

Silver Hair Still Rocks

Duration: 96 minutes

Country: Germany

Language: English, German

Screening formats: ProRes 422 HD, 1920x1080, stereo and 5.1, DCP with 5.1 surround

English version with English subtitles with German language

English version with German subtitles or English subtitles with German language

Festival Screenings/Awards:

- Best Director, Documentary Film/European Section, at the 2022 Cinemaking International Film Festival, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Best Director, International Documentary Film at the 8th Rajasthan International Film Festival 2022, Jaipur, India.
- Finalist in Documentary Film Competition at the 56th Hof International Film Festival, Hof, Germany.
- Best Documentary Award at the Global Taj International Film Festival 2022, Agra, India.

Short English synopsis

In the 70s, freethinkers, artists and dropouts from the commercialized world discovered the idyllic beaches of Goa. These 'hippie freaks' spent every winter there, like-minded in the love of Goa. In 'Silver Hair Still Rocks', shot on original locations in India, long-time friends and contemporary witnesses including Goan locals trace a world of awakening, a world full of freedom, lust and spirituality. Especially by the pandemic now Goa has fundamentally changed. But the remaining 'hippie freaks' still party and dance. Embedded in atmospheric pictures their memories revive the magic of Goa.

English Synopsis

In the early 70s, a handful of people discovered the idyllic beaches of Goa. They were dropouts from the commercialized world who proudly called themselves "hippie freaks" and still spend every winter there.

In the film, shot on original locations in Goa, long-time friends and contemporary witnesses trace a world of awakening, a world full of freedom, lust and spirituality. Everyday life in their Goa paradise was marked not only by deprivation, but also by a certain insanity. How did they live without electricity, without running water, without law

and order? Many could not cope with the new freedom in Goa, took hard drugs, went to prison or died. Those who survived these times often devoted themselves to imaginative and artistic tasks; many are to this day working as musicians, filmmakers, actors or designers.

Locals, on the other hand, tell things from their point of view, sometimes giving bizarre insights into the hippies' wild life which had so very little to do with their own but which they nevertheless accepted in a friendly way. In the meantime, especially since the beginning of the pandemic, the scene has changed fundamentally and the circle of friends of the legendary 'hippie freaks' is, also due to age, becoming smaller and smaller. But that doesn't stop them to continue dancing. Their memories embedded in atmospheric pictures make the magic of Goa still tangible and alive.

Performers:

James Albuquerque:

Hotelier, built beach huts for the hippies at the time †

Tony Almeida:

Owner of the legendary hippie hangout Jo Banana.

Marie Börsch:

Singer, filmmaker

Marianne Borgo:

Actress

Vinaya Chaitanya:

Former ashram director, writer

David Christman:

Chicago DJ

Judy Mariposa Freeman, Don Freeman:

Founded the world-famous Tjapukai Dance Theatre in Australia

Mariketty Grana:

Owner of the legendary tavern Thalassa

Jesse Haimés:

Has been to Woodstock, lived in Italy for a long time and now consistently in Goa, artist, antique dealer

Ramesh Kamblí:

Restaurant owner, was a bartender at the legendary parties of the hippies as a teenager, †

Christian P. Marwitz:

DJ PingPong

Franco Musicco:

Jewelry designer

John Ryder:

Was expelled from the country after skinny-dipping, but that didn't stop him from coming back every year

Zeev Sorokin:

DJ Zoo-B

Fabienne Tarbouriech:

Was chef at legendary restaurant La Plage

Martin Wissink:

Came to Goa at 19 and has remained a hippie, antique dealer

Zara Wissink:

Spent many winters as a child with her father Martin in Goa and went to school there part time

Crew:

Directors/Producers: Matthias Lukoschek, Andrea Rütthlein

Writer: Andrea Rütthlein

Editing: Jürgen Antosch

Camera: Matthias Lukoschek

Composers:

Arjuna & Aztec Dosage "Awaker" (Parvati records)

Arjuna "The 23rd Inhabitant" (Parvati records)

Arjuna & Atriohm "The Drunken Orchestra" (Parvati Records)

Sitarsonic "The sound energie (often the universe)", Chillin' Around II, Tomorrow never comes

Dume Otisto 23 "123 GOA Free" for Arambol Experience Vol 1

Dume Otisto 23 "Doesn't really matter" for Arambol Experience Vol 2

PingPong "Who's Free", BIM BAM Project

Marie Börsch "Ashes on the Ganges", Lyrics Diane Bertrand/Marie Börsch, for Arambol Experience Vol 2

"Talking to the dolphins", Lyrics Diane Bertrand/Marie Börsch, for Arambol Experience Vol 1

Music: Intervox

Mixing: Rainer Lux

Colorist: Jürgen Pertack

Narration: Carin C. Tietze



Andrea Rütthlein

Director's note:

If there is one place in the world where I immediately feel at home, it is Goa. It was like that 20 years ago and it still is today. It must be this mood that the hippie freaks brought with them back in the 70s. That relaxed atmosphere between alternative and casual chic, that wild psytrance scene (psytrance borrows from the psychedelic music of the 60s), those clouds of smoke from the chillums...That's how our protagonist Mariketty must have felt when she first went to one of the legendary Goa parties. I was only five years old when the pictures of „Woodstock“ went through the world. At that time, the legendary festival meant nothing to me at first. My two sisters, a few years older than me, had long since been wearing bell-bottoms and floppy hats when I started school. But then, I was fourteen, I secretly went to the cinema where „Woodstock" was shown. An initiation! Later in Goa, everyone was dancing, young and old. That was wonderful and so we came back every year during the winter break from filmmaking. A place of longing, not only for the hippie freaks....

A few years ago, a friend and owner of a French restaurant in our village Vagator introduced us to one of the original hippies from back then. Dressed normally, no long hair, no cliché. What made him back then to take the long way from his distant country, in this case France? Hard to believe, the adventurousness of these people who traveled in buses or minivans through the rough terrain of Europe via Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan to India. As a well-traveled documentary filmmaker, I wanted to know more: The idea for our film about the last of their kind was born.



Matthias Lukoschek

Director's note

The sympathy for the hippies and their lifestyle is certainly due to my own development. Dirty school career, umpteen schools until finally graduating from high school. Then suddenly successfully completed university studies. A roller coaster not only of emotions. What I always and still today reject is the work 9 to 5. There the hippies and I already have the first common ground. But what was I looking for? Which life? What alternatives? In 1969, the year of Woodstock, I spent the entire summer vacation in the USA with my relatives. My cousin, a few years older than me, showed me the other America, the alternative America. Not the America I got to know at the beginning of my stay. I only had jeans and sneakers with me and had to buy "decent leather shoes" and "decent cloth pants" to even be allowed into a restaurant. There must have been a lot for young people to do in America. Anyway, I came back to Germany with long hair and bell bottoms, which also got me kicked out of some schools. In any case, the experience in America made me more aware of many grievances in Germany as well. Also, I was now certainly quite open to various drug experiments. Traveling, especially to the third world, became a hobby of mine during my school years. I decided to become a cameraman, could travel the whole world and got money for it. That's how I met my wife, a filmmaker who mainly shot nature and animal documentaries. We filmed in the desert, in the jungle and in the primeval forest. Our love for the third world and nature finally brought us to Goa, India on vacation over 20 years ago. I already knew India from other shoots and was just thrilled. Here we finally met the hippies, who already formed a legendary community in the 70s, and became friends. The life stories of them were all very different, but some were similar to mine. They were so interesting that we decided to make a feature film about them, which we started in 2019 without any ifs, buts or funding because of the old age of some of the protagonists. In early 2020, the film was shot and the pandemic began. Finally, in mid-2022, the film was ready. It has certainly become a time document that cannot be repeated.

Production Details:

Silver Hair Still Rocks was shot in the winter and fall of 2019 and early 2020. The filming team, which consisted only of the producers Andrea Rütthlein and Matthias Lukoschek, then took over the tasks of:

Director of Photography, Cameraman, Camera Assistant, Sound Technician, Sound Assistant, Director, Assistant Director, Moderator. The shooting consisted mainly of finding meaningful interviews and embedding them in beautiful, typical Goa images. So the story became more and more exciting from shoot to shoot. The interviews and the pictures of Goa were mostly very spontaneous. Definitely, the decades of experience and cooperation in the film business helped us to manage this shooting as a couple and completely on our own.

In 2021, our editor Jürgen Antosch managed the very creative editing of the work, which was complicated by Covid restrictions. Other post-production work such as color correction, dubbing, finishing, etc. was handled by msf-Michael Sängler Film. The sound mixes were brilliantly handled by sound engineer Rainer Lux. The narrator's voice was provided by actress Carin C. Tietze.

The version with German subtitles was then produced in 2022.

Biography of the directors:

More than twenty years ago we - Andrea Rütthlein and Matthias Lukoschek - met and fell in love while shooting a nature and wildlife film. In the meantime we are also married. Together we have shot several nature and animal documentaries all over the world. Andrea as author and director, I as cameraman. Brazil has become especially dear to us. But also India with its chaos and disciplined disorder not only interested us, but also pleased us very much. So it made sense for us to spend at least a few weeks in Goa during the winter, when there was usually no filming to be done, and we've kept it that way to this day.

Filmography Andrea Rütthlein/Matthias Lukoschek

(Selection 2003 - 2022)

- Refuge Wilderness "Faces in the Jungle - Muriqui" BR (Brazil, 2003)
- Découverte/natur exclusiv "Dhole - the evil red dog" Arte/BR(India, 2004)
- Découverte /natur exclusiv "The alpine king returns" (Italy, 2006)
- UNIVERSUM "Jungle Dogs - Brazil's Shy Hunters" ORF/Arte/BR (Brazil, 2007)
- Découverte /natur exclusiv "Wild Sardinia" Arte/BR (Italy, 2008)
- Découverte /natur exclusiv "Life with the Jaguar" Arte/BR (Brazil, 2009)
- Découverte /natur exclusiv "Wolves at the Gran Paradiso" Arte/BR (Italy, 2010)
- Découverte/natur exclusiv "Big Five South America: The Anteater"
Arte/BR (Brazil, 2012)
- Découverte /natur exclusiv "Big Five South America: The Jaguar"

Arte/BR (Brazil, 2012)
Découverte /nature exclusiv "Expedition Mediterranean - Hunters" Arte/BR (Italy, 2013)
natur exclusiv "A year at the Kirchsee" BR (Germany, 2016)
Découverte /natur exclusiv "Wilderness at Lake Maggiore" Arte/BR (Italy, 2018)
Bayern erleben/natur exclusiv "The Fichtelgebirge - Bavaria's wild north" BR/MDR
(Germany, 2018)
Feature documentary 'Silver Hair Still Rocks' (India, 2019 - 2022)

Curriculum vitae

Andrea Rütthlein

1964 born in Holzkirchen

1983 A-levels at the grammar school Tegernsee

1983 Study of biology at the LMU Munich

1991 Three-month internship at the Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation (BR)

1991 Diploma in biology

Since 1991 Editorial work for BR

Since 1998 freelance filmmaker, director of more than 40 nature and animal documentaries for BR, ARD, ARTE, ORF

2019 - 2022 Director, screenwriter, producer of the feature documentary 'Silver Hair Still Rocks'.

Curriculum vitae

Matthias Lukoschek

1953 born in Emden

1974 university entrance qualification

1975 Munich Press Training Institute, graduation certificate

1975/76 Camera internship at WDR, Cologne

1976/78 State Technical College for Optics and Photographic Technology, Berlin,
Graduation certificate

1977/84 Camera assistant and cameraman for film,
television and advertising

1979/83 University for Television and Film, Munich

Specialization in film and television drama

graduation: directing diploma

since 1985 cameraman at Bayerischer Rundfunk, Munich
thereof

1987/89 cameraman at ARD Studio Rome

1985-2019 shot approx. 100 major documentaries

Since 2019 retired and working as freelance filmmaker

2019-2022 cinematographer, co-director and producer of the feature documentary 'Silver Hair Still Rocks'

Trailer Link:

<https://vimeo.com/671686808/c9004c025c?share=copy>

'Silver Hair Still Rocks' is featured by 'german documentaries', the international label for the promotion of German documentaries abroad:

https://german-documentaries.de/en_EN/films/silver-hair-still-rocks.21601

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