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## STADT LAND FLUSS

A FILM BY BENJAMIN CANTU

Germany 2011 · 84 Min · HD

When it's harvest time, Sunday is a workday as well. The barn has to be swept clean, and if the cow refuses to nurse her calf, it will have to be fed by hand. Marko has just started to work on a larger farm in the Nuthe-Urstrom Valley, sixty kilometers south of Berlin. If he passes his exams, he will be able to call himself a farmer. Whether he actually wants that or not, he hasn't quite decided yet. Beyond work, he doesn't have many friends; the eleven other trainees think he's somewhat of a loner. However, when Jacob, a new intern, shows up at the farm, Marko begins to slowly shed his outsider role. During the harvest while transporting the grain and re-locating the calves, the two young men get to know each other better. For one day, they take off for Berlin and after that, nothing is quite the same. A love story starts to unfold – but neither of them has actually considered just how open they want to live in the world.

Benjamin Cantu's first feature film tells a rural gay love story and combines documentary-like observation and fictional dramatization in a highly original way. The filming took place on a large farm during the harvest, with an exact eye for the reality of agricultural life, the aspects of learning farming as a trade and the relationships between young farmers learning the business from the ground up and the more seasoned workers. Both actors fit in well with the group and the day-to-day work; the locals bring their own individual realities to the film's story.

"While I was researching the movie by helping out at the farm, I became convinced I could direct an improvised feature film where the farmhands as well as co-workers of a large agricultural business could become a natural part of the story. These people's lives interested me, especially since they're so different than mine. Even though the city is so close, they don't pay any attention to it at all. That flabbergasted me. The story behind Stadt Land Fluss - Harvest came about during interaction with each of them, how they talk, how they act, and how they react to one another." BENJAMIN CANTU

## Benjamin Cantu (Screenplay and Direction)



was born in Budapest in 1978. After working as author and animator for animated films from 1998-2000, he received his degree in Animation at the Konrad Wolf School for Film and Television in Potsdam-Babelsberg. From 2003 until 2010, Cantu studied Film Directing at the German Film and Television Academy in Berlin.

Cantu participated in an EFA Master Class with Allan Starski and finished a short film at the Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris. During his studies, he completed several documentary and short films in cooperation with 3sat and Arte. In 2008, Cantu received the Young Talent Award of the Axel Springer Academy for Young Journalists for Die Welt gehört Chaim. Stadt Land Fluss - Harvest is Benjamin Cantu's first feature film.