

Release: 2026

Cert (UK): NC

Country: Poland, Germany

Language: German, French & English with English subtitles

Runtime: 1 hour 22 mins

Director: Paweł Pawlikowski

Written by: Paweł Pawlikowski, Henk Handloegten

Cinematographer: Lukasz Zal

Cast: Sandra Hüller, Hanns Zischler, August Diehl



Paweł Pawlikowski, who brought us the magnificent 'Ida' and 'Cold War', continues his Post-Second-World-War voyage with a docudrama based on a trip Nobel-prize winning author Thomas Mann made back to his home country in 1949 to receive the Goethe Prize. *'As with its predecessors, the characters here go through the ringers of personal crises,*

with extra rolling pressure applied by the politics of the times. In 'Fatherland's' case, Mann finds himself compelled to confront his failings as a parent and also make an invidious choice between the ideologies of "Mickey Mouse or Stalin" when the lofty rhetoric of high art can no longer offer ivory-tower sanctuary' - Leslie Felperin, Hollywood reporter.

He journeys round the ruined country, West and East, with his daughter, Erica - herself a writer and actor and war correspondent - *'making us feel as if we are visiting the two Germanies in 1949'* and giving Paweł Pawlikowski time to talk about *'idealism and its delusions; familial relationships; the nature of nationality and home; the Cold War race to capitalise on cultural heritage; the once-untouchable status assigned to eminent male artists'* - Jonathan Romney, Screen Daily.

Now living in the USA, which side is Mann on? Has he betrayed his fatherland? Is he now a communist sympathiser? The whole is beautifully acted by Hans Zischler and Sandra Huller, and cinematographed by Lukasz Pal - giving us another masterpiece?

