

A YEAR WITHOUT SUMMER

A FILM BY FLURIN GIGER



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Technical Information

Working Title:	A Year Without Summer	Production:	Beauvoir Films
Director:	Flurin Giger	Producer:	Aline Schmid
Screenplay:	Flurin Giger	Address:	Rue des Cèdres 14 1203 Genève
Cinematographer:	Silvan Giger	Tel:	+41 78 792 31 22
Nationality:	Swiss	E-mail:	aline@beauvoirfilms.ch
Genre:	Drama	Website:	www.beauvoirfilms.ch
Duration:	100 min		

Director's Information

Flurin Giger, born in 1995, is a writer-director. He grew up in the Swiss mountains as part of a big family, being one of seven siblings. At the age of 16, he studied to become an actor and starred in several films. After finishing his degree, he began to work as a writer and director. At the age of 20, together with younger brother and director of photography Silvan Giger, he produced and directed his first short film *Ruah* (18 min). The film celebrated its world premiere at the Venice International Film Festival and was

shown at more than 40 festivals worldwide, winning several awards. In 2018, he made his second short *Schächer* (30 min). The film premiered in the Critics Week at the Cannes Film Festival 2018 and was shown at multiple festivals afterwards.

A Year Without Summer is his first feature film, currently in development at the Résidence of the Cannes Film Festival and at the TFL ScriptLab 2022.

Flurin Giger

E-mail: info@gigerbrueder.com
Website: www.gigerbrothers.com

Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

5, rue Charlot, F-75003 Paris
Tel. 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 20
E-mail: residence@festival-cannes.fr
www.festival-cannes.org

Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

Photos by Silvan Giger & Sara Codair



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
LA RÉSIDENCE



SYNOPSIS

1816 - Anna (16) is the oldest daughter of a large, poor peasant family. Her daily routine is marked by hard work, but her kind-hearted and childlike nature brings joy and beauty to the family. When Anna's mother dies unexpectedly during the birth of her seventh child, even more responsibility is now weighing on her shoulders. The family is haunted by strokes of fate when the biggest challenge is yet to come, with the unexpected arrival of a storm. As the sky begins to darken, heavy rains flood the fields. The harvest is ruined. The temperature drops until in that same summer, it begins to snow.

The struggle for survival forces young Anna to become a mother, a man, an animal and in the end a woman in less than a year.

NOTE OF INTENT

In 1815, the Indonesian volcano Tambora erupted. The ejected ash started to enveloped the entire globe. One year later, people around the world felt the consequences. The climate changed drastically. Storms destroyed harvests. What followed was one of the greatest famines in Europe. I am deliberately telling this global story from this peasant family's limited point of view. The "simple life" is what interests me. People who

lived with the cycles of nature, for whom exile was not an option and who never learned about the cause of this catastrophe. With a radical visual approach to immerse the audience in Anna's world, I want to reveal the basic human needs and raise questions. I believe that by looking at something in the past, we can perhaps find answers to questions that preoccupy and shape our society today – and us as human beings just as much as they did back then.

SYNOPSIS

1816 - Anna (16 ans) est la fille aînée d'une grande famille de paysans pauvres. Sa vie quotidienne est un dur labeur, mais sa bonté de cœur et sa nature enfantine, font qu'elle apporte joie et beauté à la famille. Lorsque la mère d'Anna meurt en donnant naissance à son septième enfant, une responsabilité encore plus grande pèse désormais sur ses épaules. La famille est hantée par les coups du sort alors que le plus grand défi est à venir, avec l'arrivée inattendue d'une tempête. Alors que le ciel commence à s'assombrir, de fortes pluies inondent les champs. La récolte est ruinée. La température chute jusqu'à ce que, au

cours du même été, il se mette à neiger. La lutte pour la survie oblige la jeune Anna à devenir en moins d'un an une mère, un homme, un animal et finalement une femme.

NOTE D'INTENTION

En 1815, le volcan indonésien Tambora entre en éruption. Les cendres éjectées sont retombées sur toute la planète. Un an plus tard, les populations du monde entier en ont ressenti les conséquences. Le climat a changé radicalement. Les tempêtes ont détruit les récoltes. Il s'en est suivi l'une des plus grandes famines d'Europe. Je raconte délibérément cette histoire mon-

diale du point de vue réduit de cette famille de paysans. La "vie simple" est ce qui m'intéresse. Des gens qui vivaient avec les cycles de la nature, pour qui l'exil n'était pas une option et qui n'ont jamais appris la cause de cette catastrophe. Avec une approche visuelle radicale pour plonger le public dans le monde d'Anna, je veux révéler les besoins humains fondamentaux et soulever des questions. Je crois qu'en regardant dans le passé, nous pouvons peut-être trouver des réponses aux questions qui préoccupent et façonnent notre société aujourd'hui – et nous, en tant qu'êtres humains, tout autant qu'à l'époque.