

THE WALK

LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY PRESENTS A NORTHERN FILM SCHOOL PRODUCTION "THE WALK"
CINEMATOGRAPHY & EDITED MICHAEL JUNG MUSIC WILF KIMBER SOUND DESIGN CHRISTIAN STEUER STORY WERNER WEISCHEDEL
COLOR GRADER MIKE BAILEY & MICHAEL JUNG POSTER DESIGN IZABELA SIKORSKA SUBTITLES DAN WELDON PRODUCED & DIRECTED MICHAEL JUNG
THANKS WERNER & ANNE WEISCHEDEL JENNY THE HORSE II & S LEMBER EVE MACHIN YASH SUDA NICOLAE GUTU OLIVIA BRAND
INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF FRANKFURT AM MAIN AND ALIX FALKNER

Press & Media Pack

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THE WALK

Northern Film School, Leeds (UK) 2020

Primary Contact:
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The destruction of German cities during WW II is one of the least examined silences of our time. W.G. Sebald* examines the devastation of German cities by Allied bombardment and the reasons for the astonishing absence of this unprecedented trauma from German history and culture. Werner is part of this central German crisis. This film is a study of the suffering and an example how to overcome war and move on.

*On the Natural History of Destruction (2004)



Copyright: Michael Jung

It's early morning in the Frankfurt suburb of Fechenheim - the first tram is running, rush hour traffic a distant hum. A white horse appears, ambling towards the tram tracks.

The tram stops and the driver gets out, talks affectionately to the horse, which ambles away slowly, the driver remounts and the tram - and rush hour - carries on.

Jenny, the horse has been going out for a walk on her own every day for the last 15 years. And in the evenings she returns home to her stable on her own. Her independence has made her famous all over the world.



Copyright: Michael Jung

But what of Werner, the 80 years old horse's owner? At the end of the Second World War he was 4 years of age when being buried alive after a huge bombing raid by the Allies.

This is not only a film about trauma, autonomy and freedom, but it is also a father and son story in which Werner reveals how his father wouldn't let him follow his dreams and ambitions.



Cathedral, Schwarzer Stern, photography: Max Göllner,
courtesy of the Institute for the History of Frankfurt am Main

In the same way as the white horse is a symbol of freedom, Werner's life and the way he lives may be a way to look at post-war Germany, not just the rebirth of industry, but the coming to terms (Vergangenheitsbewältigung) with the suffering that W.G. Sebald said was the real hidden secret of post-war Germans.



Bendergasse, photography: Max Göllner,
courtesy of the Institute for the History of Frankfurt am Main

After four days I survived. They dug us out and they put me into an orphanage.
Yes, the second day I was gone. And no matter where they locked me up they always found me
sitting on the rubble of my old house where we had lived. I would sit down and think... somebody
will find me here. I didn't know that my mother, brother and sister had died.

Director's Statement

During our first meeting my tutor at the Northern Film School commented on my being a scientist: "we will get rid of it". In a way he is right, but at the same time he is also wrong. On the one hand documentary filmmaking, like any filmmaking, needs research, deep research to unveil the hidden. However, on the other hand making an engaging, emotional and exciting film needs more than just following a logical or straight forward approach. I find filmmaking as challenging as mathematical principles in science. I love the one as much as the other.

About the Film

In April 2019 Michael's friend Alix from Vancouver asked him about an Arabian mare which walks the streets of Frankfurt on its own. At first Michael thought this must be fake news, but it wasn't! A quick search showed that horse and story were real, just 20 minutes by car away from Michael's home in Frankfurt, Germany.

Alix put Michael's thoughts in the right direction just in a moment when he had to give up on his first idea for a final Master film project at the Northern Film School.

Bio of Contributors

Werner Weischedel (cast interview subject)

Born in the city center of Frankfurt on June 1st 1940, Werner survived the Second World War. He lives in Fechenheim which is a district east of Frankfurt / Main - not far from the international airport. Werner is a literal Phoenix from the flames and ruins of the Second World War. He is an animal lover, a conservation commissioner and a folk storyteller.

Jenny, the horse

Jenny is a 25 year old Arabian mare walking on her own in Frankfurt, every day.

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A production of the Northern Film School
Leeds Beckett University
Leeds, United Kingdom
&
Michael Jung, Germany



Info Sheet

THE WALK

Northern Film School, Leeds (UK) 2020
Documentary Filmmaking
Master Program 2018-2020
Leeds Beckett University

Primary Contact:
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1. Festival Screening

54th Hof International Film Festival
2020 October 20 - 25
German Premiere

2. Primary Contacts

MICHAEL JUNG Director, Producer	E: jung@docjung.de T: +49 173 6435483
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BRIAN MACHIN Tutor	E: B.A.Machin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk T: +44 7754806269

3. Filmography

"The Walk" is Michael Jung's first film.

4. Technical Specifications

Running time:	12:13 minutes
Aspect ratio:	1920 x 1280
Format:	H.264, ProRes 422HQ, 25fps
Audio:	Stereo 48 Khz
Formats available:	Low, High, Master Export HQ or DCP
Shot on:	Sony a6000, iPhone XS, Pixel 3A
Time Lapse:	Lightroom & LRTimelapse with Sony a6000 raw files
Edited with:	FCPX

5. Film Links

Short Film "The Walk"

duration:	12:13 min
Standard:	English Subtitles, German Voice Over
Subtitles:	English, German, French and Arabic (available for DCP)
Link:	https://vimeo.com/413658102
Password:	Jenny25

Trailer "The Walk" <https://vimeo.com/417616964>

6. Social Media Links

Website:	https://www.walkwithjenny.de/
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/walkwithjenny/
Sound Track:	composed and performed by Wilf Kimber https://soundcloud.com/user-366230970/sets/the-walk-ost

7. Synopses

1-line synopsis

Werner survived WWII buried in the rubble as a child, but overcame his trauma with the help of a horse.

2-lines synopsis

Werner survived WWII buried in the rubble as a child, but found a way to manage the traumatic experience with the help of a horse. The horse seems to be more than an animal.

3-lines synopsis

Werner survived WWII buried alive in the rubble as a child. In an unconventional manner, Werner's Arabian mare Jenny guides the viewer through the story of his life. The horse seems to be more than an animal, but helps Werner to overcome his traumatic experience.

Small Paragraph

Werner survived World War II buried in the rubble as a child, but he found a way to manage the traumatic experience with the help of a horse. In the same way as the white horse is a symbol of freedom, Werner's life and the way he lives it may be a way to look at post-war Germany, not just the rebirth of industry, but the coming to terms with the suffering that W.G. Sebald said was the real hidden secret of post-war Germans.

Full description

It's early morning in the Frankfurt suburb of Fechenheim - the first tram is running, rush hour traffic a distant hum. A white horse appears, ambling towards the tram tracks. What of Werner, the 80 years old horse's owner? At the end of the Second World War he was 4 years of age when being buried alive in the heart of Frankfurt after a huge bombing raid by the Allies. Werner found a way to manage the traumatic experience with the help of a horse. This is not only a film about trauma, autonomy and freedom, but it is also a father and son story in which Werner reveals how his father wouldn't let him follow his

dreams and ambitions. Werner's life may be a way to look at post-war Germany, not just the rebirth of industry, but the coming to terms with the suffering that W.G. Sebald said was the real hidden secret of post war Germans.

In German (Logline)

Mit der Hilfe eines Pferdes hat Werner den Schmerz der Bombardierung Frankfurts überwunden.

In German (Small Paragraph)

Als Vierjähriger wurde Werner im 2. Weltkrieg in Frankfurt verschüttet. Doch mit der Hilfe eines Pferdes hat er den Schmerz des Krieges und der Bombardierung überwunden. So wie das weiße Pferd ein Symbol für Frieden und Weisheit ist, so ist Werners Weg eine Reflektion des Lebens im Nachkriegsdeutschland, welches nicht nur als Wiedergeburt der Industrie zu betrachten ist, sondern als Phase der Auseinandersetzung mit dem Trauma des Krieges, nach W.G. Sebald das eigentliche, verborgene Geheimnis der Deutschen.

8. Bio of Crew Members and Contributors



WERNER WEISCHEDEL (cast interview subject)

Born in the city center of Frankfurt on June 1st 1940, Werner survived the Second World War. He lives in Fechenheim which is a district east of Frankfurt / Main - not far from the international airport. Werner is a literal Phoenix from the flames and ruins of the Second World War. He is an animal lover, a conservation commissioner and a folk storyteller.



JENNY, the horse

Jenny is a 25 year old Arabian mare walking on her own in Frankfurt, every day.



MICHAEL JUNG

Director/Producer/Editor/Cinematographer

After having lived in Germany, China and Canada Michael moved to Leeds, UK to obtain a degree in Documentary Filmmaking. His first career in science took off setting up a DNA testing laboratory in 1998, two years before he received a PhD in physical chemistry from the Justus Liebig University of Giessen, Germany.



WILF KIMBER

Composer

Wilf is an undergraduate student of Music at the Leeds College of Music, specifically studying film music. Wilf composed and performed the music based on an old German nursery tune which director suggested for the music. Wilf has always had a passion for many genres of music which is why he enjoys composing for film so much. Playing in numerous orchestras and bands has only strengthened this passion.



CHRISTIAN STEUER

Sound Designer

During his Audio Production studies in Cologne, Germany, Christian recorded and mixed all kinds of Music. He then decided to go into film sound and moved to Leeds, UK, to do his master's degree in Sound Design for Film at Leeds Beckett University. Since, he worked on award winning short films, Feature films and adverts, telling a story with sound.

9. About the Film

In April 2019 Michael's friend Alix from Vancouver asked him about an Arabian mare which walks the streets of Frankfurt on its own. At first Michael thought this must be fake news, but it wasn't! A quick search showed that horse and story were real, just 20 minutes by car away from Michael's home in Frankfurt, Germany. The next day, Michael managed to meet Werner. Alix put Michael's thoughts in the right direction just in a moment when he had to give up on his first idea for a final Master film project at the Northern Film School.

10. Credits

Produced & Directed:	Michael Jung
Music:	Wilf Kimber
Sound Design:	Christian Steuer
Color Grade:	Mike Bailey, Michael Jung
Poster Design:	Izabela Sikorska, Michael Jung
Subtitles:	Dan Weldon, Michael Jung, Néava Béreau-Baumann
Thanks:	Alix Falkiner, Werner & Anne Weischedel, Jenny the horse, H & S. Lember, Eve Machin, Stephanie Karg, Yash Suda, Nicolae Gutu, Olivia Brand, Institut für Stadtgeschichte Frankfurt am Main
Archive References:	S12 F Nr 21 – Max Göllner S12 F Nr 26 – author unknown S12 F Nr 30 – author unknown

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