



nach Wriezzen

PRESS KIT

(beyond Wriezzen)

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Eine Produktion der Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen (HFF) "Konrad Wolf" Potsdam-Babelsberg

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Three young Germans just released from prison return to society. Cool, restrained camerawork, but not without the warmth of human feelings.

IDFA Catalogue 2012

Daniel Abma takes us into a milieu which seems so hopeless that everyone looks away - and it takes just as much courage.

Cornelia Klauß in the film catalogue of DOK Leipzig 2012

Sometimes the camera is undesired and the whole project seems to fail. But even those problems during the shooting become part of the documentary.

www.Kino-zeit.de

a gripping portrayal of three troubled young men as they attempt – with varying degrees of success – to build new lives after being released from a prison near Berlin.

Radio Prague – Ian Willoughby

Synopsis

Daniel Abma's documentary accompanies three young offenders – Imo (22), Jano (17) and Marcel (25) – on the day they are released from Wriezen prison in Brandenburg, eastern Germany, and over the three years that follow.

At first sight, the three young protagonists are very different. Jano is a small-time drug dealer from a nearby village. Imo's face reveals his aggression and every other emotion he experiences. Then there's Marcel, who was convicted of murdering 16-year-old Marinus from Potzlow.

The young men's new life begins at Wriezen station, where they all set out hoping for the same things: a job, somewhere to live, a girlfriend. Three simple concepts, embodying the yearning for security, emotional safety, respect and love. But the very first day turns out differently for each of the protagonists. Marcel's girlfriend has planned the day down to the last minute and organized all the necessary bureaucracy, while Imo invests his discharge grant in drugs and beer. Finding a job proves difficult – one rejection after another, now and again an unpaid work placement.

After a while all three young men find a girlfriend. Life settles down a bit, and starting a family seems the obvious thing to do next. Each of the three has a daughter. They are caring fathers, selling drugs and renovating their homes in their attempts to look after their children and satisfy the welfare office's requirements. Now, though, problems can no longer be solved simply by socking your opponent in the face. How do you fight a court that says you're incapable of looking after your own child? What happens when you end up back in jail – this time as a dad?

What does life in our society ask of each of us? What do we need in order to live an autonomous, successful life? Is release day a chance to start afresh, or do you stay a jailbird forever, unable to cope with the challenges of everyday life?

Director's statement

Being in a youth prison means years of heavy disciplinary sanctions and a life full of hard macho man behavior. That was my first impression during my work as a youth worker at the prison in Wriezen, Germany. I was surprised again and again by the face-to-face open behavior that these young persons showed me, their honest interest in their fellow man and the potential which was inside of all of them.

Or was it all just fake?

I wanted to see many chances in each and every person for a new and better life after prison, while I always had the question in mind, why do so many prisoners slide back into crime after being released?

Following the statistics, 8 out of 10 teenagers will commit a crime again. But why? Because that question did not leave me in peace, I began to ask the young people about it. On the one hand, all of these young people had huge expectations and beautiful, sometimes very bourgeois, images of their future life after prison. But on the other hand, all of them had been afraid of what comes after. They are agonized by banal insecurity. How will their families react at the reunion?

While they do have self-doubts about missing the opportunity of a better life after their release, they fear going down again. This is also the fear of explaining to people the gap in their CV, the fear of meeting old friends and committing crimes perhaps again.

Three delinquent young people are released into reality. They try to embrace the challenges given to them in their own ways. What seems to be the same is the society and the system which surrounds them and tries to give them a shot at getting back into the real world. But often this world is not really their world at all.

During the process of the film, doubts arise about whether the national measures for resocialisation into society will be successful with our three protagonists, or not.

Daniel Abma, Director. Born 1978 in the Netherlands. He previously studied Primary school education and worked as a youth worker in Berlin and Brandenburg. Since 2008, he has been studying film directing at the University of Film and Television "Konrad Wolf" in Potsdam- Babelsberg, Germany, with focus on documentaries.

Film history (excerpt):

2012 Trajectories, doc., 29 min, HFF Potsdam
 2011 Gabriella and the golden boys, doc., 45 min, HFF Potsdam
 2011 Hannes –about papas and power rangers, doc., 28 min, HFF Potsdam
 2010 officially unofficially doc., 11 min, HFF Potsdam & RBB
 2010 Lothar Erdmann, doc., 13 min, HFF Potsdam



Johannes Praus, DoP. Born 1983 and raised in Dresden, he is living and studying in Potsdam. Since 2003 he worked for several projects in camera and photography. In 2008 he began to study Cinematography at the University of film and television "Konrad Wolf" in Potsdam-Babelsberg.

Film history (excerpt):

2012, MMT – Die Toten Hosen, doc., D: Olaf Held, Almost Famous Filmproduktion
 2011, Schlicht und Ergreifend, fict., 28 min, D: Karl Hagen Stötzer, HFF Potsdam
 2011, Swan, fic., 20 min, D: Henrike Naumann, HFF Potsdam
 2010, Roadcrew, doc., 86 min, D: Olaf Held, HFF Potsdam
 2010, Opfer, fict., 21 min, D: Johannes Leistner, HFF Potsdam



Anja Läufer, DoP. Born 1985 in Freiburg. Before beginning her studies she worked as 1st and 2nd camera assistant on several film projects. Since 2008 she is studying Cinematography at the University of film and television „Konrad Wolf“ in Potsdam-Babelsberg.

Film history (excerpt):

2012 Hailalarm am Müggelsee, 2nd Unit Kamera und 2. Kamera, fict., 90min, R: Leander Haußmann, X Filme Creative Pool
 2012 alte Äste, doc., 10 min, D: Paula Cvjetkovic, HFF Potsdam
 2011 Aleya-Little Miss Neukölln, doc., 15 min, D: Stepan Altrichter, HFF Potsdam
 2011 Mama und Papa, fict., 18min, D: Bernadette Knoller, HFF Potsdam
 2010 Mein Mallorca, doc., 15 min, D: Bernadette Knoller, HFF Potsdam



Jana Dugnus, Editor. Born 1981 in Erfurt. After a one year stay in Israel she finished her studies as a Diplom-Ingineer for audio-visual media. Then she worked in the media-literacy sector before she startet her Editing studies at the University of film an television "Konrad Wolf" in Potsdam-Babelsberg.

Film history (excerpt):

2011 Gabriella and the golden boys, doc., 45 min, D: Daniel Abma, HFF Potsdam
 2010 Mama und Papa, fict., 20 min, D: Bernadette Knoller, HFF Potsdam
 2009 Lothar Erdmann, Doc., 13 min, D: Daniel Abma, HFF Potsdam
 2007 Klappe 150, doc., 20 min, D: Julia Willmann, Jugendhilfswerk Freiburg
 2006 Dido und Aeneas,, doc, 72 min, D: Moritz Bergfeld u.a., Woodhouse Production



Festivals (as on 31. August 2013):

- Oct. 2012, **DOK Leipzig** International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, German Competition
- Nov. 2012, **IDFA** International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, Student Competition
- Jan. 2013, **DocPoint Helsinki** Documentary Festival, Finland
- Mar. 2013, **One World** Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Prague, Czech Republic
- Mar. 2013, **Bergamo Filmmeeting**, Italy
- Mar. 2013, **Thessaloniki** Documentary Festival, Greece
- Mar. 2013, **Docudays UA** International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, Kiev, Ukraine
- Apr. 2013, **Achtung Berlin** new berlin film award, Documentary Competition
- Apr. 2013, **SEHSÜCHTE 42.** International Studentfilmfestival, Documentary Competition
- Mai. 2013, **Filmkunstfest Schwerin**, Germany, Documentary Competition
- Mai. 2013, **Neissefilmfestival**, Grosshenningsdorf, Germany
- Mai. 2013, **DOK.fest München**, Germany
- Mai. 2013, **Human Rights Filmfestival Barcelona**, Spain
- Mai. 2013, **One World Human Rights Filmfestival Brussels**, Belgium
- Juli. 2013, **Lubuskie Lato Filmowe Lagów**, Documentary Competition, Poland
- Aug. 2013, **Favourites Film Festival**, Berlin, Germany
- Aug. 2013, **Incredible Filmfestival**, Potsdam, Germany
- Sep. 2013, **IHRFFA | International Human Rights Festival Albania**, Tirana, Albania
- Oct. 2013, **Antenna International Documentary Festival**, Sidney, Australia
- Oct. 2013, **Nürnberger Filmfestival der Menschenrechte**, Nürnberg, Germany

Awards (as on 31. August 2013):

- **Best feature-length Documentary**, Sehsüchte Filmfestival 2013 Potsdam, Germany
- **Best Editing**, Sehsüchte Filmfestival 2013 Potsdam, Germany
- **Audience Award best documentary**, Docudays UA in Kiev 2013 - Human Rights Filmfestival
- **Special mention** ecumenical jury - Achtung Berlin Filmfestival 2013
- **Nomination "best student documentary"** 2012 IDFA International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

Credits:

Director Daniel Abma

Editor Jana Dugnus

Sound Supervisor Kay Riedel

Production manager Catharina Jentzsch

DoP Johannes Praus, Anja Läufer

Music Henning Fuchs

Re-recording Mixer Christoph Walter

Line producer Holger Lochau

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