera), "Kabale und Liebe" (Intrigue and Love), "Romeo und Julia" (Romeo and Juliet), and "Don Carlos."

## ELEONORE WEISGERBER

### *Nurse Anna*

In 2009 Eleonore Weisgerber will be seen in the feature "Ninja Assassin," produced by the Wachowski Brothers. Her feature films also include Christian Petzold's "Pilotinnen" and Claude Chabrol's "Dr. M."

On television she appeared in more than one hundred productions in Germany and France, including "Im Gehege," "Der falsche Tod," "Schimanski – Muttertag," "Die Liebenden vom Alexanderplatz," Margarethe von Trotta's "Mit 50 kuessen Maenner anders," "Maître Da Costa – Meurtre sur rendez-vous," and "Les filles du Lido," to name just a few. She is also active on stage and presents her own chanson program.

## HANS-WERNER MEYER

### *Dr. Erik Hals*

Hans-Werner Meyer hails from Hamburg/Germany earned his craft at the Academy of Music and Theatre in Hannover. On screen he made his name in Joseph Vilsmaier's "Marlene." He also appeared in feature films such as Wolfgang Murnberger's "Lapislazuli – Im Auge des Baeren," Bertrand Tavernier's „Laissez-passer“ (Safe Conduct), Christian Riss's "Ende des Fruehlings," Niki List's "Der Schatten des Schreibers" (The Writer's Shadow), and Vilsmaier's "Charlie & Louise." In 2008 he will be seen in Uli Edel's upcoming "Der Baader-Meinhof-Komplex" and in the telefilm "Wir sind das Volk – Liebe kennt keine Grenzen."

In 2000 Meyer won the Bavarian Television Award for "Und morgen geht die Sonne wieder auf" as well as for the TV series "Die Cleveren."

## JENNIFER ULRICH

### *Nurse Susi*

Berlin native Jennifer Ulrich recently starred in Dennis Gansel's hit film "Die Welle" (The Wave). Her feature films include Oskar Roehler's "Elementarteilchen" (Elementary Particles) as well as "Die Wolke" (The Cloud), "Lauf der Dinge," "Sieben Tag Sonntag" (Seven Days Sunday), "Befreite Zone" (Liberated Zone), and "Große Maedchen weinen nicht" (Big Girls Don't Cry).

Her many television appearances include the "Tatort" series episode "Familienaufstellung," "Einsatz in Hamburg – Mord nach Mitternacht," the "Polizeiruf 110" series episode "Verstoßen," "Untreu," and "Berlin – Eine Stadt sucht den Moerder."

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

**GAVIN MILLAR**

*Director and Screenwriter*

For almost 30 years, Gavin Millar has been one of the most renowned British directors with a constant presence at British and North American broadcasters like BBC or HBO. Millar worked on a huge variety of genres like historical films, family entertainment, crime stories and comedy for all major international production companies, such as Carlton, Granada, Lukas Film, Alliance Atlantis, Portobello, etc.

His feature films include "Complicity," "Danny the Champion of the World" starring Jeremy Irons, "Dreamchild," and "Secrets."

His dedication to story and his ambition to give the best possible guidance to actors, makes him especially sought after for productions which ask for a strong dramatic presence of actors.

2007 he won the BAFTA TV Award for "Housewife, 49." In 1996 he received the BAFTA Scotland Award for "The Crow Road." In 1994 the Broadcast Critics honored him for his telefilm "Pat and Margaret." In 1981 he was recognized with the Italia Prize for his telefilm "Cream in My Coffee."

For television he directed "Pickles," the mini-series "Foyle's War," "The Vice," "The Last Detective," "Ella and the Mothers," "Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister," "My Fragile Heart," "This Could be the Last Time," "Talking Heads 2," the mini-series "Belle Epoque," "The Dwelling Place," "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles: Peking, March 1910," "Look at It This Way," "My Friend Walter," "A Murder of Quality," "Tidy Endings," "Scoop," "The Russian Soldier," "Unfair Exchanges," "Mr and Mrs Edgehill," and "The Weather in the Streets."

**DAVID HOWARD**

*Co-Writer*

Selected filmography:

2008 "Dragon Dale," in development

2005 "Asure of ghost island" directed by Florian Baxmeyer

2003 "Sea of dreams" directed by José Bojorquez

2001 "Sian Ka'an" directed by Raul Garcia

2000 "The bus trip" (TV) directed by Rainer Kaufmann

1999 "A sordid affair" (TV) directed by Stuart Cooper

1997 "Mayday" (TV) directed by Chris Bould

1995 "My friend Joe" directed by Chris Bould

1991 "Wildflower" (TV) directed by Diane Keaton

1991 "Rugrats" (animated TV series, Co-Author of 2 episodes)

Selected awards & honours:

2008 Nomination German Film Award – Outstanding Children or Youth Film –

“Asure of ghost island”

1996 Best Children’s Film, Berlin International Film Festival - “My friend Joe”

1996 Grand Public Prize, Le Carrousel du Film de Rimouski (Canada) - “My friend Joe”

JAMES BRABAZON

*Original screenplay*

1923 – 2007, Obituary

James Brabazon was born Leslie James Seth-Smith in 1923 in Kampala, Uganda. In 1928 the family returned to England. Following an education in classics at Uppingham and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, James moved to London and began acting. Within a few years he was performing repertory theatre from Perth to Coventry.

Settling down in Finchley in 1956, James joined an advertising agency, but also tried play-writing in his spare time. "People of Nowhere" was written for World Refugee Year in 1959, and received great critical acclaim. He spent most of the 60's and 70's script-editing, directing, and producing for the BBC, Granada and LWT. He was involved in much of the cutting edge drama of the time, including "The Six Wives of Henry VIII," the "Childhood" series with directors Michael Apted, Mike Newell and John Irvin, and "Talking to a Stranger" with Judi Dench.

Following a highly praised biography of Dorothy L. Sayers, James was invited to write a biography of Dr. Albert Schweitzer: humanitarian, philosopher, and Nobel Peace Prize winner. Schweitzer's philosophy of "Reverence for Life" affected James profoundly, and he never stopped sharing its all-encompassing truth with others and was closely involved with the charity Friends of Albert Schweitzer (UK). The Schweitzer biography led him to be welcomed as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

In 1981 James turned his hand to feature film script-writing. As with all of his story-telling, his scripts were generally on subjects important to him, in which he found a moral as well as a human aspect. "Lost in Siberia" was nominated for the 1991 Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Language Film, showing the potential his other scripts may yet fulfill.

James suffered a short illness. His last weeks were spent surrounded by beloved family and friends.

## CINDERS FORSHAW

### *Director of Photography*

British cinematographer Cinders Forshaw began her collaboration with “Schweitzer” director Gavin Millar on the highly successful 2006 telefilm “Housewife, 49” (BAFTA TV Award 2007). For “Schweitzer” she returned to South Africa, where she had shot the 2000 movie “The Long Run” starring Armin Mueller-Stahl. Her additional features include the children’s film “Anita & Me,” “Churchill – The Hollywood Years,” and “Hold Back the Night.”

In 2001 she received a BAFTA TV Award nomination for her work on “Perfect Strangers” with Michael Gambon. She has been working on the new version of the beloved “Miss Marple” series, receiving a New York Festival Silver World Medal for “Marple: The Moving Finger” in 2006. Her television work includes “Poirot: Cat Among the Pigeons,” “The Dinner Party,” the 2006 version of “Dracula,” directed by Bill Eagles, “Tipping the Velvet,” “Butterfly Collectors,” and “The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling.”

## ELIZA MELLOR

### *Producer*

Eliza Mellor looks back on a career of twenty years in crucial positions in British film and TV production. As Head of Development she successfully ran a co-production slate of feature films with BBC Films including films like “Love Is the Devil” directed by John Maybury and “The Lawless Heart” directed by Tom Hunsinger and Neil Hunter, followed by a slate of films for Channel Four, including “Under the Skin” directed by Carine Adler, and “Beautiful People” directed by Jasmin Dizdar.

Eliza Mellor then went on to become a development and production executive for the British Film Institute, working on productions such as “Wittgenstein,” a feature film directed by Derek Jarman, and “Business With Friends,” a short drama directed by Uwe Janson.

For the last ten years Eliza Mellor has worked as an independent line producer on a large variety of projects, such as the TV dramas for BBC, feature film length documentaries and feature films including “I’ll Sleep When I’m Dead” directed by Mike Hodges and “Who Killed Norma Barnes” directed by Malcolm McKay.

NFP has successfully collaborated with Eliza Mellor on the multilateral co-production “Bye Bye Harry.”

## PROJECT PARTNERS

SALINAS FILMGESELLSCHAFT /

NFP MEDIA RIGHTS

Salinas Filmgesellschaft founded by Executive Producer Alexander Thies in partnership with entrepreneur Charles A. Seiller, is proudly producing the international feature film “Schweitzer” (working title) in concert with NFP media rights. As part of the NFP group NFP media rights is responsible for distribution and marketing. NFP is an independently owned German family company founded in 1956, and operating in the second generation under the direction of brothers Alexander and Stefan Thies. NFP has offices in Wiesbaden, Berlin, and Halle (Saale). With more than 50 years of professional experience, NFP is active in both the domestic and international markets. The company's core philosophy is to coordinate development, production, marketing, and distribution in one hand.

The NFP group specializes in all of the following:

- production and distribution of internationally relevant feature films
- co-financing of international productions
- development and production of feature films, TV movies, and documentary films
- production and financing of film scores, audio books, and radio dramas
- consulting and services for production, distribution, and marketing companies
- internationally prominent media events

NFP broke onto the international scene with the acclaimed feature films “Bonhoeffer – Agent of Grace” (2000, directed by Eric Till, starring Ulrich Tukur) and “Luther” (2003, directed by Eric Till, starring Joseph Fiennes and Sir Peter Ustinov). The German-Canadian co-production “Bonhoeffer” enjoyed wide success on television, in cinemas, and on the video market. It won numerous awards, including the Golden Nymph 2000 (Monte Carlo, International TV Festival), the New York Bronze Medal 2000 (USA, New York Festival), the One Future-Prize 2000 (Germany, Munich Film Festival), and the Golden DAG Award 2001 (Germany). NFP not only produced this film, but also distributed it nationally and internationally. “Bonhoeffer” was NFP's first English language success in North America – 13 million people saw the film in the U.S.

“Bonhoeffer's” warm reception opened the doors for the production and distribution of the epic feature film “Luther,” the thrilling story of the life of the great church reformer. “Luther” enjoyed even greater success – it was sold in over 30 countries worldwide, had more than three million admissions in Germany, a box office in the U.S. of more than \$8 million, and received numerous awards, including the Aurora Gold Award 2004 (USA, camera), the Chris Award 2004 (USA), the Wilbur Award 2004 (USA, best film), the Golden Screen 2004 (Germany), and the Bavarian

Television Award 2004 (Germany, production design). NFP not only produced the film, but also distributed it in Germany and worldwide with an innovative marketing strategy.

## TWO OCEANS PRODUCTION

Since taking over as directors of TOP in the year 2000, Giselher Venzke and Bertha Spieker have produced more than 40 TV films for the German speaking market. They have been particularly successful in awakening interest in South Africa as a film location.

The cinema film "Falling Rocks," directed by Peter Keglevic was one of the most successful in-house productions by ProSieben. The Sat.1 thriller "Einladung zum Mord" (Invitation to Murder; a re-make of Rainer Erler's "The Last Holiday") was nominated MOVIE OF THE YEAR for this broadcaster. The project was especially noteworthy because the only German representative on location in South Africa was the director. All the other people involved, including the cameraman, were local and engaged by TOP, setting a significant precedent.

Other important productions followed, such as "A Love in Africa" (Eine Liebe in Afrika – ARD, 2002) directed by Xaver Schwarzenberger and starring Heiner Lauterbach, and "Forever Lost" (Fuer immer verloren – Sat.1, 2002) starring Veronica Ferres. These projects marked the beginning of a long-standing cooperation between TOP and teamWorx' Nico Hofmann, with whom six films, including three two-part films, have been made. The most recent was a European co-production titled "Heaven" (Kein Himmel ueber Afrika), a two-part film for Degeto, based on a best-selling novel and starring Veronica Ferres and Jean-Hugues Anglade, directed by Roland Suso Richter.

From the very beginning, the Venzke/Spieker team have aimed to produce a variety of different films, not only those actually set in Southern Africa.

The following examples illustrate their efforts:

- The film of the best-selling novel "The Rose Grower" (Die Rosenzuechterin) by Charlotte Link, directed by Erhard Riedlsperger, starring Hannelore Elsner and Ruth-Maria Kubitschek (ZDF, 2004) and set on the British Island of Guernsey.
- The historical two-part film "Stars Over Madeira" (Sterne ueber Madeira) directed by Marco Serafini (ZDF, 2004).
- The two-part film "A Love in Saigon" (Eine Liebe in Saigon) directed by Uwe Janson, starring Desiree Nosbusch (Sat.1, 2005), and recently another two-part film for DEGETO starring Maja Maranow and Heiner Lauterbach which is set in New Zealand and Berlin.

These films prove that South Africa serves admirably as a highly adaptable film location. Additionally, German productions of TV series such as "Girlfriends," "Das

Forsthaus Falkenau” and “SOKO 5113” have been filmed in South Africa with TOP’s assistance. With the production “The Three Investigators and the Secret of Skeleton Island,” directed by Florian Baxmayer in 2006, TOP joined the cinema film sector for the first time as co-producer. In addition to all this, TOP has also discovered new locations beyond South Africa’s borders. Namibia, Mauritius and Kenya have all provided locations for TOP productions.