

Short Film "Im Zweifelsfall" ("If in Doubt")

30 min | 2024 | Director: Till Gombert | Production: Kunsthochschule für Medien und Till Gombert

Production Manager: Florian Schmitz | DOP: Carmen Rivadeneria | Sound: Gerrit Kuge

Production Design: Sophia Profanter | Costume Design: Rachel Eckstein-Kovacs

Felix Hoefner as Sönke and Katrin Heß as Vivian



Synopsis:

Sönke drives his pregnant partner Vivian home from work, but her pains won't stop there either. While she hopes the midwife will call her back and stoically endures the situation, he becomes increasingly restless, unsure of his role during her first pregnancy. Dealing with worries, fears and feelings together reveals the construction of their relationship.

Director's statement:

"If in Doubt" is my approach to the topic of pregnancy and becoming a parent. I don't have children myself, but I found it interesting to look at the relationship changes that starting a family can trigger in a heterosexual partnership. In particular, I wanted to look at the role of those men who feel it is important to participate in this time of transition, but who are also overwhelmed by their role during pregnancy. Based on Rachel Cusk's "A Life's Work", I had a growing feeling that pregnancy is a phase of life that is no longer really tangible in retrospect, perhaps even displaced by the happiness of having children. It was therefore important for me to shoot with an actress who was actually pregnant, as I would not just be projecting onto this state from the outside, but would be able to bring her own pregnancy experience into the film in dialog with the actress. What luck that I found not only Katrin Heß but also her real partner Felix Höfner as actors. Both had already their first child, so during the rehearsals and filmmaking they brought their situation of the current pregnancy in the film, while recollecting the experience of the first pregnancy.

Vita Director:

Till Gombert was born in 1991 in Freiburg (Germany) into a family of photographers. Till Gombert studied from 2014 to 2020 at the Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung Karlsruhe in the Media Art / Film program and continues his studies as part of the postgraduate program at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne. Till directs narrative films with a minimalist approach, taking time for observation, and experimental films, often shot on Super8. The films have been selected for numerous festivals, including Beijing International Short Film Festival, Tirana International Film Festival and Stuttgarter Filmwinter. In 2023 he founded together with director and producer Florian Schmitz the production company DEKORFILM to produce fiction films with an observational and realistic approach.