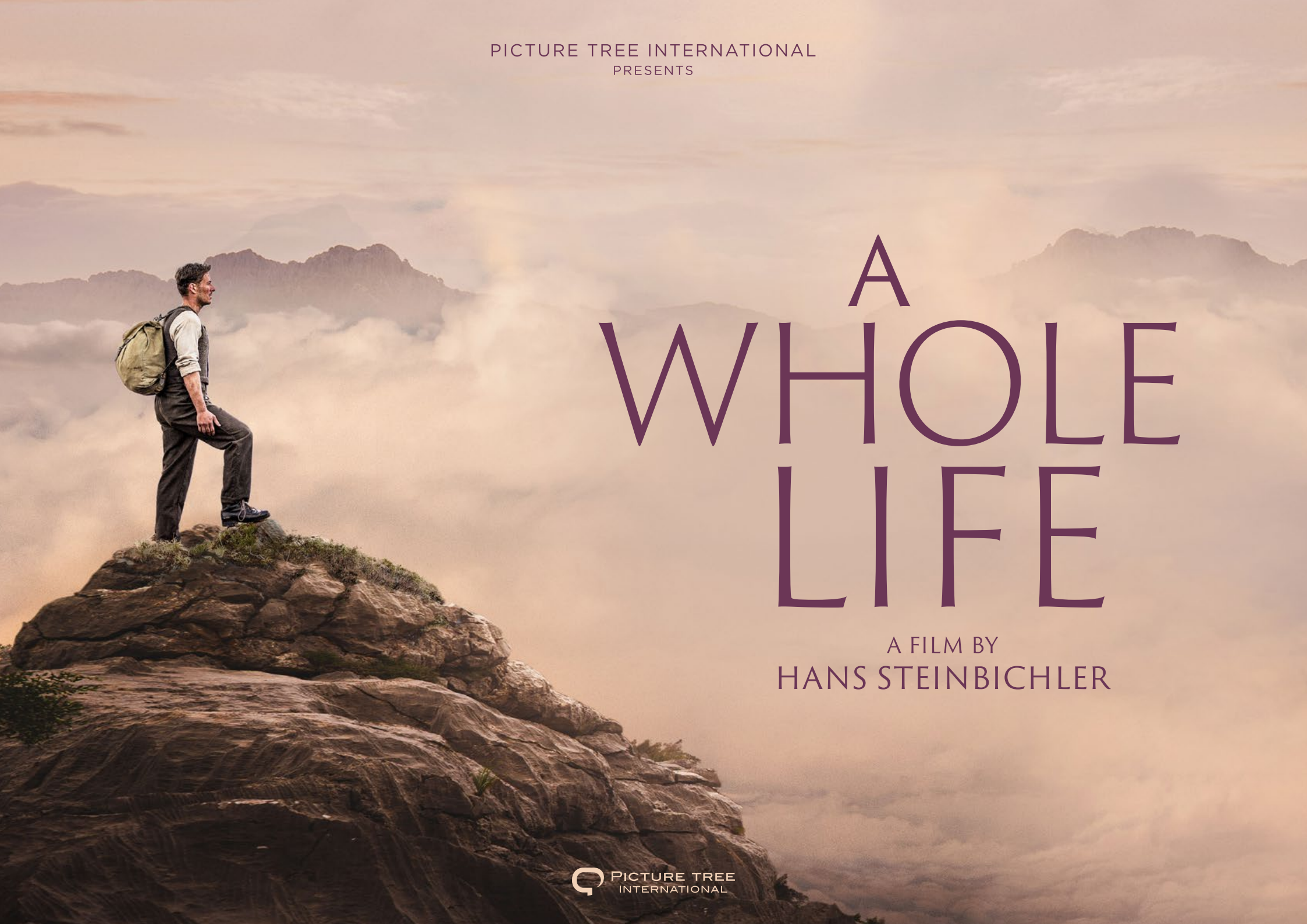


PICTURE TREE INTERNATIONAL  
PRESENTS



# A WHOLE LIFE

A FILM BY  
HANS STEINBICHLER

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Ein Ganzes Leben

GENRE:

Drama

LENGTH:

108 min

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:

Austria and Germany

LANGUAGE:

German

DIRECTOR:

Hans Steinbichler

PRODUCTION COMPANY:

epo-film Produktionsgesellschaft.m.b.h Wien,  
TOBIS Filmproduktion München GmbH

DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTOR:

TOBIS Film (GE)

Constantin Film (AT)

WORLD SALES:

Picture Tree International

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY  
ROBERT SEETHALER



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# SHORT SYNOPSIS

At the turn of the 20th century, the young orphan Andreas is sent to live with his ruthless uncle on a farm in a remote valley; a valley that Andreas will only leave once in his life. Treated not as family but as a worker, Andreas endures a childhood without affection, full of brutality and hard labour. At the age of 18, Andreas has seen only hardship but finds the courage to leave his oppressor. Though partly crippled by his uncle, he has grown into a strong man and finds work as a woodsman. He works on the construction of an invention: the mountain ropeway. This invention marks the beginning of alpine tourism but is paid for with the many deaths of mountain workers. Andreas is no stranger to hard labour, and now that he is earning his own money, he buys himself a small plot of land with a cabin high up in the valley. He soon finds something he has never experienced before: love. Marie immediately becomes the light of his life, but his dream of a happy life together is soon shattered. Feeling despondent, Andreas enlists as a soldier in the German Wehrmacht. Coming face to face with death in the Russian Caucasus, he thinks only of Marie. Having survived the madness of the second World War, Andreas returns to the valley and to a changed world. With Marie always in his heart, Andreas accepts and cherishes the time he has left with serenity.

# ABOUT THE NOVEL

First published in 2014, *A WHOLE LIFE* is a literary masterpiece that has been translated into over forty languages and was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2016. The novel has sold more than 1 million copies in Germany alone. Alongside its commercial success, *A WHOLE LIFE* received critical acclaim from around the world and is perceived as a novel that runs counter to the restless nature of the 21st century.

**“A WHOLE LIFE is one of those stripped-down everyman stories that is transparently, self-consciously about Much More: The encroachment of modernity, the universal nature of love and heartbreak, the quickness of our passage through life”.**

*The New York Times*

**“A deeply moving book”**

*Sunday Times*

The author Robert Seethaler is also a screenwriter and actor. His novel *THE TOBACCONIST* and screenplay *MY MOTHER, MY BRIDE AND I* were both adapted into feature films. The latter marked his first collaboration with director Hans Steinbichler.







“As a director, A WHOLE LIFE is a big step forward for me. The story unfolds as a drama and touches upon my origins and roots. However, as the film was casted and started to take shape, I began to see A WHOLE LIFE in the tradition of the grand European narrative cinema. A WHOLE LIFE is a parable about the central polarizing themes in our lives: love and death. These themes hold a mirror up to our restless, self-optimizing performance society.

Andreas Egger had never been tempted to believe in God, and death did not frighten him. He could not remember where he had come from, and ultimately, he did not know where he was going to. But he had loved. And gained an inkling of where love could lead.

The journey of the protagonist Andreas Egger was an existential experience for me, which I now wish to share with audiences all over the world.

A WHOLE LIFE is a film for life....”

*Hans Steinbichler*  
Director

## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

## DIRECTOR BIO

Hans Steinbichler grew up in Southern Bavaria and studied directing at the Munich Film School. His debut feature HIERANKL (2003), starring Johanna Wokalek and Barbara Sukova, was the recipient of numerous awards. Hans’ second feature WINTER JOURNEY (Winterreise –2005), starring Sibel Kekili and Hannah Schygulla, premiered in official competition at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and was nominated for Best Feature Film at the German Film Awards. With MY MOTHER, MY BRIDE AND I (Die Zweite Frau – 2007), Hans premiered the film at the Toronto International Film Festival and won the prestigious Grimme-Price for film direction for a second time. After PROMISING THE MOON (Das Blaue vom Himmel – 2011) which was awarded the Best Film at the Bavarian Film Awards, Hans received a call from the International Film School Cologne (ifs) to teach direction. He returned to feature filmmaking in 2016 with THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK (Das Tagebuch der Anne Frank), starring Lea van Acken and Martina Gedeck. The film received its world premiere at the Berlinale Film Festival and won Hans the German Metropolis Directing Award, which he received again 2 years later for THE UNHEARD WOMEN (Eine unerhörte Frau – 2018). Next to his work as a feature director Hans has also directed for Television, most recently directing the third season of the Television Remake of DAS BOOT. With A WHOLE LIFE (Ein ganzes Leben – 2023), Hans is taking on the adaptation of the best-selling novel that is published around the world.





“TOBIS is delighted to collaborate with Picture Tree International as world sales partner on A WHOLE LIFE. We are confident international audiences will embrace an emotionally appealing, universal story of one man’s life set in the impressive scenery of the Alps throughout the 20th century and Robert Seethaler’s popularity around the globe. Hans Steinbichler’s own background, visionary craftsmanship and ultimate identification with the story will make A WHOLE LIFE a spectacular and humbling cinema experience.”

*Timm Oberwelland (TOBIS)*

## PRODUCER STATEMENT

“We acquired the filming rights for the sublime novel by Robert Seethaler as early as 2014. This novel speaks to us all with its quiet strength. After an arduous period of preparing to bring this story to the screen, we are extremely proud of the team we have assembled both in front of and behind the camera. Shooting the film required a lot of effort. We believe this film to be highly relevant to our time, as it is a deeply emotional and visually stunning plea for humanity to focus on what is important in our lives. Our goal is to create a film that will resonate with audiences as much as the novel did.”

*Jakob and Dieter Pochlatko (epo-FILM)*

## THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

### epo-FILM

epo-FILM, founded in 1954, is a privately owned top-tier Austrian production company providing international high-profile content for cinema and TV. epo-FILM produces features, TV movies, TV series, nature and documentary films with a focus on international co-productions. Recent productions include highly acclaimed works such as THE TABACCONIST, PAGAN PEAK or CHASING THE LINE.

### TOBIS

For over 50 years, TOBIS has been one of the leading film distributors in the German speaking territories, creating countless theatrical successes. Originally founded by legendary Producer Horst Wendtland alongside a longer cooperation with Canal Plus, the company was bought back by Kilian Rebentrost in 2002 before being taken over by Tim Oberwelland and long-time shareholder Theo Gringel in 2015. Since then, TOBIS has forged new collaborations as a film distributor and increased its activities as a production label of local films and international and local co-productions. A WHOLE LIFE is the most recent production of the TOBIS slate and TOBIS is also acting as the theatrical distributor in Germany.

# CAST

Andreas Egger (18-47) Stefan Gorski  
Andreas Egger (58-80) August Zirner  
Hubert Kranzstocker Andreas Lust  
Marie Julia Franz Richter  
Wirt Robert Stadlober  
Thomas Matti Thomas Schubert  
Pfarrer (1918-1934) Lukas Walcher  
Ahn! Marianne Sägebrecht  
Lehrerin Anna Holler Maria Hofstätter  
Hörnerhannes Peter Mitterrutzner  
Knochenrichter Alois Kammerer Hannes Perkmann  
Grollerer Matthias Saffert  
Andreas Egger 8 Ivan Gustafik

Directed by Hans Steinbichler  
Written by Ulrich Limmer  
DOP Armin Franzen  
Produced by Timm Oberwelland  
Theo Gringel  
Tobias Alexander Seiffert

# CREW

Production epo-film, TOBIS Filmproduktion  
Composer Matthias Weber  
Editor Ueli Christen  
Casting Director Nicole Schmied  
Production Design Marcel Beranek  
Jurek Kuttner

# WORLD SALES

## PICTURE TREE INTERNATIONAL

Picture Tree International (PTI) is an energetic and fast-growing world sales company with its headquarters in Berlin. The core business is worldwide licensing across all platforms, with the company maintaining a presence at all the major film and television markets. Alongside licensing, PTI is also able to act as your German co-producer and local distributor via a fully integrated business model that offers producers individual sales and financing strategies in a results-driven and transparent partnership, something essential in today's ever changing audio-visual industry landscape. PTI's line-up of up to 15 films a year is designed to ensure the right mix of arthouse and crossover productions to fully maximize the revenue potential of each film. Picture Tree International was founded in December 2012 by Andreas Rothbauer and has been run jointly by his partner and Co-Managing Director Yuan Rothbauer since 2017.