

SCHICHT / SHIFT

a film by Alex Gerbaulet

LOGLINE

SCHICHT (SHIFT) is both a reckoning and a search for traces of the past. Layer by layer the film unfolds the portrait of the filmmaker's family - brought to life by records from private archives - and embarks on a dizzying trip through the shrinking industrial city of Salzgitter, Germany.

SYNOPSIS

SCHICHT (SHIFT) unfolds the portrait of the filmmaker's family - brought to life by records from private archives - and embarks on a dizzying trip through the shrinking industrial city of Salzgitter, Germany. A city that is a cyborg with an iron skeleton and a heart beating 1000 metres deep under layers of soil and concrete.

Mining, steel factory, model city. Upon the years 33 and 45, the first post-war generation projects itself into the future. Rudolf Gerbaulet completes his apprenticeship at the Reichswerke AG (formerly known as Hermann-Göring-Werk), works in the mine and at the Volkswagen plant. His wife Doris suffers from multiple sclerosis. Her diary is an expression of her slow disappearance. They name their first daughter after a singer: Alexandra. As a rebellious punk the daughter finds her own rhythm.

Pulsating, sometimes breathless, the film follows the exposed stories. The filmed locations are attacked with archival material: propaganda, news, photos from family albums. Everything is subjected to the filmmaker's interpretation.

A film between analysis and imagination, composed of the punk of the filmmaker's youth, accompanied by the roar of the steel mill and the noise of the highway. Interrupted by the cutting silence of abandoned mines, in which from 2020 nuclear waste will be dumped. Half-life of 24,000 years. 685 generations.

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FACT SHEET

Script / Director Alex Gerbaulet

Director of Photography Alex Gerbaulet, Smina Bluth

Sound Tom Schön

Montage Philip Scheffner

Narrator Susanne Sachsse

Producer Merle Kröger

Co-Producer Uli Plank

Produced by

pong film GmbH

in Co-Production with

IMF – Institute for Media Research at the University of Arts Braunschweig

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Hessische Filmförderung

Development funded by

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Berlinale Talents DOC Station 2011

Length 28:30 min.

Format DCP (german with english subtitles), 16:9, b/w&colour, stereo

World Premiere 61st International Short Film Festival Oberhausen / German Competition 2015

International Premiere FID Marseille - International Film Festival Marseille / First Film Competition 2015

awarded with

- 1st Prize German Competition / International Short Film Festival Oberhausen 2015

- First Film Award / FID Marseille 2015

nominated with

- German Film Critics Award 2015

Contact

pong

Film GmbH

Skalitzer Str. 62

D-10997 Berlin

Tel: +49-(0)30-61076098

www.pong-berlin.de

info@pong-berlin.de

gerbaulet@pong-berlin.de