

**RETO CAFFI**

Writer / Director / Story Consultant



**Reto Caffi is an Oscar nominated screenwriter and film director from Switzerland, currently based in Cologne, Germany. His short films have won more than 80 int'l awards, including the Grand Prix at the world's biggest shortfilmfestival in Clermont-Ferrand, the Prize for Best European Short Film, a Student Academy Award in gold and many more.**

*After completing studies in English literature and linguistics, Reto started his professional career in journalism, working for several years in various media (print, radio, television). Next to that, he wrote, directed and produced several award winning short films, which allowed for further studies at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne. His medium lenght drama 'On the line' was screened at over 200 festivals, got licensed by the Sundance Channel, Canal+ etc. and was nominated for an Oscar. More accolades followed in advertising.*

*In recent years, screenwriting has become more and more important to Reto. His writing work includes a television feature film, collaborations in the writer's room as well as the development of various serial formats (for Sky Originals, Odeon Fiction, Swiss National Television and more). He also co-penned an episode of the Netflix series 'Homemade'.*

*Reto is an alumni of the renowned Munich Script Lab (HFF), a voting member of the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the Swiss Film Academy and the Swiss Writers & Directors guild.*

# FILMOGRAPHY

## 2024 MOON SONG

*Writer*

*Director: Michael Spiccia*

*Feature film, in development (See Pictures Australia)*

## 2023 BREAKERS

*Writer, Director*

*Feature film, in development (Vega Film)*

## 2020 HOMEMADE

*Writer, 1 Episode*

*Director: Rungano Nyoni*

*Series (Netflix, The Apartment Pictures)*

## 2019 PERSONAL JESUS

*Writer*

*Director: tba*

*Feature film, in development (Munich script lab/HFF)*

## 2018 FATHERS (VÄTER)

*Creator, Headwriter*

*Series, development (Sky Originals Germany)*

## 2015 NEGOTIATORS (IM GRENZBEREICH)

*Writer*

*Series, development (Swiss National Television)*

## 2008 ON THE LINE (AUF DER STRECKE)

*Writer, Director, Co-Producer*

*Medium length film (Blush Films, KHM, SRF)*

## 2005 PALE PALS (MÄNNER AM MEER)

*Writer, Director, Co-Producer*

*Short film (KHM)*

## 2004 OESCHENEN

*Writer*

*Director: Bernhard Giger*

*Feature film (Carac Film, SRF)*

## 2003 MOEHSNANG

*Director, Editor, Producer*

*Documentary short*

## 1999 BUS-STOP 99

*Writer, Director, Producer*

*Short film*

## 1996 LEO'S FRIENDS

*Writer, Director (with Tom Traber), Editor, Co-Producer*

*Short film*

## 1995 QUICKIE

*Writer, Director (with Niculin Jaeger), Editor, Producer*

*Short film*

# AWARDS

## **Narrative (selection)**

- *Oscar® nominee, 'live action short', Academy Awards*
- *Student Academy Award (gold winner), 'foreign film'*
- *Grand Prix Clermont-Ferrand Shortfilmfestival*
- *Best European Shortfilm (of all national film prize winners)*
- *Swiss Film Prize, best short film*
- *Grand Remi Award, Worldfest Houston*
- *Grand Prix, Sapporo Shortfilmfestival*
- *Grand Prix, Tofifest*
- *Grand Prix, Ourense Filmfestival*
- *Grand Prix, Angelus Film Festival*
- *Grand Prix, Festival of European first films*
- *best director, best screenplay, best production, Munich Filmfest*
- *best narrative short, Brooklyn International Filmfestival*
- *best student film, Aspen Filmfestival*
- *German Film prize, 'best short film' (nominee)*
- *Innovation Award and Audience Award, Hamburg Shortfilmfestival*
- *Audience Award, Cork Filmfestival*
- *Luna de Plata (silver), Cinema Jove Valencia*
- *Babelsberg Media Award, best narrative film*
- *best German short film, Interfilm Festival Berlin*
- *best student short subject (gold plaque), Chicago Filmfestival*
- *best European short film, Barcelona Filmfestival*
- *First Steps Award, best medium lenght film (nominee)*
- *Studio Hamburg Award, best director (nominee)*

## **Commercial (selection)**

- *Red Dot Award, best communication design (winner)*
- *Young Directors Award, Cannes (nominee)*
- *Edi Award, best commercial (recurring nominee)*
- *Intermedia-Globe Gold Award, WorldMediaFestival*
- *Xaver Award, best event campaign (winner)*



# JOURNALISM

*Reto worked several years as a film critic for Swiss newspaper „Der Bund“ and renowned bi-weekly film magazine „Zoom“.*

*He proceeded to working as culture journalist for Swiss National Television, where he directed and produced over 50 reports and featurettes for the weekly programme „Kulturplatz“.*

*During this time, Reto was chief responsible for the programme's entire film coverage, reporting on-site from filmfestivals Cannes, Venice, San Sebastian and Locarno.*

# CONSULTING

*Reto is an experienced story and editing consultant, who has worked with acclaimed documentary filmmakers Piotr Rosolowski & Elwira Niewera on all of their projects, which went on to winning top prizes in Venice and Locarno. Other clients include emerging director / producer Jean de Meuron, who got nominated for an Oscar as well as Michael Spiccia (,Director of the Year' 2021/23, Shots Pacific).*

*From 2022-2024, Reto was part of the lectoring team of SKY Germany and also worked as a dramatist for SKY Switzerland. Since 2022 Dozent / guest lecturer Screenwriting SAE Institute Zurich.*

# EDUCATION

## Film & TV

*2004 - 2007*

*Academy of Media Arts Cologne, postgraduate studies*

## Journalism

*1990 - 1998*

*University of Fribourg, graduate studies*

## English literature

*1990 - 1998*

*University of Fribourg, graduate studies*

## Screenwriting

*2007 - current*

*Training with Tom Schlesinger, Keith Cunningham, Judith*

*Weston, Robert Mc Kee, Daniel Speck, Oliver Schütte etc.*

*Alumni of the renowned Munich script lab (HFF, 2019/2020).*

# PRESS

*"Reto Caffi brings the art of cinema to the point in form and content."*  
(Kölner Stadtanzeiger, Germany)

*«A superbly controlled, well performed and layered narrative about human values in the age of surveillance.»*  
(Jury Statement, Grand Prix Clermont Ferrand)

*«A Masterpiece»*  
(Cinema Yearbook, Switzerland)

*«Reto Caffi develops subtly but with great intensity a drama of tremendous proportions»*  
(German Short Film Award, Nomination)

*«Reto Caffi shows us how suspenseful and true to life fiction can be»*  
(Zurich Film Prize, Jury Statement)

*«An undeniable talent."*  
(L'Express, Switzerland)

*«Wins one award after another. Deservedly»*  
(Sonntagszeitung, Switzerland)

*«Social relevance and promising creative power have found together in a most impressive manner»*  
(Munich Filmschoolfest, winner «best director», «best screenplay», «best production»)

# THANK YOU.

**RETO CAFFI**

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