

Kinescope Film presents

# GOD'S OTHER PLAN

a film by Moritz Müller-Preißer



in co-production with the University of Television and Film Munich and funded by FFF Bayern

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: JACOB SAUERNILCH EDITOR: HAUKE VON STIETENCRON MUSIC: SEBASTIAN FILLENBURG PRODUCER: MATTHIAS GREVING VFX: LUKAS VÄTH SOUND: MORITZ MÜLLER-PREISSER  
RE-RECORDING MIXER: STEFAN WÖHL GERHARD AUER ANDREAS GOLDBRUNNER COLOR CORRECTION: MAXIMILIAN PAULY ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: ELSA STORMS NOELLE KEMPKE MORITZ MÜLLER-PREISSER  
LINE PRODUCER: CHRISTINE HAUPT MONIKA WÖHL PHOTO: JESSICA KEHL POSTER: NOAH VON STIETENCRON ACCOUNTING: UTE LÖHRIG ASSISTANT TO LINE PRODUCER: STEFANIE TÖLK  
PROJECT ADVISORS: DAVID SPAETH ANNA BRASS NORA MOSCHURING PROJECT SUPERVISOR: PROF. KARIN JURSCHICK  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY: MORITZ MÜLLER-PREISSER

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# GOD'S OTHER PLAN

Kinescope Film GmbH

Website:	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/godsotherplan/">https://www.instagram.com/godsotherplan/</a>
World Premiere:	-
Running Time:	01:23:22 Min
Screening Format:	1:1,85   2K DCP   5.1 Dolby Digital   Colour
Language:	English
Subtitles:	English
Written & Directed by:	Moritz Mueller-Preisser
Director of Photography:	Jacob Sauermilch
Editor:	Hauke von Stietencron
Music:	Sebastian Fillenberg
VFX:	Lukas Văth
Production:	Kinescope Film GmbH
Producer:	Matthias Greving
Co-Production:	University of Television and Film Munich
Associate Producers:	Elsa Storms, Noelle Kempkes, Moritz Mueller-Preisser

## LOGLINE

Riley grew up in a devout Mormon family with six siblings. Today, he is raising two children with his husband and his ex-wife and has left the church behind. How do both families navigate this profound change?

## SYNOPSIS

What happens when the adult son of a Mormon family realizes that the meticulously planned life dictated by his religion is wrong for him? Riley is gay; he suspected this earlier and prayed it would disappear. By now, he is divorced from his wife, married to a man, and no longer a Mormon. He now lives in a blended family with his biological daughter and an adopted son. How does his Mormon family, especially his ex-wife, deal with this profound change?

## **BACKGROUND**

17 years ago, I lived with Riley's Mormon family for a year as part of an exchange student program, fully immersing myself in their daily life, attending school, participating in family celebrations, and joining them for Sunday church services. I often contemplated the potential for this relation to evolve into a documentary, particularly focusing on the Mormon religion for its fantastic belief after death. The entire Mormon belief is based on living as faithfully as possible on Earth to become like God in the afterlife, which makes Mormon life heavily characterized by a pursuit of perfection. This is also the first picture you encounter while wandering through Utah's suburbs: a notably joyful atmosphere and an extremely disciplined society that is incomparable. But the initial decision to create this film was driven by Riley, my former host brother, whose coming out and leaving the church cast a different light on this perfectly seeming paradise. Through his life change, I became acutely aware of the hidden pressures and strict rules imposed on members of the Mormon church. My aim was to understand Riley's transformation from a devout Mormon to an exceptionally open-minded individual.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

While Riley appears to have discovered his ideal way of life, the question remains: How do others adapt to it? And how can one still be a family despite their faith dividing them? I wanted to understand the consequences that such a change in lifestyle would bring: On one hand, his Mormon extended family, who believe in the traditional marriage between a man and a woman only. On the other hand, there is the relationship with his ex-wife Jenna. Still standing by Riley's side, she appears sacrificing all her time to the children. What kind of problems arise in these situations? The conflict within Riley's family mirrors a broader conflict in Utah, where varying beliefs about religion, sexuality, and family strain many families. However, this conflict is not exclusive to Mormons; beyond Utah and even in Europe, traditional family structures are eroding, divorces are increasing, and children are growing up in diverse family arrangements. "God's Other Plan" addresses a central societal conflict: How can one fulfill their way of life without disappointing those close to them?