

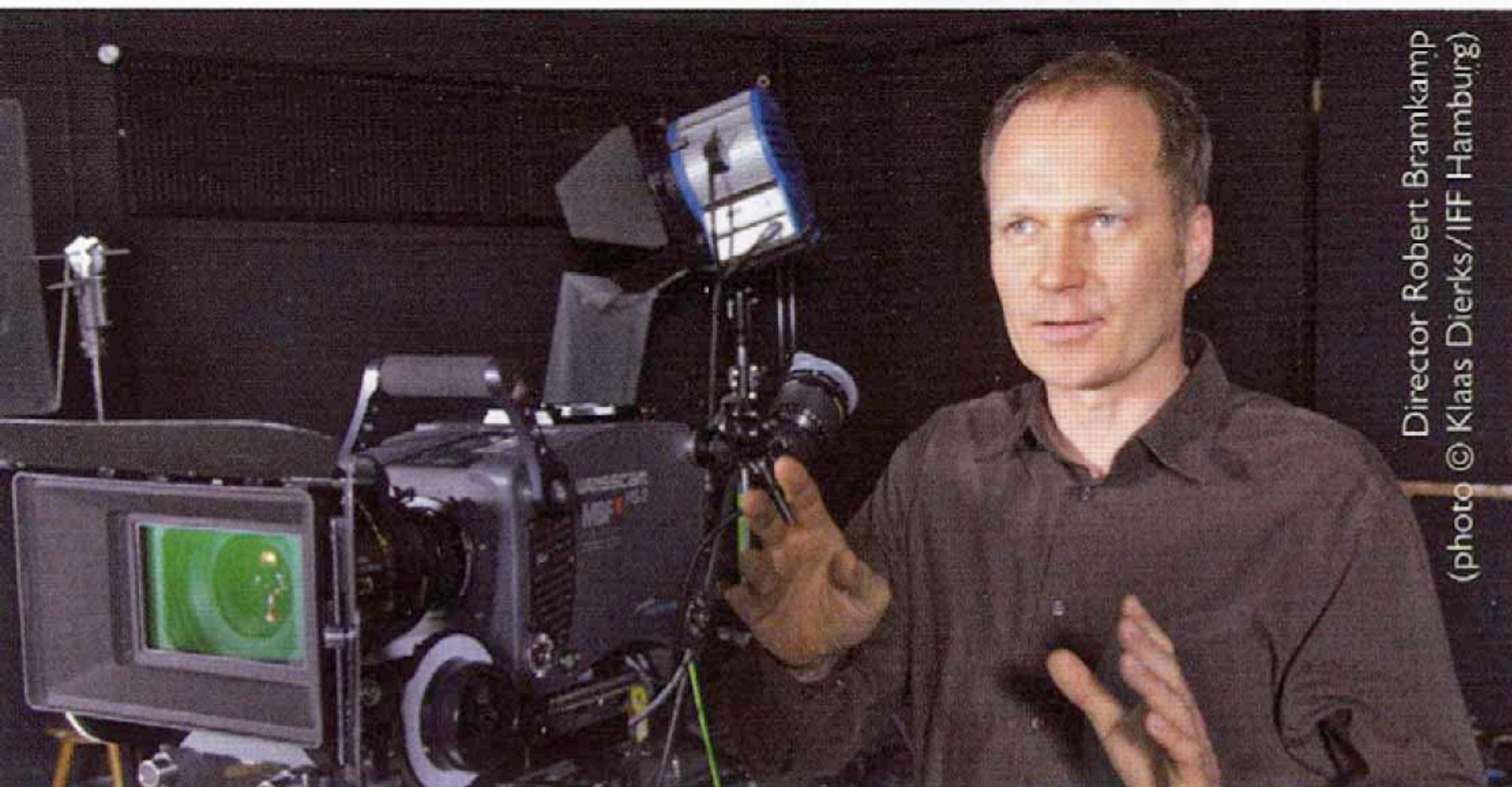
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„Art Girls“

IN PRODUCTION



Director Robert Bramkamp
(photo © Klaas Dierks/IFF Hamburg)

Art Girls

Type of Project Feature **Genre** Experimental, Fantasy, Science Fiction **Production Company** IFF Hamburg (Institut Forschender Film)/Hamburg, in co-production with BramkampWeirich/Berlin, ZDF/Mainz, ARTE/Strasbourg **With backing from** Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein, Nordmedia, MFG Baden-Württemberg **Producers** Kirsten Ellerbrake, Robert Bramkamp **Director** Robert Bramkamp **Screenplay** Robert Bramkamp **Director of Photography** Sebastian Egert **Editor** Andreas Zitzmann **Production Design** Susanne Weirich **Principal Cast** Inga Busch, Peter Lohmeyer, Megan Gay, Simon Schwarz, Jana Schulz **Casting** Susanne Weirich **Format** Digital 2K, color, 16:9, blow-up to 35 mm, Dolby Stereo **Shooting Language** German **Shooting in** Hamburg, Berlin, Göppingen, August-September 2010, January-February 2011, May 2011, September 2011, December 2011

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Filmmaker **Robert Bramkamp** had the idea for his latest project **Art Girls** in 2002, after completing his feature *Prüfstand VII* which included parts of Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow*.

"It was a clear plan at the time that I wanted **Inga Busch** – who had played the lead in *Prüfstand VII* – for the lead again in my new project," Bramkamp recalls. In addition, he cast **Peter Lohmeyer**, who appeared in his 1995 film *Eroberung der Mitte*, to play the scientist twin brothers Laurens and Peter in **Art Girls**.

Bramkamp's screenplay focuses on three women artists, Nikita Neufeld, Una Queens and Fiona da Vinci, who are intending to collaborate on a group art exhibition in Berlin's world famous art district Mitte. However, the exhibition is, in fact, just a front for a scientific experiment by the Maturana twins to test out their new technology of 'biosynchronization' with unexpected results ...

"**Art Girls** is a low-budget, romantic science fiction film, but also a satire on the art world and offers an entertaining journey into a world

which is otherwise often regarded as being elite," Bramkamp continues, pointing out that the film will serve as a "long overdue parody on disaster movies and disaster capitalism. And yet this genre mix leads into an entertaining, sometimes weird, but finally positive encounter with a new form of intelligence, which is not exactly alien."

Apart from the production of a feature film for the cinema, the **Art Girls** project will also have other activities in a cross-media context. Public broadcaster ZDF is co-producing *The Art Girls Mockumentary* which will combine a 'making of' the actual feature film with fake documentary passages about people's experiences with their "new nature", which is again another word for the evolutionary leap the story revolves around.

In addition, new technological and creative possibilities of digital animation are being explored by students, graduates and teaching staff at four institutions of higher education in Germany and Switzerland: Stuttgart Media University (HdM), Hamburg's University of Fine Arts (HfbK), the University of Film & Television "Konrad Wolf" (HFF) and the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU).

"Each institution has a different background or emphasis," Bramkamp explains. "For example, the students at HfbK Hamburg have a more artistic perspective, whereas at the HdM they are focused on the specific potentials of digital animation and SFX design. The findings from these four centers can then be incorporated into the feature film."

Meanwhile, the financing is not yet closed for an Internet narration project in collaboration with ARTE-online and Hamburg-based First Motion New Media Fund where Internet storytellers can enrich the cross-media narration through their own creative input.

In addition, an art exhibition is set to be staged in 2012 in cooperation with the Kunsthalle Göppingen which will then later move on to Hamburg and Berlin. This exhibition will be based on the exhibitions staged by the three "Art Girls" in the film and launched as a 'tie-in' to the theatrical release.

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