



TWISTED CEDAR FILMS

NOT A GOOD MAN

A SHORT WESTERN
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY CARSTEN CLEMENS

PRESS KIT

SYNOPSIS

***NOT A GOOD MAN** is a character-driven frontier drama set in the winter of 1862. After surviving a violent attack, German settler Georg Steinweg is nursed back to health by Tom Smith, a former Army scout. As an unexpected friendship develops in the snowy wilderness, Georg's hunger for vengeance threatens to destroy the fragile bond between them.*

Set against the stark beauty of the American frontier, the film explores violence, grief, redemption, and the unlikely connections that can emerge in the aftermath of loss. As Georg struggles to overcome the trauma of his past, he finds himself torn between a desire for revenge and the possibility of forgiveness.

*Blending the visual language of the classic Western with an intimate character study, **NOT A GOOD MAN** re-examines one of the genre's most enduring myths: that vengeance is a necessary expression of strength. In its place, the film offers a deeply human story about compassion, reconciliation, and the courage to choose a different path.*



NOT A GOOD MAN

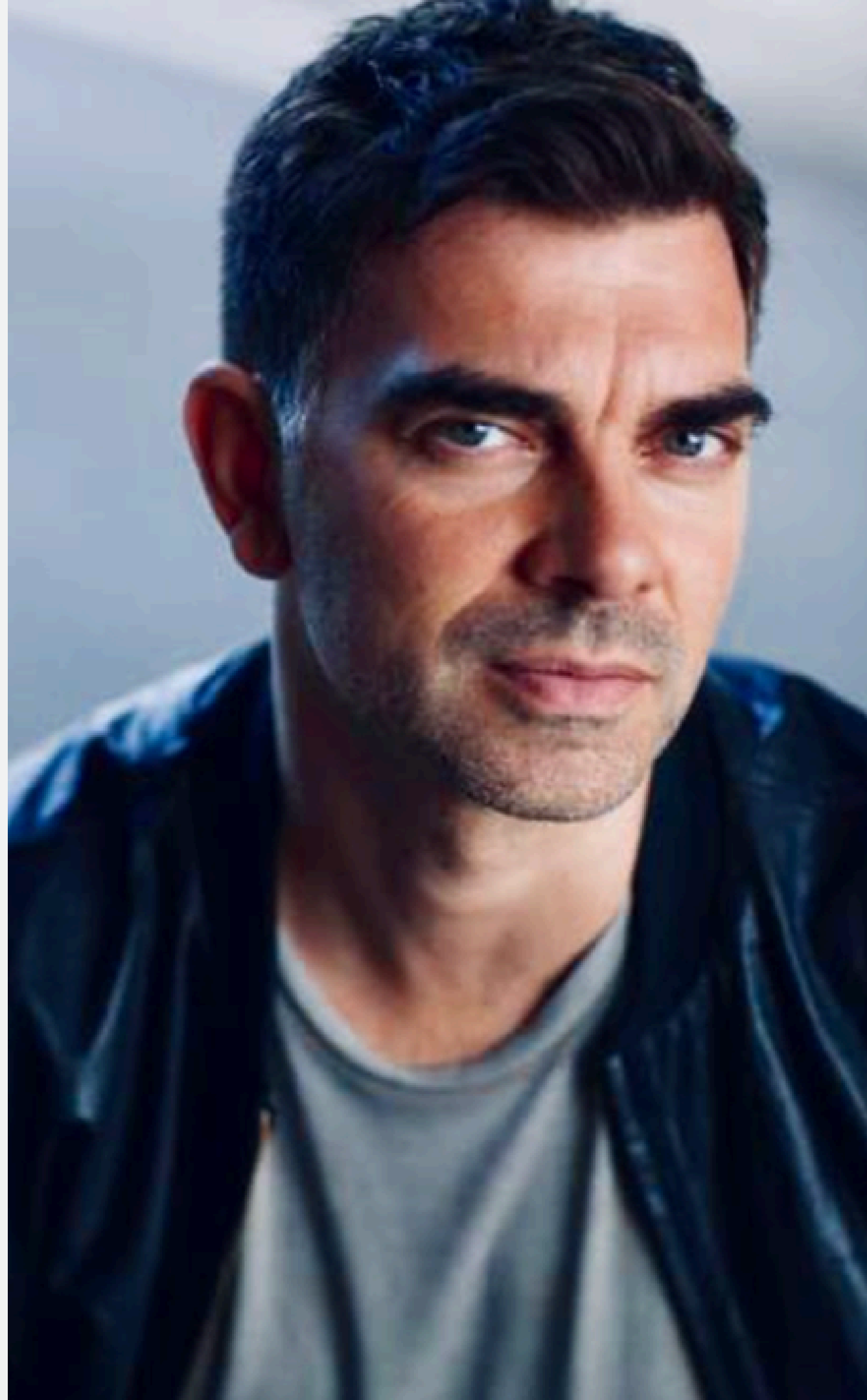


OFFICIAL TRAILER

PRESS KIT

CARSTEN CLEMENS BIO

Carsten Clemens is a German actor and writer-director working across theatre, film, and television. Known for his leading performances in independent films such as *Silent Night*, he has also appeared in numerous television productions throughout his career. In 2026, he made his writing and directing debut with the short film *Not A Good Man*. Clemens divides his time between Berlin, London, and Los Angeles.



NOT A GOOD MAN

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“NOT A GOOD MAN is a meditation on male violence. Set against the winter of the Utah mountains, nature becomes witness to the characters’ struggles. Challenging the Western myth of revenge, it asks: what do we gain, when we abandon vengeance.”

PRESS KIT

ABOUT RAGE

NOT A GOOD MAN

GEORG

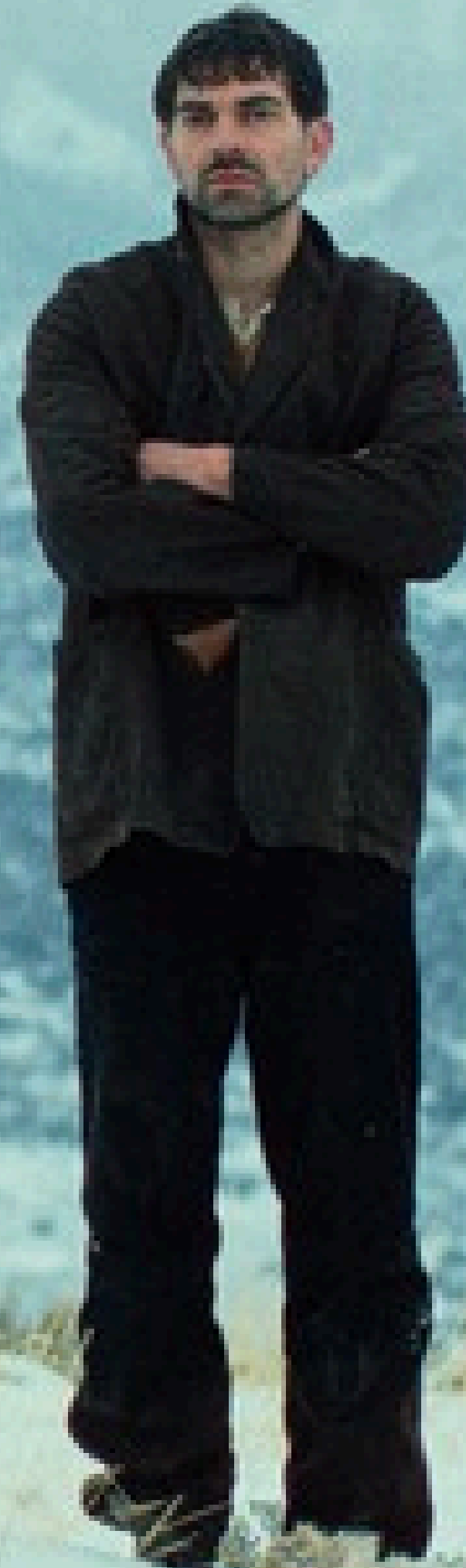
As soon as I am back on my feet I will kill you.

TOM

*You want to live the rest of your life in grief.
Why not make a difference in this world.*

GEORG

I am not a good man.



PRESS KIT

TRANSCENDING THE WESTERN

NOT A GOOD MAN



Shot in Utah and completed almost ten years later, *NOT A GOOD MAN* is the result of a long creative journey. Returning to the material after nearly a decade allowed writer-director Carsten Clemens to see the story through a different lens, transforming what began as a tale of revenge into a meditation on forgiveness.

While rooted in the visual language of the classic Western, *NOT A GOOD MAN* seeks to move beyond many of the genre's conventions. Instead of celebrating violence, conquest, or the myth of the lone hero, the film focuses on vulnerability, compassion, and the possibility of human change.

Set against the stark beauty of a snow-covered frontier, the story follows two men brought together by circumstance: a wounded German settler consumed by grief and a former Army scout who offers him an alternative path. As their unlikely friendship deepens, questions of justice give way to questions of understanding, and revenge slowly yields to reconciliation.

At its core, the film questions one of the Western's most enduring myths: that vengeance is a necessary expression of manhood. For generations, the genre has celebrated the revenge-driven hero, a man defined by his capacity for violence and his refusal to let go of the past. *NOT A GOOD MAN* re-examines this familiar figure, asking whether true strength might instead be found in the courage to choose a different path.

Blending classical Western imagery with a contemplative and deeply human perspective, *NOT A GOOD MAN* reimagines the frontier as a landscape of reflection, healing, and redemption. In doing so, it seeks not only to revisit the Western, but to imagine a more human one, inviting audiences to consider what might emerge after the rage has passed.



CARSTEN CLEMENS

PLAYS THE ROLE OF
GEORG STEINWEG

***Carsten Clemens** is a German actor working across theatre, television and independent film. Known for portraying thoughtful and emotionally layered characters, his work bridges European and American storytelling traditions. In Not A Good Man, Clemens stars as Georg Steinweg, a wounded settler whose journey from vengeance toward redemption lies at the heart of the film. Not A Good Man also marks his debut as writer and director.*



MICHAEL ANTHONY CHRISTIAN

PLAYS THE ROLE OF
TOM SMITH

***Michael Anthony Christian** is an actor based in Salt Lake City, Utah. With a career spanning film and television, he has appeared in productions including Horizon: An American Saga – Chapter 1, Moving McAllister and Baptists at Our Barbecue. Known for his grounded screen presence and authentic portrayal of Western characters, Christian has worked extensively within Utah’s independent film community. In Not A Good Man, he portrays Tom Smith, a former Army scout whose quiet wisdom challenges a settler's pursuit of revenge.*



ROGER BENALLY

PLAYS THE ROLE OF
THE OTHER MAN

***Roger Benally** is a Diné (Navajo) actor from the American Southwest. Drawing on his heritage and connection to the landscapes of the Colorado Plateau, he brings authenticity and quiet strength to his screen performances. In Not A Good Man, Benally portrays The Other Man, a character whose presence becomes a catalyst for the film's exploration of violence and reconciliation.*



BARBARA SOTELSEK

PLAYS THE ROLE OF
ELSA STEINWEG

***Barbara Sotelsek** is an Austrian actress working internationally across film, television and theatre. Her screen credits include the acclaimed television series *Killing Eve* and *Then You Run*, as well as numerous European film and television productions. In *Not A Good Man*, she portrays Elsa Steinweg, a figure whose memory resonates throughout the film and becomes an essential part of Georg's struggle with loss, vengeance and forgiveness. Sotelsek also serves as a producer and production designer on the film.*



BARBARA SOTELSEK

Barbara Sotelsek is an Austrian creative producer and actress based between Berlin and Vienna. She is currently developing two feature films with filmmakers including Hilal Baydarov, Georg Tiller and Maeva Ranaivojaona. On Not A Good Man, she served as producer, creative producer and production designer, overseeing both the production and the film's visual world.



TILL UFER

Till Ufer is a German film editor based in Berlin. With credits ranging from acclaimed streaming series such as Kitz and Tender Hearts to feature films and documentaries, his work is defined by a strong sense of rhythm and character. On Not A Good Man, Ufer helped shape the film's intimate exploration of grief, friendship and redemption.



MARC ANDRE DOLD

Marc Andre Dold is a Swiss-born composer and platinum-selling music producer based in Gozo, Malta. His work spans film, television and popular music, with credits including collaborations with Nelly Furtado, Peter Gabriel and Alice Cooper, as well as soundtrack placements in Little Miss Sunshine, Blood Diamond, Sex and the City and Scrubs. For Not A Good Man, he composed the original score and contributed the film's distinctive musical identity.

PRODUCTION TEAM

FESTIVALS

	LOCATION	DATE
SILVER FRAME FESTIVAL	Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	16th - 19th JULY 2026



KEY FACTS

PRODUCTION COMPANY
Twisted Cedar Films

PRODUCTION LOCATION
Germany

GENRE SUBCATEGORIES
Drama, Western

TOTAL RUNNING TIME
13:38 Min

AUDIO FORMAT
Stereo

LENGTH
Short Film

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE
English

PRODUCTION YEAR
2026

EXHIBITION FORMATS
DCP, HD Digital File

LANGUAGES
English

SUBTITLES
English

LINKS
www.twistedcedarfilms.com

THANK YOU

CONTACT

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