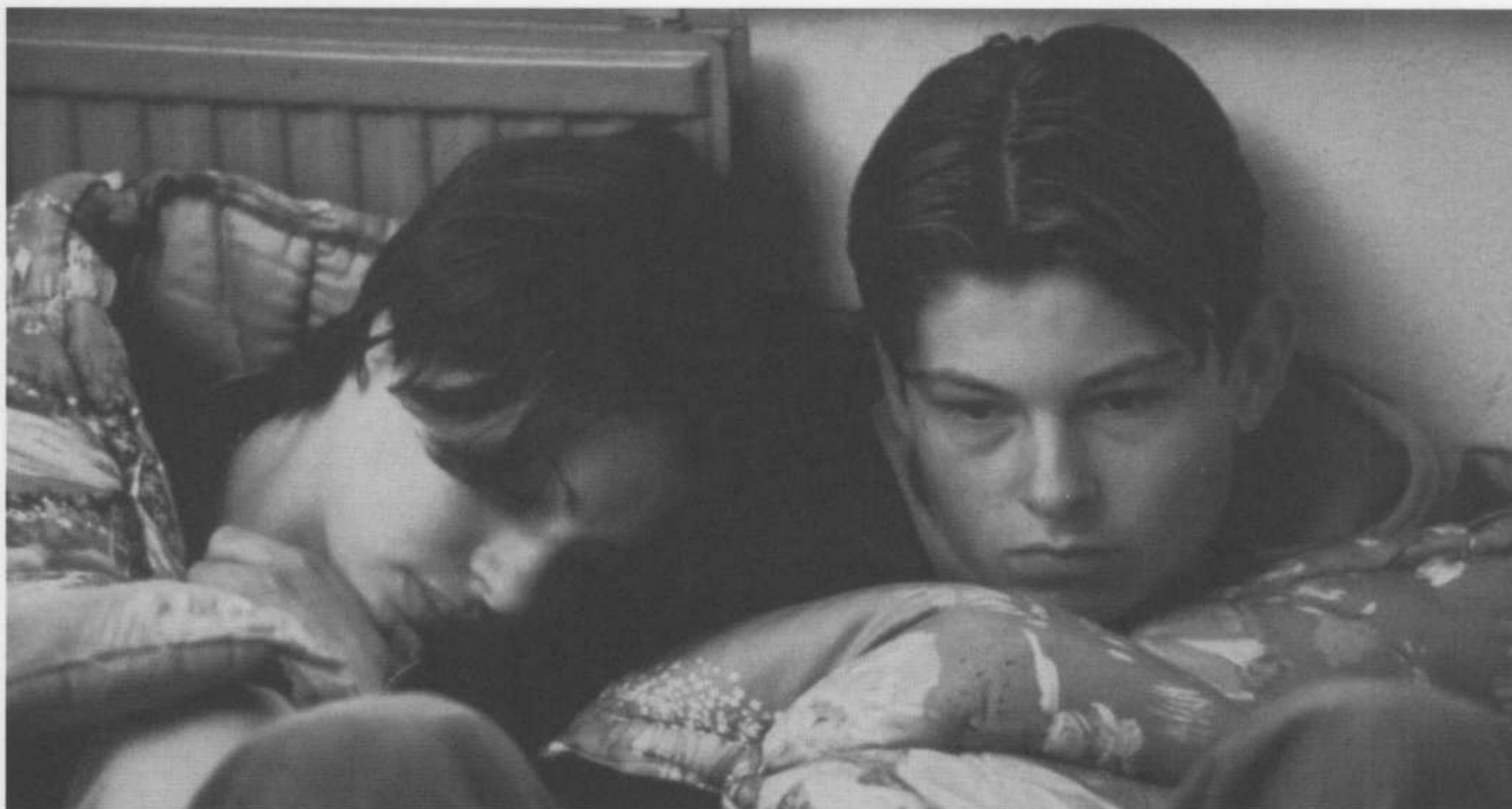


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alaska.de

Esther Gronenborn

GERMANY, 2000

89 minutes ■ Colour/35mm

Production Company: **Bioskop-Film GmbH**

Producer: **Eberhard Junkersdorf, Dietmar Güntsche**

Screenplay: **Esther Gronenborn**

Cinematographer: **Jan Fehse**

Editor: **Christian Lonk**

Principal Cast: **Jana Pallaske, Artur Rakk, Nele Steffen, Frank Droese, Toni Blume**

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Production: **Bioskop-Film GmbH, Rosenheimer Str. 143d, 81671 Munich, Germany. T (49-89) 4090-920 F (49-89) 4090-9220 E info@bioskop.de**

Even though the Wall fell only 11 short years ago, the young now barely remember what it was like to live in a divided Germany. In their brave new world, the ideals passed down from generation to generation no longer apply. Cold War tensions have been replaced by economic hardship, xenophobic hatred and the strife of a "New World Order"; suburban angst is now fully entrenched in the new reality. In Esther Gronenborn's intense first feature, *alaska.de*, one either copes with these changes or perishes.

Sixteen-year-old Sabine, who battles constantly with her mother's boyfriend, is sent to live with her father in the suburbs of East Berlin. Lost, confused, friendless, she might as well be living in a foreign country. Eventually she befriends classmate Eddie, who is on the verge of quitting school to become his own man, even though his planned future as a window cleaner seems less than appealing. Eddie's best friend Micha, recently released from prison, is in a similar situation. Unemployed, in constant trouble with the police, he takes whatever he can grab from the world. His welcome home party turns ugly when he and Eddie get into a savage fight with a boy from another part of town, and when Eddie accidentally stabs the outsider to death, Micha attempts to get rid of the evidence.

Sabine accidentally witnesses Micha's flight from the scene, gory knife in hand. To keep her quiet, Micha makes sure Eddie

keeps close tabs on her, but when this closeness leads to a budding romance, Micha decides to take measures into his own hands.

With an improvised script based on the real experiences of her amateur actors, Gronenborn brings innovative vitality to her gripping debut. Brutal, uncompromising, yet undeniably touching, *alaska.de* is a self-portrait of youth still suffering from the repercussions of the past.

■ **Dimitri Eipides**

Esther Gronenborn studied filmmaking at the Academy for Television and Film in Munich. She directed numerous music videos and documentaries before making her feature debut with *alaska.de* (00).

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