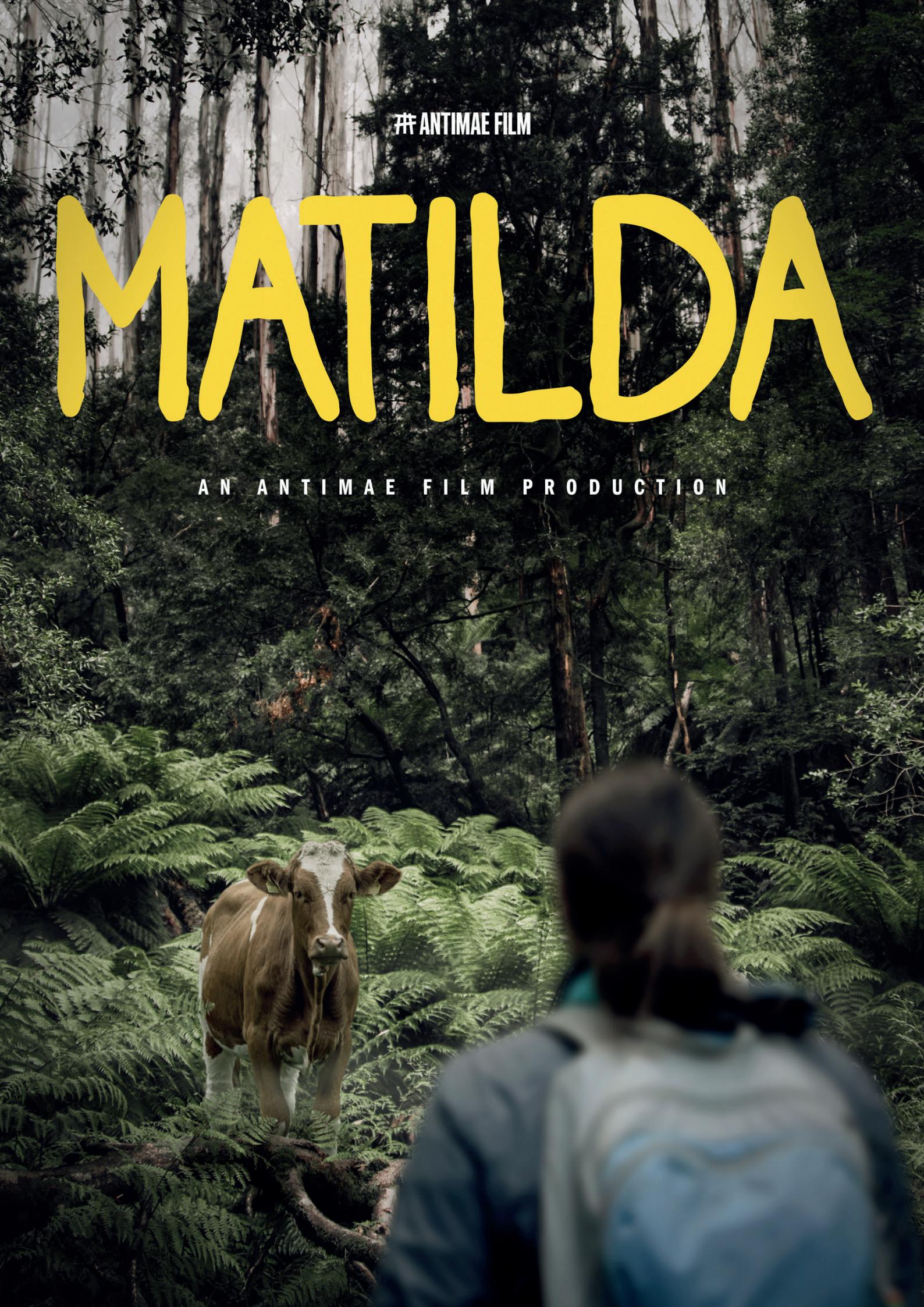


# ANTIMAE FILM

# MATILDA

AN ANTIMAE FILM PRODUCTION



# MATILDA

90 min	Language: German & English	Start of shooting: 05/2023
Coming-Of-Age / Drama	Country of production: Germany	Production: Antimae Film



## Logline

ENG

The extraordinary story of Matilda, a runaway cow, and her encounter with Anna, a girl on the brink of adulthood, whose life is put to the test after this unusual encounter.

## Synopsis

ENG

Anna is 16 and grew up near London. Together with her father Robert, she recently moved into the terraced house belonging to his new wife Sandra. In order to become a chef, Anna works as a kitchen assistant in a restaurant owned by Alex, a former celebrity chef. But an unexpected encounter with a runaway cow in the forest turns Anna's life upside down because Matilda – as she named the cow – leaves a lasting impression on Anna. She begins to question the way cows are treated, which leads to tensions with her father, who works in the slaughterhouse from which the cow escaped. When Anna meets the two animal rights activists Kevin and Nina, she is initially skeptical of their views. Nevertheless, she offers to help them rescue Matilda. But her father, who is supposed to coordinate the capture of the cow, is unwilling to accept either the activists' appeals or Anna's increasingly rebellious behavior. The longer Matilda manages to hide in the forest, the greater the media interest and the greater the pressure on Robert. Anna and the activists are running out of time. Finally, it comes to a showdown between father and daughter and Anna has to make a decision that will change her life forever.

MATILDA is an affecting look at our relationship with animals, the beliefs that define us and the power of compassion.

## Note of Intention

### DIRECTOR

MARC PIERSCHEL

For my documentary BUTENLAND, I accompanied a former dairy farmer who gave up farming because he could no longer send his cows to the slaughterhouse when they stopped giving milk and became uneconomical. I was fascinated by this conflict of conscience and wanted to explore this in the form of a feature film. Around the same time, I was following the story of a cow that had escaped from a slaughterhouse and had been hiding in the Bavarian forest for weeks. I found it fascinating that the public suddenly praised the cow as a "hero" and even demanded that her life be spared.

These two conflicts form the basis for MATILDA, a character-driven coming-of-age drama. The story is ostensibly about the unexpected friendship between an escaped cow and a teenage girl, but it is really about the changes, contradictions and repercussions in Anna's life, her family, friends and work as a result of her compassion towards the cow. She is trapped between her old worldview and a new one: the traditional views of her father and her dream of becoming a chef on the one hand and her compassion for the cow and the views of the activists on the other. On the verge of adulthood and in search of her own identity, Anna slowly starts to rebel against the conservative views of her father. The question at the core of the film concerns what people are willing to sacrifice in order to stand up for their beliefs. The solution to this moral dilemma pushes Anna to the limit – and whatever her decision will be, it will come at a price.

As a documentary filmmaker, I have always been interested in stories of transformation, in how certain experiences can radically change our lives. In the documentary films I've made over the past 10 years, I've looked at the changes in the human-animal relationship from various perspectives. I believe that the central question raised in MATILDA – how should we treat the animals we eat? – is among the most pressing issues of our time, both ethically and ecologically. MATILDA is the first feature film to deal with this topic and, as a result, captures the contemporary zeitgeist.

### PRODUCER

STEFFI KÖHLER

Motivation, empowerment, rage, sadness – these are the emotions that MATILDA inspired within me when I read the script. We feel sad and melancholic when we get to know 16-year-old Anna and explore her relationship with her father Robert. She is gentle, quiet and reserved, but develops into a strong, determined girl. We get angry when we witness the stubbornness and narcissistic behavior of Robert and when we see how Matilda is treated. We become empowered when Anna meets Kevin and the activists and realizes how important it is to stand up for your own ideals and for others. Anna discovers a new side to herself and takes responsibility for Matilda. Anna and the group of young activists are highly motivated and don't let anything stand in their way. They are role models that people can identify with and inspire people to change their view on the treatment of animals, environmental protection and emancipation. It is a film that moves between melancholy and hope.

Veganism, animal welfare, feminism, activism are central themes of debate in society today and themes that inspire and motivate me as a producer to make films.

## Team / Filmography

### DIRECTOR

MARC PIERSCHEL



**Marc Pierschel** was born 1978 in Hildesheim, Germany, and studied sociology and cultural sciences in Muenster. In 2007, he produced his first documentary, EDGE, about the U.S. straight edge music subculture. In 2012, he founded his own film production company, blackrabbit images.

In 2013, he released LIVE AND LET LIVE, a documentary examining the ethical, environmental and health reasons that move people to go vegan and that was picked up by Netflix worldwide in 2016.

184 (2015) tells the story of a group of activists and their campaign to expose the Icelandic whaling industry.

THE END OF MEAT (2016) envisions a future in which meat consumption belongs to the past. It was given a theatrical release in Germany by *mindjazz pictures* and on VOD by Gravitas Ventures in the U.S. and Canada.

His latest documentary, BUTENLAND (2020), about a dairy-farmer-turned-activist won the Granite documentary award at the 53rd Hof International Film Festival. It was also released by *mindjazz pictures* and was seen by almost 25,000 people in German cinemas in 2020.

In 2021, he founded the film production company ANTIMAE FILM together with producer Steffi Köhler.

MATILDA is his fiction-feature debut.

### PRODUCER

STEFFI KÖHLER



**Steffi Köhler** was born in 1986 in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany, studied media technology in Leipzig and completed a traineeship at STORY HOUSE PRODUKTIONS GMBH in Berlin, where she worked as a post-production supervisor. Since 2016, she has been part of Filmwerkstatt Münster, where, in 2020, she assumed the position of Deputy Managing Director. She works as a freelance producer and production manager. She is also a filmmaker and media educator. In 2021, she founded the film production company ANTIMAE FILM together with filmmaker Marc Pierschel.

10/2020

Trailer for WEEKS AGAINST RACISM 2021 Center for Integration Münster  
Camera / Montage

07-09/2019

Flurstücke 019 Festival Münster (documentary, GER, 24 min)  
Camera / Sound / Montage

03 - 09/2019

Sound Festival SOUNDSEEING NRW (documentary 3 x 4 min)  
Conception / Camera / Montage / Colour Corretction

2018 - 2019

BUTENLAND (documentary, D, 90 min), Marc Pierschel  
Second Camera

05 - 10/2018

HOUSE KUMMERVELDT (Trailer, GER, 3 min) , Mark Lorei  
Head of Production / Calculation / Financing / Funding Application

2016 - 2017

THE BERKEL (documentary, GER/NL, 84 min), Anna Schlottbohm &  
Willem Kootstra  
Head of Production / Distribution

## Kickstarter campaign



### GOALS

1. Increase awareness in the community.
2. Financing pre-production.
3. Convince funders, broadcasters and distributors to come on board, ensuring that many people can see the film.

### WEBSITE

[www.matildathefilm.com](http://www.matildathefilm.com) (from april 6)

### PITCHVIDEO

<https://vimeo.com/675917936> password: Matild4\_press

### FUNDING GOAL

50.000 EUR (total amount: 900.000 EUR)

### DURATION

April 6 - May 06, 2022

### SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.instagram.com/matildathefilm>  
<https://www.facebook.com/matildathefilm>  
<https://www.tiktok.com/@matildathefilm>

### HASTAG

#savematilda #matildathefilm #antimaefilm

# Crowdfunding Rewards

REWARDS	PRICE	DESCRIPTION
Matilda Hi-five	5 €	Digital hi-five with Matilda plus photo with your name and Matilda!
Production Diary	10 €	Video diary of the production with exclusive footage, interviews with cast and crew and more!
Film as Stream	15 €	Stream of the film with subtitles (de/en) and bonus features.
Kickstarter film premiere	40 €	Digital film premiere and Q&A with cast, crew and Matilda.
"Save Matilda" T-Shirt	60 €	The T-shirt that also appears in the film! Fairtrade and organic cotton.
Matilda Snack	75 €	€40 out of €75 will be spent on fresh hay for the cow that plays Matilda.
Limited Artprint Set	100 €	Limited edition, signed A3 risography art print of the poster & set of risography Matilda postcards (5 pcs).
Your name in the film	150 €	Your name will be listed in the credits under KICKSTARTER SUPPORTERS.
Meet & Greet with Matilda!	350 €	You will travel to the sanctuary (in Germany) and get to meet not only Steffi and Marc but also the cow who plays Matilda. On top of that, the three of them will invite you to dinner!
Setvisit for two	500 €	You will be on set during shooting – including lunch with cast and crew. (travel and accommodation not included).
Extra	1.000 €	You will be an extra on the set for one day – including lunch with cast and crew. (travel and accommodation not included).
Extras	1.500 €	The two of you will be part of the shoot as extras for one day – including lunch with cast and crew (travel and accommodation not included).
Kickstarter Producer	2.000 €	You will become an official Kickstarter producer of MATILDA! Your personal name will appear prominently in the credits. You are invited to the test screening of the film and you will be a VIP at the German premiere of the film (travel and accommodation not included).
Featured extra	2.500 €	You will be on set for one day as a featured extra. Compared to an extra, you have a more individual but minor role. Including lunch with cast and crew. You will also be a VIP at the German premiere (travel not included, accommodation included).
Co-Producer	5.000 €	You will become an official co-producer of MATILDA! Your personal name will feature prominently on, among other things, posters and covers, in the credits and on IMDB! You are invited to the test screening of the film and you will be a VIP at the world premiere and German premiere (travel not included, accommodation included).
Cast member	6.500 €	The biggest supports get the biggest reward: To be a cast member in MATILDA! You will visit us on set and appear in a scene with a speaking role. You will receive the services of a wardrobe assistant and also be allocated a space where you can rehearse your lines. You will also be a VIP at the world premiere and German premiere + premiere party (travel not included, accommodation included).

# Antimae Film

## authentic narratives that inspire, move and empower.



Steffi Köhler and Marc Pierschel – both filmmakers and activists – first worked together in 2017 on the award-winning feature documentary **BUTENLAND**. They realized that they both have the same goal: To make films that move, shake up and inspire. With Marc's background as a sociologist and documentary filmmaker and Steffi's background as a media technician and filmmaker, they both bring different perspectives and experiences to the table – but their motivation and goals are identical. Through their production company **ANTIMAE FILM**, they aim to create authentic narratives that inspire, move and empower.  
**MATILDA** is their first joint feature film production.

## Production Guidelines

With **ANTIMAE FILM**, we want to not only produce films that address important discourses but also critically question these discourses during the filmmaking process. This is why we strive for a fair, safe and creative working environment for all involved and have formulated guidelines that define **ANTIMAE FILM**'s approach to filmmaking.

### SUSTAINABILITY

We are committed to complying with the production criteria of the Green Shooting Passport of the Filmförderung Schleswig Holstein (the only German guidelines in place so far), to the extent that our budget allows. Furthermore, and regardless of budget, we offer only vegan catering during our productions.  
Only animal-free and vegan products (make-up, clothing, etc.) should be used.

### ANIMALS

We shoot only with rescued animals from/on farm sanctuaries, as long as the animal(s) is/are subject to no or only minimal stress. All scenes should be carefully rehearsed beforehand. A person familiar with the animal(s) will supervise the filming and the well-being of the animal(s).

### DIVERSITY

The trades in the film will be staffed with at least 50% **FINTA\*** people. We strive for a diverse staff and cast, to the extent that this is compatible with the script.

### SAFE SPACE

We aim to ensure a fair and relaxed working environment and will not tolerate any forms of discrimination or abuse of power on set. A contact person is available for all persons involved.

### PAYMENT

We strive for fair payment for all trades and, depending on the financing situation, we aim to pay the trades in the film according to the German United Services Union tariffs.

**FINTA\*** explicitly includes marginalized groups, i.e. women, inter-, non-binary-, trans- and a-gender people.

## Technical data

Duration:	90 min
Genre:	Coming-Of-Age, Drama
Format:	DCP
Aspect ratio:	1:2.35
Sound:	5.1
Size:	4K, Colour
Language:	German & English
Year of production:	2023

## Contact

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