

BIOGRAPHY



Johannes Praus is a cinematographer and photographer; known for his sensitive and introspective visual style in documentary and fiction films. His film works has been honored with awards including German Cinematography Award, Bavarian Film Award and Grimme Award, as well as nominated for the German Film Award. He was born in May 1983 in Dresden, the former GDR. Today he lives and works in Dresden and Berlin. Johannes is Anuuk's dad.

[...] In search for the traces of life, the everlasting surge, that mark us, we stride over huge mountains and through deep valleys. Only to make that visible justifies my existence. [...]

During his studies of cinematography at the Film University Babelsberg 'Konrad Wolf', Johannes Praus was nominated for the Golden Tadpole at the CamerImage Filmfestival and won the Kodak Filmschool Cinematography Award with 'SUBMERGED' ('OPFER'). 'B-DAY' was his second short film at the CamerImage Filmfestival.

2013 graduation with his theoretical thesis 'NO RELATIONSHIP IS IMPOSSIBLE' ('KEINE BEZIEHUNG IST UNMÖGLICH') with distinction. His graduating film 'BEYOND WRIEZEN' ('NACH WRIEZEN') won the German 51st Grimme-Prize in 2015. From 2013 to 2015 he studied as a part of the postgraduate "Meisterschüler" program with Prof. Peter Badel at the Film University Babelsberg.

His feature fiction debut 'ANYWHERE ELSE' ('ANDERSWO') won the Dialogue en Perspective prize at the 64th Berlinale and the Independent Camera Award at the Int'l Film Festival Karlovy Vary. Further, his documentary work has received numerous accolades, not least 'TRANSIT HAVANA' was nominated to the competition at the DOK.fest Munich and the Int'l Filmfestival Karlovy Vary and 'YOU WERE MY LIFE' ('DU WARST MEIN LEBEN') won the Grimme-Prize in 2018 and was nominated for IMAGO – Int'l Award for Cinematography in 2019.

In 2020 he was nominated for the German Cinematography Award (Deutscher Kamerapreis) with his work on 'DRUCK' a second time in a row he was nominated for the German Cinematography Award (Deutscher Kamerapreis) in 2021 this time with his work on 'HÜTER DER ERDE - HIRTEN IN KIRGISTANS HIMMELSGEBIRGE'.

Johannes Praus has been awarded for the 35th German Camera Award (Deutscher Kamerapreis) for his work on 'A FAMILY APPROACH' ('IM PRINZIP FAMILIE'). The film premiered at the 67th Dok Leipzig in 2024, won 2025 the 47th Bavarian Film Award (Bayerischer Filmpreis), the German Documentary Film Award (Deutscher Dokumentarfilmpreis). In 2026 the film was nominated for the 76. German Film Award (Deutscher Filmpreis).

Beside his cinematic work, Johannes Praus is a freelance Photographer, presenting at a number of solo and group exhibits. In 2018 he published his first photo book 'SHOULDERED INSTANTS OF A REALITY' ('MITGEBRACHTE AUGENBLICKE EINER WIRKLICHKEIT'), followed in 2023 by the second photo book 'BEINGSFORGOTTEN' ('AMVERGESSENE')

Since 2019 he has also been a freelance lecturer.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

Cinema –
Documentary Film

The family approach (2024, Director: Daniel Abma)
Herders – Guardians of the earth (2023, Director: Mark Michel)
Wo Worte nicht hinreichen (2016, Director: Josefine Links)
Transit Havana (2016, Director: Daniel Abma)
Beyond Wriezen (2012, Director: Daniel Abma)
AG Geige – Ein Amateurfilm (2012, Director: Carsten Gebhard)
Roadcrew (2010, Director: Olaf Held)
Listen to the world (Production, Director: Yelizaveta Smit)

Cinema –Feature
Fiction

Der große Zusammenbruch (WT) (Postproduction, Director: Tilman König)
Anywhere Else (2014, Director: Ester Amrami)

TV – Feature Fiction

WIR, Season 1, Episodes 9-12 (2021, Director: Chris Miera)
Druck, Season 7, Episodes 67-70 (2021, Director: Chris Miera)
Druck, Season 3, Episodes 28-30 (2019, Director: Chris Miera)

TV – Documentary
Film

The recycling myth (2022, Director: Tom Costello, Benedikt Wermter)
The corner (2022, Director: Christa Pfafferott)
Guardians of the earth, Episodes 3-5 (2021, Director: Mark Michel)
You where my life (2017, Director: Rosa Hannah Ziegler)
Geschichte Mitteldeutschlands, Folge 94-97 (2017, Director: several)

Short, Music Video,
Installation

Der last remix (2015, Director: Olaf Held)
Forward motion (2014, Director: Daniel Abma)
Toten Hosen – Die Wohnzimmer-Jubiläumstour (2012, Director: Olaf Held)
LIN, Faravaz, Sookee, Hanie – Jin* Jiyan Azadi (2024, Director: Kerstin Polte)
This long breath, concerning Beate's shop (2023, Director: Olaf Held)
What do people do all day, Episode 1-4 (2020 - 2022, Director: Simon Dybbroe Møller)
T. Brusch – IchLassDichNieLos & HierKommtEuerBesterFreund (2018, Director: Llyod & Brusch)
As simple as that (2012, Director: Karl Hagen-Stötzer)
B-Day (2012, Director: Olaf Held)
Submerged (2011, Director: Johannes Leistner)
Aus dem Meer (2009, Director: Felix Harmuth)
Ein Toilettenwestern (2008, Director: Heiner Heinke, Johannes Praus)
S (PostproduCtion, Director: Max Chrambach)

Commercial

Wella – Friseure bewegen II + III (2015, Director: Ole Wiedemann)
Berliner Modosalon (2015, Director: Ole Wiedemann)

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS (SELECTION)

Cinematography

Awarded **35. German Cinematography Award 2025** – Docu Cinema – A Family Approach
Nominated **31. German Cinematography Award 2021** – Documentary – Guardians of the Earth
Nominated **30. German Cinematography Award 2020** – TV/Series – Druck, Season 3, Episode 29
Nominated **IMAGO Int'l Award for Cinematography 2019** – Doc. Germany – You where my life
Selected **22.Int'l FF of the Art of Cinematography Camerimage** – EuropeanPanorama – Anywhere Else
Selected **20. Int'l. FF of the Art of Cinematography Camerimage** – Students Etudes Panorama – B-Day
Nominated **19. Int'l FF of the Art of Cinematography Camerimage 2011** – Students Etudes Competition – Golden Tadpole – Submerged
Awarded **Kodak Film School Cinematography Competition 2011** – EAMER – Submerged
Nominated **Golden Eye – Int'l Filmfestival of Cameramen 2010** – Aus dem Meer, Ein Toilettenwestern

Filmawards

Nominated **76. German Film Award 2026** – A Family Approach
Awarded **47. Bavarian Film Award 2025** – A Family Approach
Awarded **German Documentary Award 2025** – A Family Approach
Nominated **58. Grimme-Prize 2022** – WIR
Nominated **German Television Award 2020** – Best Series – Druck
Awarded **54. Grimme-Prize 2018** – Du warst mein Leben
Awarded **51. Karlovy Vary Int'l Film Festival 2018** – Doc. Competition – Transit Havana
Awarded **51. Grimme-Prize 2015** – nach Wriezen
Awarded **49. Karlovy Vary Int'l Film Fest 2016** – Independent Camera Award – Anderswo
Awarded **64.Berlinale 2014** – Dialogue en Perspective – Anderswo
Awarded **Murnau-Shortfilmaward 2013** – B-Day
Selected **55. DOK Leipzig 2012** – National Competition – Goldene Taube – nach Wriezen

Scholarships

2021: **VG Bild-Kunst** – Körpersprache im Bild
2020: **Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen** – Helga & Helga
2013: **DAAD / Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst** – Transit Havana

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITS (SELECTION)

Solo exhibits

2023: **Amvergessene**, Galerie Alte Feuerwache Loschwitz, Dresden
2018 **Mitgebrachte Augenblicke einer Wirklichkeit**, Galerie Alte Feuerwache Loschwitz, Dresden
2013: **mining and smelting the or**, Zimmertheater, Rottweil
2011: **Mensch-India**, Ladencafé Aha, Dresden & Internationales Begegnungszentrum, Dresden

Group exhibitions

2024: **Cadavre Exquis N°5**, Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin
2012: **Realität der Arbeit**, Photokina, Köln
2011: **mining and smelting the or**, int. zeitgenössische Kunstaussstellung, Nürnberg
2010: **Mariusz von der Achterbahn**, int. zeitgenössische Kunstaussstellung, Krakau
2008: **Kulturerbe: Bewahren!Pflegen!**, Dreikönigskirche & Weinbergkirche, Dresden (mit Evelyn Richter)

PUBLICATIONS

Photobook

2023: **Amvergessene**
1st. Edition 333 + 17 (Specialedition), Hardcover, Triplex – 64 Seiten, 34 Black&White photos
2018: **Mitgebrachte Augenblicke einer Wirklichkeit**
1st. Edition 275 + 25 (Specialedition), Hardcover, Duplex – 90 pages, 54 Black&White photos

CONTACT

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