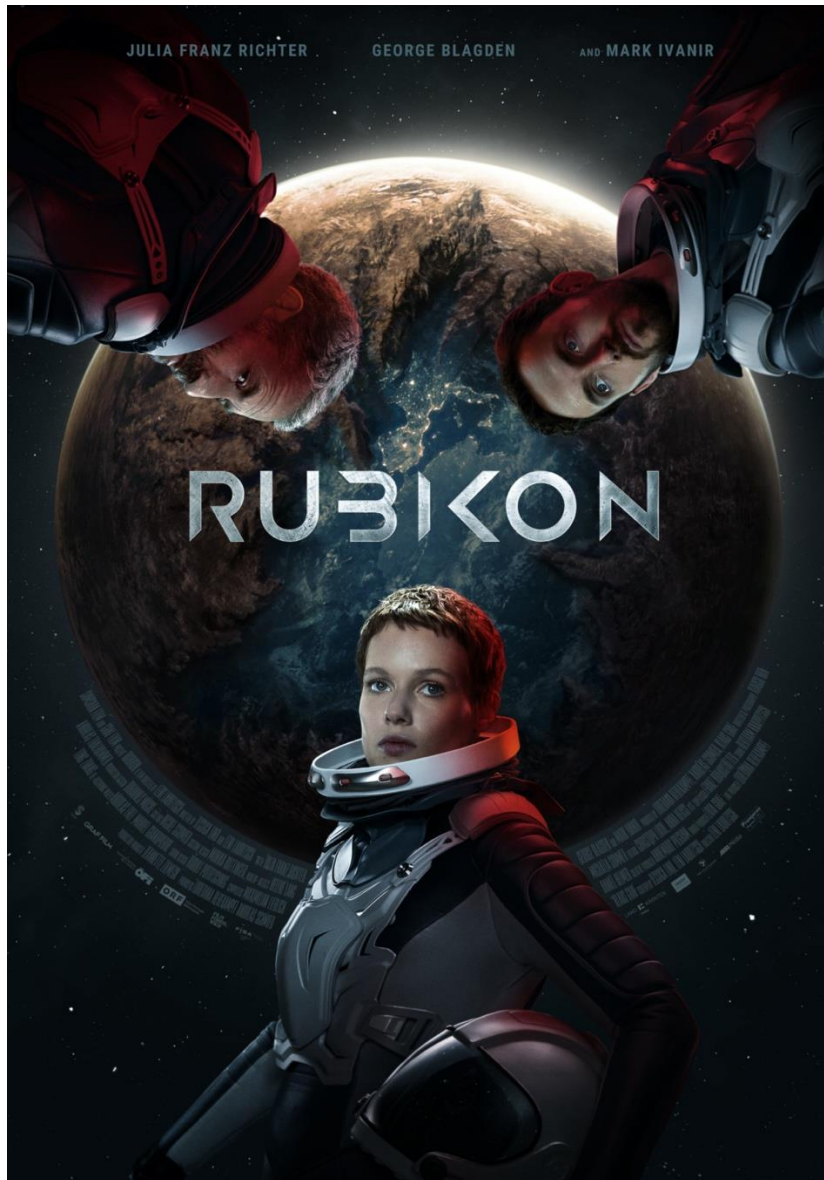




THE PLAYMAKER
MUNICH

PRESS KIT



THE PLAYMAKER MUNICH presents
a Samsara Filmproduktion and Graf Filmproduktion production

RUBIKON

A film by
Leni Lauritsch

Austrian Release Date: 16th September 2022

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CAST

Hannah Wagner
Gavin Abbott
Dimitri Krylow

Julia Franz Richter
Georg Blagden
Mark Ivanir

and

Philipp Jenson
Tracy Sato
Danilo Krylow
Knopf
Sergio
Little Knopf

Nick Monu
Daniela Kong
Konstantin Frolov
Hannah Rang
Lupo Grujcic
Jonas Gerzabek

CREDITS

Director:	Leni Lauritsch
Screenplay:	Jessica Lind, Leni Lauritsch
Script Editor:	Elisabeth Schmied
Casting:	Nicole Schmied
Directors of Photography:	Xiaosu Han, Andreas Thalhammer
Original Sound:	Bertram Knappitsch, Tong Zhang
Gaffer:	Markus Harthum
Production Designer:	Johannes Mücke
Music:	Wolf-Maximilian Liebich, Daniel Helmer
Re-Recording Mixer:	Manuel Grandpierre, Andreas Frei
Sound Designer:	Rudolf Pototschnig
Set Design:	Robert Hochstätger
Concept Art:	Emanuel Tornquist
VFX Supervisor:	Franz Brandstätter / arx anima
Costume Designer:	Monika Buttinger
Make-up Artists:	Helene Lang, Michaela Sommer
Editors:	Christoph Loidl, Anna Heuss
Creative Producer:	Annemarie Pilgram
Junior Producer:	Livia Graf
Line Producer:	Loredana Rehekampff
Production Manager:	Jeannette Ziemeck
Producers:	Loredana Rehekampff, Andreas Schmied, Klaus Graf

“Rubikon” is a production by Samsara Filmproduktion and Graf Filmproduktion. The production was funded by Österreichisches Filminstitut, Filmfonds Wien, ORF Film- und Fernsehabkommen, FISA and Carinthia Film Commission/Land Kärnten Kultur.

Austria 2022 / 110 minutes

LOGLINE

When Earth is covered in a mysterious toxic fog, the whole population seems to be dead. The crew of space station Rubikon must decide whether they risk their lives to get back home and search for survivors or stay safe on the space station.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Disaster strikes on earth. In RUBIKON, the crew of a space station, Hannah (Julia Franz Richter), Gavin (George Blagden) and Dimitri (Mark Ivanir) must decide whether they risk their lives to get back home during a global catastrophe and search for survivors or stay safe in the sophisticated station's algae symbiosis system, which makes them fully self-reliant. RUBIKON questions whether one have the right to seal ourselves off in safety and ignorance from the ongoing problems of the world, as three people with three very different worldviews collide in this pressure-cooker environment millions of miles away.

LONG SYNOPSIS

The year 2056. Company soldier Hannah Wagner and upper-class scientist Gavin Abbot commence their duties at the private research space station „Rubikon“, which is owned by Nibra, one of the seven government corporations that sectioned off the planet into their territories.

Both are sent there to finalize a promising research project together with its creator, the cranky geneticist Dimitri Krylow. For years he is working on a perfect symbiosis between the station's astronauts and genetically engineered algae cultures that can produce energy, oxygen and nutrition from the crews' excretions.

While the old crew returns back home to Earth in a transport capsule, the remaining station crew loses all communication to Earth. Before Hannah, Gavin and Dimitri can discover the root of the problem, they are forced to listen, as the crew in the capsule, including Dimitri's son burns to death in the atmosphere.

Earth is suddenly enveloped by a mysterious brown fog that blocks the crew's laser communicator, leaving the crew completely cut off and stuck on the station.

Fortunately, Dimitri's system of algae makes the station independent of Earth's resources. But still, Hannah is worried sick for her little sister who is caught somewhere in this ominous natural phenomenon. She reinstalls the old radio system, just to realize that this too reaches no one.

When Gavin analyzes the fog thoroughly, he finds out that it is highly toxic and probably lethal once inhaled. The world's ecosystem seems to have collapsed. This is too much for the young environmental activist and former "green fighter" and attempts to commit suicide. Hannah and Dimitri, however, prevent him from doing so and lock him up for his own safety. Dimitri shares that the algae-gas mixture requires at least three humans to remain stable. If Gavin kills himself, Hannah and Dimitri will die too. Hence, Gavin is compelled to stay alive, or else he would be responsible for Hannah's and Dimitri's deaths, something he could not stomach. With time, they work together to transform the station into a home, as Hannah and Gavin start having feelings for each other, while Dimitri turns into a father figure for them.

Weeks later, cracks and rips appear in the surface of the brown fog and a distress call from Earth reaches them, sent by Nibra CEO's entrenched in a company bunker. Hannah's hope of finding her sister arises again, as she is a company soldier too and may have helped evacuating other employees into a bunker close-by. Gavin, who finally sees a purpose for his life again, gets worked up with the idea of bringing Dimitri's algae system down to the survivors.

But now that Dimitri has finally accepted his son's death and has found a new family at the station, he is unwilling to take such a risk for strangers. Hannah and Gavin try to convince him but fail, until they threaten him with force: Dimitri has no choice. Shortly before they depart, Hannah finds out that she is pregnant by Gavin but still decides to fly down even if that would probably lead to a miscarriage.

Just when the three of them start their departure, a strange accident occurs, leading to the destruction of the entire transport capsule. It turns out that Dimitri sabotaged the capsule, preventing them from flying down. Gavin is shocked and deeply frustrated, as their last possibility of flying back to Earth is lost. Hannah, though, tells them about her actual military mission: She was to bring down Dimitri's whole algae laboratory in a controlled drop of one station's segment. Theoretically they could adapt it for passengers and use this as a way down. When Hannah prepares the station for this alternate plan, she discovers a horrible truth: all evacuation soldiers, including her sisters got the order to stay outside the bunkers and suffocate, to make space for the high rank Nibra employees. Hannah lost faith in the entire system she once worked for.

Gavin is now the only one wanting to return. He tries to force Hannah and Dimitri to fly down by activating the decoupling process of the algae laboratory. At the last moment Hannah manages to stop him and detaches the mechanisms control units so he can't try it again. She decides that the three of them will stay on the station.

Gavin can't live with this decision and kills himself, to finally force Hannah and Dimitri to leave the station. After Gavin's burial, Dimitri confesses to Hannah that Gavin's death was pointless. The sensitive balance of algae was just a lie to prevent Gavin from another suicidal attempt. They don't have to fly down.

6 years later Dimitri, Hannah and her son have established a sheltered, happy family life. But everything changes when the little boy discovers the old radio system Hannah has installed years ago. With it he gets contact to a group of kids who tell him about the numerous survivor camps on Earth and ask him to join their group which lives in a region that is apparently now free of the toxic fog.

PRODUCERS' STATEMENT

With RUBIKON we have tried to make possible the impossible. It is an international science-fiction film, set in space, with high production values and social relevance – produced exclusively in Austria.

Leni Lauritsch has delivered an incredibly brave directorial debut and that makes us, as producers, proud and happy. Because we want to show that Austria can make genre films and science-fiction above all! And this is possible when you bring together the right people.

The space station was developed by Johannes Mücke ("Independence Day", "Moonfall") and built in Vienna. The VFX, which are of top international standard, were created by Vienna's arx anima studio, together with Munich's Pharos Post Group. Xiaosu Han and Andreas Thalhammer put their camera skills to great use on what was a small set. And with Julia Franz Richter, George Blagden and Mark Ivanir we had an international cast before the lens, whose incredible talent is simply to be admired on the big screen. In addition, we are pleased to have made a science-fiction film with many women in key roles: co-author Jessica Lind, director Leni Lauritsch, lead actress Julia Franz Richter, junior producer Livia Graf and producer Loredana Rehekampff.

RUBIKON is what one wishes for from a science-fiction film: great cinematic images. A story full of twists and turns, an immense crisis, a moral dilemma, action, depth and multi-faceted characters. And all this before the hot topic subject: how much are we willing to risk for others? Should we help and put ourselves in danger by doing so, or rather remain safe and throw our moral precepts overboard? A question that gripped us from the very outset.

RUBIKON is already on world tour with our sales agent The Playmaker Munich and will open in US cinemas on 1st July 2022, hitting Austrian screens from the 16th September 2022. We could hardly wish for a better journey for such a unique project.

Loredana Rehekampff, Andreas Schmied, Klaus Graf, May 2022.

BIOGRAPHIES

Leni Lauritsch

Director / Screenplay

Short biography:

Born 1988 in Austria. Graduated High School in 2006. Studied cinematography and directing at the Film Academy Vienna. She worked for several film production companies to finance her studies. Since 2017 in the „directing“ Master’s program. Currently working as director, writer, and script consultant in Vienna.

„Rubikon“ is her first feature film.

Filmography:

2018 Wir liefern ein Lächeln / We deliver a Smile; short film, 18 minutes
54th Hof International Film Festival

2016 Rote Flecken / Red Stains; short film, 14 minutes
Austrian Film Award 2015 – Best Short film
35. Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis 2014 – honorable mention
Golden Nights in Paris 2015
San Marino International Filmfestival
Filmstock Film Festival Arizona 2014
Fresh Wave International Short Film Festival (Hong Kong)
Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival
STIFF Croatia 2014 – best director
Tbilisi International Student Film Festival “AMIRANI” 2014
Shortynale 2014 – best Austrian short film
Vienna Independent Shorts VIS 2014

2014 Clinch; short film, 30 minutes
36. Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis 2013

2012 Clara sehen; short film, 24 minutes
34. Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis 2013
Palm Springs int’l Shortfest 2012 / Filmmarket
Tampere Filmfestival Film Students Network 2012
Cinema Next Filmnacht 2012

2009 Masken Masken; short film, 7 minutes

2009 Von oben; short film, 7 minutes

2008 Ballons; short film, 6 minutes

2006 Ohne Grenzen; short film, 25 minutes

2005 Mad World; short film, 11 minutes

Julia Franz Richter

Born 1991 in Vienna. Trained as an actress at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz. She has performed at, among others, the Schauspielhaus Graz and the Volkstheater Munich. For "Der Taucher" she was nominated in 2021 for the Austrian Film Award for Best Actress and won the Acting Award for the same role at the Diagonale 2020. In 2018 she won the Diagonale Acting Award for the ensemble of "L'Animale". In 2018 she was nominated for the Romy for Favorite Actress.

Filmography (selection):

- 2022 Meerjungfrauen weinen nicht / Mermaids don't cry
Role: Karo, Director: Franziska Pflaum, Producer: Prisma Film

- 2022 Die Vampire der Miljacka
Director: Pavo Marinkovic, Producer: Peter Röhler

- 2021 Landkrimi Vier (TV)
Role: Ulli, Director: Marie Kreutzer, Producer: Die Film AG

- 2020 Verabredung im Herbst
Role: Linda, Director & Producer: Sebastian Brauneis

- 2020 Undine
Role: Nora, Director: Christian Petzold, Producer: Schramm Film Körner + Weber

- 2019 Der Taucher / The Diver Inside
Role: Lena, Director: Günther Schwaiger, Producer: Extrafilm

- 2019 Blind ermittelt (TV)
Role: Caro, Director: Jano Ben Chaabane, Producer: Mona Film

- 2018 L'Animale
Role: Carla, Director: Katharina Mückstein, Producer: Nikolaus Geyrhalter
Filmproduktion

- 2017 Tatort „Wehrlos“ (TV Series)
Role: Katja Humbild (Leading role), Director: Christopher Schier, Producer: ORF

George Blagden

Born 1989 in London, George Blagden was already active in diverse theatrical groups as a teenager, until he was selected by the National Youth Theatre for a master class with Sir Ian McKellen. In 2011 he graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

He has played in many big international productions, including Tom Hooper's successful film version of Les Misérables. He is most well-known, however, for his intense performances in historical series such as Vikings and Versailles. Blagden lives and works in London.

Filmography (selection):

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 2015 – 2018 | Versailles (TV Series)
Role: Louis XIV |
| 2017 | Black Mirror (TV Series), Episode „Hang the DJ“
Role: Lenny |
| 2013 – 2016 | Vikings (TV Series)
Role: Athlastan |
| 2012 | Les Misérables
Role: Grantaire |

Mark Ivanir

Born in 1968 in Ukraine, his Jewish family emigrated in 1972 to Israel, where, as a young adult, he did national service. When he was cast in 1993 for Steven Spielberg's Schindler's List, he relocated to London to study acting. Since 2001 he has lived and worked in Los Angeles.

Filmography (selection):

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2019 – 2020 | The New Pope (TV Series)
Role: Bauer |
| 2020 | Away (TV Series)
Role: Misha Popov |
| 2018 | American Horror Story (TV Series), Episode: Fire and Reign
Role: Nikolai Alexandrovich |
| 2015 – 2018 | Homeland (TV Series)
Role: Ivan Krupin |
| 2017 | Transparent (TV Series)
Role: Nitzan |
| 2017 | Babylon Berlin (TV Series), Episode 4.1 |
| 2011 | Johnny English Reborn
Role: Karlenko, Director: Oliver Parker |

2011	360 Director: Fernando Meirelles
2010	Im Angesicht des Verbrechens / In the Face of Crime (TV Series) Role: Andrej, Director: Dominik Graf
2009	CSI: Miami (TV Series) Role: Gregor Kasparov
2006	The Good Sheperd Role: Valentin Mironov (#2), Director: Robert De Niro
2004	The Terminal Director: Steven Spielberg
2000	The Man Who Cried Director: Sally Potter
1993	Schindler's List Role: Marchel Goldberg, Director: Steven Spielberg