

DOX LEIPZIG
GERMAN
COMPETITION
2019

AFTERMATH

A FILM BY
CHRISTOPH HÜBNER & GABRIELE VOSS

PRODUCED BY CORSO FILM IN COLLABORATION WITH CHRISTOPH HÜBNER FILMPRODUKTION
IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH WDR FUNDED BY FILM- UND MEDIENSTIFTUNG NRW · DEUTSCHER FILMFÖRDERFONDS

CINEMATOGRAPHY CHRISTOPH HÜBNER SOUND RECORDIST FILIPP FORBERG EDITOR GABRIELE VOSS
SOUNDDESIGN GUIDO ZETTIER · MICHAEL NGUYEN RE-RECORDING MIXER STEFAN KORTE MUSIC JÖRG FOLLERT COLOR CORRECTION FELIX HÜSKEN
PRODUCTION MANAGER FLORIAN-MALTE FIMPEL COMMISSIONING EDITOR JUTTA KRUG PRODUCERS ERIK WINKER · MARTIN ROELLY
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPH HÜBNER AND GABRIELE VOSS

CORSO FILM

CHRISTOPH HÜBNER
FILMPRODUKTION

WDR

Film und Medien
Stiftung NRW

DEUTSCHER
FILMFÖRDERFONDS
100 000 €

Reisepunkt
Studios

FARBKULT

REALFICTION



AFTERMATH

Feature Documentary

94 min. / Germany 2019 / 16:9 / 5.1 / HD

Original Language: German / English subs

written and directed by Christoph Hübner and Gabriele Voss

Produced by CORSO Film

CONTACT PRODUCTION

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

AFTERMATH tells the story of three former youth talents of the German football club Borussia Dortmund. The film encompasses a trilogy shot across 20 years, portraying the end of their career and asks the questions: what was, what is, what comes next?



SYNOPSIS

They've experienced it all in football. They've been on top and hit the bottom, gotten back to the top or maybe not. They've been injured, fought back to regain fitness. They've seen it all in the hard and sobering daily grind of paid football in professional leagues and divisions below. They've retired from football entirely, recognized their limitations, having to come to grips with the fact that talent alone is not always enough. They've bickered with the media and been forced to come to terms with it. They've either earned boatloads of money or just enough to stay afloat. They've learned a lot about themselves and experienced more in just over 15 years will in a lifetime. What it is that they've experienced goes way beyond football.

For nearly 20 years we've accompanied young, football prospects at Borussia Dortmund with our cameras. They won several German youth titles, were listed as the next big thing. One of them made it as a professional, progressing to the top of the German Bundesliga, another jumped around from a host of lower division clubs, while a third quit altogether and put together an incredible career doing something entirely different.

But football is now over. The protagonists are now in the early to mid-30s and have ended their active playing careers. How do you adjust to this new reality? How do you find meaning and purpose

in this new life? And: did your dreams come true? Are you satisfied? Did you do everything you could? What is the definition of success? And what is the definition of failure? These questions deal with topics far beyond the limitations of football.

By following our three protagonists, *AFTERMATH* experiences the emotional toll of players hanging up their boots and adjusting to life afterward. Saying goodbye meshes looking ahead with taking a look back. This documentary captures where the path forward leads our three protagonists. Looking back at their personal fates and encompasses the totality of the entire project.

The spectacle of football, which is the driver of so much, is seen in a new light. Players have gotten to know the day-to-day realities of being a professional footballer with varying degrees of success. This provides the film with an incredibly close look at what modern football is, at its soul and ruthlessness which fascinates so many, at the business behind it, at its beautiful and difficult aspects.

AFTERMATH is the third and final chapter of the "Trilogy of Footballing Life", which began in 1998 with *THE CHAMPIONS* and continued in 2008 with *HALF TIME*. *AFTERMATH* expands its focus from football to the average ordinary life that follows.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

After releasing two films on the early careers of young football talents from Borussia Dortmund (THE CHAMPIONS) and their (not always successful) arrival in the everyday realities of professional football (HALFTIME), we are now releasing the third and final part of our „Trilogy of Footballing Life“ with AFTERMATH. The focus this time around is the end of their sports careers and the return to the normal everyday life.

How do you deal with such a change? How can you start a new chapter, after the dream you have been chasing all of your life is now over? After a life that was one challenge after another, that consisted of a rapid-fire change of success and failure. How do you set new goals and objectives when you are no longer preoccupied with being the first, the best or the fastest? What is left of football? What can you take with you for the rest of your life?

When we began the project, we asked everyone the same question: What is the biggest factor in determining success: is it talent, determination or luck? It quickly became clear that talent alone was not enough. So what then determines success? And how do the players

themselves see that now that their active careers are over?

Let go, say goodbye and start something new. It's a topic that many can relate to. Turning points have always been a draw for documentary films. And after having the chance to follow a trio of protagonists for as long as we have and thus having been able to develop a great deal of trust, we can tell the story of this watershed moment in an incredibly personal and intimate manner. Following them for over 20 years also provides us with first-hand experience of what football has become today and how it has evolved over the past couple of decades. Provided us with a glimpse of its power, of its ruthlessness, of its beautiful and brutal sides.

The end product is no longer purely a football project. The realities of our performance-based society are reflected in football, albeit more drastically and with a heavier physical toll than in other areas of life. This two-sided appeal, pairing individual footballing biographies with the confrontation of universal existential questions have made this project all the more unusual and exciting—something we hope is also felt by the audience.



CREDITS

with	Florian Kringe Heiko Hesse Mohammed Abdulai
and	Lars Ricken Edwin Boekamp
Script and Direction	Christoph Hübner & Gabriele Voss
Cinematography	Christoph Hübner Sebastian Behler Bernd Schoch
Drone Operator	Thomas Eichhorn
Sound Recordists	Filipp Forberg Michael Arens Gabriele Voss
Editor	Gabriele Voss
Sounddesign	Guido Zettier
Foley	Wilmont Schulze
Re-Recording Mixer	Stefan Korte
Color Correction	Felix Hüsken BVK CSI
Music	Jörg Follert
Graphic Art	Thomas Schmidl
Production Manager	Florian-Malte Fimpel
Commissioning Editor	Jutta Krug
Producers	Erik Winker Martin Roelly

Produced by **CORSO Film**
in collaboration with **Christoph Hübner Filmproduktion**

In co-production with **WDR**
funded by **Film- und Medienstiftung NRW · Deutscher Filmförderfonds**



CHRISTOPH HÜBNER

Author, director and producer. He has received numerous awards for his films. After initially studying jurisprudence, photographic works and theatrical work in Heidelberg, he transferred to the University of Television and Film in Munich. Numerous films, primarily documentaries, for cinema and TV followed, typically staged periodically. He then travelled extensively around Germany and abroad on a series of lectureships and teaching assignments. Christoph Hübner is a member of the German and European Film Academy.



GABRIELE VOSS

Author and editor. She received her doctorate of philosophy on perception theory and aesthetics. Since 1978, she has collaborated with Christoph Hübner, with whom she has produced numerous films and with whom she has received a host of awards. Her focus lies in the areas of dramaturgy and editing. Over the course of her career, Gabriele Voss has taken on various university and film academy lectureships. In addition to her work in film, she has published several books, last: SCHNITTE IN RAUM UND ZEIT (2006) and FILM / ARBEIT (with Christoph Hübner, 2014)

FILMS (SELECTION)

1977/78	LEBENSGESCHICHTE DES BERGARBEITERS ALFONS S. (8 parts)	1998	DAS ALTE UND DAS NEUE
1979-1998	PROSPER/EBEL – CHRONIK EINER ZECHE UND IHRER SIEDLUNG (7 films)	2002	WAGNER BILDER
1989	VINCENT VAN GOGH – DER WEG NACH CORRIÈRES	1998-2003	DIE CHAMPIONS
1993	ANNA ZEIT LAND	2006	THOMAS HARLAN – WANDERSPLITTER
1995-2012	DOKUMENTARISCH ARBEITEN (16 films)	2009	HALBZEIT
		2006-2015	EMSCHERSKIZZEN (around 80 short films)
		2013	TRANSMITTING
		2017	NACHLASS
		2018	NACHLASS – PASSAGEN
		2019	AFTERMATH

CORSO FILM

The beginnings of CORSO Film lie in the year 2008 when Erik Winker, Martin Roelly and Andreas Brauer founded the production company HUPE Film in Cologne/Germany. With increasing success the company produced documentaries and fiction films for the national and international market. Until today the team considers intensive plot development and close cooperation with the authors most important. The films of the company are screened regularly on festivals worldwide and have been awarded several times. Since August 2016 Martin Roelly and Erik Winker are running the company under the new name CORSO Film. In December 2017 the company launched a new office in Stuttgart in South-Germany, led by Ümit Uludag.

The credits of CORSO Film include successful films such as **WORK HARD PLAY HARD** by Carmen Losmann (FIPRESCI

Prize DOK Leipzig, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury DOK Leipzig, Grimme Award), **FIGHTER** by Susanne Binninger (German Camera Award, preselected for the German Film Awards), **SEARCHING EVA** by Pia Hellenthal (Berlinale Panorama, Special Mention Int. Competition CPH:DOX, Audience Award Athens, HOT DOCS, Sheffield) or **HAPPY** by Carolin Genreith (German Critics' Award, Best Documentary Film Festival Bozen, preselected for the German Film Awards) and international co-productions like **A WOMAN CAPTURED** by Bernadett Tuza-Ritter (Documentary Competition Sundance, Main Competition IDFA, nominated for the European Film Awards), **15 CORNERS OF THE WORLD** by Zuzanna Solakiewicz (Award of the Semaine le la Critique Locarno, International Competition DOK Leipzig) or **AIDA'S SECRETS** by Alon Schwarz (HOT DOCS Toronto, Audience Award Doc Aviv).

