

tors who look remarkably like the real characters lend this movie a compelling authenticity.

### **Das perfekte Geheimnis (2019)**

April 16, 2021

German with English subtitles

This comedy by director and screenwriter Bora Dagtekin is a remake of the Italian movie "*Perfetti Sconosciuti*" by Paolo Genovese from 2016. When 7 friends meet for a dinner party they challenge their trust in each other by agreeing to share all texts and calls on their cell phones with everybody else during the dinner. So they place all their "*Handys*" in the middle of the dinner table and read all incoming messages aloud and listen in to all the calls by speaker phone. What initially seems so funny and innocent soon yields revelations that leave friendships and even marriages in the balance.



### **Steig. Nicht. Aus! (2018)**

May 21, 2021

German with German subtitles



This thriller-action movie stars Wotan Wilke Möhring, who plays Karl Brendt, a successful fixer for a large building company in Berlin. He receives an anonymous phone call while he is driving his two kids to school. The caller informs him that there are bombs mounted under the car seats which can be remotely activated or will explode if he tries to get out of the car. A high ransom is demanded. In the meantime, his wife thinks he wants to kidnap the kids. She gets the police involved who respond with a large number of officers. Among the officers is a bomb and terror expert played by Hanna Herzsprung, who tries to figure out what is really going on. Brendt is caught between fleeing the police and trying to save his children from the blackmailer whose identity is revealed in the riveting ending.

## THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**Friday**

**Film**



### 2020-21 Series Program

● 6:30 PM ●

Film, Food, & Discussion

The German Society of PA

611 Spring Garden St.

215-627-2332

Support provided in part by the  
Philadelphia Cultural Fund.



### Der Vorname (2018)

October 16, 2020

German with English subtitles



Thomas and his partner Anna have decided on a very time-honored and traditional name for their impending baby. Unfortunately, at a dinner party given by his sister in honor of the occasion, Thomas' impish sense of humor inspires him to suggest that the baby will be receiving another name with considerable resonance in German history. He insists that the others guess that name. He gives them a hint: it begins with A... So begins an intense, thought provoking, and often utterly hilarious *Streitgespräch* that brings the psychology and politics lurking deep within the practice of naming a baby to the surface.

### Trautmann (2018)

November 20, 2020

German with English subtitles

This movie is a British-German biopic about Bert Trautmann, who was captured by the British troops in 1944 and imprisoned under harsh conditions in a POW camp in Lancashire, England. After the war he becomes a soccer goalkeeper for a local team and eventually a celebrated keeper for Manchester City in 1949. His heroics during the FA Cup Final in 1956, when he finished the last 20 minutes of the match after breaking a vertebra in his neck in a collision with an opposing player, earned him the admiration of the English and German public. His love affair and subsequent marriage with an English woman parallels the soccer story, a relationship that is not without trials and tragedy.



### Der Fall Collini (2018)

January 15, 2021

German with English Subtitles



This movie, based on the 2011 book of the same name by Ferdinand v. Schirach, is about the vigilante killing of a wealthy German industrialist named Jean Baptiste Meyer by Fabrizio Collini. Collini, an immigrant from Italy, had as a child witnessed the brutal murder of his father in 1943 in Northern Italy by German SS troops who were commandeered by Meyer. The case put a spotlight on the so-called Dreher-law scandal of 1968/69 that reduced the statute of limitation for accessory to murder to 15 years, thus preventing many Nazi era criminal cases

from coming to trial, including the one that Collini had filed against Meyer. When Caspar Leinen, the court appointed defense lawyer for Collini played by Elyas M'Barek takes on this seemingly hopeless case, he soon discovers the complicated and disturbing history of the "*Verjährungs-debatte and – skandal*", a history which forms the leitmotif of the Collini case.

### Atlas (2018)

February 19, 2021

German with English subtitles

Walter Scholl is a 60-year old packer/cARRIER in a moving company in Frankfurt. Fittingly, he has a tattoo of the ancient mythological titan "Atlas" on his forearm because he is the strongest in his group despite his advanced age. When his company, which specializes in court ordered evictions or "Entmietungen", tries to remove a renter from his apartment, Walter's life changes dramatically when he recognizes his son Jan at the door of the apartment. To evade the police, Walter had left his family when his son was a merely a child and had not seen him for decades. When the eviction struggle escalates, Walter tries to protect his son and his family including his grandson. This brings him into conflict with not only his professional obligations, but also with one of his colleagues called Moussa who is connected to a criminal Arab clan. To overcome their brutal methods, Walter has to rely on his strength and his willingness to sacrifice his own life for the wellbeing of his son's family. The gripping denouement is a testimony to Walter's personal development which concomitantly exposing the criminal aspects of the German moving business.



### Die Getriebenen (2020)

March 19, 2021

German/No Subtitles



Based on the book "*Die Getriebenen. Merkel und die Flüchtlingspolitik*" by Journalist Robin Alexander, this docudrama reconstructs the dramatic 63 days from July 12, 2015 until November 20, 2015 in which German chancellor Angela Merkel makes the decision to accept the Syrian refugees languishing in Hungary. Her famous quote "*Wir schaffen das*" inaugurated the influx of 1 million migrants into Germany by the end of 2015. The migrants experienced both the "*Willkommenskultur*" of the majority of the German people as well as a measure of "*Fremdenfeindlichkeit*" that persists until today. With real TV footage deftly coupled with reenactments, the movie has a realistic and rapid tempo that makes you wonder who the driven are, the refugees or the politicians or both. Ac-