

# DYSPNOE

a film by Henning Beckhoff



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## Henning Beckhoff

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## Festival de Cannes

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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.

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## Dys·pnoe

[*dyspnœ*]: Disturbed breathing with increased breathing effort, shortness of breath. | *Respiration perturbée avec effort respiratoire accru, essoufflement.*



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## Technical Information

**Working Title:** Dyspnoe

**Director & Writer:** Henning Beckhoff

**Genre:** Drama

**Shooting location:** Germany, France

**Languages:** German, French

**Duration:** 100 min

**Production:** Jost Hering Filme

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## Director's Information

Henning Beckhoff was born in 1991 in Germany and lives in Berlin. His graduation film **Off Season** was shown at the Berlinale, was nominated for the First Steps Award and won the Michael Ballhaus Prize. His first feature film **Things I don't get** was brought to cinema by the Filmgalerie 451 in November 2019 and won various awards in Germany.

Most recently Henning Beckhoff was a participant in the Berlinale Talents 2020 and received a Wim Wenders grant to promote innovative cinematic storytelling. He is currently developing the feature films **Dyspnoe** in the Residence du Festival and presents **Fossil** at the Berlinale Script Station 2021.



*A scientist who wants to find out why the oceans are out of breath but forgets to take a breath himself.*

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## Synopsis

The passionate marine biologist Ludwig Vogel (41) has been researching oxygen deficiency in the water for years when he suddenly gets a panic attack. Is it due to the lack of recognition for his work or because his wife just broke up with him? During a last research stay on the Sea, he tries to suppress his problems until he turns himself into a fish.

## Statement of Intent

*Dyspnoe* is a figure-oriented drama for an adult cinema audience. A film about separation pain and the need to pause sometimes. The loving look at my characters contrasts with a tragic story and brings us closer to a world that we have rarely seen in cinema: the sea as a research space. I am particularly interested in looking at this area of science, which has nothing to do with glamor. It is a glimpse into a foreign world of work that has hardly been taken seriously in recent years and has only become public since “Fridays for Future”. Ludwig’s transformation into a fish is a symbol of the connection between private and social repression. I consciously try to shape the transition from the private to the political in order to tell a story that not least deals with the effects of climate change.

*Un scientifique cherche à savoir pourquoi les océans sont à bout de souffle mais oublie lui-même de respirer.*

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## Synopsis

Le passionné de biologie marine Ludwig Vogel (41 ans) fait depuis des années des recherches sur le manque d’oxygène dans l’eau lorsqu’il a soudainement une crise de panique. Est-ce dû au manque de reconnaissance de son travail ou au fait que sa femme vient de le quitter? Lors d’un dernier séjour de recherche en mer, il tente de contrôler son problème jusqu’à ce qu’il se transforme en poisson.

## Note d’intention

*Dyspnoe* est un drame pour adultes. Le regard amoureux que je porte sur mes personnages contraste avec une histoire tragique et nous rapproche d’un monde que nous avons rarement vu au cinéma: la mer comme espace de recherche. Je suis particulièrement intéressé par ce domaine de la science, qui n’a rien à voir avec le glamour. C’est un aperçu d’un monde du travail qui nous est étranger et qui n’a guère été pris au sérieux ces dernières années, devenu public depuis «Fridays for Future». La transformation de Ludwig en poisson est un symbole du lien entre la répression privée et sociale. J’essaie volontairement d’adapter la transition du privé au politique afin de raconter une histoire qui traite notamment des effets du changement climatique.