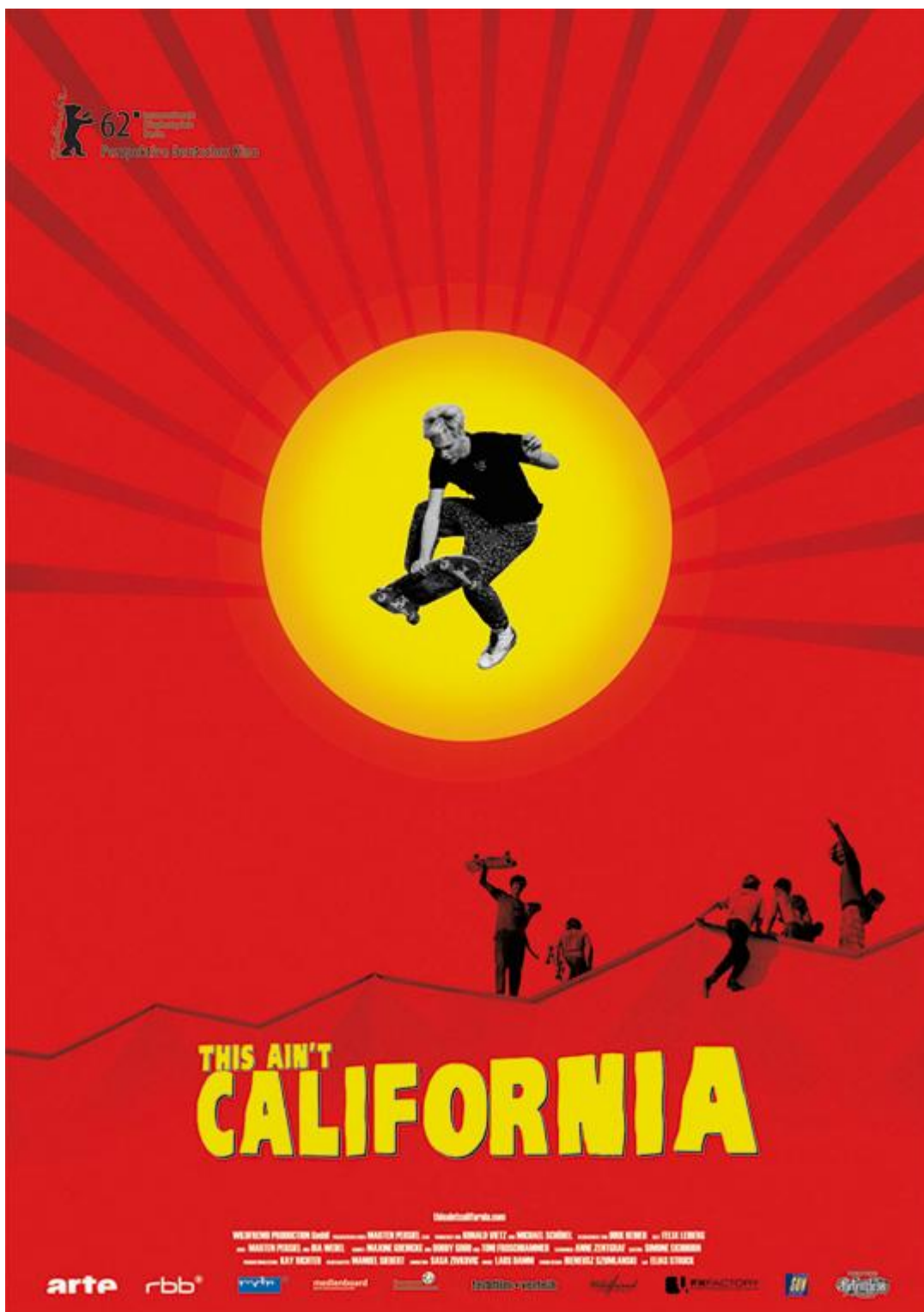


...WideHouse...

PRESENTS



A documentary by Marten Persiel

HD – 2012 – 90min – Germany

*Festival*  
**61<sup>e</sup>** Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Perspektive Deutsches Kino

## SYNOPSIS

A hymn to the subversive power of vitality, this fast-paced documentary takes us on a trip through the strange unknown world of the 'Rollbrettfahrer' as skateboarders were known in the GDR, a country where besides those loyal to the regime, there was also an avowed political resistance. Apart from this, there was also a movement of young rebels whose only raison d'être was the illusion of staying young, immortal and non-committal. In THIS AIN'T CALIFORNIA three kids discover their love of skateboarding on the cracked asphalt of the GDR – a madcap, even unacceptable sport that was perhaps so incredibly exciting because of its nuttiness. This punk fairytale created by a bunch of kids who luckily possessed sufficiently manic levels of energy to record their lives on Super-8mm film, shows us life in the GDR life as it has never been seen before. The film follows its three main protagonists from their childhood in the seventies, through their turbulent teens in the eighties right up to that autumn of 1989 when they were twenty and suddenly, everything they had known up to that point was about to change forever.



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## The Director



Born in 1974 in Berlin, Germany, he entered the film industry working as an assistant editor for the film production company HKF in Hamburg. From 1997-98 he studied mixed media art at Portsmouth University and from 1998-01 directing at Westminster University in London. A director and writer, he has made commercials, music videos and documentaries. THIS AIN'T CALIFORNIA is his first feature-length documentary.

## Festivals Selections

**Berlinale International Film Festival 2012 (9.-19.2.) – WINNER OF PERSPEKTIVE DEUTSCHES KINO 2012**

Atlanta Film Festival 2012 (23.3.-1.4.)

Palm Beach International Film Festival 2012 (11.-17.4.)

Nashville Film Festival 2012 (19.-26.4.)

Crossing Europe Film Festival 2012 (24.-29.4.)

Filmkunstfest Schwerin 2012 (1.-6.5.)

Internationales DOK Fest München 2012 (2.-9.5.)

Cannes Independent Film Festival 2012 (10.-20.5.)

Rooftopfilms NY 2012 (1.6.2012)

Lighthouse International Film Festival New Jersey 2012 (1.6.-3.6.2012)

Shanghai International Film Festival (16.-24.6.2012)

Karlovy Vary Film Festival (29.6.-7.7.2012)

Indianapolis International Film Festival 2012 (19.-29.7.)

New Zealand International Film Festival in Auckland and Wellington

Auckland, 19.7. - 5.8. 2012 and Wellington, July 26.7. - 12.8.2012)

Melbourne International Film Festival 2012 (2.8.-19.8.)

GOETHE INSTITUT MEXIKO – 11. DEUTSCHE FILMWOCHEN (9.-19.8.2012)

Kapittel Filmfest Norway 2012 (19.-23.9.)

Berlin and Beyond Film Festival San Francisco (28.9.-4.10.)

Raindance Film Festival London 2012 (26.9.-7.10)

Vancouver International Film Festival 2012 (27.9.-12.10.)

Warsaw Film Festival 2012 (12.-21.10.)

CPH DOX Film Festival 2012 (1.-11.11)

AUGENBLICK FESTIVAL STRASBOURG FRANCE 2012 (6.-23.11)

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