

BEYOND THE SNOWSTORM

A FILM BY LEVIN PETER

FILMAKADEMIE
BADEN WÜRTTEMBERG



Deckert Distribution



SYNOPSIS

«The earth has a memory», it is once said in this film. It embraces the dead, and with them their memories. Digging for these memories can reveal another life. Not as a document, but as fertile ground for feelings and thoughts. Director Levin Peter spends a lot of time in intense conversations with his grandfather who used to be stationed in the Ukraine as a soldier of the Wehrmacht. Levin travels there, looking to trace and excavate what he has heard. What he has heard are the kind of tales that can haunt you in old age. Returning to the same places today, old pictures become exposed spectres. What follows is an attempt to uncover, to imagine and to endure biographical anomalies. At the end of this process, both will have an altered view of the fissures and flaws of a human life. A film about the search for those spectres that we call memories.

„Beyond the Snowstorm“ shows how those memories of our grandparents, seldom or never talked about, can still influence the lives of others today, especially their grandchildren. A film about the difficult balance between the unconditional search for truth and the fragile bonds between us as human beings.



«Levin Peter talks emphatically to surviving witnesses of the war, bringing back memories of the horror which he is able to turn into haunting cinematic images. ... An impressive film about the rewarding art of listening patiently.»

Knut Elstermann - Berliner Zeitung

«Emotional scenes on an excursion into oblivion.»

Hilke Lorenz - Stuttgarter Zeitung

«The discovery of a photo album from the war year 1943 leads the director to attempt a dialogue with the original photographer – his own grandfather - who quietly looks out through the window. Occasional hushed cries escape him. For a while we don't know if he will answer his grandson's questions at all. "Beyond the Snowstorm" patiently tells the story of the painful recollections of a former Wehrmacht soldier, and lets us accompany the director to the place of frozen moments: Mariupol in the Ukraine. A disturbing film about the difficult dealings with our "brown past", about the attempt to unveil a long hidden secret, about concealment and guilt, seventy years after the end of the war.»

Statement of the Jury - First Steps Award



DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY

It was in my grandfather's cupboard that I discovered a photo album from 1943, an album I had never seen before. With each page it led me deeper into the war and into the Ukraine. The last photos showed people in the snow-clad steppe near the Eastern Ukrainian city of Mariupol. Silhouettes in front of a white wall. It was these mysterious and incomprehensible pictures that made me do this film. I took my grandfather's photographs to Mariupol. And when I returned to his room, I returned with stories. It was not until much later that I realized why I wanted all of this: I wanted to be close to my grandfather again. In his room, we could spend time together, shielded as if in a capsule. Before we could talk about the Ukraine, we needed to find a common language first. The film is about this journey. I was less interested in what he remembered but rather in what way he was still travelling in his mind through the Ukraine. Not along a chronological path. Without a now and then. Without order. Led by faces, colours, sounds and images. That is where my grandfather took me.



LEVIN PETER - AUTHOR & DIRECTOR



Levin Peter was born in 1985 in Jena, Germany. His first documentary "Prestes Maia" (in co-production with ZDF/ARTE), about the largest occupied building in Latin America, was shot in 2007 in São Paulo. In September 2008, he started to study documentary filmmaking at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. His feature-length documentary "Beyond the Snowstorm" won the First Steps Award for „Best Documentary“. His works have been shown and awarded at various international film festivals. Since 2014, Levin Peter works as a director based in Vienna. Together with Elsa Kremser he recently started his own production company, RAUMZEITFILM.

FOR WHOM I MIGHT DIE (Short Fiction / 20 minutes / 2016)

Festival: Diagonale - Festival of Austrian Film

HEIMSUCHUNG (Installation / 25 minutes / 2015)

Festival: Cresc. Biennale für Moderne Musik, Frankfurt am Main

A PROMISE (Documentary / 70 minutes / 2012)

Festivals: Visions du Réel Nyon ‚International Competition‘, Vilnius Documentary Film Festival, Istanbul Documentary Film Festival, Achtung Berlin, Alanya Film Days

SONOR (Documentary / 37 minutes / 2010)

Festivals: ‚Honorary Mention‘ Visions du Réel International Competition, Festival dei Popoli, Hofer Filmtage, Kasseler Dokumentarfilmfest, ‚Best Academic Award‘ FEST Portugal, ‚Best Director‘ BosiFest Belgrad, Gold Panda Award Szechuan ‚Nominated‘, ForumDoc Belo Horizonte, Hamburg International Short Film Festival

NACHTWALD (Installation / 11 minutes / 2009)

Festival: ExGround Filmfestival Wiesbaden

PRESTES MAIA (Documentary / 52 minutes / 2008)

Festivals: Nominated for the German Human Rights Film Award, MDR Young Film Award ‚Best Documentary‘, Rio Int. Film Festival, Thessaloniki Int. Film Festival, FIPA Biarritz, Nominated at MiradasDoc, Nominated at ‚World Against Torture Award‘ IFF Geneve

SARAH SCHMIDT - PRODUCER



Born 1982 in Hamburg. She started out as a runner at various film productions and trained as clerk for audiovisual media at the ProSiebenSat1 Media AG, later as an assistant for Sat1. In 2009, she started to study producing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. In 2015, she founded HolySchmidt Film Company and worked at Studiocanal Berlin in the co-production and acquisition department. Sarah now works as freelance producer, consultant and lecturer in Berlin.

BOULEVARD'S END (Documentary / 15 minutes / Producer / 2014 / Director: Nora Fingscheidt)

Festivals: New Directors / New Films MOMA, Melbourne IFF, Hofer Filmtage, Kassel Documentary Festival, Pärnu IFF, Sehsüchte FF, EMAF, Ljubljana Short FF, Worldfest Houston 'Gold Remi Award', NW Short FF Kanada 'Best Documentary', Cluj Int. Short FF 'Jury Award', Moscow Jewish FF 'A Short Story Award'

DEAR BROTHER (Fiction / 46 minutes / Producer / 2013 / Director: Nora Fingscheidt)

Festivals: Max-Ophüls-Prize Saarbrücken, Husumer Filmtage, Filmschau Baden-Württemberg

SYNKOPE (Short Fiction / 25 minutes / Producer / 2010 / Director: Nora Fingscheidt)

Festivals: Nominated for the German Short Film Award, 'Honorary Mention' at Filmfest Dresden, Max Ophüls Prize Saarbrücken, Sehsüchte IFF, Hamburg International Short Film Festival, Wendland Shorts, Shorts at Moonlight Frankfurt a.M., Filmfest Eberswalde, Interfilm Berlin, Bamberger Kurzfilmtage, Oldenburger Kurzfilmtage

YUNUS ROY IMER - CINEMATOGRAPHY



Born in 1987 in Zurich, Switzerland. From 2007 to 2008, he read at the Zurich University of the Arts, major subjects in film and photography. After that he studied cinematography at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. Since 2011 he works as a freelance DOP, mainly in fiction films and documentaries, but has begun working in commercials as well.

NSU PROZESS, DAS PROTOKOLL DES ZWEITEN JAHRES (TV Feature / 90 minutes / B-Camera / 2015 / Director: Soleen Yusef)

FLO (Documentary / 90 minutes / 2015 / Director: Julian Vogel)

A PROMISE (Documentary / 70 minutes / 2012 / Director: Levin Peter)

SYNKOPE (Short Fiction / 25 minutes / 2010 / Director: Nora Fingscheidt)

SONOR (Documentary / 37 minutes / 2010 / Director: Levin Peter)

STEPHAN BECHINGER - EDITOR



Stephan was born in Hof and studied Indology at first. In 2007 he was a student at the European Film College in Denmark, which led him to study editing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg the following year. During his studies he spent a year abroad in Israel where he worked as a volunteer at Cinema Jenin and studied at the Sam Spiegel & Film Television School in Jerusalem. In 2014, he was nominated for the the Filmplus Avid Advancement Award for the BEST EDITING on the film „Boulevard's End“. In 2015 he graduated with „Beyond the Snowstorm“ and is now working as a freelance editor. Stephan lives in Berlin.

BOULEVARD'S END (Documentary / 15 minutes / 2014 / Director: Nora Fingscheidt)

SCHWARZER ZUCKER (Fiction / 45 minutes / 2014 / Director: Kristin Franke)

DEAR BROTHER (Fiction / 46 minutes / 2013 / Director: Nora Fingscheidt)

A PROMISE (Documentary / 70 minutes / 2012 / Director: Levin Peter)

SYNKOPE (Short Fiction / 25 minutes / 2010 / Director: Nora Fingscheidt)



First Steps Award for „Best Documentary“

Max Ophüls Prize „Documentary Competition“

66th Berlin International Film Festival „Guest of German Perspective “



BEYOND THE SNOWSTORM

Documentary / 92 minutes / HD / 16:9 / Dolby 5.1

Produced in Germany

Shot in Germany and in the Ukraine.

Original Language: German, Russian, Ukrainian

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