

# MÄDCHEN

*WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SILVANA DAMM*

*PRODUCED BY BRIDGET MOY O'BRIEN & JOSEPH TIMBS*

*CINEMATOGRAPHY BY SASKIAN SCHUBERT*

*STARRING MARIELLA AUMANN*

*CONTACT*

***Bridget Moy O'Brien***

*bridgetmoyobrien@gmail.com | +49 177 891 6016*

***Joseph Timbs***

*josephtimbsfreelance@gmail.com | +49 151662 202 55*

***Silvana Damm***

*silvana.v.damm@gmail.com | +49 176539 511 47*



A FILM BY SILVANA DAMM

# MÄDCHEN

PRODUCED BY BRIDGET MOY O'BRIEN AND JOSEPH TIMBS  
STARRING MARIELLA AUMANN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SASKIAN SCHUBERT  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SILVANA DAMM

A FILM BY SILVANA DAMM

# MÄDCHEN

PRODUCED BY BRIDGET MOY O'BRIEN AND JOSEPH TIMBS  
STARRING MARIELLA AUMANN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SASKIAN SCHUBERT  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SILVANA DAMM



# MÄDCHEN

“GIRL”

*noun.*

1. a female child
2. a young woman
3. a young woman on the cusp of adulthood

When Ada experiences her first period, she is faced with the grim reality of period poverty.





## SYNOPSIS

Ada, an adolescent from a low socioeconomic family, gets her first period while her mother is at work. Having to take care of her younger sisters, they embark on a mission to the convenience store to purchase menstrual items. Unfortunately the small change she has pulled together is not enough. As the shopkeeper turns away to make a phone call, Ada feels helpless and at the mercy of the situation. When the shopkeeper finally realises the urgency of the situation, Ada's anger at this first encounter with period poverty has already forced her to make a decision.



## ABOUT THE FILM

Menstrual products around the world are most often not only expensive, but also unfairly taxed. For many adolescents, this financial burden accompanies a social burden as well.

For Ada, a girl on the cusp of womanhood experiencing her first period, she is overwhelmed by the situation and experiences the struggles of a menstruating person.

Opposite her, the shopkeeper is trying to make the best out of the situation but is unable to provide help due to a lack of understanding. When he ultimately attempts to provide assistance the end, just like Ada, he is at the mercy of the situation.

During the production of “Mädchen”, Germany voted to remove the ‘Tampon Tax’ following a nationwide campaign by various groups, organisations and individuals.







## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

SILVANA DAMM

The idea for "Mädchen" came to me when I went grocery shopping. All of a sudden I was surrounded by a group of young girls, they were wild and jumping around screaming, the youngest girl was pulling my hair when I heard their mother shouting for them to stop. In her shopping card was a pack of menstrual products. We looked at each other knowingly.

When I started writing the script, menstrual products were considered a luxury item and were taxed at 19%. I thought to myself: "Explain that to a young girl without money", and Ada's character was born. Ada is very strong and brave but still falls victim to the situation. In Western societies there is still a lack of understanding of what it really means to menstruate, even if the discussions about periods have become more open.





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (CONT'D)

This film is made for everyone. What makes Mädchen special is that it is not a film with a classical hero and a villain, rather two people falling victim to the situation at hand, leaving room for discussion. It shows how an everyday problem can turn into a traumatic event.

I want the audience to be able to step into Ada's skin and experience what it feels like to be in that situation.





## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

**Original language:** German

**Shooting format:** Digital (Arri Alexa)

**Aspect ratio:** 2.35:1

**Audio format:** Stereo

**Length:** 10:09 (minutes:seconds)

**Subtitles:** English

**Image:** Colour

**Relief:** 2D





# TEAM

## SILVANA DAMM

WRITER & DIRECTOR

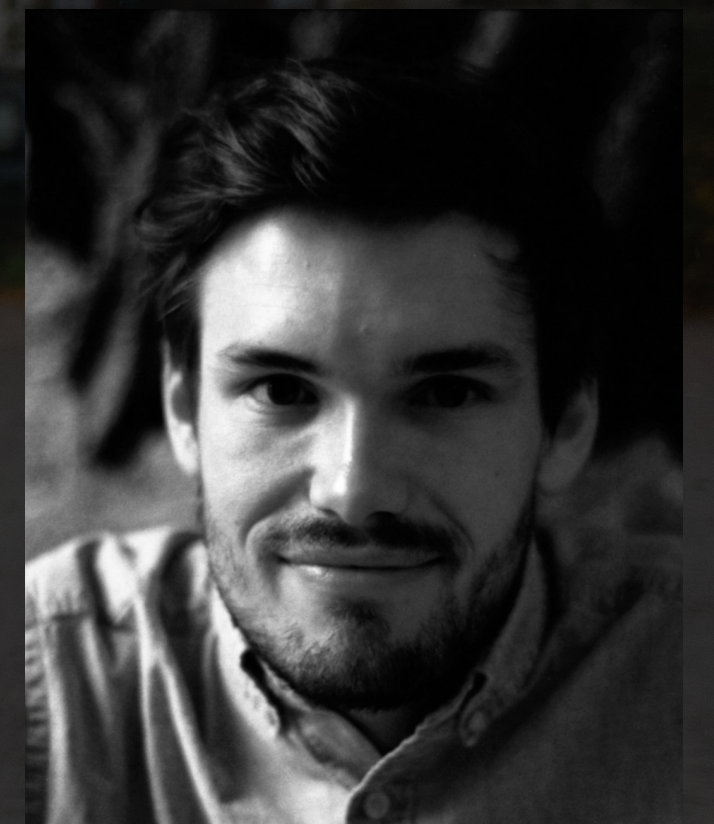
Silvana is an independent director, writer and actress from Berlin. Following the passion of storytelling, she has gained experience both in front and behind the camera. When cast in the Canadian feature film "Kreuzberg" she started as an actress and ended as a second AD after having completed her shooting days for her role. Further acting credits include "Anette" by Leos Carax and Germany's new crime series "Blutige Anfänger". Mädchen is her short film debut.



## SASKIAN SCHUBERT

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Saskian has been shooting commercials, music videos and narrative short and feature films for over five years. With his atmospheric image design, he strives to create something special and to make each story unique through his photography. His experience includes projects for brands such as Hugo Boss, MOTEL ONE, Eibach Federn, Marley Spoon and Brawny.





# TEAM



## BRIDGET MOY O'BRIEN

### PRODUCER

Bridget is an Australian producer, actress and screenwriter based in Berlin. For the past eight years, Bridget has worked across film, mini-series and TVCs. Most recently Bridget has produced, written and starred in award-winning feature films screened at festivals in the US, Australia and Asia including Adelaide Film Festival, Sinag Maynilla and Monsterfest.



## JOSPEH TIMBS

### PRODUCER

Joseph is a Berlin-based Australian director, producer and editor with over seven years of commercial, fictional and artistic media experience. Inspired by stories and with a keen sense for details, he strives to create exciting, meaningful films. His graduate film 'Waiting Room' screened at the Bangkok Underground Film Festival in 2017.



## MARIELLA AUMANN

### LEAD ACTRESS

Mariella is a talented young and rising actress from Berlin. Her previous credits include Germany's most famous Netflix series "Dark" and Amazon Prime's "We Children From Bahnhof Zoo".







## WITH SUPPORT FROM

This film was made with the support of over one hundred people - all of whom believe in the need for stories like Ada's to be shown and discussed more widely in our media.

This film comes at a critical time. It is no coincidence that the production of the film coincided with a nationwide campaign in Germany to lower the 'Tampon Tax' to 7%. "Mädchen" adds to the growing momentum to remove the stigma around periods and to shine a light on those who suffer most.

Thank you to our primary sponsors Menstrual Health Hub, a global organisation and social impact agency that promotes collaborative and systemic positive impact around menstrual health worldwide, and to a number of other local and national companies, as well as to the individual supporters of our crowdfunding campaign (pictured below) for believing in our film and that together we can be #bloodypowerful.







**TRAILER**

<https://vimeo.com/420599851>