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Every year, Germany
offers € 520,000,000
and 3000 broad-cast slots
for factual programming.
German producers can
help you get a **bite.**

AG DOK



Arbeitsgemeinschaft
Dokumentarfilm
German Documentary
Association

german
films





Arbeitsgemeinschaft
Dokumentarfilm
German Documentary
Association

The German Documentary Association / AG DOK ... is the largest professional association of independent producers in Germany, numbering more than 750 members. It is first and foremost a film and media lobbyist for the documentary genre, but is open to representatives from all film genres.

- 01) Fights to prevent documentaries from vanishing from television screens and movie theatres.
- 02) Is developing new strategies to counter broadcasters' demands for more rights from independent producers for dwindling licensing fees.
- 03) Becomes involved wherever and whenever film politics are debated in Germany.
- 04) Commissions studies and legal reports relating to independent film production in order to provide solid arguments in film political debates.
- 05) Provides its members with legal consultation and, in some cases, assistance in lawsuits.
- 06) Provides free legal consultation with established media lawyers for every contract.
- 07) Is constructing a platform for efficient foreign sales of German documentaries through the initiative "German Documentaries" in cooperation with "German Films".
- 08) Organizes presentations of German documentaries at foreign festivals, and meetings with colleagues from other countries in cooperation with "German Films".
- 09) Furthers discussions about the documentary genre at meetings and conferences.
- 10) Offers filmmakers and producers opportunities to exchange views and information on a local level.
- 11) Offers its members copies of the film newsletter "black box", the association's own newsletter, and other relevant information from the film industry.
- 12) Offers its members discounted memberships to the European Documentary Network EDN.
- 13) Represents the interests of documentary filmmakers in the governing boards of the Copyright Association of German Artists, Photographers and Filmmakers (VG Bild-Kunst) and the German Federal Film Board (FFA).
- 14) Commissions studies of broadcast slots and license fees.

... cordially welcomes each and every new member.

AG DOK

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Dokumentarfilm**

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German Films is the national information and advisory center for the promotion of German Films worldwide.

German Films' range of activities includes:

- 01) Close cooperation with and presence at all major international film festivals and selected TV markets
- 02) hosting selection delegations from international festivals
- 03) PR and press work for all major national and international media representatives
- 04) information and advice for international buyers, German producers and exporters
- 05) publication of informational literature on current German Films and the film industry
- 06) organization of the annual "Next Generation" short film program
- 07) administration of the selection procedure for the German entry for the OSCAR for Best Foreign Language Film
- 08) staging of "Festivals of German Films" worldwide
- 09) collaboration with Deutsche Welle's DW-TV KINO program
- 10) organization of the "German Previews"
- 11) selective financial support for the foreign releases of German Films
- 12) organization with Unifrance of the annual German-French film meeting "Das Rendezvous"

German Films has foreign representatives in Buenos Aires, Moscow, Paris, Rome, Tokyo, Madrid, London, New York and Los Angeles.

German Films is funded by film export levies, the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and the German Federal Film Board, as well as the regional film funders Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, FilmFernseh-Fonds Bayern, FilmFoerderung Hamburg, Filmstiftung NRW, MFG Baden-Wuerttemberg, Mitteldeutsche Medienfoerderung, and Nordmedia.

Shareholders are the Association of German Feature Film Producers, the Association of New German Feature Film Producers, the Association of German Film Exporters, the German Federal Film Board (FFA), the Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek, the Association of German Television Producers, the German Documentary Association, the German Short Film Association and the FilmFernsehFonds Bayern/Filmstiftung NRW representing the seven main economic film funds.

Members of the advisory board are: Alfred Huermer (chairman), Antonio Exacoustos, Dr. Hermann Scharnhoop, Michael Schmid-Ospach, and Michael Weber.



DOK Leipzig – The HeArt of Documentary

DOK Leipzig, the International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, was founded in 1955 and is the biggest German and one of the leading international documentary film festivals. The best new artistic, creative and author-driven documentaries and animated films that explore the whole variety of the genres are presented in four competitive sections and a rich international programme. In addition, DOK Leipzig offers an annual retrospective, attractive special programmes, homages, workshops and master classes with famous film-makers.

Thanks to its excellent DOK Industry offers, Leipzig has become a leading meeting place for the non-fiction industry. Every year the digital DOK Market with 300 pre-selected new international documentaries, the International DOK Leipzig Co-Production Meeting, the Leipzig Forum on Innovative Non-fiction TV, the Leipzig Screenings of new German documentaries for international buyers and the DOK Summit panel discussions draw 1400 professionals from all over the world to DOK Leipzig.

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Langer Media Consulting offers a wide range of services in the film and television industry, including consulting and support for film and television production companies, market research and advanced training in the media industry.

The affiliated company **Langer Media Production** and Distribution develops, produces, co-produces, and markets film and television productions. Jörg Langer's expertise comes from his more than fifteen years of experience and know-how in national and international film and television production and sales.

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medienboard

Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH

Daniel Saltzwedel – Funding Advisor Documentaries
Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg

Berlin-Brandenburg is Germany's film metropolis, the Medienboard it's regional fund. We support films and film-related projects in the categories of script development, project development, package promotion, production, distribution and sales, and other activities. At the Medienboard, funding decisions are at the discretion of the managing director. Funding advisors participate in the decision making process and handle all client relations.

Daniel Saltzwedel is funding advisor for fiction and feature length documentary films at the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg. Before joining the Medienboard, Daniel has worked as a producer.

Daniel Saltzwedel – Förderreferent Kinodokumentarfilm
Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg

Berlin-Brandenburg ist Deutschlands Filmmetropole, das Medienboard die regionale Förderung. Wir unterstützen Filmemacher bei der Stoff- und Projektentwicklung, der Produktion sowie bei Verleih und Vertrieb. Zudem fördern wir Projektslates und in der Kategorie Sonstige Vorhaben die Präsentation von Filmen auf Messen und Festivals. Im Jahr 2010 haben wir dafür insgesamt 28,5 Mio. Euro zur Verfügung stellen können, für 228 Filmprojekte. Bei der Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH ist Daniel Saltzwedel als Förderreferent für den Bereich Spiel- und Kinodokumentarfilm zuständig.

a&o buero filmproduktion

In 1995, award-winning directors Robert Tasso Pütz and Wolfgang Luck established a&o buero. Their motivation was to bring ambitious filmmakers together and deliver high-end, author-driven documentaries.

Since then, a&o buero has produced more than eighty documentaries, reportages and features. a&o buero's films were awarded, among others, the German Human Rights Film Award, the French-German Journalists' Award and the Axel Springer Award.

Recently, the current-affairs documentaries "Children of the Taliban" by Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and Tristan Chytroschek, and "Caught between the Lines" by Tom Roberts and Marcel Kolvenbach have attracted wide-spread media attention in the UK, the US, Germany, and France. Both films were co-produced by a&o buero and October Films in London, and broadcast on ARTE, Channel Four, and the PBS network.

Similarly, the award winning documentaries "China's Public Enemy Number One" and "The Ten Conditions of Love" by Jeff Daniels and Sylvia Nagel have caused a stir because of their candid portrayal of Chinese atrocities against the Uyghur people of East Turkestan. Nobel-prize nominee Rebiya Kadeer, the "Mother of the Uyghurs" called the documentaries an "impressive achievement". The films were co-produced by a&o buero and Arcimedia in Melbourne, and broadcast in more than 15 countries around the world.

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Recent productions:

Songs of War – Music as an instrument of torture, ZDF/ARTE/SBS/PLANETE/TVI/VRT/SVT/DBS/PRAMER 2010, 52 Mins

The Bangkok Bypass – The dangers of global health tourism, ZDF/ARTE/NRK 2009, 61 Mins

Caught between the Lines – How NATO is losing the war in Afghanistan, NDR/ARTE/Channel4/PBS 2009, 45 Mins

Children of the Taliban – An in-depth look at Pakistan as a failing state, NDR/ARTE/Channel4/PBS 2009, 45 Mins

China's Public Enemy Number One – Rebiya Kadeer and her fight for the Uyghurs, WDR/ARTE/ERT/NIO 2009, 52 Mins

Collective Minds – Swarm intelligence and what we can learn from it, ZDF/ARTE/EBU/EC 2009, 45 Mins

Dancing with the Queen – The organ player Iveta Apkalna, ZDF/ARTE 2008, 52 Mins

Oscar Pistorius – The South-African sprinter without legs, NDR/ARTE/Channel4 2008, 52 Mins

100 And Still Going Strong – A fascinating look at anti-ageing research, NDR 2008, 45 Mins

Mama Coca's War – Cocaine, terror and the Inca revolution, ZDF/Arte/SVT/LRT/DUNA, 2008, 52 Mins



Braindoping - Bigger Better Faster More

Forget about life-work-balance: A new generation of drugs promises unlimited increases in productivity without the need for rest or sleep. "Brain doping" is the latest trend among high flyers. Move over, Aldous Huxley: Pharmaceutical companies work on a Brave New You by developing pills that increase mental capability, stimulate desire, and heighten the mood. A meaningful life full of happiness and success – without side effects. The industry hopes for fantastic profits if the pretty pills become socially acceptable. Do we find ourselves at the dawn of a new era, in which cosmetic neurology is an everyday phenomenon?

Science documentary - in production
52 mins, HD
Date of completion: Summer 2011



The Queen and Her Prime Ministers

In June 2012, Queen Elizabeth II will celebrate an exceptional jubilee: 60 years of reign. No other head of state has been in power for so long. The Queen has accompanied twelve Prime Ministers through their terms of office, sometimes with sympathy, sometimes with distinct distance. Much has changed during her reign, apart from one thing: Prime Ministers come and go, the Queen stays. This is the first major documentary investigating the fine balance of power between Buckingham Palace and Downing Street. An exciting tale of power and representation – and a nosy glance into the inner sanctum of Buckingham Palace.

Science documentary - in production
52 mins, HD
Date of completion: Summer 2011

Berlin Producers

Berlin Producers is an umbrella company representing four renowned production houses in the international marketplace. The four sister companies, each specializing in separate documentary genres, are outlined below. All companies share the same goal: making factual programming of the highest quality in entertainment aiming to reach a wide an audience as possible.

The fernsehbüro GmbH was founded by four independent producers 16 years ago and has steadily grown into one of Germany's leading factual production companies. Producing award winning programming for all the German public broadcasters, as well as international channels, it prides itself on its commitment to visually arresting and well crafted storytelling. From lifestyle series to hard hitting one-offs, the company works across a broad spectrum of programming.

The Heidefilm GmbH, based in the Lüneburger Heide, was founded in 2009 with the aim of allowing the filmmaking skills developed in the genres of science, natural history and nature to flourish under a separate roof. Heidefilm strives to make programmes with local emphasis which appeal to the international market, "Hot on the Trail of Pre-History" and the 13 part series "Country Dreams" being prime examples. Heidefilm works closely together with local organisations united in the effort to create high quality programmes destined for an international audience.

Sounding Images gets inside the music and tells the stories behind it. The artistic transformation of sound to film, coupled with sensitive storytelling distinguishes the production style of Sounding Images. The company works with highly accomplished filmmakers to produce music documentaries, biographies and concerts for the international market. Working with broadcasters worldwide it succeeds in making entertaining productions of timeless quality. It's "Kinshasa Symphony" was nominated for the German Film Prize 2011.

Artfilm, situated on the picturesque island of Mainau specializes in the genres of Religion, Society and History. Royal themed programming is also one of the focal points of the content offered by the company.

The majority of the international rights for the productions fall under the Berlin Producers umbrella. We attend all major markets including MipTV, WCSFP, IDFA, The Berlinale and the Sheffield Documentary Festival and are seeking to broaden our reach in the field of international co-productions.



Hot Roads – A risky expedition along thoroughfares that harbour mortal danger for those who use or live on them.

They run through deserts and arctic terrain. Through deep jungle, along dramatic waterways and over steep mountain-sides. Anybody preparing to embark on a journey along them experiences fear and awe in equal parts, accompanied by a slight weakness in the knees. They are the world’s most dangerous roads and highways, true “hot roads”. Whether it’s a dirt track, or mountain pass, these are the only thoroughfares that offer the way from A to B. Many have died along these roads, yet for lack of an alternative route, locals continue to use them for transportation. The landscapes through which these roads wind are unique, and exert their never-ending fascination even on the hardened traveller.

The second season of this 5 part series accompanies people on adventures where the journey is its own reward, although the journey’s end is equally eagerly anticipated. The films also tell the stories that take place along the route itself, of the people who live along it and for whom the road is part and parcel of their personal destiny. The film-makers ride along in the driver’s seat of careening lorries, on the back benches of busses and in the passenger seat of regular cars, to experience the danger and beauty these roads offer from different perspectives. No matter where you sit or which road you’re on, ‘Hot Roads’ is guaranteed to have you on the edge of your seat.

5 x 43 / 52mins for ZDF/Arte
 In co-production with Servus TV
 2011 / 2012



Country Dreams – A series boasting the most beautiful rural idylls of Europe that shows how people really do make their “country dreams” come true. As well as being an escape to the country, the series will be filled with helpful tips for the garden, house and home.

This series will take you to some of the most beautiful gardens in Europe, as it shows how some people really do fulfil their lifelong dreams of escaping to the country. Featuring one location per episode, the series seeks out the most picturesque gardens the regions of Europe have to offer. From grand, sweeping estates to the picture perfect smaller garden with an organic vegetable patch. En passant the viewer will gain helpful insider tips for the home, kitchen and garden.

The protagonists are carefully chosen, not just for the beauty of their garden but their story behind it. From young to old, each will share their stories and insight into the much coveted life of rural idyll and tranquillity. Many of the gardening protagonists will not yet have fulfilled their garden idyll, as the series aims to involve the viewer in the last stages of the process and the sense of accomplishment once this is achieved. From the lavender and sunflower coloured Provence to the ragged landscape of the Lake District, the show’s diversity will have something to offer for any viewer; from city balcony gardener to the dedicated amateur professional.

13 x 26mins for ZDF/Arte
 In co-production with Servus TV
 2011

Blinker Filmproduktion

Creative documentary film is the cornerstone of Blinker Filmproduktion GmbH, founded in 2007 by company director Meike Martens. The company is based in Cologne with Heino Deckert of ma.ja.de. Filmproduktion as a partner and minority shareholder. This joint business is the result of Martens' work at ma.ja.de. as a producer and executive producer for six years, for films by Vitaliy Mansky, Thomas Heise, Sergei Loznitsa or Azza El Hassan.

Based on her excellent contacts in both the German and the international documentary business, Meike Martens is a member of juries such as the German Short Film Award and works as a tutor, e.g. at the Berlin Film Festival's Talent Campus.

Meike Martens is amongst Germany's most successful younger producers of creative documentaries, with a focus on international co-production.

The company's first three feature-length creative documentaries premiered at major festivals and all were shown at international screenings and received theatrical releases. They were a powerful start into the market.

The most successful film to date has been 'Nostalgia de la Luz' by Patricio Guzmán. Other success include the co-productions 'Day of the Sparrow' (Der Tag des Spatzen) by Philip Scheffner, premiering at the Berlin Film Festival and 'The Home' (Kleinstheim) by Stefan Kolbe and Chris Wright, premiering in Leipzig 2010, both of which were received extremely positive by audiences and critics.

Meike Martens also heads the German pilot project for creative documentaries for young audiences dok you as a project director, currently in its second run. Partners for 2011 are WDR (production), dok'mal (online), the Academy of Media Arts Cologne and the international film school Cologne (training).

The company's first fiction projects are now also underway. The shooting of the children's film 'Blue Tiger' in cooperation with Negativ Film, Prague and Arina, Bratislava is scheduled for for May 2011.

Upcoming projects:

Mika Taanila's **'The Plant'** (100')
(co-produced with Kinotar Oy, Helsinki - ZDF/Arte, WDR, YLE; supported by the Filmstiftung NRW, MEDIA and Nordic funding bodies)

Diego Mondaca's **'Fuera de Lugar'** (54')
(co-produced with Pucara Films, La Paz, supported by the Jan Vrijmans Fund and the World Cinema Fund)



High in the Sky (Die Tollkühnen)

Spring 2012 – two female pilots, Tracey and Davi, will fly 15.000 kilometers from London to Cape Town in an open cockpit biplane from the 1930s.

An epic journey which was

accomplished 80 years earlier by the pioneer aviatrices Elly Beinhorn and Lady Mary Heath.

They were not unequivocal heroines and they paid a price for freedom and fame. But they were and still are fabulous women, who fight for their dreams and achieve the extraordinary.

Next year's adventurous flight will form the backbone of the narration. Original citations from Elly Beinhorn and Lady Mary Heath will tell the story of the pioneers up to 1939. A 3-D treatment will bring the extensive historical film and photo archive to life. Combined with breathtaking pictures from Africa, the present and the past will comment on each other and will make the personalities of the pilots tangible.

High in the Sky (Die Tollkühnen) is a film about determined women and their unquenchable longing for flying, adventure and freedom, whose story will put you in the mood for your own adventure.

Author: Henriette Büegger

Director: Brigitte Bertele

Commissioning editor: Christiane Hinz, WDR

Co-producer: Liam O'Neill, Paradox Pictures, Ireland

World sales: Deckert Distribution

90' & 52' documentary in financing
development supported by
Filmstiftung NRW and MEDIA



Nostalgie de la Luz

In Chile, at three thousand metres altitude, astronomers from all over the world gather together in the Atacama desert to observe the stars. The desert sky is so translucent that it allows them to see

right to the boundaries of the universe. It is also a place where the harsh heat of the sun keeps human remains intact: those of the mummies, explorers and miners. But also the remains of the dictatorship's political prisoners. Whilst the astronomers examine the most distant galaxies in search of probable extraterrestrial life, at the foot of the observatories, women are digging through the desert soil in search of their disappeared relatives ...

Co-production with Atacama Productions, Paris – Crono-media, Santiago de Chile – WDR, Cologne with the contribution of Fonds Sud, Spanish Television TVE, Région Ile-de-France, La SCAM and Sundance Foundation.

Premiere: Festival de Cannes Sélection Officielle 2010

European Film Award – Best Documentary 2010

Audience Awards a.o.: Toronto International Film Festival, Festival de Biarritz, Ciné Découverte

Awards for Best Documentary a.o.: Abu Dhabi Intl. Film Festival, Santa Barbara, Guadalajara

Theatrical releases: France – October 2010,

Germany – December 2010,

US – March 2011

World Sales: Pyramide

90' documentary film by Patricio Guzmán

Docdays productions is a forward-thinking, full-service media production company based in Berlin. docdays productions is committed to story-driven constituents; developing & producing non-fictional media projects that reflect emotions and stories beyond borders.

Combining the innovative and the traditional approach, we create entertaining and convincing media with lasting impacts and memories.

docdays productions was born to three parents who would like to do it right: Jean Boué, Christian Popp and Antje Boehmert, taking along almost fifty years of professional experience in creating award-winning media for broadcasters both in Europe and North America.

Jean Boué studied business administration and art history in Hamburg. Since 1989 he has been a writer, director and producer working in all types of documentary formats for ARD, ARTE and ZDF. In 2000, he founded JABfilm. Many of his films were screened at numerous festivals, and with some he enjoyed being awarded.

Christian Popp studied history and French literature in Germany and France, and worked in Strasbourg since 1998 as a commissioning editor at ARTE, and later for rbb/ARTE in Berlin. Since 2005, he is a producer, writer and director for ARTE, ZDF, ARD-stations, France 2, AVRO, SVT and the Sundance Channel. Christian coaches producers and directors at the EDN Pitching workshops and gives lectures at The Film Academy (dffb) in Berlin.

Antje Boehmert studied Anglo-American history, theater, film and television sciences and English literature in Cologne. In 2000 she moved to Washington D.C. to work as a producer for international co-productions commissioned by PBS, National Geographic, and The History Channel. Since 2005, she is a writer, director and producer for ARD, ZDF and ARTE.



The Image as Weapon – The Nazi Propaganda Companies

The Nazi propaganda companies produced some 5,000 films and more than three million photographs during WWII; igniting a cinematic barrage Joseph Goebbels had created.

The medium was a newsreel - the WOCHENSCHAU, and the Nazis took pains to ensure that every German citizen could view it. Movie theaters were thrown up all over the country, and thousands of film presentation cars served the rural population. Thirty thousand "volunteers" gave feedback to the Nazi command about the public's responses. Every newsreel was personally viewed and authorized by Goebbels and Hitler. The WOCHENSCHAU was made to produce support and euphoria on the home front. And for a long time the audience succumbed to the power of the images.

The pictures – shot by a corps of 15,000 men - bear unique witness to the darkest years in German history. Images that brainwashed not only the home front: translated into 36 languages and exported, these images had impact even among English and American audience. The documentary unmaskes the subversive Nazi propaganda system and throws new light on its making, reception and influence – that haunts till today.

The Image as Weapon is the story of the creators, makers and audience of the Nazi propaganda – a cinematic barrage of mass manipulation. Based on five gripping individual destinies we document this exciting era.

Completion scheduled for November 2009

Director: Veronique Lhorme

1 x 52 min special, HD

commissioned by ARTE, available 2012



School of Life

A cross-media project about learning and moments of achievement – in cooperation with the German Film Academy (dff) in Berlin

We are always learning – all life long. Today the question is probably not what we learn but more how we learn and from whom. In either case learning is a process, based on communication and connection with each other. We can be taught by a close friend, a parent or a perfect stranger – we learn in many different situations from many different people.

To illustrate and experience this kind of interaction there is hardly a better place then a cross-media environment.

School of Life connects people of all ages in one particular area of Berlin and creates an active community among people who sometimes have little more in common than their postcode. They will follow up on School of Life as the project evolves and participate with all types of UGC through a variety of different platforms – online and real life – outreaching to each other not only through digital devices but across generations and in reality.

This highly participative project displays learning situations and offers a playful interface for exchange and experiment. The project will be launched in 2012 and can easily be adapted by other cities worldwide.

Cross-Media Project

Available 2012

FILMKANTINE

FILMKANTINE was established in early 2009 by Katrin Springer and Volker Ullrich to develop and produce documentaries for cinema, television and other distribution channels for the German and International markets. Both have been working in the Film- and TV Business for more than twenty years.

Films in development and production are:

The education of Auma Obama –

documentary about Auma Obama, the Kenian halfsister of Barack Obama

Harlem – documentary about the changes in New York

Mr. Frog, Mrs. Flower and the Magic Word – documentary series about fairytale in today's world

Vera – documentary about a 50 years old lady who decided to change her small village in rural Brazil

Just finished is **Hackney Lullabies** a poetic short documentary about mothers from all corners of the earth, which are singing lullabies to their children to create a familiar space in their new home away from home.

Hackney Lullabies won this years Berlin Today Award at the Berlinale.

Volker Ullrich studied Law and Film at Berlins DFFB. He worked as Location and Production Manager before starting to produce documentaries and fiction films in the mid 1990s. In addition to his work with Filmkantine he is co-owner of Känguruh Film GmbH, works as service producer for other companies and lectures at the Berlin Medienakademie.

Films as Producer (selection):

Dubai – Drilling For Art! – 52 min, dir: Christian Schidlowski, for ARTE, 2009

Berlin Ecke Bundesplatz – various lengths, for WDR, RBB and 3sat, 1985 – 2012

Joy of life – 45 min, dir: Michael Marton, for WDR, 2008

There is more to come – 3x30 min & 1x90 min, dir: Calle Overweg, for WDR with BKM, 2008

Dreams live on – 85 min, dir: Calle Overweg, for ZDF, 2007

You'll never walk alone – 85 min, dir: Alfred Behrens, for 3sat, HR with Filmförderung Hamburg, 2004



Vera

Spanning a time of two years, we witness Vera's attempts to change the society of a rural area in Brazil where education is poor, but alcohol abundant. Vera and the village face the power of a private waste company installed at the margins of the only clean river. Can she make the farmers resist?

With support of ESoDoc 2010.
Written and directed by: Martin Jabs
52 minutes, in development.



Who Owns the World

Did you know that you can patent colors, numbers, plants and animals – and that 20 % of your genes are patented and owned by private corporations? WHO OWNS THE WORLD is a creative investigation and will uncover who profits from intellectual property – and who bears the economic and social consequences?

This project has been developed within the Documentary Campus Masterschool 2010.

Directed by: Hannah Leonie Prinzler and Christian Schidlowski
1 x 90 minutes, 2 x 52 minutes, 1 x 52 minutes,
in pre-production.

Filmtank develops and produces documentary films and TV documentaries, conceives theme evenings, documentary series and convergent formats. filmtank also focuses on the development and production of cross-media projects.

The company was founded in February 2001, as a joint venture between Wüste Film (i.a. Head-On by Fatih Akin) and Thomas Tielsch. To strengthen the presence in Baden-Württemberg, filmtank stuttgart was founded three years later.

In 2007 filmtank berlin was established as a fusion with former Programmreform GbR of Saskia Kress and Michael Grotenhoff. CEOs of filmtank GmbH are Saskia Kress and Thomas Tielsch.

filmtank received numerous nominations and awards for its films. One of the most successful productions of the recent years is "The Woman with the 5 Elephants" by Vadim Jendreyko. It received nominations i.a. in 2011 for the German Documentary Film Award and Adolf Grimme Award and in 2010 for the German Film Award (Best Documentary Film 2010).

In 2009 filmtank has already been nominated twice for the Adolf-Grimme-Award. The TV-version of "The Mosquito-Problem and Other Stories" and Andreas Pichler's "The Way of a Warrior" received nominations.

Raffaele Brunetti's film "Second Hand" obtained the Italian Globo d'Oro for Best Documentary Film in 2005. And "Call me Babylon" by Andreas Pichler was awarded with the Adolf-Grimme-Award in 2004.

Numerous films are shown at international festivals, such as "The Woman with the 5 Elephants", which had its world premiere at the Visions Du Réel in Nyon and the co-production "The Mosquito-Problem and Other Stories" by Andrey Paounov, which was a big success in Cannes 2007.

Emphasis in terms of subject-matter is placed on current social developments, cultural phenomena and history, whereby historical subjects are regarded primarily with a view to their relevance to the present day.

Moreover, the transmedial approach becomes more and more crucial for filmtank. The latest project we are currently producing "Conquest of the Globe", a two-part documentary combined with an online game, is paradigmatically for this kind of comprehensive strategy. filmtank's participation in the Documentary Campus Masterschool 2011 with its cross-media production "Cyberattack 2.0 - What if...?" also provides access to these advanced and forward-looking fields in media and enables filmtank to expedite its transmedial projects.



Dying for Designer Jeans

by Marcel Kolvenbach

Global profits driven by greed: officially Levi's and H&M have stopped their fatal production of sandblasted Jeans since several thousands of workers in Turkey have been diagnosed with the incurable illness Silicosis. 46 workers have already died. However, we discovered that the production was shifted elsewhere. The lethal practice has moved from Turkey to Bangladesh, Argentina and China. People there are less informed and their work is even cheaper. In fact, a real profitable business for the fashion industry of a globalized world.

In cellar workshops young men risk their lives every day. 20 year-old textile workers look like old men, marked by illness. They cough up blood, can only speak with pain and difficulty, and are feeble and slow. The men suffer from an incurable disease: Silicosis. This fatal illness is caused by the equipment used by the workers: with extremely high pressure, and minuscule sand particles, the sandblaster transforms raw, freshly dyed denim to expensive designer products by giving it the worn out look so necessary for being "hip".

Marcel Kolvenbach follows the traces of the "coolest" jeans to uncover the dangerous and reckless practises that have not been abandoned but globalized. We uncover the methods and the non-transparent trader's net the fashion labels are operating with. We will visit the working premises where the cool jeans are bleached today. And speak to workers, manufacturers and we will confront the fashion industry with our discoveries. A film about deathly designer fashion.

Director: Marcel Kolvenbach
Documentary 52, 2012



Cyber attack 2.0 – What if...?

A cross-media project by Michael Grotenhoff

Cyber war is real and it is in full play. It is not only the war of the future, but also the war of the present. Attacks from cyberspace are launched every single day - secretly. We will reveal: The Western computerized industrial nations are not prepared for it.

In a „what if“-scenario we show what could happen, if the digitized networking proceeds to such an extent. More than ever, attacks, which are not limited to military targets, but upscale the war on civil facilities, on power grids and telecommunication networks, on nuclear power plants and financial systems become feasible.

An evocative cross-media project about cyber warriors, their motives, their targets, their weapons and the possible results of a global cyber war.

We show the threatening cyber war as a mixture of collaborative docu-fiction and Augmented Reality Game never seen before. The genuine 360-degree project benefits from the huge potential of the collective intelligence. It is an open and collaborative process. The users involve themselves in the development of "What if" scenarios right up to the story's end. The web audience is also asked to debate the documentary part, we let it comment on the "what if"-scenarios from a political, military, scientific point of view or even from an insider's angle. The community comments on interviews and even has an influence on the questions posed. In the final stages we will put together all this impact to edit a linear documentary, which will be broadcasted on TV.

A mould-breaking project in the field of documentary filming that has not been realized yet in this manner.

Director: Michael Grotenhoff
developed at Documentary Campus Masterschool 2011

gebrueder beetz filmproduktion Berlin

Gebrueder Beetz Filmproduktion (GBF) founded in 2002 by the brothers Christian and Reinhardt Beetz is one of Germany's leading independent television production companies specialised in international production, co-production as well as distribution of high-end documentaries and factual programming for audiences worldwide. GBF runs four offices with over 30 employees in Berlin, Hamburg, Lueneberg and Cologne.

With its focus on history, science, social and political content – completed by their feature length documentaries for worldwide cinema – GBF has produced well over 60 award-winning documentaries. A selection of prizes are: the German short film Award "Goldene Lola", Prix Europe, Adolf Grimme Award, DocFest Munich Award, HotDocs Filmmaker Award, IDFA DocU Award, WorldFest Houston or the German Camera Award.

"Not even halfway through the year, it's clear that 2010 is one for the books for Gebrueder Beetz Filmproduktion. For example, the German prodco brought three of its feature docs to the Hot Docs Film Festival, and two of those – Autumn Gold and My Life With Carlos – made the Top 10 audience favourites list, while the former was given the Filmmaker Award, which was voted on by attending filmmakers.

Currently the prodco is working on another 11 documentary coproductions." Realscreen 2010 Likewise, Gebrueder Beetz Filmproduktion enjoys notable and continual success in the international coproduction of creative television and cinema productions for the European and non-European markets.

A newly established in-house Cross-Media unit at their Berlin office pays tribute to the continuous success by combining traditional documentary productions with new media concepts, to reach a young, international and web-savvy audience.

GBF is present at two panels at Sheffield Doc/Fest:

Working with the Germans

Friday 10th June 2011, 11:15 AM, HUBS B
(With Christian Beetz)

Signpost to cross-media: changing strategies of European broadcasters and producers. Cross-media is still the latest catchword in the market.

Saturday 11th June 2011 12:00, Channing Hall
The case study "Farewell Comrades" by GBF and ARTE states an example of an international-cross-media project involved, over 20 international partnerships and broadcasters in over a dozen countries. (With Lena Thiele and Christian Beetz)

In production (selection):

Saving the Titanic – 90/52min, HD4K
The Lithium Revolution – 90/52min, HD
Modern Ruins – 5x52min, HD
Mysterious Marinas – 5x52min, HD

Recent productions (selection 2010):

Blood in the Mobile – Cinema for peace award, 28/43/52/82min, in coproduction with Koncern TV (Denmark), Chili Film (Denmark)
Inspired by Nature – 4x52min, HD, in coproduction with EMS films (Netherlands)
Pioneers turned Millionaires – WorldFest Houston Award, 5x52min, HD
My Heart of Darkness – 90min, HD4K, in coproduction with Eden Film (Sweden)
Autumn Gold – HotDocs Filmmaker Award, IDFA DocU Award, Human Right Audience Award, 52/90min, HD, in coproduction with Navigator Film (Austria)

**Gebrüder Beetz
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Shackleton's Captain

In 1914 the famous Shackleton-expedition starts towards the South Pole. "Shackleton's Captain" reveals the truth behind the spectacular rescue. One man gave everything and made it possible: Frank Worsley, captain of the expedition ship. The crew looked to Shackleton to lead them, Shackleton looked to Worsley to save them! Worsley was faced with seemingly insurmountable odds when the Endurance became trapped in the pack ice off the coast of Antarctica. The ship was slowly crushed by the ice, forcing Worsley and his crew to abandon it. They spent the next ten months living on the ice floe before rowing three life boats to a desolate rock called Elephant Island. Worsley was forced to risk everything by sailing one of the tiny boats eight hundred miles across the Southern Ocean to the small island of South Georgia where they hoped to find help at a Norwegian whaling station. Twenty-eight lives were in the balance as Worsley braved the worst conditions imaginable. But a hurricane forces them to land at a beach at the opposite side of the island. Worsley has to prove his skills a second time: no map of the island exists. Without alpine equipment, totally inadequate clothing and almost no food and water they have to cross the island. After nearly two years on the ice not a single man had perished. The expedition was a disaster, the rescue the greatest in history.

90min,

Co-production with Making Movies Film Production, New Zealand
Launch in 2011



Farewell Comrades! (Media event)

Starting from the historical peak of the communist power expansion in 1975, "Farewell Comrades!" follows the 16-year countdown ending with the breakdown of the Soviet Empire – told from the perspective of the people who experienced, caused or tried to anticipate it. In 2011, the world will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the end of the division of Europe – indeed, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Iron Curtain are the most important historical events in post-war Europe. But why did the Soviet Empire collapse only 16 years later? What forces were behind the creeping erosion and sudden collapse?

Produced in collaboration with Eastern European writers, directors and co producers, this saga will be launched on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the collapse of the USSR, the final act of the Cold War, an event that still shapes our world order. The 6 x 52-minute TV series is the core of the project. Farewell Comrades! Interactive is the second pillar of the media event. We will take the user on an interactive journey through our outstanding archive material to investigate the reasons, stories and theses behind the end of the superpower. A book published by renowned publishing house Beck will accompany the launch of the series and web format. Furthermore, as part of the project and in collaboration with institutional partners we will present a series of events, discussions, and presentations in all involved countries.

A multi-media event with TV series (6x52min),

internet platform and book. Produced by gebrueder beetz
filmproduktion and Artline Films (France). Launch in 2011.

gebrueder beetz filmproduktion Hamburg

Gebrueder beetz filmproduktion is one of Germany's leading independent television production companies specialised in the international production, co-production and distribution of high-end documentaries and factual programming for audiences worldwide. The parent company gebrueder beetz Media GmbH encompasses three firms with four offices and over 30 employees in Berlin, Hamburg, Lueneberg and Cologne: gebrueder beetz filmproduktion Berlin GmbH & Co KG, gebrueder beetz filmproduktion Hamburg GmbH & Co KG, and gebrueder beetz filmproduktion Köln GmbH & Co KG.

With a focus on Arts, History and Science content, the brothers Christian and Reinhardt Beetz have produced well over 50 award-winning documentaries since founding the company in 2000. Additionally, they produce the weekly cultural magazine "Metropolis" for arte and the daily cultural programme "EinsWeiter" for German public broadcaster ARD-EinsFestival. Likewise, gebrueder beetz filmproduktion enjoys notable and continual success in the international co-production of creative television productions for the European and non-European markets.

Combining high-value content and creativity with cutting-edge technology, such as 3D, cross-media and online-formats, gebrueder beetz filmproduktion Hamburg produces innovative formats and acclaimed primetime programmes like 'Pioneers Turned Millionaires' and '100 Years of Hollywood – The Carl Laemmle Story'.

Recent productions (selection):

Pioneers turned Millionaires – European Entrepreneurs in the Promised Land

2010, HD, 5x52min, in coproduction with NDR/arte, funded by nordmedia and Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein

Cash v. Culture – Fighting Gentrification

2011, HD, 52 min, in coproduction with NDR/arte

100 Years of Hollywood – The Carl Laemmle Story

2011, HD, 43/52/78 min, in coproduction with SWR/ arte

Saving the Titanic

2011, HD, 1 x 90 min / 2 x 50 min, an Irish / German co-production with ZDF Enterprises, ZDF, ZDF/Arte, RTÉ, Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and The Irish Film Board

Munchausen – the Truth behind the Lies

2011, HD, 52 min, in coproduction with NDR/arte, funded by nordmedia and Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein

Executive producers:

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The Medici's Trail of Blood

Dukes, art patrons and heroes – or schemers, poisoners and assassins? What's the truth behind the mighty Medici dynasty? Fact is: this family ruled the Western world for over three hundred years. We get to the bottom of the Medici myth and shed powerful new light upon the compelling conspiracies and mysterious murders said to have been committed by the rulers of Renaissance Florence.

In 2004 the Medici Project, led by head scientist Donatella Lippi, started exhuming 23 family members suspecting undetected cases of insidious murder and poisoning. It is the largest-scale project in forensic medicine of all times, about to be completed in June 2011, when the mortal remains will be reburied.

In fact, the forensic examinations executed by Donatella Lippi and the scientists of the Medici Project decode several unsolved and mysterious cases of death.

Did for example the wise Grand Duke Ferdinando de Medici, patron of Galileo Galilei, come to power only by murderous intrigue? Thanks to state of the art high-tech medical equipment we will reveal the last secrets of the Medici family. With DNA analysis and face reconstructions we will also re-write genealogy and resolve the mystery of eight child corpses, which were found in a secret crypt and until now cannot be placed in the family tree.

Filmed in 3D and visualized by the latest CGI technique, we accompany this millennium project and gain groundbreaking and to date unpublished insights, which will re-write (medical) history.

43 / 52 min, HD

writer/director: John Kantara, executive producer: Reinhardt Beetz
launch in 2012



Mysterious Marinas – A Pearl in Every Port

All mayor discoveries in history started onboard of a ship – off to new shores, off to new ports. According to this motto, we set out to explore five showcase marinas located on some of the world's not only most picturesque, but also strategically important coastlines. It is not about mega-ports and their big logistics, it is the hidden marinas, from where we open up the view to a grand panorama discovering their backwaters. Wild, untouched nature, the ever vibrant ancient culture, and unique biographies await us in:

Punta del Este / Uruguay

Pirate Hide Out Turned Holiday Paradise

Dutch Harbor / Alaska

Of Crabs And Tough Fishermen

La Rochelle / France

High Tech Meets The Huguenots

Cádiz / Spain

Gold and Tuna Under The Pillars Of Hercules

Longyearbyen / Spitsbergen / Norway

Treasures In Eternal Ice

An unconventional travel documentary: a firework of the senses that flings open the door to scientific insights. Impressive helicopter aerials filmed with the latest Cineflex technique and brilliant high definition images offer a unique perspective on the world's marinas. We set out on a voyage of discovery all around the Atlantic Ocean to five strategically placed marinas: magnets for conquerors and adventurers of the past, present and future.

5 x 43 / 52 min, HD, writer/director: Jörg Daniel Hissen, Frode Mo, Judith Voelker, Christian Schidlowski, executive producer: Reinhardt Beetz, in cooperation with ZDF/arte, launch in 2011

KINOMATON

KINOMATON produces documentary and fiction films. The core activity is visual storytelling on different platforms (Cinema, TV, Transmedia, Internet, Social Media, DVD, Mobile) with a focus on engagement, sustainability and design. Further, KINOMATON collaborates with other producers via co-productions and executive production on German locations.

Producer Sarita Sharma has a background in law, history and music, specialising in content and project development, international co-productions, financing and distribution.

In 2006 she co-founded Kinomaton Berlin together with Rusta Mizani. Sarita has studied Digital Media Management at ETMA-European Television and Media Management Academy in Strasburg and participated in the Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris (La Fémis/Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg) as well as the EURODOC programm. She has produced several fiction and documentary short films, and has developed and executive produced fiction and documentary features. Since 2010, she is also active in the production of documentary transmedia projects.

Recent projects of KINOMATON comprise the documentary feature "Comrade, where are you today" by Finnish director Kirsi Liimatainen, telling the stories of former international students of a communist high school in East Berlin, that has been developed and co-produced with Finnish company Making Movies.

KINOMATON's 2010 social spot "Face in the Mirror", raising awareness about dementia, recently received the Silver Audience Award at the International Advertising Festival Mannheim.

In 2010 the company has executive produced the fiction part of the feature documentary "Denke oft eine Frau im Blut zu haben" about the life of Swiss author Friedrich Glauser, produced by Ventura Films, Switzerland.

Further productions of 2010 are the fiction short "Dear Mr Starr" by Russian-Latvian director Denis Kacs about the clash of dreams of a hairdresser and his son in post-socialist Eastern Germany, and the short documentary "Sadly into Wallachia" by German director Johann Arens, about the creation of a photonovela for a girl's horse magazine.

KINOMATON currently develops the transmedia documentary "Baltic Warriors", the web documentary "Sapology" and co-produces the feature documentary "Sarajevo People" with French production company ISKRA.

Kinomaton is a member of AG DOK and Atelier Network.



SARAJEVO PEOPLE

Sarajevo is a city rising from its ashes. This once multiple-faced town is on its way to join Europe in the time to come. But not right away. For the moment Sarajevo is at an interval, a state of disorder.

Now that the world's cameras are no longer focused on it, who are the people of Sarajevo today? Stanko, the garage keeper, born in Sarajevo, who remained there throughout the war; Jasmina, having grown up in Berlin, is now employed in an NGO, whose occupation is to identify war dead – she returned in 1998 to reunite with her family; Alma and Svetlana, artists and queer activists, having returned five years ago from the US; people whom we accompany in a moment of their life, where each one, in his own way, questions his place and existence in the city. How is it possible to project into the future when the very foundations of society have collapsed?

Among the people of Sarajevo, there are also businessmen and inheritors of the old system, speculating and building empires, profiting from this moment of chaos, of nothingness; and then there are all the others, the labourers, the retired, Romas and a few recently settled Chinese.

While exploring the memory of the people of Sarajevo, we explore the past, present and future, by evoking their hopes and doubts in a city in total change. A cinematographic attempt to exhibit a contemporary image of Sarajevo.

The film has been developed with the support of Cultural Agency of Alsace, the CNC, Procirep/Angoa and the MEDIA Program.

France/Germany, 2012, 90 min.

Director/DoP: Damien Fritsch,

Produced by ISKRA & KINOMATON Berlin



Sadly into Wallachia

A girl's arms wrapped around the neck of a horse; a boy's furtive glance; a diary holding a secret... These are the subjects of adolescent dreams, clichés of kitschy teen novels and the setting of "Sadly into Wallachia", an experimental documentary by Johann Arens. The film follows the creation of a photo novela destined to adorn a girly magazine about horses. Highly romantic and deeply tragic at the same time, the main protagonists ride on their horses towards adulthood. In between speech bubbles and a flurry of flashbulbs, girls and boys hold their breath and freeze their emotions.

The photographer sets the scene, takes photos and manoeuvres the teenagers, while they pose on a horse farm, in arranged interiors – idyll or bare stressful reality of a photo shooting?

JOHANN ARENS is a visual artist who has studied at the Audiovisual Department of Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam. His films were shown internationally in festivals, galleries and museums, among them the Tate Modern in London, EEA Gallery Amsterdam, Nederlands Film Festival Utrecht, Media Art Festival Friesland, Filmmuseum Amsterdam 2006, International Short Filmfestival Winterthur and the Cinematiek Utrecht. In 2011 Johann Arens will complete his Master in Fine Arts at the renowned Goldsmith College in London.

SADLY INTO WALLACHIA has been supported by Berlin Today Award/Berlinale Talent Campus, the Nipkow Programm and by Filmwerkstatt Kiel.

Germany 2010, 18 min

Director: Johann Arens, DoP: Ulrike Thiele,

Produced by KINOMATON Berlin

LICHTFILM

Wolfgang Bergmann: 1946 born in Paderborn, Westphalia. 1967-1972 studies in Hamburg and Munich: journalism, art and philosophy. 1971-1974 assistant of director for fiction: Geissendörfer, Stöckl, Furtwängler und Kotulla. From 1974-1982 director of film distributions "New World" and "Collective of Filmmakers Distribution". Founding member of AG-Dok.

Established by Wolfgang Bergmann, LICHTFILM is a production company with a track record for well-made, artistic documentaries. Our films depict purposefully direct encounters with people from all backgrounds: visionaries, victims and high-flyers, to name but a few. We present the protagonists as they really are, speaking out in their own idiom. We would not put words into their mouth or pay them to make statements. We do not make films for the self-aggrandisement of directors nor do we slavishly follow pre-ordained dramaturgy or bow to outside pressures. We are interested in delving deep, even into harsh reality.

Selection of films:

Shadows over the Future – by Wolfgang Bergmann; **The Reichseinsatz** – Forced Laborers in Germany during World War II by Wolfgang Bergmann; **Oskar und Jack** – by Frauke Sandig; **Russia's Wonder Children** – by Irene Langemann; **Lale Andersen** – The Voice of Lili Marleen; **Martins' Passion** – by Irene Langemann, 96 min.; **Rubljovka** – Road to Bliss by Irene Langemann, 94 min.; **No more Killing** – by Wolfgang Bergmann, 60 and 100 min.; **Breeding a New Man** – by Boris Rabin; **Love Letter from Ramstein** – by Irene Langemann, 90 minutes; **Noble Breed** – How to breed successful horses by Wolfgang Bergmann, 90 min.;

The Competitors – Russia's Wonder Children 2 – by Irene Langemann, 96 min.; **The Miraculous Travel of Useless Things** – by Katja Schupp and Hartmut Seifert;

In production:

Sweet Poison – Does Development Aid help?
By Peter Heller, cinema release 2012.

In Development:

In Bed with Terror – by Dirk Pohlmann, ZDF;
The Song of Live – by Irene Langemann.

Dirk Pohlmann studied Journalism, Philosophy and Law at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz. During that time he worked as reporter for various newspapers and print magazines. 1986 he started to work as TV-author and director, in various fields, including script writing for prime time TV series. During this time he was deputy editor and chief editor of various magazines. He wrote and directed hundreds of TV-magazines stories and dozens of features for public broadcasters.

A selection of titles:

The Ice-Bombers – 45 min.; **Volksgemeinschaft** and **In The East** – 45 min., nominated for the Grimme Award; **The Secret Airwar of the Superpowers** – 52 min.; **The Secret Submarine War of the Superpowers** – 52 min.; **UFOS, Lies and the Cold War** – 52 min.; **Behind Enemy Lines** – 52 min.; **Missing in Action** – 90min; **The Secret of Area 51 – Migs for the USAF** – 52 min.; **Mengeles Heirs** – 90 min; **Death in the Depth – Slugfest of the Superpowers** – 52 min.



SWEET POISON – a film by Peter Heller
Project in postproduction

Development aid is widely viewed as the duty of all good Christians. An entire development industry has been built up around do-gooders and their dedication to helping the poor around the world. For the past fifty years, Africa has been a continent of aid recipients. Yet today, Africa is poorer than ever. Does aid hinder one's own development? Does it lead to dependence and lethargy?

The film takes on a taboo topic – does development aid cause harm? It shows and questions the positions of aid recipients and givers. It sums up and contrasts (negative and positive) case studies, gives a voice to African experts and politicians, and shows ways of rethinking an independent, "African" way of development support.

Lethargy

The film "Sweet Poison" asks how good intentions could wind up having the opposite effect: how helpers gave rise to an aid industry, how aid money transformed into financial support for corruption and mismanagement, how shipments of clothing and food ended up destroying the beginnings of small national industries and agriculture.

Producer Wolfgang Bergmann, Co-produced with WDR, WDR/ARTE, Filmstiftung NRW, DFFF, Filmförderung HH-SH
100/59 min., HDSR, Digital Betacam, 16:9,
cinema release 2012



In Bed with Terror - Deep State Operations of the Cold War

A documentary by Dirk Pohlmann - Project in financing

We all believed: Terrorism in Germany was the aftermath of the protest movements of the late 60s. The youthful unrest of students, demonstrating against real and perceived injustice, went berserk, degenerated and created a nightmare of violence and murder.

In 1967 the killing of student Benno Ohnesorg by a West Berlin policeman opened Pandora's Box. Ohnesorg was an innocent bystander of a Anti Shah demonstration, shot by Karl-Heinz Kurras on short distance, left to die for 45 minutes by the police before receiving medical attention. The trial against Kurras was a political farce without sentence. This event was the initial spark for leftist terrorism in Germany. The rest is history.

Fast forward: In 2009 Stasi files proved West German policeman Kurras was in reality a Stasi officer. The photographer of the iconic picture was a member of the West Berlin Moscow oriented SEW party. A false doctor on the spot as member of another East German cover organisation.

The real story we have to construct from bits and pieces like a puzzle hardly resembles anything anybody heard of or thought before. For a simple reason: the main forces of this power struggle remained intentionally in the shadow. As this documentary will show, terrorism is not only influenced by the 3-letter organisations, it was set up, directed, used and dismantled by intelligence services.

Living Film

Living Films (www.livingfilms.com) is a full service production company based in Thailand and widely regarded as one of the largest and most professional production houses in South East Asia with their own dedicated post production facility.

In their first fifteen years they have coordinated more than ten major feature films, including most recently, *The Hangover 2*. Their output includes numerous television commercials, documentaries, music videos and still shoots, whilst building on their reputation as an honest, family style production house they have gained enormous experience in the intricacies of film-making in Thailand and South East Asia.

Living Films has also produced many of their own television and humanitarian documentaries throughout Asia and at any given time they have several documentaries in development, including award winning "With Hope and Help", an uplifting and inspiring 6-part series about HIV and AIDS.

Most recently they completed work on "Journey Home" a half-hour Canadian funded documentary about the life and travails of migrant workers in Thailand, Burma and Cambodia.

Two of Living Films most seasoned documentary film producers are David McDougall and Georg P. Mueller. David started out as a Production Coordinator at Pinewood Studios, moved into factual programming as a Production Manager on a number of multi-award winning documentaries for the major UK and US Broadcasters, including the Rory Peck and Sony Award winning *Afghan Massacre*, before relocating from London to S.E. Asia, where most recently he has produced a documentary on Burma for a local NGO. Georg P. Mueller has been based in S.E. Asia for over twenty years. Originally a television journalist in Germany he has produced and edited hundreds of hard news and magazine stories for several German TV Channels in addition to a wide range of documentary films.

Contact

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Rock Cambodia! – From Khmer Rock to Khmer Riche

Srey Thy has always dreamt about becoming a singer. Her source of inspiration and love for music are Cambodia's so-called golden voices, the stars of the 1960s and early 70s era, cultural icons that are household names everywhere in Cambodia to this day. However, most of the stars of the golden era were murdered under the Khmer Rouge, who plunged the nation into cultural collapse. Today, a new band on the scene, the Cambodian Space Project, is reviving the Khmer Rock of the past and taking the country by storm. However, the group, fronted by Srey Thy is much more than just a band. Against overwhelming odds, they are engaged in some of Cambodia's greatest problems – forced evictions, illegal logging, human trafficking and are trying to make a difference. What's more, Cambodia is still one of the most corrupt countries in the world and the ruling class, the so-called Khmer Riche, are the ones who benefit from exploiting the country's poor as well as its resources and have no interest in change. As the story progresses we witness how Srey Thy makes an incredible development at intergalactic speed from trafficked Karaoke singer who has never been to school into an eloquent front woman and artist who is finding her voice and learning to use it in order to raise awareness. In the end this is not just a film about Cambodia, but a universal story about a young woman, Srey Thy, empowering herself and even becoming a role model for other women; the revival of lost cultural traditions; and, last but not least, about a group of musicians exploring the power of music to change the world.

Producer: Rithy Panh; Author/Director: Marc Eberle
 Length 52/90 Min; Delivery: End 2011
 MeetMarket Project 2011



Khun Sa: The Prince of Death & The DEA

In a corner of the Golden Triangle in the land of China White, he was the undisputed ruler of a kingdom where rivers of blood and heroin ran with absolute impunity.

The Poppy King, Khun Sa had many roles in his lifetime: a war-lord, freedom fighter, business man, father to eight children and leader of a narco-army of thousands which for decades successfully outfought, outwitted and outran the combined forces of the CIA, DEA, Burmese and Thai military.

In the ferocious kill or be killed ethnic cauldron that marked the border areas of Burma and Thailand in the seventies and eighties his methods of warfare were utterly ruthless and amongst the barrack rooms, palatial villas and vile smelling laboratories of his vast empire, Khun Sa also kept a dedicated media unit of cameramen who recorded his every move, meeting and the battles that took place.

Now, Living Films in Thailand has located and negotiated access to the secret video library of the life of Khun Sa. Thousands of hours of footage recorded by his media unit that chart the life and times of a man who makes Pablo Escobar look like a Walt Disney character.

By using never previously seen footage drawn from the media unit and powerful first hand-testimony from his Lieutenants and the DEA case officers set against him, this film will explore some of the great unanswered questions of his life.

Director: Marc Eberle
 Producer: Chris Lowenstein
 Length: 52 Mins.
 Delivery: March 2012

LOOKS

LOOKS is a group of companies dedicated to the production and distribution of a large variety of media. Gunnar Dedio is the group's founder and CEO.

With offices in Berlin, Leipzig, Hanover and Rostock, LOOKS has been producing and co-producing feature films as well as documentaries and magazines for ARTE, ARD, ZDF, Deutsche Welle, Canal+, France 5/France Télévision, RTBF, RAI, SBS, ORF, NHK, AVRO, YLE, TVN, Discovery Channel and many others since 1995.

Books, audio books, websites, DVDs, games and soundtracks releases successfully add to the group's creative output. Its track record includes internationally renowned and awarded titles such as "Life behind the wall", "Hitler & Mussolini" and "Comrade Couture".

LOOKS Distribution pools the group's marketing, co-financing and sales activities, covering all distribution platforms and ancillary rights. Its main asset is the group's own, mostly factual catalogue which is especially strong in the fields of history, science, nature and human interest.



The Great War Diary

World War I was the greatest catastrophe in the history of mankind and the first truly global conflict. In just a few weeks, a Golden Age of culture and technological achievement gave way to a new and terrible kind of war – fought with machines the like of which had never been seen before. A war of untold heroism and suffering, in which ten million men gave their lives for a few inches of mud. The world was changed forever: Empires crumbled, communities were destroyed, and the scene was set for the Great Depression, for facism and dictators such as Hitler and Stalin, and for an even greater war to come. Based on a thousand personal diaries from around the world, this event TV series marks the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. Extensive archive footage including private films never seen before on TV, original postcards, newspapers, posters and breathtaking photos from the time (many unpublished to this day) combine with dramatic reconstructions and with the writings and drawings of our main characters to create a unique visual style.

A co-production by LOOKS Film & TV GmbH, Les Films d'Ici, SWR, NDR, WDR, Arte, with the support of the MEDIA Programme of the European Union

8/4 x 52', HD, Delivery: 2013

Directed by: Jan Peter;

Written by: Yury Winterberg, Andrew Bampfield



Edward And George - Two Brothers, One Throne

Edward and George tells the remarkable story of the two brothers and the two women at the heart of an episode in British history without precedent: On 11th December 1936 following the abdication of his brother Edward VIII, King George VI ascended to the British throne. The day marked the culmination of a crisis that had threatened to destroy the British crown and Empire. Never before had a British monarch voluntarily renounced their title. Edward did so in order to marry the woman he loved, Wallis Simpson. It would be left to the younger brother to restore the credibility of the world's foremost constitutional monarchy; a feat George would have found impossible without the support of his 'helpmate' and wife, Elizabeth. It also marked the end of the fraternal friendship between Edward and George; one that would never be repaired - nor the players reconciled. Using archive footage combined with new interviews, Edward and George examines how, whatever their differences, the brothers looked for similar qualities in the women they loved, but how this in turn, set them apart and changed their relationship from one of love and loyalty to one of suspicion and betrayal.

A Production by LOOKS Filmproduktionen Berlin in co-production with British Pathé and ARTE/RBB.

43'/52', HD, Delivery: August 2011

A Film by Claire Walding

Ma.ja.de. is one of the few German production companies to make documentaries and feature films that, for years, now have won international film festival awards and proved themselves worthy of cinema acclaim and worldwide sales.

Since 1991 the company has been involved in a number of successful collaborations with many renowned directors from both Germany and abroad. They include Sergei Loznitsa, Pirjo Honkassalo, Vitalij Manskij, Hartmut Bitomsky, Viktor Kossakovsky and Thomas Heise, who are among their respective countries most famous filmmakers.

ma.ja.de. has produced more than 70 documentary films so far. They have been premiered at renowned international Festivals such as Berlinale, Venice, Rotterdam, Visions du Réel in Nyon, Cinema du Réel in Paris, IDFA Amsterdam and DOK Leipzig.

Among other documentaries "Vivan las Antipodas" by Viktor Kossakovsky is in postproduction.

In 2005 ma.ja.de's growing involvement in international feature film production led to the founding of ma.ja.de fiction. The projects are being forged under the banner "Documentary filmmakers go feature", which will allow for very distinct points of view. My Joy by Sergei Loznitsa was chosen for the Cannes competition and celebrated its premiere in May 2010.

Blood Countess by Ulrike Ottinger with Tilda Swinton as the leading character is in the financing phase.

ma.ja.de is based in Leipzig and has a second office in Berlin and implies its own worldwide distributor, Deckert Distribution.



MONEY IN MINUTES

Yearly, emigrants all over the world send the equivalent of hundreds of billions US\$ to their nearest and dearest back home. Behind this vast money transfer are corporations which have harnessed the

enormous commercial potential of global migration since the early 1990s: the former telegraph company Western Union, an icon of American business and MoneyGram. Since then, a rapid, straightforward money transfer system under the slogan 'Money in Minutes' has developed. Sums of money paid in can be collected by the recipient in their local currency on the other side of the world barely a few minutes later.

Nowadays Western Union and MoneyGram maintain over 600,000 local branches throughout the world – far more than five times as many as McDonald's, Starbucks, Wal-Mart and Burger King put together. Emigration is so crucial to this business model that anticipated movements of refugees – be it due to crop failure, political unrest, civil war or climate disaster – directly affect the companies share price. And that's why lobbyists, lawyers and agents

all over the world are working to relax the legal restrictions governing émigrés and refugees. Western Union for instance finances courses for emigrants, operates its own radio program for them, and even provides legal advice free of charge. In Malaysia, Western Union cinema trucks travel to the most remote villages and show commercials in order to familiarise the inhabitants with the idea of emigration.

Unnoticed by the general public and hardly acknowledged by the academic world, Money Transfer Companies are directly linked to global migration. They have become a force which exercises long-term influence on national economies, politics and culture right across the planet. However, with corporate policies geared towards shareholder value, it's plain that it is driven not by philanthropic motives but rather a cool, calculating approach to economics which views migration as a profitable resource.

"Money in Minutes" will depict the international strategies and incredible logistics of companies whose business model makes up the infrastructure of global migration.

A documentary film by Monika Hielscher and Matthias Heeder.

medea film

"If you want reality, take the bus"

David LaChapelle

MEDEA FILM – Irene Höfer produces high-quality films and TV series on art, culture, politics and history. Authentic, emotional and visually exciting. The company was founded in 1995 by author/producer Irene Höfer in Berlin. In 2002, producer Andeas Schroth joined the core team. Over time the company's focus has shifted from producing film portraits to creative documentaries and to the development and realisation of fiction and documentary features in international coproduction.

In Production:

"Mothers and Daughters" by Marita Neher and Irene Höfer, arte theme evening (NDR/ARTE), 75min.

"My life – Nan Goldin" by Nan Goldin
creative documentary, ZDF/ARTE, 45 min.

"Marx Returns" by Jason Barker
animated documentary, a co-production with Films Noirs Ltd./UK and international television broadcasters, ZDF/ARTE, 80 min.

"Re-veiled" by Hilka Sinning
cultural documentary, ZDF/ARTE, 45 min

"Factory Cowboy" by Ulli Lommel
feature film, 2011, co-production with Lionsgate

Completed Works Selection:

"Eye Candy – The Crazy World of David LaChapelle" by Hilka Sinning
documentary, 2006, ZDF/ARTE, 52 min.
World distribution: TVF International (London),
DVD release 2011

"Operation Bikini - Schlachtfelder der Schönheit" by Birgit Herdlitschke
based on an idea by Irene Höfer

Documentary, arte theme evening **"Das Diktat der Schönheit"**, 2010, ARTE, 94 min.
Crossmedia: www.arte.tv/koerperkult

"Marx Reloaded" by Jason Barker
co-director Alexandra Weltz, Cultural
documentary, 2010, ZDF/ARTE, 52 min.

"Judenburg Now" by Elfi Mikesch
documentary, 2010, ORF, in co-production
with Amour Fou film production Vienna /
Austria, 74 min.

"My life – Luc Bondy" by Hanns-Bruno
Kammertöns and Irene Höfer
portrait, 2010, ZDF/ARTE, 43 min.

"Fashion Icon Sonia Rykiel – Rebel an Visionär" by Gabriela Hermer and Irene Höfer
portrait, 2009, NDR/ARTE, 43 min.

"Exploring Wetlands – Charlotte Roche and her Readers" by Hilka Sinning
cultural documentary, 2009, ZDF/ARTE, 43 min.

"School Shooting" by Marita Neher
documentary 2007, ZDF/ARTE, 52 min.



© Shahram Entekhabi

Who is Afraid of the Veil?

The film explores the veil and headscarf as basic objects in female cultural history, turned into a strong islamic symbol today. Women already covered their hair and faces in historical times,

but today the veil is mostly perceived as a piece of clothing worn by muslim women, becoming more and more visible in the streets of Europe.

As such, with growing visibility, it has become the center of fierce debates and discussions. This small piece of clothing offers an enormous field of interpretations. Feminists consider it a symbol for female suppression and patriarch power. For great parts of the population it shows the rise of dangerous islamistic and fundamentalist presence in our western societies. Many of the muslimas themselves use it as a highly fashionable object and means to express a new self consciousness for a generation of young urban women. International artist take the strong silhouettes as an icon, as a strong artistic inspiration. But is it really a threat to european societies?

Historians and sociologists as Necla Kelek (Berlin) or Nilufer Gole (Paris), feminists, culture critics, writers and artist celebrities such as Shirin Neshat give their points of view. Swiss muslima and basketball player Sura Al-Shak, 21 years old, wearing headscarf by conviction, tells her story after being excluded from her sports team.

55 min., Arte 2011, Protagonists: Necla Kelek, Nilufer Gole, Shirin Neshat, Sura Al-Shak



Mothers & Daughters

Mothers and daughters are like heaven and hell. Intrinsically tied to each other in love and hate. The relationship between a mother and her daughter can be wonderful, but also a nightmare. The documentary will visualise this antagonism. The women tell us their personal stories about mothers and daughters relationships nowadays. Thrilling, provoking, wholehearted and authentic - an emotional rollercoaster. From cradle until grave.

In our documentary we will portrait six famous mothers and their daughters in Germany, France and Switzerland, Spain and Austria. For example, the successful film-producer Regina Ziegler and her daughter Tanja, the extraordinary French fashion designer Sonia Rykiel and her daughter Nathalie, the beautiful circus princesses Marie-José Knie and Geraldine, the passionate daughter of former world star Maria Schell, Marie Theres Kroetz Relin and the Berliner underground artist Käthe Kruse, (better known as Tödliche Doris), and her two daughters Edda and Käthe. And we will have the chance to see the famous director and actress Katharina Thalbach together with her daughter Anna.

Every woman is also someone's daughter, and asks herself more than once in her life if it's possible to have a happy relationship with her mother.

"Mom" is the grand role model as well as fierce competition. Best friend and worst enemy: the relationship between mother and daughter remains an individual issue.

70 min., Arte 2012, Protagonists: Sonia and Nathalie Rykiel, Marie-José and Geraldine Knie, Käthe Kruse and daughters, Marie Theres Kroetz Relin, Regina and Tanja Ziegler, Elisabeth Badinter

Perfect Shot Films

Perfect Shot Films was founded in February 2010. We produce and co-produce documentaries for the national and international film market. Believing in creative teamwork, we work with young authors and directors as well as experienced filmmakers. Personal stories set in a global context; we make films without any sensationalism, creating spaces for thoughts, feelings and some way of identification.

Films finished:

"No Gravity"

Documentary, 60 min
Coproduction with ZDF Kleines Fernsehspiel,
10:15 productions, CNC
Dir.: Silvia Casalino / Cam.: Siri Klug /
Editor: Elfe Brandenburger
World Sales: Louise Rosen Ltd., USA

In production:

"Operndorf Africa" (WT)

Documentary, 90 min
Coproduction with: ZDF/3Sat, ORF
Funds: FFA, DFFF, Medienboard Berlin
Dir.: Sibylle Dahrendorf / Cam.: Phil Tornau /
Editor: Frank Brumundt
Distribution: Filmgalerie 451, Berlin
World Sales: Outlook Films, Austria

In development:

"The Perfect Shot"

Documentary, 90 min., stereoscopic 3D
Author: Kai Hafemeister

"Mahackla Fight Star"

Documentary, 90 min
Discovery Campus Masterschool 2011
Dir.: Nadja Korinth

"Trans X Istanbul"

Documentary, 90 min, 52 min
Dir.: Maria Binder



“No Gravity” – Essayistic Documentary by Silvia Casalino

No Gravity is a Docu-Fiction about a feminist fantasy of breaking the glass ceiling and flying to outer space.

Space engineer Silvia Casalino dreams about going to space. Her dreams become reality as she embarks on an unusual and bizarre journey, which leads her to the icons of female space travel and cyborg culture.

Rocket launch pads in the jungle of French Guiana, flying frogs in space, tropical plants between techno mock-ups in star city Russia, an iguana playing the Donna Haraway cyborg and incredible archive images from space agencies all around the world. No Gravity is a film between science and fiction, remixed by queer-feminist minds. Three generations of women lead the way through three different continents, pursuing a single fascination: space science and technology!

Germany 2011, Documentary, HD, 60 min
Dir: Silvia Casalino



“Opera Village Africa” (WT)

“Opera Village Africa” (WT) is a film about the realization of a lifelong dream in the face of death. The German film, theatre and opera director Christoph Schlingensiefel wants to build an opera village in Burkina Faso. Closely at his side he is working with the international awarded architect Francis Kéré. Schlingensiefel is driven by the feeling not to have much time. He has cancer. Over the last years he has traveled several times to Burkina Faso to establish contact with the people and to look for a place for his opera village. As early as February 2010, the foundation stone was laid, the construction begins. On 21 August 2010 Christoph Schlingensiefel dies and leaves Francis Kéré and the local people a difficult legacy: his life’s dream.

Germany 2011, Documentary. HD/35 mm, 90 min
Dir.: Sibylle Dahrendorf
In Production

Saxonia Entertainment

Saxonia Entertainment is one of Germany's leading producers of factual and factual entertainment programming. In the domain of factual series and specials, we have special expertise in the fields of international co-production, history programming, quality dramatic reconstruction and production in the former Soviet Union as well as Eastern Europe.

Currently in (pre-) production:

A History of Russia

3x45/52' drama doc, with WDR / NDR / ARD

Hitler's Children

90/52' with Cinephil, Maya Productions, Tel Aviv; MDR, SWR, WDR

The Great Olympic Poker Game

investigative doc, WDR

Lakes on the Roof of the World

5x45/52', mdr / arte

In the domain of factual entertainment, programmes include the weekly crime show **Kripo Live**; **The Fast Quiz**; docusoaps, music shows, as well as TV gala productions.

For documentary and international co-production, contact:

simone.baumann@saxonia-entertainment.de

friederike.freier@saxonia-entertainment.de

TANGRAM International GmbH continues in the tradition of TANGRAM Christian Bauer Filmproduktion. Since Christian Bauer's sudden passing in 2009, the team at TANGRAM International has built on the traditional strengths and aims of the company:

To work internationally in the world of creative documentaries and in the competitive market of high-end series production. With our knowledge of the market and our commitment to the adventure of making documentaries, we hope to both inspire and be inspired by the collaboration with filmmakers and producers all around the globe.

TANGRAM films vary in theme, style, format and approach, and serve the needs not only of a German but also of a European and international audience. Therefore TANGRAM continually collaborates with a group of directors and writers who have demonstrated their expertise and creativity in productions for all of the major German Channels, BBC, Channel Four, ABC, NBC, PBS, SBS, RAI, History Television, Discovery and other stations worldwide.

Recent Productions:

2010

A Bavarian Boy

Director: Matti Bauer
BR, 2010, 45 min

2011

Sleepless

Director: Marc Haenecke,
Dominique Klughammer
ZDF, 2011, 30 min

Clothes make Germans

Director: Katarina Schickling
ARD, 2011, 2x45 min

The Horse Woman

Director: Matti Bauer
NDR, nordmedia, 2011, 45 min

A Single Farmer

Director: Matti Bauer
NDR, nordmedia, 2011, 45 min

The Last of Their Kind

Director: Johann Ahrends
NDR, nordmedia, 2011, 45 min

A Place by the Sea

Director: Johann Ahrends
NDR, nordmedia, 2011, 45 min

Nature against the Autobahn

Director: Matti Bauer
NDR, nordmedia, 2011, 45 min

The Girl from Dream Valley

Director: Matti Bauer
NDR, nordmedia, 2011, 45 min

Three Generations in Germany

Director: Dominique Klughammer
ZDF, 2011, 3 x 45 min

Contact at TANGRAM International GmbH:

Dagmar Biller
+49 (0) 89 23 660 60
info@tangram-film.de



Alexander von Bismarck – The fight against the timber Mafia

Worldwide, four fifths of the large primary forests are under treat of destruction by fire-clearing and illegal clear-felling. The feeble remainder is likely to be faced with the same threat in the near future, for the illegal timber trade is the second largest source of income for the globally operating Mafia – superseded only by their dealings in drugs and weapons.

The rouge tree-fellers clear the forests with an utter disregard for the losses that they are causing. Their camps are hidden deep in the jungle. Politicians, police and customs are bribed. The legal situation is convoluted and confused and the international demand for increasingly cheaper timber is immense. Nobody wants to know where the cheap wood actually comes from.

Alexander von Bismarck, the great-great nephew of the ‚Iron Chancellor‘, has a mission. With the support of his small environmental protection agency, he travels undercover in north-east China. He exposes himself to extreme danger by accumulating visual and audio evidence of the illegal lumber trade with his hidden camera. His tapes prove that enormous quantities of illegal timber make their way to America and Europe, where they are processed as though perfectly legal.

Alexander von Bismarck reveals to us, exclusively and for the first time, the history behind the illegal timber trade and the unimaginable worldwide connections that underlie it. He brings home the reality of the situation by showing us where the goods produced from illegal timber end up: As toilet seats, garden chairs and tooth-picks in our shopping trolleys.

Director: Michaela Kirst
 Chanel: WDR/arte
 Year: 2011
 Length: 45/52/ Min



Brown Babies – Germany's lost children

In the spring of 1946, the first of the babies fathered by members of the occupying forces are born in Germany. Almost 70,000 of these babies are born in the western territories of Germany in the decade following the end of the war; around 5000 of them have a black GI as a father. The very existence of these ‚brown babies‘ is a scandal in early post-war Germany. ‚Nigger mongrels‘, ‚half-bloods‘ and ‚bastards‘ are some of the derogatory terms applied to the coloured ‚occupation children‘ during the 1940s and ‚50s. Rejected because of their skin colour, a proportion of these children are shipped out to the USA from 1951 onwards. Once here, they live with Afro-American adoptive parents in a country in which racial segregation predominates until the late 1960s.

Our film throws light on this dark chapter of German-American post-war history for the first time. The documentary reconstructs the heated debates in Germany and America that surrounded the coloured occupation children. With the help of many contemporary witnesses, the film documents the moving stories of the adopted ‚brown babies‘.

Director: Michaela Kirst
 Chanel: BR/WDR/arte
 Year: 2010
 Length: 45/52/60 Min

Telekult Film- und Medienproduktion GmbH was founded 1992 in Berlin. The independent film production company produces original and high-quality creative documentary films, documentary series, reports and TV theme evenings for German and international television and cinema. Additionally Telekult produces exceptional art and multimedia projects, as well as image films and training videos for businesses and non-profit organizations.

During the past 19 years Telekult has produced over 100 films, primarily on socio-political, cultural and scientific topics of contemporary relevance as well as on nature and adventure topics.

Telekult manages its projects from conceptualization and development to production and post-production and provides its own state-of-the-art post-production facilities.

Telekult is proud to be well established in the area of non-fiction TV production in the European market. German public TV channels like ZDF, WDR, NDR, MDR, RBB, 3sat and the German-French cultural channel ARTE are Telekult's main commissioners of work and long-standing collaborators.

Telekult draws on its highly qualified and dedicated team of employees and works with a creative pool of renowned and experienced media professionals with a variety of editorial artistic and technical qualifications.

Our most recent productions include:

Socio-political

Germany Sweet and Sour / 43 Min. / NDR

One Country – Two Worlds? / 45min. NDR/arte

The Holy Warrior And His Wife / 45min.

/ WDR – Die Story / Awarded with Deutscher Fernsehpreis 2007

Theme Evening: The Rat Race of Labour

- Burnout – When We Hit Rock Bottom

- Goodbye Career - Happy Downshifters

Moscow's New Nuns / 90 Min. / NDR/arte / WDR

Cultural

My Life – Katharina Thalbach

45 / 75 Min. / ZDF/arte

„Audience Award Best Documentary“

20. filmkunstfest Mecklenburg-Vorpommern 2010

My Life – Mads Mikkelsen / 45 Min. / ZDF/arte

Dying on Exhibition? / 52 Min. / ZDF/arte

Scientific

The Trackers / 43min. ZDF/arte

The Inner Doctor – THE ACTIVATION OF SELF-

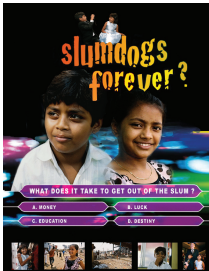
Healing / 52MIN. / ZDF/arte

Nature and adventure

Documentary Series / documentary series

4 films / 45 min. each / ZDF/arte

Next Stop Siberia / 43 Min. / ZDF/arte



Mumbai Slum Diary

India is a country of immense over population and chaotic mega cities. Every year, many of the impoverished rural population make their way towards the big cities, with the hope of a better

life. Already 9 Million people live now in the slums of the “City of Gold”, Mumbai – more than half of the entire city’s population. At the same time India is an emerging economic power, the Western image of globalization. Nowhere else are there more dollar billionaires than here. In the last year alone, their number doubled from 24 to 50. While more than 40% of India’s population lives below the poverty line, the gap between the rich and the poor is growing wider.

Due to a tremendous coincidence called „Slumdog Millionaire“ the two child actors Rubina and Azhar get a chance, for one brief moment, to realize their dream of a better life. Born and raised in Mumbai’s Bandra Slum, the academy award takes them out of the slum and directly to Hollywood, onto the red carpet, into stretch limousines and luxury hotels – and then back to the slum. The fame, which hit Rubina and Azhar completely unprepared, has not quite vanished yet, and their dreams are still very much alive. Distracted by their belief that their movie careers are just about to take off, they even forget to go to school. Meanwhile slum reality has returned all around them. But how does this reality look like?

„Mumbai Slum Diary“ is a crossmedia-project about life in the slum and consists of an interactive web format and a documentary film called „Slumdogs Forever?“.

Crossmedia Project – Creative documentary HD, 52min.
interactive Web-Format
Director: André Hörmann



Allahs Russian Brides

Since 9/11 more and more people all over the world have converted to Islam. Two thirds of them are women. This development is particularly noticeable in Russia, 20 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Natasha, Aisha, Anna, Nastja, Amina and Olga are all in their twenties. Like many other women of their age, they enjoy dressing up and going shopping.

Natasha, Aisha, Anna, Nastja, Amina and Olga are Muslim. If you expect women in black robes, you are in for a surprise: They wear Gucci handbags, high heels and designer clothes. It’s their regular outfit for praying in the mosque, studying the Koran and learning Arabic.

What does it mean to these young Russians to be a Muslim? To wear a headscarf, to pray five times a day, to share their husband with other wives? What drives these women to choose the strict life of a Muslim?

All five women want to be good Muslims. And all of them have to face challenges in their near future. They need to make life-changing decisions: Natasha wants to leave Russia and marry a good Muslim in Chechnya, Anna plans to finally follow her husband to Egypt, Aisha hopes to improve her status as second wife by becoming pregnant and having a son, Nastja wants to succeed in television and Amina is working on converting her entire family to Islam. We want to accompany these young, open and lively women during this period, understand their motives, their convictions and doubts – what will their future hold?

Creative documentary, HD, 52/90min.
Director: Katja Fedulova

Thumbs Up!

The Berlin company Thumbs Up! Filmproduktion e.K. was founded by Christine Daum in 2002 to produce intriguing documentaries in the fields of science, art and history. I have been producing films and segments for ZDF, ARD, DW, 3sat, arte, SF1, ORF as well as corporate films for foundations, art galleries, museums and other institutions. Since 2010 I have been cooperating with Baby Leo Film Inc., New York. At the moment we have several documentary projects in development (,Technotality', ,Il Finanziere', ,Perpetual Check') and a short feature film in production (,The Hero').

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Technotality

It's back to the future as leading scientists funded by public money as well as top tech-mogul draw on research from the 1920's and 1930's in their struggle to eradicate aging and ultimately death.

In the first third of the twentieth century, 'visionary biologists' conduct ghoulish experiments to achieve radical life extension and immortality. They revive chopped-off dogs' heads – to resurrect humans next. They transplant monkey testicles into men to reverse aging. They swap blood between the old and young, so that the young could revitalize the old and the old could 'immunize' the young. Designing rockets is also part of the quest for eternal life. The immortals should be transported to space to avoid overpopulation on earth.

Now, the biotech and computational revolutions restore immortality to the agenda. Regenerative medicine is expected to upgrade human bodies with stem cells, nano-blood, artificial organ replacements and genetic manipulation. Our film shows visions and experiments from then and now. What would a world of immortals look like, and do we really want to live forever?

We employ a light-hearted, pop culture feel, to impart knowledge through entertainment. By intercutting archive, movie-scenes, animation and interviews with the leading experts in the field, we keep a lively pace. It will be amusing for viewers to learn of the creepy era of visionary biology that frames today's most cutting-edge research.

We laugh at immortality as the ultimate tragicomic fantasy – should we?

Documentary project by Christine Daum-Farber & Nelson Farber
52' / 85', in development
DOP: Daniel B. Gold, editor: Daniel Bier



Il Finziere

The Rise And Fall of
Alberto Vilar

Born a nobody, lonely
US-American dot.com
billionaire Alberto Vilar
buys power, respect and
legitimacy in the opera
world with lavish funding

gifts. Fortune reverses, and today he struggles from prison to prove he didn't steal to fund his philanthropy. Abandoned as a fraudster by the cultural elite which once showered him with praises, Alberto fights to prove that his former 'friends' are fair-weathered ingrates. If that weren't enough, he battles the widespread perception that he is delusional. Who is right, Alberto or everyone else?

Alberto's money made opera sexy by introducing Anna Netrebko and Cecilia Bartoli to the stage. He fueled conductor Valery Gergiev's rise to the top and financed the maturing Placido Domingo's second career as an opera director. He pledged to numerous cultural institutions around the world. He amassed wealth only to give it away. We want to dig deeper into his psyche to know why. We follow the unfolding question of whether Alberto deserves his nine year jail sentence, or whether he is big game for overzealous prosecutors.

We don't know yet how his appeal and our film will end. We will show the passion of the multilayered conflict which collides the cultural, financial and legal worlds with the story of a lonely man.

Documentary project by Christine Daum-Farber & Nelson Farber
TV-hour, in development,
DOP: Daniel B. Gold, editor: Daniel Bier

AG DOK

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