



60<sup>th</sup>  
Film Festival  
Locarno  
International  
Competition

# SOONER OR LATER

**BY  
ULRIKE  
VON RIBBECK**

**THE MATCH FACTORY**

# SOONER OR LATER



# CAST

Nora  
**LOLA KLAMROTH**

Uwe, Nora's father  
**PETER LOHMEYER**

Thomas  
**HARALD SCHROTT**

Anette, Nora's mother  
**BEATA LEHMANN**

Isa  
**KATHARINA HEYER**

Ellen  
**MARIE-LOU SELLEM**

Wolf  
**THORSTEN MERTEN**

Daniel  
**FABIAN HINRICHS**

## SYNOPSIS SOONER OR LATER BY ULRIKE VON RIBBECK

Nora is fourteen and lives with her parents in a quiet Berlin suburb. She is a romantic introvert who spends her day retreated into her own enchanted dreamworld. Her parents, Anette and Uwe, are busy trying to handle reality; both are wrestling with unrealised hopes and dreams along with the added troubles caused by Anette's return to her studies and Uwe's struggling business.

When Thomas, a former lover of Anette's and his family move in next door, the already fragile foundations of Nora's family are rocked. Thomas, good looking and charming, is a failed actor and mountaineer. Nora immediately falls for the sensitive man. He represents everything her father lacks: savoir-vivre, vitality, worldliness and strength. Uwe can hardly bear how his former archrival now attracts all the attention with his "laissez-faire" charm and his larger-than-life stories.

While Anette succumbs to an affair with a fellow student and Uwe breaks ties with his business partner, Nora begins projecting her desires onto the charming neighbour. Things come to a head between Uwe and Thomas at a dinner party. The veneer of family bliss is under threat and Nora understands that maybe her wistful desires aren't compatible with reality.



# ULRIKE VON RIBBECK

DIRECTOR AND CO-WRITER

Born 1975 in Minden, Germany, director and co-writer Ulrike von Ribbeck studied at the German Academy for Film & Television (DFFB) in Berlin. In 2003 her short AM SEE was selected for the Cinéfondation sidebar in Cannes and went on to win various international awards. Her next short CHARLOTTE (2004) screened at the Berlin International Film Festival in the Perspektive Deutsches Kino section and was also screened at the Director's Fortnight in Cannes. The script for Ulrike von Ribbeck's full-length feature film debut SOONER OR LATER was chosen for the L'Atelier du Festival in Cannes 2005.

FILMOGRAPHY: SOONER OR LATER ("Früher oder später", Feature Film, 2007) /// CHARLOTTE (Short Film, 2004) /// AT THE LAKE ("Am See", Short Film, 2002) /// LITTLE STAR (Short Film, 2001) /// LITTLE DREAMS ("Kleine Träume", Documentary, 2000) /// LAURENTIA (Short Film, 1999)



## CREW

DIRECTOR AND SCRIPTWRITER  
**ULRIKE VON RIBBECK**

CO-WRITER  
**KATHARINA HELD**

PRODUCERS  
**BEATRICE KRAMM**  
**STEFFI ACKERMANN**

CINEMATOGRAPHER  
**SONJA ROM**

EDITOR  
**NATALI BARREY**

ART DIRECTOR  
**INA TIMMERBERG**

A PRODUCTION OF  
**POLYPHON FILM- UND**  
**FERNSEHGESELLSCHAFT**

IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH  
**ZDF / DAS KLEINE**  
**FERNSEHSPIEL AND ARTE**

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# DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

## COMING OF AGE OF A FAMILY

The basic idea was to create a film about the coming of age of a family, a family's life that is completely shattered. Just as in my previous short film, "At the lake", "Sooner or later" is about a young person who is confronted harshly with the grown-up world.

## LOLA KLAMROTH PLAYING "NORA"

I've seen Lola for the first time in a magazine together with her father Peter Lohmeyer. I cut out the photo and kept it for months while writing the script. The photo was taken at an award ceremony and I was struck by the distinctive expression on her face, the wavy fair hair – her whole appearance had something glamorous about it. For me it was always clear that only Lola should play the role of Nora. When Lola finished reading the script and finally accepted the part together with her father, I was extremely happy.

Lola was only fourteen years old when we shot "Sooner or later". Despite that she played Nora in a strikingly natural way, as if she actually knew the figure better than me: To me, it felt like she really was Nora.

Lola's part as Nora is her very first role in a feature film.

## FAMILY MICROCOSM

While developing the plot I wasn't interested in hugely dramatic storylines but rather in the inner world of the protagonists. Nora and her parents are not extreme; they are a perfectly normal middle-class German family. They do pretend, for themselves, to be perfect though; to build a protective wall against the hostile world outside. The truth is that they are beginning to feel unsure and insecure, losing their convictions in life. To maintain the idyllic façade is more difficult than any of them would admit. That was my challenge: to show this family microcosm in an emotional and engaging way. How do parents hide their desires? What are they actually not talking about? How lonely and separated can you live side by side with other people? In my film, everyone is talking about platitudes and never about feelings or what their real concerns are. No, instead of all that, they are talking about "dishwasher-proof tableware" or "K2 – the mountain of mountains". Everybody is carrying their desires around in silence without realizing that they are heading for an emotional catastrophe ...





**TECHNICAL DATA**  
**FORMAT**  
S16, blow-up / 1:2,35 /  
Colour / Dolby Digital  
**LENGTH**  
91 mins  
**ORIGINAL LANGUAGE**  
German  
**SUBTITLES**  
English

## **KATHARINA HELD** CO-WRITER

Katharina Held, born 1977 in Detmold (Germany), graduated in scriptwriting from the Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie (dffb) in Berlin in 2001. Before turning her attention to scriptwriting she studied history, philosophy, and art theory at the Freie Universität (FU) in Berlin. Her first full-length feature film script, co-written with Hans Weingartner, was “The Edukators” (“Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei”) that premiered in the Official Competition of the Festival de Cannes in 2004. Katharina Held co-wrote the script for Hans Weingartner’s latest feature film project “Free Rainer” (WT).

## **SONJA ROM** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Sonja Rom has been working in film and television since the 1990s. She has worked with acclaimed German directors such as Hans Christian Schmid (“Crazy”, 1999), Lars Kraume (“Keine Lieder über die Liebe” – No Songs of Love, 2004) or Matthias Glasner (“Fandango”, 1998, “Sexy Sadie”, 1995) to name a few. She is also credited with a number of US productions, among which Steven Seagal’s “Attack Force” (2006), Lorena David’s “Extreme Dating” (2004) and Matthew Bright’s “Tiptoes” (2003). In Germany, the “Die wilden Kerle 1–3” feature film series, cinematographed by Sonja Rom, was a major hit at the box office. In “Sooner or later”, Sonja Rom, as one of the few female cinematographers, again proves her ability to create a strong intimacy between protagonist and audience.

## **STEFFI ACKERMANN** PRODUCER

Steffi Ackermann, born 1975 in Berlin, has worked in film and TV production since 1996. She studied film production at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg from where she graduated in 2005. During her studies she took classes at the Ryerson University, Toronto, and visited the summer school “The Hollywood Perspective” in L.A. She produced several short films and won the ARRI® Award for Best Production Management in 2001. Since 2005 Steffi Ackermann has been a producer at Polyphon Film- und Fernsehgesellschaft, a Berlin-based production company with a focus on TV production. “Sooner or later” marks the beginning of Polyphon’s expansion into debut filmmaking.







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