

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DIRECTOR THOMAS STUBER

How did the title TEENAGE ANGST come about?

We thought a long time about an appropriate title for the film, especially about the 1990s in the United States, when Kurt Cobain and others used the concept of "teenage angst" to describe the pain of youth. It embodied the longings and fears of the generation growing up before the new Millennium. In our film, the heroes are not just in pain, but they are also searching for themselves, discovering along the way their longings as well as dependencies. "Teenage Angst" is therefore quite fitting as a title.

How did you get the idea for the film?

In the beginning there was the repeated reading of Musil's "The Confusions of Young Törless". What is described in the book is very timely, especially the theme of "Violence Without Motive" among young people. We thought about how the story and characters would translate to today's world.

The cast of TEENAGE ANGST are quite skilled and fit into their roles nicely. How did you find your actors?

Working with Nina Haun (SUMMER OF '04 and FOUR MINUTES), as well as Juliane Weinger, who is responsible for casting at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, we came up with a wish list for all the roles. It was important to find four actors who had chemistry together so we invited the candidates for a two-day casting marathon. During that time, we worked on several scenes and also did improvisations. We could see very quickly which actor fit into which role and how they all worked together. From this process we chose Franz Dinda, Niklas Kohrt, Janusz Kocaj and Michael Ginsburg. Stephanie Schönfeld, for the role of Vaneska, I already knew from my last film "It Is Well". After a long search, we found Michael Schweighöfer who was the best choice for the role of the mentor. Michael is the father of noted German actor Matthias Schweighöfer (VALKYRIE).