



58 Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Panorama

CHIKO

BY
ÖZGÜR
YILDIRIM

THE MATCH FACTORY

CHIKO



CAST

Chiko
DENIS MOSCHITTO

Tibet
VOLKAN ÖZCAN

Brownie
MORITZ BLEIBTREU

Meryem
REYHAN ŞAHİN

Curly
FAHRI OĞÜN YARDIM

Tibet's mother
LILAY HUSER

Scholle
PHILIPP BALTUS

Sascha
HANS LÖW

Tonton
LUCAS GREGOROWICZ

SYNOPSIS CHIKO BY ÖZGÜR YILDIRIM

Chiko wants to make it all the way up to the top. He and his best friend, Tibet, think that money, power and respect is all that counts for two young guys of Turkish background in the suburban ghettos of Hamburg.

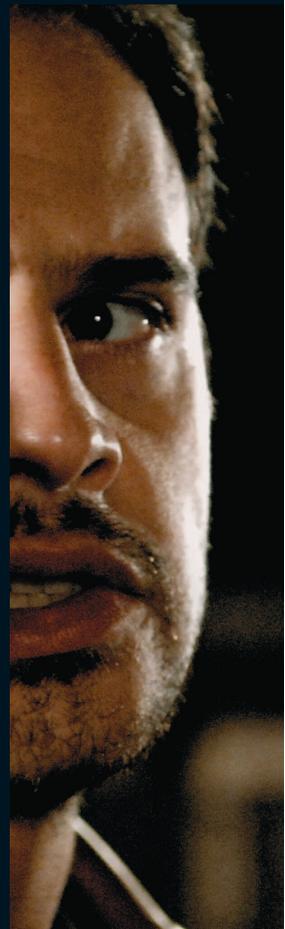
Chiko uses his ruthless wits to catch the attention of Brownie, the drug lord who controls everything the two friends dream of. Chiko fights for Brownie's trust and respect and eventually becomes Brownie's right hand in the local drug underworld.

But when Tibet crosses violent Brownie, Chiko finds himself in a dangerous situation. Everything he has risked his life for is at stake: his reputation, his status, and his friendship with Tibet.

ÖZGÜR YILDIRIM DIRECTOR AND SCRIPTWRITER

Özgür Yildirim, born 1979 in Hamburg, published his first book already at the age of 14, a collection of short stories (Grey Nights). Between 2002 and 2004 he studied Film at the Hamburg Media School. His short film ALIM MARKET (2004) was featured at several film festivals and was nominated for the Short Tiger Award at the Munich International Film Festival.

FILMOGRAPHY: 2007 CHIKO // 2004 ALIM MARKET (short) // 2003 LIEBE AUF TÜRKISCH – LOVE IN TURKISH (short) // 2002 DER NÖTIGE SCHNEID – UNDER THE KNIFE (short) // 1999 DON JUAN DE TÜRKÖ (short) // 1998 HARTES BLUT – HARD BLOOD



DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

MY "SCARFACE"

CHIKO is my 'Scarface' set in a Hamburg suburban ghetto. This statement tends to raise a few eyebrows. I sometimes set myself up to hear something like: But that's nothing new. But I never hear it. Because people know 'Scarface' is realistic 'Scarface' is tough, 'Scarface' is honest and direct. And no one's seen anything like this in Germany. When I was 18, I saw Matthieu Kassowitz's LA HAINE. I believe that film says everything about ghetto life. The characters fit, the concrete buildings fit, the story fits, the style fits, everything. Still today, 10 years later, LA HAINE is, for me, the only true and sincere ghetto film in Europe.

NO LUKEWARM BULLSHIT

There's one thing you need for this kind of film: Authenticity. I don't want the American system that just transfers the violence and all that banging and shooting to Hamburg. I don't want Chiko to blow up 20 people with a full loaded MG in his villa. That's America. Might be that's what happens over there and that's their reality. But ours looks different. Here we have Turkish, German, Albanian reality. And that's tough. I want the viewers to be fascinated but also unsettled when they see my film. What they're going to see has to be credible and somehow shocking. I want those tough ghetto boys to say: that's the way it is. Finally, no lukewarm bullshit film.

DULSBERG

I grew up in Dulsberg, according to the statistics one of the poorest and most underprivileged districts in Hamburg. Such a district has many faces; some of the characters you meet could just have walked off the screen. And when you like to tell stories, especially out of the ghetto, you end up gathering so many ideas and inspirations over the years that you start to think they might disappear if you don't finally bring them onto the screen.

HARD BLOOD

My first film, 'Hard Blood', had a bit of Chiko in it. I made a few other short films after 'Hard Blood', mostly comedies. I thought I was done with all this ghetto stuff. But then I go home everyday to Dulsberg, and new things inspire me all the time. Stuff like, Hakan going back to construction, or Kemal getting deported, or so and so hit the Shell gas station over on Memeler street and beat up the attendant so badly that he's now dead.

DRUGS AND VIOLENCE

When I'm asked about the reason why I want to make a film like this, about ghettos, criminality, drugs and violence, then there's one clear answer for me: At the moment there's no other person that can do it better than me. A second reason for me is that no one in the last years in Germany has made a real, honest, open and clear film about the drug scene. I've never seen on TV what I know from reality. In Wolf's Revier, a popular crime/action series in Germany, everyone pulls out their guns and wants the suitcase with the 'Stuff!'. No dealer says 'stuff', for god's sake. So basically, no one has any idea what it's really like. Or maybe no one actually has the guts to tell what it's like. How the guys deal, transport, talk, insider lingo, codes and all that stuff. Most of all, no one knows what these guys are really like. If someone's tough and bad, then he has to speak or act tough and bad. If he's good, then he's made to fit our morals. Why? The authors are all not honest with themselves. I want to be straight. I want to be honest.

CREW

Director

Özgür Yildirim

Scriptwriter

Özgür Yildirim

Producers

Fatih Akin, Klaus Mæck,
Andreas Thiel

Cinematographer

Matthias Bolliger

Editor

Sebastian Thümler

Production Designer

Iris Trescher

A production of

corazón international

In co-production with

NDR (Jeanette Würli)

With support from

Nordmedia,

Filmförderung Hamburg
Schleswig-Holstein, FFA,
DFFF, Kuratorium Junger
Deutscher Film

TECHNICAL DATA

FORMAT

35 mm blow-up / 1:1,85 /

Colour / Dolby Digital

Surround EX

LENGTH

92 min.

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

German, Turkish

SUBTITLES

English



BROWNIE

THE REIGNING LOCAL DRUG LORD. AS VIOLENT AS HE IS A GOOD FAMILY MAN.

MORITZ BLEIBTREU

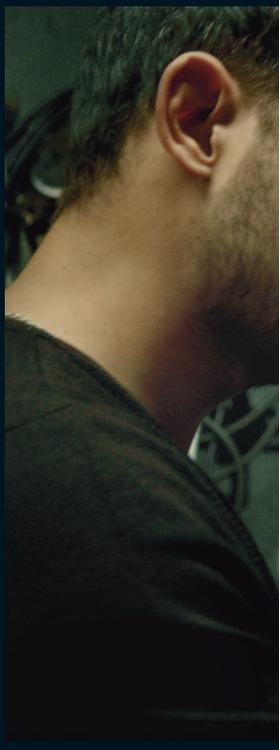
One of Germany's biggest stars, Moritz Bleibtreu first received international attention for his leading role in Tom Tykwer's 1998 feature *RUN LOLA RUN*. For his role as the sexually obsessed Bruno in Oskar Roehler's *ELEMENTARY PARTICLES*, Bleibtreu received the Best Actor Award at the Berlin Film Festival 2006. Bleibtreu won much acclaim, as well as Best Actor prizes at the German Film Awards and the Seattle Film Festival, for his role as the troublemaking prisoner in Oliver Hirschbiegel's 2001 thriller *DAS EXPERIMENT*. Bleibtreu recently starred in Hans Weingartner's *RECLAIM YOUR BRAIN (FREE RAINER)*, and he will soon be seen as RAF terrorist Andreas Baader in Uli Edel's *DER BAADER-MEINHOF KOMPLEX*.

TIBET

CHIKO'S BEST FRIEND. NERVOUS, RESTLESS, A TICKING TIME BOMB.

VOLKAN ÖZCAN

Playing Tibet is Volkan Özcan's first role in a feature-length film. A childhood friend of director Özgür Yildirim, he appeared in his shorts *HARD BLOOD* and *DON JUAN DE TÜRKÖ*.



CHIKO

A RISING STAR OF THE UNDERWORLD. AMBITIOUS, AGGRESSIVE, BUT NOT WITHOUT A HEART.

DENIS MOSCHITTO

Denis Moschitto won the 2003 Günter-Strack Award as Best New Actor for his performance in the German TV crime series TATORT – ROMEO UND JULIA. He is perhaps best known for two very different Turkish-German roles: as Elvîz in Torsten Wacker's SÜPERSEKS and as Ibo in Anno Saul's KEBAB CONNECTION. After his 1998 debut in Rolf Schübel's drama GLOOMY SUNDAY, his other film credits include Marco Petry's comedy SCHOOL and Benjamin Quabeck's NO REGRETS (NICHTS BEREUEN) and PLAY IT LOUD! (VERSCHWENDE DEINE JUGEND). Born in 1977 in Cologne, Moschitto is the son of an Italian father and a Turkish mother.

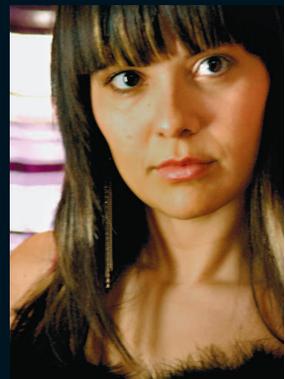


MERYEM

THE SEXY PROSTITUTE WHO CATCHES CHIKO'S EYE.

REYHAN "LADY BITCH RAY" ŞAHİN

CHIKO marks the acting debut of Reyhan Şahin. She is perhaps best known as rapper Lady Bitch Ray, controversial for her explicit lyrics commenting on emancipation, sexuality and social-criticism. A rapper since age 12, she founded her own record label Vagina Style Records in 2007. She was born in 1981 in Bremen, Germany, and did her university studies there in linguistics, German studies and Sexual studies. She is currently working on her postgraduate thesis for her PhD.







*"YOU WANNA BE THE BEST, YOU GOTTA GET RESPECT.
AND WHEN YOU WANNA GET RESPECT, THEN YOU CAN'T
SHOW NOBODY NO RESPECT. WHEN YOU SHOW
NOBODY NO RESPECT, THEN PEOPLE START TO THINK
YOU INVENTED RESPECT."*

**INTERNATIONAL PRESS
RICHARD LORMAND
WORLD CINEMA PUBLICITY**

**WWW.FILMPRESSPLUS.COM
E-MAIL: INTLPRESS@AOL.COM**

**IN BERLIN (FEB 7–17):
+49 172 445 9635
OR +49 173 828 4659**

**WORLD SALES
THE MATCH FACTORY GMBH**

**BALTHASARSTRASSE 79–81
50670 COLOGNE / GERMANY
TEL +49 221 292 102-0
FAX +49 221 292 102-10**

**E-MAIL: INFO@MATCHFACTORY.DE
WWW.THE-MATCH-FACTORY.COM**