



# THREE PEAKS

(DREI ZINNEN)

Directed by Jan Zabeil



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Piazza Grande Winner - 2017 Locarno Film Festival  
Official Selection - 2017 Toronto International Film Festival  
Official Selection - 2018 Miami Film Festival  
Official Selection - 2018 Seattle International Film Festival  
Official Selection - 2018 Berkshire International Film Festival  
Official Selection - 2018 Palm Springs International Film Festival

**93min / Germany, Italy / 2017 / 2.35:1 Scope**

**Not rated**

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## **Synopsis**

Fatherhood, suspicion and resentment are a combustible formula in Jan Zabeil's elegant, unnerving domestic thriller. Aaron (Alexander Fehling, *Homeland*) has found the woman of his life in his girlfriend Lea (Bérénice Bejo, *The Artist*) but her young son Tristan still imagines his mother reconciling with his father. On what should be an idyllic vacation in the soaring Italian Dolomites, Aaron fights to win over Tristan and cement his place in this family, while Lea wrestles with conflicting loyalties to her son and her lover. Yet when Tristan disappears into the mountains, it's unclear who is in the most danger. Complex, deceptive and gripping to the last second, *Three Peaks* chips away at our darkest nightmares to reveal the everyday anxieties on which they feed.

## **Director's Statement**

From a storyteller's point of view, I find it striking how often emotional ambivalences can arise in the context of patchwork families and how quickly feelings of affection and care for the people involved turn into the opposite and vice versa. What happens when a self-determined, emotionally intelligent and warm-hearted man is able to reflect his emotions, but ultimately struggles to accept his role within the new family? What's going on inside a little boy when he likes and accepts his mother's new boyfriend, but at the same time desires nothing more than his father and mother being together again? When moments of closeness ultimately result in a loyalty conflict? And what consequences do these emotions have for the woman and mother? In order to ask these questions, similar to my last film "The River Used To Be A Man," I have placed my characters in a landscape where nature plays a major part: away from the securities of the civilized world, my characters become less deliberate, more emotionally truthful and are likely to lose control over their actions. In the impressive and at the same time hostile surroundings of the "Three Peaks" mountain I have found the environment to show internal conflicts less through the means of dialogue, but the more so via atmosphere, imagery and actions.

Jan Zabeil

## **Director's Biography**

Born in Berlin in 1981, Jan Zabeil studied at the University of Film and Television in Potsdam-Babelsberg. In 2007-2008 his short films *L.H.O.* and *Was Weiss Der Tropfen Davon* screened at over a hundred international film festivals and were awarded with several prizes. His debut feature *The River Used To Be A Man* premiered in Toronto in 2011. The film won Best New Director at San Sebastian IFF and Best Cinematography at the German Critics Association, among other awards. The film was screened at art institutions as MoMA – NYC, Mexican National Cinemateque, Deutsche Kinemathek.

Jan attended the Binger writers & directors lab in Amsterdam to develop his second feature *Three Peaks*.

Director's Filmography

**2017** Three Peaks (Drei Zinnen)

**2011** The River Used To Be A Man (Der Fluss War Einst Ein Mensch)

### **About the cast**

#### **Alexander Fehling (Aaron)**

Noted German film and stage actor Alexander Fehling is best known to US audiences for his roles as Staff Sgt. Wilhelm in Quentin Tarantino's *Inglorious Basterds*, and Claire Danes' love interest on *Homeland* for which he shared a SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series. On screen, his performance in *Young Goethe in Love* (2009) earned Fehling German Film Award and Bambi Award nominations for Best Actor as well as a Jupiter Award for Best Actor. He won the Bavarian Film Award for Best Actor for his performance in *Labyrinth of Lies* (2015). Fehling will next be seen in Terrence Malick's *A Hidden Life*.

#### **Bérénice Bejo (Lea)**

Born in Buenos Aires, Bérénice Bejo is the daughter of Argentine filmmaker Miguel Bejo and moved to France with her family at the age of three. For her role as silent screen star Peppy Miller in Michel Hazanavicius' *The Artist* (2011), she received Academy Award and Golden Globe nominations for Best Supporting Actress, a BAFTA nomination for Best Actress, and won the César Award for Best Actress. Her other credits include Asghar Farhadi's *The Past* for which she won the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival in 2013, Pablo Trapero's *The Quietude*, Fred Cavayé's *Nothing to Hide*, Joachim Lafosse's *After Love*, and *OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies*, directed by her husband, Michel Hazanavicius. She recently finished shooting Hazanavicius' new film, *The Forgotten Prince*, opposite Omar Sy, and is currently filming Sergio Castellito's *A Moon Shaped Dragon* in Cinecitta.

#### **Arian Montgomery (Tristan)**

Born in Munich in 2008, Arian Montgomery was cast at the age of four in the TV movie *Beste Bescherung*, as well as its sequel *Das Bester Allen Leben*. *THREE PEAKS* is his feature film debut.

## **CAST**

<b>Alexander Fehling</b>	<b>Aaron</b>
<b>B�erenice Bejo</b>	<b>Lea</b>
<b>Arian Montgomery</b>	<b>Tristan</b>

## **CREW**

<b>Director &amp; Scriptwriter</b>	Jan Zabeil
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Axel Schneppat
<b>Editor</b>	Florian Miosge
<b>Original Sound</b>	Magnus Pfl�ger
<b>Sound design</b>	Uwe Bossenz, Moritz Hoffmeister
<b>Mixing</b>	Adrian Baumeister
<b>Production Designer</b>	Michael Randel
<b>Make-Up</b>	Dorothea Wiedermann
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Cinzia Cioffi
<b>Casting</b>	Tanja Schuh
<b>Producers</b>	Benny Drechsel, Andreas Pichler, Philipp Moravetz

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

**Original title** DREI ZINNEN

**International title** THREE PEAKS

**Duration** 94 min

**Aspect Ratio** 1:2.35

**Format (2K/4K)** 2K

**Sound** Dolby Digital 7.1

**Original Language** German, English, French

**Countries of Production** Germany, Italy

**Production company** Rohfilm Productions

**Co-production companies** Echo Film, SWR

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