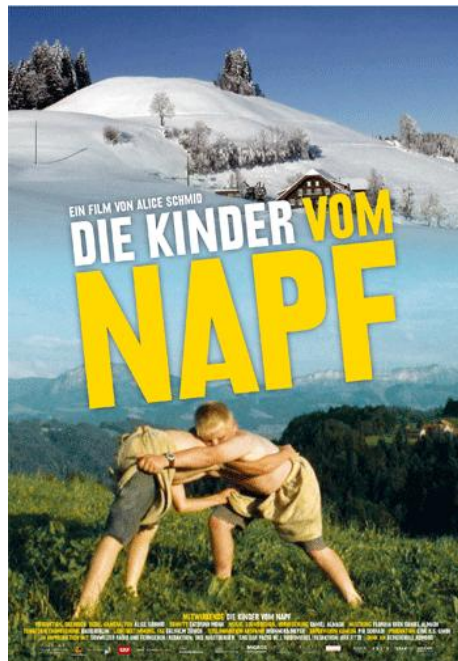




## THE CHILDREN FROM MOUNT NAPF



A film by Alice Schmid  
Switzerland, 2011, 87 mins.

**World Sales:**  
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Pictures available from [www.xenixfilm.ch](http://www.xenixfilm.ch)

## **Synopsis**

Fifty children of mountain farmers, six miles of walking to school, a childhood in the heart of Switzerland. We accompany the children early in the morning, plodding through deep snow to the village school, back to the farms in the afternoon, where every child has its chores. At an early age the youngest generation is initiated to the livelihood of mountain farming.

The story takes us from farm to farm and introduces us to an isolated, but also sheltered life. Through the eyes of the children we experience closely what it means if suddenly a wolf turns up or a hawk gets the chickens or how the children face the inclement whims of the weather.

For 365 days the director and writer Alice Schmid accompanied the mountain children of the municipality of Romoos with her camera in the craggy, wild landscape around Mount Napf, to the mythical chasm of Aenziloch, where according to legend thunder is created and demons are dwelling to the present day. She created powerful images of the annual cycle in the "Wild West" of Lucerne.

## **Scene Mount Napf**

Mount Napf is in the middle of the UNESCO Biosphere of Vale Entlebuch, in the heart of Switzerland, between the Cantons of Berne and Lucerne. This mountain can only be reached on foot. It presents a unique panorama of the Bernese Alps, the Jura mountains and the hilly midlands, with visibility in clear weather all the way to Mount Uetliberg near Zurich. From their fathers the children of Mount Napf learn the ancient craft of charcoal-burning, generating supplementary income in the rugged and untrodden landscape of the Napf area.

Legend says that thunder with its feared storms arises in the mythical chasm of Aenziloch. Evildoers end up there after their death and to atone have to heave up rocks. The children only go as far as the crest of this 200 m high rock face. They do not dare to look down for fear they might be turned into demons themselves. The famous director and actor Bernhard Wicki, Oscar-nominated for his film *THE BRIDGE*, was himself a native of Romoos. He celebrated his sixtieth birthday on Mount Napf, and after dinner in the Hotel "Kreuz" he went hunting with the mayor.

## Statements: The Children of Mount Napf

KILIAN (6) When we slaughter animals, we must first chop off their heads with a bang.

DARIO (6) In the morning the rooster wakes me up. Cockadoodledoo!

THOMAS (10) We catch mice only six days a week. Never on Sundays and holidays.

ERICH (12) I think I know someone who could shoot the wolf.

ROBIN (11) You always have to carry a rock or a stick.

MICHAELA (11) Romoos is super. There are one bakery, one post office, one school.

CAROLIN (10) We should make Romoos more famous. Like Hollywood.

THOMAS (10) If Carlo Janka or Simon Ammann lived here, Romoos would be crowded.

JANNIC (12) If I could rule the world, I would always let it snow, drink Red Bull and leave everything to God.

SEVERIN (11) A miss cow has a good pelvis and a straight back. The udder is well attached to the belly.

DARIO (12) We burn charcoal, because dad already did it.

RETO (13) They say that storms arise from the gorge of Aenziloch. The valley gentlemen are banished down there, because they did evil things, oppressed people. They must heave up rocks. Whenever they nearly make it to the top, the rocks roll down again. That's how thunder is created.

MARKUS (13) At night we lock up the sheep, because the wolf is around. When it sees a flock of sheep, it tears a number of them. Not just one, it eats from all of them.

THOMAS (10) Before we make hay, we look for bottle caps in the grass. Otherwise we must slaughter an injured cow again.

JULIA (9) Lightning always strikes at the highest point, because that's the shortest way.

THOMAS (10) The apples get red from the sun. This is how they get their redness. If you take away the outer ones, the inner ones catch the light, too.

CÉLINE (10) You must sing standing. If you sit, there is a different sound.

JULIA (9) In my dream I had only one chicken left. The hawk was there, and I hit it with a stick. Then it pecked me and took my chicken.

## **Alice Schmid, Director and Writer**

Alice Schmid tells stories from all over the world, with the focus always on the children. Her work has won international awards (Gold in Biarritz, the Erich Kaestner Prize, a nomination for Grimme). On Swiss Television she reaches over 600,000 viewers. With her first novel "Thirteen Is My Number", also set around Mount Napf, she made it onto the Swiss Bestseller List.

In every one of her works so far, Alice Schmid has been dealing with children of this world. "Say No" (1993) is a film classic on child abuse. In Liberia and Sierra Leone (1999/2002) she featured child soldiers. In „Every Drop for the Future“ (1996) she accompanied a Bolivian girl on her two-hour walk to school. In "Letters to Grown-Ups" (1994) she portrayed a childhood in the mine-fields of Cambodia. With her first feature film "The Children of Mount Napf", she is now returning to Switzerland, to the epicenter of her first, direct experiences, to the region that is also the setting of her successful literary debut "Thirteen Is My Number" (2011).

### **Statement by Alice Schmid, Director:**

«I had always wanted to make a film around Mount Napf. The place exerts a magic attraction on me. I have an old farmhouse there. I can hardly bear staying in it alone at night; I am scared. After over twenty years of filmmaking in Africa, Asia and South America, I have finally succeeded in returning to this place. I was at work with my camera for 365 days. The heroes are the children of Mount Napf.»

## **ALICE SCHMID Biography/ [www.aliceschmid.ch](http://www.aliceschmid.ch)**

Born in Lucerne in 1951. Studied Spanish and Italian. Writer and filmmaker. In 1996 foundation of Ciné A.S.Ltd. in Zurich. Alice Schmid tells stories from around the world, always from the angle of the children. Her films have received international awards (Gold in Biarritz, the Erich Kästner Prize in Berlin, Silver in New York). With her first novel „Thirteen Is My Number“ she has won the Literary Award of Central Switzerland.

### **Filmography**

- 2011 **THE CHILDREN OF THE NAPF** 87mins documentary
- 2007 **I AM A MOUSE** 30mins documentary for 3sat/ZDF,  
selected for Visions du Réel, Nyon
- 2006 **MUT TUT GUT (COURAGE HELPS)** 52minS documentary for SF1 DOK
- 2004 **SHALL I STAY OR SHALL I GO?** 30mins documentary, Sierra Leone
- 2000 **I KILLED PEOPLE** 30mins documentary, Liberia  
nominated for the Swiss Film Award; Film Award Zurich; Fipa D'Or Biarritz; Human Rights Film Award Nuremberg; nominated for Script Award UNIVERSelles Cannes; One-World Award Cologne NRW
- 1999 **DAMIT DER LAUBFROSCHE WIEDERKOMMT** 30mins documentary, CH
- 1998 **EINMAL IM LEBEN INS KINO** 30mins documentary, India
- 1998 **AFFAIRS** 30mins documentary, CH
- 1996 **EVERY DROP FOR THE FUTURE** 30mins documentary, Bolivia  
Prize EDI
- 1994 **LETTERS TO GROWN-UPS** 52mins docudrama, Cambodia  
Erich Kaestner Prize; nominated for the Grimme Prize; Human Rights Film Award Nuremberg
- 1993 **SAY NO** 30mins docudrama, CH  
Second Prize Children's Films on the Test Stand Sörup

### **Literature**

- 2011 **THIRTEEN IS MY NUMBER**, Novel, Nagel & Kimche Verlag  
Main Prize of the Central Swiss Literature Awards
- 2009 **CULTURE IS AS OLD AS THE BEAN**, Schöpfheim Editions
- 2000 **I KILLED PEOPLE**, Book on the Film Lamuv Verlag

## **DANIEL ALMADA, Sound Design and Film Music**

Born in 1964 in Argentina. Has lived in Basel since 1990. Studied piano, harmony and composition in Buenos Aires. Studied composition, diploma at the Music Academy of Basel. 1983 – 88 piano teacher at A.C.M. Zürich. 1990-95 Audio Design at the Fachhochschule Vorarlberg, Dornbirn. Has his own band Tango Crash.

### **Film music composition, a selection**

- 2011 **THE CHILDREN OF MOUNT NAPF** by Alice Schmid
- 2010 **FLYING HOME** by Tobias Wyss
- 2009 **IL GIARDINO DEI SUONI** by Nicola Bellucci,  
*Prix Soleure, 45th Solothurn Film Days*
- 2008 **DIE FRAU MIT DEN 5 ELEFANTEN** by Vadim Jendreyko  
*Quartz 2010 for Best Swiss docufilm; Nomination European Film Academy; Prize Film Festival DOK Leipzig - DEFA Prize; Awards Film Festival Visions du Réel Nyon; Jury Prize of International Competition Prix de la SRG SSR*
- 2007 **4 DE JULIO, LA MASACRE DE SAN PATRICIO** by Juan P. Young, P. Zubizaretta  
*Condor de Plata for best docufilm and best docuscript, Signis Prize Latin America*
- 2007 **CHICKEN MEXICAINE** by Armin Biehler
- 2002 **MIT ALLEN SINNEN** by Paolo Polini
- 2001 **GIORGIO ORELLI, POETA** by Paolo Poloni
- 1999 **KORK** by Vadim Jendreyko

### **Awards for music composition**

- 1992 Prize for contemporary composition, Schweizerische Volksbank Basel
- 2004 Gold Remi Award, 37th World Fest Houston Film Festival for „The Code“
- 2005 Ruth Deutsche World Music Award, Newcomer Tango Crash
- 2008 Prize German Music Records Critique for Bailá Querida, Tango Crash

### **Published Cds**

2002 **Arrivée**; 2003 **Tango Crash**; 2005 **Otra Sanata**; 2008 **Bailá Querida**; 2010 **Tango Crash Remixes**

danielalmada@tangocrash.com www.tangocrash.com

# CATERINA MONA Cutter

## Biography

- 1998 – 2008 Assistance/Organization Film Festival Locarno  
Film Festival Berlin
- 2003 – 2004 Selection Commission Solothurn Film Days
- 1998 – 2001 Film Academy INSAS, Department Cutting, Brussels
- 1995 – 1998 Undergraduate Studies in Humanities, University of Zurich (English Language and Literature, Film Studies, Philosophy)

## Filmography as a cutter

- 2011 **THE CHILDREN OF THE NAPF** by Alice Schmid
- 2009 **DANIEL SCHMID – LE CHAT QUI PENSE**  
Directors Pascal Hofmann and Benny Jaberg
- 2009 **ZWISCHEN HIMMEL UND ERDE**, Director Christian Labhart
- 2007 **MAX FRISCH, CITOYEN**, Director Matthias von Gunten
- 2007 **COME TE LA PASSI IN FAMIGLIA**, Director Francesco Jost
- 2005 **HANNES WETTSTEIN**, Director Paolo Poloni
- 2005 **BRUNO MONGUZZI**, Director Francesco Jost
- 2005 **ERKENNTNIS**, Director Jeannette Fischer
- 2004 **RICORDARE ANNA**, Director Walo Deuber



## CAST

<b>Director and Producer</b>	Alice Schmid
<b>Camera and Sound</b>	Alice Schmid
<b>Editing</b>	Caterina Mona
<b>Music, Sound Design</b>	Daniel Almada
<b>Mix</b>	Florian Beck, Daniel Almada
<b>Coloration</b>	Jürgen Kupka
<b>Supervision Camera</b>	Pio Corradi
<b>Title Design, Prints</b>	Brunner&Meyer
<b>Graphic Design (Artwork)</b>	Alberto Vieceli
<b>Editors SF/SRF idée suisse</b>	Urs Augstburger, Urs Fitze
<b>With:</b>	The Children of Mount Napf

ATRIX FILMS – World Sales:

Beatrix Wesle ATRIX FILMS has been responsible for the world distribution of high quality films as:

THE STORY OF THE WEEPING CAMEL by Byambasuren Davaa in more than 60 territories; HOW TO COOK YOUR LIFE by Doris Doerrie; TURTLES: THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY by Nick Stringer; IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS LIGHT by P.A. Straubinger among others.

[www.atrix-films.com](http://www.atrix-films.com)