

DARLING
BERLIN

BELLA LOCHMANN

RIO KIRCHNER

POLA GEIGER



NVLPEN

„IHRE ENERGIE IST ANSTECKEND,
MITREISSEND.“

TAGESSPIEGEL



EIN FILM VON **SORINA GAJEWSKI**

BUCH UND REGIE **SORINA GAJEWSKI** PRODUCERIN **SABRINA HOLZAPFEL** BILDGESTALTUNG **HANNES SCHULZE**
SCHNITT **RAFFAELLO LUPPERGER** SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR **NILS PLAMBECK** MUSIK **LUCAS CASTILLO** KOSTÜMBILD **BERENIKE VOGT**
VFX ARTISTS **ARTEMY VRUBEL** UND **KILIAN POHL** PRODUKTIONSLEITUNG **FABIO GIUSEPPE FRITZ HOLUB** HERSTELLUNGSLEITUNG **ANDREAS LOUIS**
PRODUZENTIN **DEUTSCHE FILM- UND FERNSEHAKADEMIE BERLIN**

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DFFB

SLACKERS

A Film by Sorina Gajewski

Press Notes

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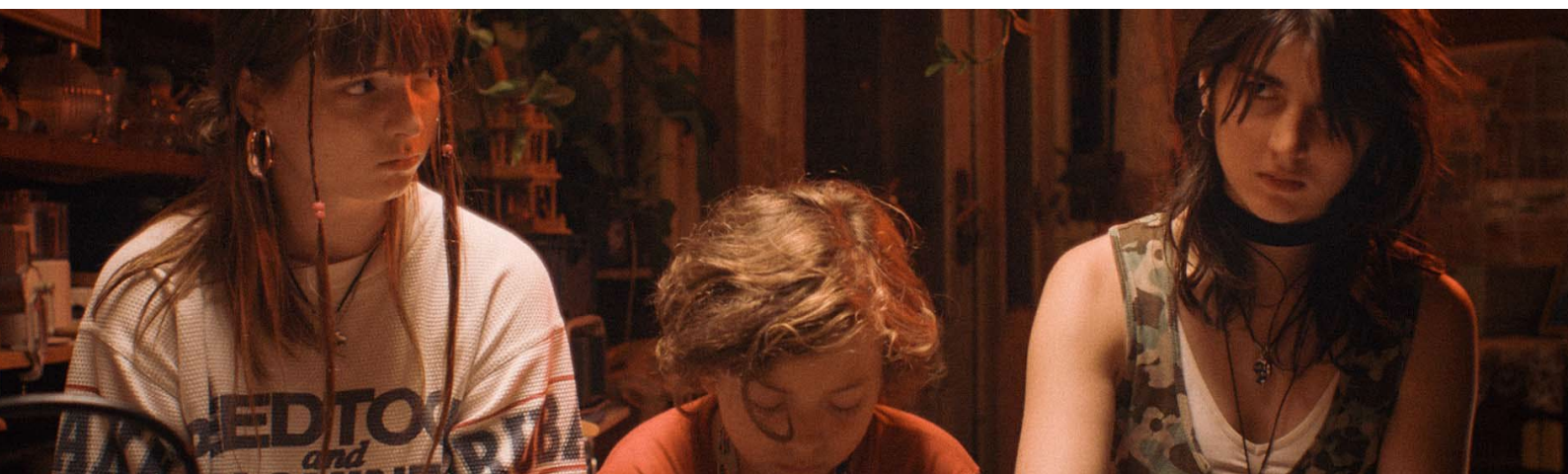
1. Logline

Ramona and Nico have just finished school and let themselves drift through the Berlin summer. After a prank, they have to flee — reluctantly into a politically charged world. In their search for a released bird and a little brother, they wrestle with their friendship and unexpectedly stumble upon other life stories that offer hope.

2. Synopsis

Best friends Ramona and Nico have just finished school and are letting the Berlin summer carry them along. When, after pulling a slingshot prank, they also set free their neighbor's rare bird and Ramona's little brother Noah goes missing at a climate protest, they begin to run away. Reluctantly navigating a politically charged world that demands they take a stand, they encounter moments of quiet poetry and social friction. In their search for the released bird and the little brother, they wrestle with their friendship and their belief in themselves — and unexpectedly stumble upon other life stories that offer hope.

SLACKERS depicts a young generation trying to navigate between the longing for freedom and the social pressure to take responsibility. In a world full of uncertainties — marked by climate crisis and growing resignation — their yearning for lightness becomes palpable.





3. Film Data

Director & Screenplay	Sorina Gajewski	
Cinematography	Hannes Schulze	
Editing	Raffaello Lupperger	
Music	Lucas Castillo	
Sound Design	Nils Plambeck	
Costume	Berenike Vogt	
Production Design	Roberto Andrés, Josua Hesse, Franziska Asch, Phuong Anh Dao Thu, Alexandra Block	
Producer	Sabrina Holzapfel	
Production	Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin (dffb) GmbH	
Distribution	UCM.ONE GmbH / Darling Berlin	
Booking & Billing	CAMINO Filmverleih GmbH	
Genre	Road Trip, Coming-of-Age, Drama, Comedy	
Cast	Bella Lochmann (Ramona), Pola Geiger (Nico), Rio Kirchner (Noah), Carl Bagnar (Matze), Katrine Eichberger (Sybille), Eva Medusa Gühne (Mojo), Cleo Holder (Lilia), Lara-Sophie Milagro (Pastor Eazy Jannek), Marc Philipps (Günter), Marisa Wojtkowiak (Li), Bärbel Tech (Magician), Laura Zemke (Assistant Director)	
Country / Year	Germany / 2025	
Theatrical Release	June 18, 2026	
Runtime	81 minutes	
DCP	2K Digital Color, Dolby 5.1	
Aspect Ratio	1:1.85	
Rating	Rated 12+ (no holiday restrictions)	
Descriptors	Violence, Discrimination, Threat	
Download Links:		
Trailer Mp4 (YouTube)	https://youtu.be/_OWgFGHOCzs	
Trailer Mp4 (Download)	MP4 (Trailer) with release date card	MP4 (Trailer) without release date card
Trailer DCP (Download)	DCP (Trailer) with release date card	
Teaser Mp4 (Download)	MP4 (Teaser) with release date card	MP4 (Teaser) without release date card
Teaser DCP (Download)	DCP (Teaser) with release date card	



4. Team Statement

“SLACKERS” is a film about the longing for lightness in a world full of uncertainties. Our protagonists, two young women from different social backgrounds, navigate the crushing expectations of saving the world while striving for freedom and self-determination.

Amid a collage of Berlin residents, they undergo a subtle transformation — from indifference to a spark of hope and responsibility.

Our film counters the weight of the future with a generous dose of tenderness and friendship, offering an emotional response to “climate crisis anxiety.” It is a plea for faith in a better future — without losing the humor and lightness of life.





5. Press Reviews

“Director Sorina Gajewski has created an incredibly direct, wonderfully condensed, utterly lifelike and unbelievably funny film. [...] Hardly any film has taken this generation as seriously as Slackers.”

— Harald Mühlbeyer, Kino-Zeit.de

“In the end, one thing is certain: “Slackers” is not a film about heroes, but about young people who have no idea how adult life actually works — and who, precisely for that reason, come across as touchingly genuine. Sorina Gajewski pulls off the feat of portraying Berlin and youth as a chaotic, vibrant, sometimes ugly, but always lively unity and reality.”

— Gaby Sikorski, Filmstarts.de

“Without ever being moralizing, the screenplay succeeds in taking a stand and moving the audience at decisive moments. The interweaving of the perspectives of the two main characters with that of Ramona’s little brother Noah is also very well done.”

— MDR Broadcasting Council Jury, Goldener Spatz 2025 — Best Screenplay Award

“Their energy is contagious. Thrilling.”

— Tagesspiegel

„A wonderful road movie – but on foot. A love letter to Berlin and a tribute to the shimmering summer and the time after graduation. A movie that captivates with its authenticity and feels like a real life experience.“

— 46th Max Ophüls Film Festival

“It’s their first summer after graduation, and they have no plans for their future yet. The film conveys this special atmosphere clearly and in a unique way. [...] Above all, the wide-angle shots [...], the many close-ups of faces, and the mix of slow and dynamic camerawork capture the feeling of just drifting along and the heat of the day. The two girls speak in authentic language; their conversation topics are random, yet they reach profound conclusions. [...] Although the friends have such different personalities, they hold each other up. Time and again.”

— FBW Youth Film Jury



6. Festivals & Awards

Awards:

Goldener Spatz 2025 – Best Screenplay Award (in collaboration with MDR)
achtung berlin 2025 – Honorable Mention – Best Screenplay
Neiße Filmfestival 2025 – Honorable Mention – Feature Film

Official Selection:

Max Ophüls Preis 2025 – Feature Film Competition (World Premiere)
Crossing Europe 2025 – Fiction Competition
Thessaloniki International Film Festival 2025
Sarajevo Film Festival 2025 – Teens Arena
Giffoni Film Festival 2025 – Generation +16
Gijon International Film Festival 2025
Zlín Film Festival 2025 – International Youth Film
LUCAS – International Festival for Young Film Lovers 2025
Buster Film Festival 2025
Braunschweig International Film Festival 2025
Lux Film Festival (Luxembourg)
Euganea Film Festival (Italy)
Schulkinowoche Berlin 2025 – Opening Film
Parayam International Film Festival (India)
Nordic Film Festival New York 2025 – Opening Film / Best Supporting Actor



7. Director

SORINA GAJEWSKI – Director and Screenwriter

SORINA GAJEWSKI was born in Hamburg in 1994. After studying screenwriting at the film school CIEVYC (Centro de Investigación y Experimentación en Video y Cine) in Buenos Aires, she enrolled in the directing programme at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (DFFB) in 2018.

Right after graduating from high school she made her first short film, which won 1st prize at the Bundesfestival Junger Film in Halle in 2014. In 2022 she received funding from the BKM for the documentary “First Taste” (30 min.), which won the World Food Forum’s UN Award for Most Innovative Documentary in 2024. Her first feature film “Slackers” premiered in competition at the Max Ophüls Preis 2025 and was awarded Best Screenplay at the Goldener Spatz festival. She was invited to develop her second feature at HerArts Lab and at the Torino Next Feature Lab.

In her work she explores themes such as youth, family, social justice, and feminist perspectives. Her artistic focus is on stories with social relevance, often told from a female or youth perspective.

www.sorinagajewski.com

Filmography Director, Screenplay (Selection):

2026/2027: Spirit Divine – Director, Screenplay – Feature Film, 100 min. (in development)

2025/2026: Hungry, Season 2 – Director – Drama Series, 6×15 min. – ZDF/ARTE (in pre-production)

2025/2026: Mann werden – Director – Documentary, 88 min. – WDR (in production)

2025: Slackers – Director, Screenplay – Feature Film, 81 min. – dffb

2025: Zwei Welten in mir – Director – Documentary, 27 min. – ZDF

2024: First Taste – Director – Documentary, 30 min. – BKM

2023: Stürzende Blüten – Director – Short Film, 9 min. – dffb

2022: das ist das letzte Mal, dass ich das mache – Director – Short Film, 20 min. – dffb



8. Cast

BELLA LOCHMANN – Ramona

BELLA LOCHMANN (*2007, Berlin) grew up in Berlin and South Tyrol, exposed early to creative processes through her mother, a freelance artist and curator. She gained first acting experience at a young age and has consistently pursued her passion. With the role of Ramona in “Slackers”, she makes her debut in a feature-length film. She lives in Berlin and will graduate from high school in 2026.

Filmography (Selection):

2025: Slackers – Ramona – Feature Film, 81 min., dir.: Sorina Gajewski

2025: Short Film – Police Intern – dir.: Janosch Emil Sauer

2024: German Language Learning Material – Scenic Performance – dir.: Sorina Gajewski

POLA GEIGER – Nico

POLA GEIGER (*2004, Warsaw) is a German-Polish actress. Raised bilingually in German and Polish, she also speaks fluent English and French. She has been in front of the camera since childhood and has played leading roles in films such as “Der Junge im Karohemd” (Aleksandra Odić), “Jessy” (Rebeca Ofek), “Wir könnten genauso gut tot sein” (Natalia Sinelnikova) and “Wann wird es endlich wieder so, wie es nie war” (Sonja Heiss). She was nominated for the First Steps Award (Götz George Young Talent Prize) in 2022 and for the Goldene Henne in the “Rising Star” category in 2023. She is represented by AHOI Agency Berlin.

Filmography (Selection):

2025: The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping – Feature Film, dir.: Francis Lawrence

2025: Each of Us – Feature Film, dir.: Jadowska, Werenfels, Berrached, Ballús

2025: Tigerlächeln – Feature Film, dir.: Stella Fachinger

2025: Doppelhaushälfte – The End – TV Series, ZDF, dir.: Rebecca Ofek

2024: Mit der Faust in die Welt schlagen – Feature Film, dir.: Constanze Klaue

2023: Slackers – Nico – Feature Film, 81 min., dir.: Sorina Gajewski

2022: Wir könnten genauso gut tot sein – Feature Film, dir.: Natalia Sinelnikova

2021: Wann wird es endlich wieder so, wie es nie war – Feature Film, dir.: Sonja Heiss

2019: Jessy – Feature Film, dir.: Rebeca Ofek

2018: Der Junge im Karohemd – Feature Film, dir.: Aleksandra Odić



RIO VALENTIN KIRCHNER – Noah

RIO VALENTIN KIRCHNER (*2011) is a young rising actor who makes his cinema debut with “Slackers”. In front of the camera he convinces with naturalness and emotional honesty. Besides “Slackers”, he appeared in the short film “Sowas gibt’s nicht in unserer Familie”.

Filmography (Selection):

2025: Slackers – Noah – Feature Film, 81 min., dir.: Sorina Gajewski

2025: Sowas gibt’s nicht in unserer Familie – Short Film, 80 min., dir.: Marcus Hanisch

9. Crew

HANNES SCHULZE – Cinematography

HANNES SCHULZE is a freelance cinematographer based in Berlin, focusing on documentary and fiction. He studied cinematography at the self-organized Filmarche and at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin.

In his work he combines intuitive, spontaneous observation with precise, staged visual composition. He is particularly drawn to the in-between — moments that defy clear categorization and generate their own tension.

His films have screened at over 50 festivals and won multiple awards. In the past year he shot, among other projects, a series for ZDFneo and a 90-minute documentary for WDR.

www.hanneschulze.com

Filmography Cinematography (Selection):

2025: Slackers – Feature Film, 81 min., dir.: Sorina Gajewski

2026: Hungry Season 2 – TV Series, 6x15 min., ZDF/ARTE

2026: Mann werden – Documentary, 88 min., WDR

2024: Not a Statue – Documentary, 90 min. (post-production)

2022: Following Valeria – Documentary, 35 min., 3sat ZDF (Grimme Award nomination)

2022: Volver al Sur – Short Film, 14 min., DFFB (Short Tiger Award Cannes)



RAFFAÉLLO LUPPERGER – Editor

RAFFAÉLLO LUPPERGER is an editor and studied editing at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dffb). His previous work includes the series “Marzahn Mon Amour” (UFA Fiction) as well as “WIR”, “Feelings” and “ECHT!” (Studio Zentral). With “Slackers” he makes his feature-film debut as editor. Alongside his work on serial formats, he is increasingly engaged with experimental narrative approaches and open cinematic forms.

Filmography Editing (Selection):

2025: Slackers – Feature Film, 81 min., dir.: Sorina Gajewski
2025: Marzahn Mon Amour – Series, dir.: Clara Zoé My-Linh von Arnim
2021–2023: WIR – Series, dir.: Nancy Mac Granaky-Quaye
2022: Excalibur City – dir.: Clara Zoé My-Linh von Arnim, Victoria Schulz
2022: Meine Frau weint – Post Production Advisor – dir.: Angela Schanelec

SABRINA HOLZAPFEL – Producer

SABRINA HOLZAPFEL is a producer who divides her time between Berlin and the Austrian Alps. Even before her studies at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dffb), she produced several short films as well as the internationally successful feature film “Lebendig” by Michael Siebert, which was nominated for “New German Cinema” and Best Director at the Hof International Film Festival and won Best Feature Film at the South Texas International Film Festival.

Her short-film productions include “My Little Rabbit” by Ira Sliusar (FILMZ Mainz) and “sentimental stories” by Xandra Popescu, which screened in the Orizzonti Short Films competition at the Venice Film Festival. With “Slackers” she completed her second feature film. She is currently producing “Der Grand Canyon” (working title) by Simona Kostova, funded by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and rbb.

Filmography (Selection):

2026: Der Grand Canyon (working title) – Feature Film, dir.: Simona Kostova (in post-production)
2025: Slackers – Feature Film, 81 min., dir.: Sorina Gajewski
2023: sentimental stories – Short Film, dir.: Xandra Popescu
2022: My Little Rabbit – Short Film, dir.: Ira Sliusar
2019: Lebendig – Feature Film, dir.: Michael Siebert

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