

LA BELLE FILM *presents*



SWITZERLAND 2017 | DCP | 24min | Dolby5.1 | Original Version: Swiss German | Subtitled Versions: English, French

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21. Internationale  
Kurzfilmtage Winterthur  
Special Mention 2017

SWISS  
FILM AWARD  
2018

NOMINATION  
BEST SHORT FILM



53.  
SOLOTHURNER  
FILMTAGE



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**GO SHORT 2018**  
INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL NIJMEGEN

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production | co-production

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SWISS FILMS



## SHORT SYNOPSIS

Justin has always managed to escape his own story. But his past catches up with him when he discovers his father's VHS recordings and sees his mother as he's never seen her before - young and healthy. When Justin was four, a brain stroke left her partially paralyzed and unable to speak. Seeing the mother he longed to have in his father's recordings triggers him to confront his family's misfortunes. With his father dead, his mother is the only person he can turn to for answers. While she struggles to communicate with the help of a computer, she is sharp and witty. Justin begins to draw the connection between the mother he longed to have and the woman in the wheelchair.



## THE CHARACTERS

### JUSTIN



Justin has recently moved back to the street he grew up on in Lucerne, Switzerland, directly across the street from the house where his mother had her accident. For as long as Justin can remember, he has avoided his mother and the tragedy in his family's past. He distanced himself so completely from his own story that he soon could no longer recognize it. Years after his father's death, he found his father's archive of family VHS recordings and rewound to the past and the mother he never knew.

### KARIN



Karin lives in a nursing home for the disabled in Lucerne, Switzerland. She remembers the past well but has difficulties holding on to the present making it very difficult for her to learn new things. She is emotional and witty and with the help of a computer that speaks the words she types, she finds amusing, direct and even poetic ways of answering Justin's questions.

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## HOWARD



Howard lived near South End On Sea, England until he moved to Switzerland to be with his young wife Karin. For twenty years he documented his family and then his wife's accident and the family as it coped with what he believed would be her recovery. He died 12 years before Justin began making this film. Howard appears on screen through his own VHS recordings - a phantom-protagonist in Justin's search for answers.

## MARLENE & PAUL BÄTTIG



Justin's grandparents Marlene and Paul retired early to take care of Karin after her accident. After Howard died they went on taking care of their 4 grandchildren as best they could, even helping Justin financially to go to film school. After Justin broke off contact with his mother Karin, Marlene and Paul were critical of him and his reasons for abandoning her.

## DIRECTOR

### JUSTIN STONEHAM

Born in 1988 in Lucerne, Switzerland. Joint Swiss and British citizenship. 2011-2015 studied film at the School of Art & Design in Lucerne (HSLU) receiving a BA in filmmaking in 2015. Justin works as an independent director in Switzerland.

FILMOGRAPHY (Student films)

2015 «Herzblut»/ Documentary / 13'42"

2014 «Brüder», Documentary m, 9'52"



## MUSIC

### HEIDI HAPPY

Swiss singer songwriter HEIDI HAPPY started her career in 2006 and has collaborated with musicians and bands such as Yello, Stephan Eicher and Scott Matthew. She has had various chart placements - Top 10 in the Swiss Album Charts and Top 200 in the CMJ Charts among others as well as hundreds of shows both in Switzerland and abroad.



**CREDITS**

*authors*.....**JUSTIN STONEHAM, KALEO LA BELLE**  
*director*.....**JUSTIN STONEHAM**  
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*online & grading*.....**RECYCLED TV, UELI MÜLLER, PETER GUYER**  
*producers*.....**KALEO LA BELLE, EMMA MARXER**



## AWARDS

**Locarno Festival 2017** Pardino d'Oro - Swiss Life Award

**Internationalen Kurzfilmtage Winterthur 2017** Special Mention

**Swiss Film Award 2018** Nomination for Best Short Film

## FESTIVALS

**70th Locarno Film Festival** Selection Concorso nazionale Pardi di Domani

**60th DOK Leipzig Film Festival** Selection International Competition Short Documentary and Animated Film

**21st Internationalen Kurzfilmtage Winterthur** Selection National Competition

**39th Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis** Selection MOP-Shortlist

**53rd Solothurner Filmtage** Selection Pan Short

**22nd Festival Regard Saguenay** Selection International Competition

**Go Short - International Short Film Festival Nijmegen 2018** Selection International Competition



**LA  
BELLE  
FILM**

LA BELLE FILM GmbH was founded by Kaleo La Belle and Emma Marxer in 2010. Based in Zürich Switzerland, it's focus is producing personal documentaries for the international arthouse cinema, TV and Festival markets.

LA BELLE FILM's productions include REWIND FORWARD (2017 | 24min) by Justin Stoneham, FELL IN LOVE WITH A GIRL (2017 | 119min) by Kaleo La Belle, CROOKED RIVER (2006 | 52min) by Kaleo La Belle, and N. American distribution of BEYOND THIS PLACE (2010 | 93min ) by Kaleo La Belle.