

Stina Werenfels

www.stinawerenfels.ch

Stina Werenfels is a filmmaker, author and producer from Switzerland.

Born in Basel, she spent her early childhood in the USA, Greece, and Spain. After studying pharmacy at ETH Zurich, she studied film at New York University (Tisch School of the Arts). She attended master classes with Spike Lee, Arthur Penn, and Marketa Kimbrell, among others.

Her student film about a small Jewish community, **Fragments from the Lower East Side**, received the NYU Graduate Award for “Best Documentary.”

Back in Switzerland, she shot the award-winning comedy **Pastry, Pain & Politics** and began directing sketches for the Swiss television comedy show **Viktors Spätprogramm**.

Her first feature film, the drama **Nachbeben** (2006), premiered at the Berlinale Panorama and won several awards.

From 2011 to 2015, she was vice president of the Association of Film Directors and Screenwriters Switzerland, **ARF**.

Her next feature film, **Dora or the Sexual Neuroses of Our Parents** (2015), starring Victoria Schulz and Lars Eidinger, was again invited to the Berlinale (Panorama). Among other awards, it won the Grand Prix du Jury at the Festival de Films de Femmes in Créteil.

In 2017, she co-founded **Kosmos**, a socio-political cultural center in downtown Zurich with an event forum, six cinemas, a book salon, and a bistro.

In 2018, Stina Werenfels received a scholarship at the Istituto Svizzero, Villa Maraini, in Rome to develop the screenplay **Frisch, née Krakowska**, a docu-fiction about her family history.

In 2019, she co-produced with her production company AleppoFilms the feature **Baghdad in my Shadow** by Iraqi-born director Samir. The film premiered at the Locarno Film Festival and received three nominations for the Swiss Film Award.



In 2023 her mise en scène of **A Life** by Annie Ernaux opened the season of Theatres Bern.

The documentary **Hirschfeld**, (Co-directed with Samir) about the forgotten Jewish theatre director Kurt Hirschfeld, who turned the Schauspielhaus Zurich into a cultural center of anti-fascist resistance is completed in 2026.

Her feature film **Each of Us** (Codirected with 3 female fellow directors) a Catalan-German-Swiss-Polish Coproduction about 4 women in the concentration camp of Ravensbrück is in postproduction. Starring Diane Kruger, Carla Juri, Aida Folch and Ninel Geiger.

Stina Werenfels is writing her new feature **Aletsch**, about the vanishing glaciers and the feeling of loss, produced by Lomotion Production Company, Bern.

She is teaching at Accademia Dimitri and lives with her family in Zurich.

Filmography (Selection)

Hirschfeld - unbekannter Bekannter,

2026 Documentary, 90 min

(Co-directed with Samir)

World Première Solothurner Filmtage

Dora oder die sexuellen Neurosen unserer Eltern Drama, 90 min

World Premiere: Berlinale 2015, Panorama

Awards

Swiss Film Award, 2015: 4 Nominations: «Bester Spielfilm», «Bestes Drehbuch», «Beste Kamera», «Beste Filmmusik»

Créteil, Festival International de Films de Femmes:

»Grand Prix du Jury Fiction« und

«Grand Prix d'interprétation» für Victoria Schulz

Brussels Film Festival: «Cineuropa Award»

and «Cinelab Award for the Best Image»

Nachbeben, Drama, 98 min

World Premiere: Berlinale 2006, Panorama

Awards

Schweizer Filmpreis 2007: Nomination «Bestes Drehbuch», «Bester Hauptdarsteller», «Bester Nebendarsteller»

Schweizer Filmpreis 2007: Spezialpreis der Jury für «Bestes Ensemble»

Viareggio EuropaCinema, Winner Grand Prix: «Best Film»

The European Independent Film Festival, ECU: «Bester Spielfilm»

Filmkunst-Fest Schwerin: «NDR-Regiepreis»

«Bester Film»

Filmpreis der Stadt Zürich: «Bester Spielfilm»

Meier Marilyn, 2003, TV Comedy, 85 min, Super16

Awards

Schweizer Filmpreis 2004: «Beste Hauptrolle» für Bettina Stucky

Making of a Jew, 2000, 12 min, 35mm

Episode of «ID Swiss», 90 min.

Awards

Schweizer Filmpreis 2000:

Nomination «Bester

Dokumentarfilm»

Pastry, Pain & Politics,

1998, comedy, 30 min, 16mm

World Premiere Solothurner Filmtage 1998

Awards

Schweizer Filmpreis 1999: «Bester Kurzfilm»

Internationales Filmfestival

Locarno, «Pardi di Domani»:

«Winner New Swiss Talents» and

«Winner Eastman Kodak Award»

Torino, Festival Internazionale

Cinema delle Donne: «Audience

Award» and «Jury Award»

Filmpreis der Stadt Zürich «Bester Kurzfilm»

Bundesamt für Kultur:

«Qualitätsprämie»

Fragments from the Lower East Side, 1995

documentary, 24 min, 16mm

Awards

San Francisco Golden Gate

Awards: «Winner Sociology US»

New York University Graduate

School: «Best Documentary»

Lucern, Viper Videofestival: «Best

Swiss Video» Freiburg,

Videoforum: «Young Talents

Award»