

**One of Germany's Top Animation Production Houses
AKKORD FILM Celebrates its 20th Anniversary
and Expands its Leadership with New Co-CEOs and
an Ambitious Vision for its Animated Future**



Akkord Film's new management: Imke Fehrmann, Dirk Beinhold and Valentin Greulich

Since 2001 Akkord Film has been developing and producing feature films and TV series, and for the last 10 years, it has been home to some of the most successful animated films & series in German family entertainment.

For its 20th anniversary, Dirk Beinhold, Imke Fehrmann and Valentin Greulich will jointly manage Akkord Film as Co-CEOs to further grow and develop the company within the ever-evolving global market of animated content.

Dirk Beinhold founded Akkord Film in 2001, after a successful decade in executive positions, such as Creative Executive at New Regency, and heading production for ProSieben and Studio Babelsberg. Initially, the company focused on the production of German and international movies and TV events. With RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL (2012), Beinhold and his team discovered their love for animation. From successfully adapting children's book classics such as RABBIT SCHOOL – GUARDIANS OF THE GOLDEN EGG (feature film, 2017) and PETRONELLA APPLEWITCH (TV series, 2020/21) as well as THE ELFKINS – BAKING A DIFFERENCE aka A PIECE OF CAKE (feature film, 2020), Akkord is now one of Germany's leading animation producers and was nominated "European Animation Producer" in 2018.

Just in time for its 20th anniversary, Akkord Film is strengthening its management team to further enhance the company, aiming to produce universally relevant stories in an innovative way and in top quality with a stronger focus on international exploitation.

Akkord's Co-CEOs

Valentin Greulich joined Akkord Film as a producer in 2012. He helped shape the company's development and strategy over the course of eight years and has been integral in advancing Akkord into the renowned animation company it is today. After the success of *THE ELFKINS*, he took a one-year sabbatical as an international project consultant in 2020 and now returns as a financing and co-production expert.

Imke Fehrmann is an internationally respected animation expert with more than 30 years of experience who joined Akkord in 2019 as Executive Producer and COO. After 14 years of high-profile experience in senior production roles for international companies such as Animal Logic, Axis Animation, Aardman and Lucasfilm Animation, among others, as well as Executive VFX-Producer for Framestore and Rodeo FX, she is deeply integrated into the global, constantly evolving industry. She is a mentor for WIA - *Women in Animation*, a co-founder of *German Women in Animation* and member of the FMX program board.

With many years of experience in international script development and financing, company owner **Dirk Beinhold** is a key driver of the continuous success of Akkord Film. Beyond being Akkord Film's CEO, the *USC Peter Stark Program* alumnus plays an important role in strengthening the German and European animation industry and its producers. He is Vice-Chairman of *Animation in Europe* (federation of EU-based animation producers associations), founding board member of the new animation branch of the *German Film Academy* and board member of the animation branch of the *German Producers Alliance*.

Future Focus of Akkord Film

In addition to adapting and modernizing book series and sagas from German-speaking regions for an international market, Akkord wants to put more focus on global IPs and original content. Akkord is aiming to produce films and series targeted at an international audience and tailored to a broad spectrum of old and new media platforms. Collaboration and co-production with exceptional creatives and internationally experienced and innovative German and European animation studios will complement Akkord's studio in Hamburg, headed by production manager Anne-Sophie Presch-Gacon with over 20 years of animation experience.

On its mission to widen its focus, Akkord will expand its creative network within the animation industry and strengthen its existing script development team consisting of three experienced Creative Producers, Katharina Wicke, Susanne Biesinger and Claudio Winter.

The international debut of *THE ELFKINS – BAKING A DIFFERENCE* as the fourth most successful German theatrical film outside Germany in 2020 (garnering the *Children's Jury Award for Best Animated Film* at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, the *Bavarian Film Award* and *Best Animated Film* at the Giffoni International Film Festival) was a first step towards this future. *THE ELFKINS'* next big adventure is scheduled to go into production in 2022. Currently, two animated series and two more feature films are set for completion in 2024-2025.

Akkord Film gives thanks to its numerous supporters and companions who have believed in the company and its projects. After 20 years of company history, Akkord Film is looking forward to an animated future in Berlin and Hamburg and with all its partners around the world!

Akkord Film's latest animated feature film THE RABBIT ACADEMY – MISSION EGGPOSSIBLE will be released in cinemas by LEONINE on March 17th, 2022 (Germany; other regions may vary). Other projects are currently in development with Tobis Film, ZDF, SWR, NDR, KiKA, SOLA Media and Global Screen, among others, as well as with animation studios such as 2 Minutes (Paris), SERU Animation (Ludwigsburg), Daywalker (Cologne) and arx anima (Vienna). More information about the latest projects can be found here: <https://akkord.film>