LAND OF PLENTY tells a story in contemporary America but it shows its flip side: LA is not only the capital of the entertainment industry, it is also the U.S.A.’s “capital of hunger”. The film is a political essay but also a very emotional family story, full of black humor. The audience sees the country from very different perspectives: On the one hand, it is seen through the eyes of a patriotic Vietnam veteran and on the other it is shown from the perspective of his niece, an independent young woman.

Paul, former soldier of the “US Special Forces”, was injured as an 18-year-old in a combat near Long Thanh and stills suffers from the aftereffects of the toxin Dioxin (Agent Orange) to which he was exposed more than 30 years ago. The September 11 attacks revived his trauma and therefore the ghosts of his past return. He is obsessed with the idea of protecting his country against attacks from the inside and engages in the “war against terror” as a self-appointed homeland defender.

Lana is an idealist, searching for her task in the world. In the process, she understands and considers her Christianity more and more in striking contrast to the principals of the acting U.S. government.

By chance, the two witness a murder. A homeless man becomes the victim of a drive-by shooting, a seemingly arbitrary act. For Paul it is a hot lead in a conspiracy theory, for Lana it is just another sad episode in a world gone to pieces.

For Lana and Paul the story ends at the place where the American history of the 21st century took a dramatic turn: in NY at Ground Zero.
LAND OF PLENTY

Germany/USA 2003/04

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

2004 Venice International Filmfestival: UNESCO Award (Best Director)

FORMAT

Length: 123 min, 3379 m
Format: DV, 35mm color; 1:2.35; Dolby Digital
Original Language: English

CREDITS

Production:
Reverse Angle International GmbH (Hamburg), Independent Digital Entertainment Inc. (Los Angeles)

Director:
Wim Wenders

Producer:
Gary Winick, Jake Abraham, In-Ah Lee, Samson Mücke

Screenplay:
Wim Wenders, Michael Meredith, based on an idea of Scott Derrickson and Wim Wenders

Director of Photography:
Franz Lustig

Editor:
Moritz Laube

Sound:
Matthew Nicolay

Cast:
John Diehl (Paul), Michelle Williams (Lana), Richard Edson (Jimmy), Wendell Pierce (Henry), Burt Young (Sherman), Shaun Toub (Hassan), Bernard White (Youssef), Gloria Stuart (Old Lady)

Co-Producer:
Mandy Tagger

Executive Producer:
Peter Schwartzkopff, John Sloss, Jonathan Sehring, Caroline Kaplan

Assistant Director:
Josef Lieck, Edward McGurn

Assistant Camera:
Alec Boehm, Marie Chao, Tate Wittenberg, Christian Aiello

Assistant Editor:
Mark Andrew Clark

Site Management:
George McDowell, Marla Ulrich Casting: Ellen Lewis, Victoria Thomas

Wardrobe:
Alexis Scott, Rosalita N. Medina

Hairstyle/Make-up:
Barbara Leister, Haruyo Sawada, Susanne Niederhoff

Light:
Michael Glover, Jon C. Callesen, Trevor Houghton

Set:
Chris Lindsay, Adam Camacho, Matthew Perry, Brian Fischer, Bill Isaacson, Joseph Dianda

Production Manager:
Shaun McNally

Production Assistant:
Edward Buhr, David D’Alessio

Still Photographer:
Donata Wenders

Set Design:
Nathan Amondson

Music:
Thom & Nackt

Music Execution:
Alex Steyermark, Linda Cohen

Location Manager:
Samson Mücke

Art Director:
Nicole Lobart, William Budge
Property Master:
Ritrerk Kitisakkul, Svenja Willebrand, Dominique Navarro

Script:
Sylvie Michel-Casey

Primary Distribution:
Reverse Angle Pictures GmbH (Berlin)