

KINGS OF THE ROAD



KINGS OF THE ROAD is about a friendship between two men: Bruno, aka “King of the Road” (Rüdiger Vogler), who repairs film projectors and travels along the inner-German border in his truck, and the psychologist Robert, aka “Kamikaze” (Hanns Zischler), who is fleeing from his own past. When Robert drives his old VW straight into the Elbe river, he is fished out by Bruno. This is the beginning of their shared journey through a German No Man’s land, a journey that leads them from the Lüneburg Heath to the Bavarian Forest.

Wenders began the film without a script. Instead there was a route that he had scouted out beforehand: all of the little towns along the Wall that still contained a movie theater in this era of cinematic mass extinction. The old moving van with the film projectors in the back becomes a metaphor of the history of film - it is no coincidence that the film is dedicated to Fritz Lang.

This “men’s story” also treats the themes of the absence of women, of loneliness and of post-war Germany. At one point Bruno says to Robert: “The Yankees have colonized our subconscious.”

KINGS OF THE ROAD

West Germany 1975

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

1976 Cannes International Filmfestival: FIPRESCI-Prize
1976 Chicago International Film Festival: Gold Hugo
(Best Film)

FORMAT

Length: 175 min, 4784 m

Format: 35mm black and white; 1:1.66; Sound

Language: German

4K Restoration 2014

CREDITS

Production:
Wim Wenders Produktion (München)

Director:
Wim Wenders

Producer:
Wim Wenders

Screenplay:
Wim Wenders

Director of Photography:
Robby Müller, Martin Schäfer

Editor:
Peter Przygodda

Sound:
Martin Müller, Bruno Bollhalder

Cast:
Rüdiger Vogler (Bruno Winter), Hanns Zischler
(Robert Lander), Lisa Kreuzer (Pauline, cashier),
Rudolf Schündler (Robert's Father), Marquard Böhm
(Man Who Lost His Wife),

Hans Dieter Traier (Paul, garage owner), Franziska
Stömmer (Cinema owner), Peter Kaiser (Movie
presenter), Patrick Kreuzer (Little boy), Michael
Wiedemann (Teacher)

Script:
Gretl Zeilinger, Brigitte Thoms

Assistant Director:
Martin Hennig

Music:
Improved Sound Limited, Axel Linstädt

In Cooperation with:
Westdeutscher Rundfunk (Cologne)

Re-recording Mixer:
Paul Schöler

Technician:
Hans Dreher, Volker von der Heydt

Set Design:
Heidi Lüdi, Bernd Hirsborn

Truck:
Michael Rabl

Songs:
Chrispian St. Peters, Heinz, Roger Miller

Production Manager:
Michael Wiedemann

Location Manager:
Heinz Badewitz

Primary Distribution:
Filmverlag der Autoren GmbH und Co. Vertriebs KG
(Munich)

Shooting:
01.07.1975 – 31.10.1975 between Lüneburg and Hof,
along the border to East Germany

First Release (DE):
04.03.1976, Berlin