

GALERIA ALASKA PRODUCTIONS
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Out in East Berlin— Lesbians & Gays in the GDR

**A documentary by Jochen Hick &
Andreas Strohfeldt**



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Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR

TECHNICAL INFO, FUNDING & SYNOPSIS

Technical Info and Funding

Germany, 2013, 98 minutes, 16:9, HD, color & bw, stereo 5.1
German with English subtitles

The film was produced by Galeria Alaska Productions (Jochen Hick's company) and was funded by Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein and MFG Filmförderung Baden-Württemberg. Subtitling support from German Films.

Long Synopsis

Paragraph 175, which made homosexual behavior punishable by law, was abolished in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in 1968. At that time, heterosexual nuclear families constituted the center of socialist society, and homosexuality was considered a peripheral issue in the GDR. *Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR* tells the impressive-to-absurd personal histories of gay men and lesbians in the GDR, from the post WWII years until the fall of the Berlin Wall. The experiences of lesbians and gays, on the path to a self-conscious, out sexual identity shared one specific and sinister perspective: they were accompanied by the watchful eye of the Ministry of State Security (Stasi), which recorded their actions in the bedroom and in innumerable personal files. The founders of East Berlin's LGBT movement, the "Terrorlesben (Terror Lesbians)" from Prenzlauer Berg, gay Communists, and gays in church groups, all wanted to change the system and hoped for a society in which they could be more open about their sexuality. Some applied to leave the GDR for West Germany when they no longer believed that they could find equality and freedom from surveillance at home.

Through compelling interviews with lesbians and gays—from those who were activists to those who collaborated—filmmakers Jochen Hick and Andreas Strohfeldt elucidate the struggles of queer life in the GDR, in which citizens were monitored and spied upon. In addition, some East German gays and lesbians were pressured to betray the cause of homosexual emancipation. Using historical material never shown before, *Out in East Berlin* creates a fascinating, character-driven portrait of a nascent queer underground, which grew despite the strict tenets of mainstream socialist society—a society that, ironically, sought to create freedom for all of its citizens.

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR

SYNOPSIS continued

Medium Synopsis

Paragraph 175, which made homosexual behavior punishable by law, was abolished in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in 1968. At that time, homosexuality was considered a peripheral issue in the socialist GDR; the nuclear family constituted the center of socialist society. *Out in East Berlin* tells the impressive-to-absurd personal histories of gay men and lesbians in GDR, until the fall of the Berlin Wall. The experiences of lesbians and gays, on the path to an out sexual identity, share one specific and sinister perspective: they are accompanied by the watchful eye of the Ministry of State Security (Stasi), which recorded their actions in the bedroom and in innumerable personal files. A fascinating, character-driven portrait of a nascent queer movement in a socialist society.

Short Synopsis

Out in East Berlin tells the impressive-to-absurd personal histories of lesbians and gays in the German Democratic Republic (GDR). East German lesbians and gays, on the path to out sexual identity, share one specific and sinister perspective: they live under the watchful eye of the Ministry of State Security (Stasi).

For more info: www.out-in-east-berlin.de

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR
CREW CREDITS

Writers & Directors

Jochen Hick & Andreas Strohfeldt

Producer

Jochen Hick

Photography

Jochen Hick & Thomas Zahn

Editor & motion design

Thomas Keller

Original music

Matthias Köninger & Stefan Kuschner

Production manager

Hermann Hick

Production assistant

Ursula Scheid

Music consultant

Christoph Weber

Music supervisor

Michael Kramer / CPM Musikverlag

Sound assistant

Andreas Strohfeldt

Script consultant

Karin Wallenczus

Production supervisor

Christian Jentzsch

Catering

Nadja Schallenberg, Gilles Lasnet

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Film poster

Tanja van de Loo

Subtitles and translations

Joel Kirby

Sound design and re-recording mixer

Jörg Theil & Michael Kaczmarek

Thanks to:

Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung
Gedenkstätte Günter Litfin
Stiftung Brandenburgische Gedenkstätten
Deutsche Bahn (PR & Interne Kommunikation)
Promenaden Hauptbahnhof Leipzig
Lila Archiv
Spinnboden Archiv
Robert-Havemann-Gesellschaft
Landesarchiv Berlin
Evangelisches Missionshaus Leipzig
Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg
Sächsisches Staatsarchiv
Universität Leipzig
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin
Galerie cubus-m
Gedenkstätte Hohenschönhausen
Gründerzeitmuseum Berlin-Mahlsdorf
Sonntags-Club
Museum Bad Schandau
WBM Mitte
Predac Immobilien
Prenzlauer Berg Museum

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR
ARCHIVES

Archives Used:

Progress Filmverleih GmbH
defa-spektrum GmbH
HIB – Homosexuelle Interessengemeinschaft Berlin
Excerpts from "Kinder, Kader, Kommandeure" - C. Cay Wesnigk
Excerpts from "Westler"- Wieland Speck
BStU "Stasi Unterlagen-Behörde"
Schwules Museum - Jens Dobler, Karl-Heinz Steinle
Havemann Gesellschaft / Graues Archiv
OSTKREUZ Agentur der Fotografen
Ev. Missionshaus Leipzig
LÄSBISCH TV - Mahide Lein
Zentral- & Landesbibliothek Berlin
Landesarchiv Berlin
Excerpts Moscow - Andreas Strohfelddt
Excerpts Cuba - Alexander Roessner
Peter Rausch, Micha Unger, Bodo Amelang
Heiner Sylvester
Tina Krone
Harald Hauswald
Maria Pudellek
Mahide Lein
Andreas Weber
Cornelia Klauss
Siegbert Schefke
Peter Tatchell
and private archives of protagonists

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR
SELECT FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

Berlin International Film Festival, Official Selection, Panorama, 2013
Pink Apple Film Festival, Zurich, Switzerland, 2013
Rainbow Film Festival Shropshire, United Kingdom, 2013
Neisse Film Festival, Germany, 2013
Magic Mirror, Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary, 2013
MixBrasil Film Festival, Rio de Janeiro & Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2013
Llamale Film Festival, Montevideo, Uruguay, 2013
Lesbisch-schwule Filmtage, Hamburg LGBT Film Festival, Germany,
2013
Perlen Film Festival, Hannover LGBT Film Festival, Germany, 2013
Queerfilm, Bremen LGBT Film Festival, Germany, 2013
Karlsruhe LGBT Film Festival, Germany, 2013
Ljubljana LGBT Film Festival, Slovenia, 2013
St. Petersburg Side by Side Film Festival, Russia, 2013
Rostock LGBT Film Festival, Germany, 2013
*Esslingen LGBT Film Festival, Germany, 2013 (let me recheck, I think
this one did not happen)*
ExGround Film Festival, Wiesbaden, Germany, 2013
Budapest Verizo Human Rights Film Festival, Hungary, 2013
Budapest LGBT Film Festival, Hungary, 2013

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR
ABOUT THE DIRECTORS JOCHEN HICK and ANDREAS STROHFELDT

About Director Jochen Hick

Jochen Hick, was born in 1960 in Darmstadt, Germany. Between 1981 and 1987 he studied film at the University of Fine Arts of Hamburg and also in Bologna. In 1994, he founded the film production company Galeria Alaska Productions. He is a freelance writer, journalist, director and producer of film and television, based in Hamburg and Berlin, Germany. Hick's theatrical and TV productions have received more than 300 international film festival invitations, including nine films shown in the Berlin International Film Festival, several awards and numerous reviews. His films have been distributed and shown in several countries.

From 2007 until 2010 he was Commissioning Editor and Deputy Director of Programmes at TIMM television channel in Germany, where he was also Head of Factual Programming (editor-in-chief) and head of program acquisition, including legal and budgeting. Hick is also a part-time lecturer at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin, on various topics, including No/Low-Budget-Filmmaking and preparations and first steps in the professional world for filmmakers, producers and directors.

Jochen Hick's Filmography:

1988-90 *Via Appia* (feature)
1991 *Teufel Im Paradies* (docufeature)
1992 *Welcome To The Dome* (short documentary)
1995 *Menmaniacs - The Legacy Of Leather* (documentary)
1998 *Sex/Life In L.A.* (feature documentary)
1999-2000 *No One Sleeps* (feature)
2001-2003 *Talk Straight - The World Of Rural Queers* (feature documentary)
2005 *Cycles Of Porn* (feature documentary)
2005-2006 *Rainbow's End* (feature documentary and docufeature)
2006 *Hallelujah!* (short)
2006 *Germany - An Autumn's Tale* (short)
2008 *East/West - Sex & Politics* (feature documentary)
2009 *The Good American* (feature documentary)
2011 *GDR Under the Rainbow* (TV documentary)

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ABOUT THE DIRECTORS JOCHEN HICK and ANDREAS STROHFELDT

Jochen Hick's Filmography continued

2011-to the present: *Oral History Project* (production and distribution of a worldwide interview project, first module: *Oral History: Gdr*)
2013 *Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR*

About Director Andreas Strohfeldt

Born in 1962 in Eberswalde, East Germany, Strohfeldt studied at the Institute of Foreign Relations in Moscow from 1983-1988. He later moved to Saint Petersburg where he organized Queer Cinema screenings and retrospectives. He has written and directed various short films. He worked as a researcher, executive producer and translator (Russian) on documentaries and feature films with Elfi Mikesch (*Mon Paradis – The Hermitage*, 2000); Ulrike Ottinger (*12 Chairs*, Berlin International Film Festival, 2004), Kevin Sim (*The Secret Life of the Berlin Wall*, 2009) and others. Strohfeldt was the co-director with Michael Amtmann of *The Lost Sky* about German art in the St. Petersburg Hermitage (2001, TV film) and was author and co-director with Jochen Hick on *GDR under Rainbow* (2011, TV film). He worked previously as assistant director with Jochen Hick on Hick's documentary *East/West - Sex & Politics*, which was shot in Moscow, post-produced in Berlin, and premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2008.

Andreas Strohfeldt's Filmography

Mon Paradis—The Hermitage, dir. Elfi Mikesch (2000); researcher and translator
12 Chairs, dir. Ulrike Ottinger (Berlin International Film Festival, 2004); researcher and translator
East/West - Sex & Politics, dir. Jochen Hick (documentary, 2008); assistant director
The Secret Life of the Berlin Wall, dir. Kevin Sim (2009); researcher
The Lost Sky (2001, TV film), about German Art in the St. Petersburg Hermitage; co-director with Michael Amtmann
GDR under the Rainbow (2011, TV film); co- director with Jochen Hick

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR

DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS

Jochen Hick's Director's Statement

Many films have emerged about the GDR, but when we started working on this documentary back in 2007, nothing about queer life and its political implications in the former East German state had been released. A lot of situations portrayed in *Out In East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR* show parallels and similarities to our actual lives, and then some of the life stories must have needed those almost 25 years past the fall of the wall, to be ready to be told or heard. I could feel the explosiveness of some topics when they were touched upon: the workings of the Stasi, which also infiltrated the gay community is just one of them, but perhaps the most significant. I am very thankful for the courage and openness of our protagonists who revealed their personal stories and some of their secrets. I am grateful to all the participants, from those who decided to stand and fight, those who tried to leave the country, those who lived happily and who did just resign/give up, and I am endlessly curious about all of their motivations. These were some of my urgent questions. And being born and socialized in West Germany I was the last to be judgmental about anyone.

Over the past 25 years I have been directing and producing fiction films and documentaries about queer topics. This was definitely one of the most challenging ones, because of its historical depth and requirements for archival footage. It took Andreas Strohfeltdt, the Co-Director, a lot of time to find these materials—some of which have never been shown before—and it took a lot of negotiations to make them accessible to the public.

It feels a bit strange, but today (queer) sex and politics are discussed worldwide, both in democratic and totalitarian political systems. *Out In East Berlin* is political, entertaining, funny, as well as tragic, I do very much hope that this film is as relevant for American audiences, as it has been for viewers in other countries, where the film has been already presented. We hope it provides a window into queer life under communism in the GDR.

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR

DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS

Andreas Strohfeldt's Director's Statement

I was born in the GDR, but did not have the courage to reveal my homosexuality before the wall came down in 1989. Being Gay was a taboo for a long time, at least officially. My mother was a communist, and I was too. Somehow I knew: being Gay would be the wrong way to be a "good" son and "good" citizen of the country where I lived, and which I thought to be the better Germany. I was wrong about equating being gay with not being a "good" citizen, but it took some time to understand: why?

About 20 years after the wall came down I met director Jochen Hick, who asked me to support him in the making of his documentary *East/West - Sex & Politics* about the struggles of the Russian Gay movement and Moscow Gay Pride. Coming back from Moscow he asked: Why not make a film about Gays and Lesbians in the GDR? I was enthusiastic about the idea, because enough time had passed to look back and rediscover the country, which from the very beginning had been an ideological battlefield between left and right, left and left etc. A lot of nonsense had come over us, the East Germans, and I now wanted to know how people, who I had never met in my "Hidden in the Closet" youth, had lived their Gay or Lesbian lives. We met outstanding personalities, learned about lives, which in some aspects were close to mine and in others so very different. Jochen and I decided from the very beginning to make a political film, which should highlight the East German specifics and show people who were willing to fight for their rights.

Out in East Berlin does not pretend to cover the whole history of East German Gays and Lesbians. We opened one of the many possible doors to look back. I hope people will watch our movie and understand better, where we are from and where we are going. And I hope that in countries, where homosexuals, transgenders and other sexual rebels are under big pressure, people will get courage and inspiration.

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR INTERVIEWEE LIST and BIOS

Main Interviewees:

Peter Bausdorf
Bettina Dziggel
Michael Eggert
Andreas Fux
Marinka Körzendörfer
Marina Krug
Klaus Laabs
Jürgen Litfin
Gerhard Plöse
Christian Pulz
Michael Raimann
Peter Rausch
Eduard Stapel
Peter Tatchell

And Wolfgang Beyer, Lothar Dönitz, Fred Frumberg, Dieter Neuendorf, Brigitte Schütze, Bernd Stapel

Main Interviewee Bios (in order of appearance)

Peter Bausdorf:

Born in 1942 in Berlin. Professional puppeteer. Had his coming out in the 50s. He and his homosexual schoolmates would refer to themselves as "enchanted". The Berlin wall separated him from his first boyfriend, who lived in West Berlin. With Dieter he's been together for more than 50 years now. Peter has been dreaming of a "leading a perfectly normal life". With his friends he had huge parties with up to 50 guests and special travesty shows.

Jürgen Litfin:

Born in 1937 in Berlin. Brother of Günther Litfin, who was shot by GDR border police while attempting to swim thru Humboldt harbour to West Berlin on August 24, 1961. The first victim of the wall. The official newspaper NEUES DEUTSCHLAND called Günther Litfin in two defaming articles on Sept. 1 and Sept. 2, 1961 as "puppet", a criminal homosexual, who looked for victims in East Berlin. In West Berlin a memorial stone was set up for him. Jürgen Litfin fiercely denies his brother was homosexual. Not far from Humboldt harbour and the memorial stone for his brother, he runs a former observation tower as memorial site. In 2001 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, at the urging of Jürgen Litfin, published a comprehensive article about what happened in 1961 and the way it was reported.

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Marina Krug:

Born in 1960, grew up on the campus of youth university Wilhelm Pieck at Bogensee (*North-East of Berlin, close to Wandlitz, where many members of the GDR Politbüro lived*), where her father taught Marxism/Leninism. Her childhood in this "political colony" she calls "magical". At age 8 the family moves to Apolda near Erfurt (*In Turinga*), where she first encountered GDR reality. At a very early age she felt drawn much more to girls than to boys and suffered from the lack of information and possible alternatives in GDR. During her studies at Humboldt University in Berlin she met other lesbians and had her coming out. She stopped studying and worked against the threat of compulsory military service for women in GDR, in 1983 together with others founded the working group „Homosexual self-help – Lesbians in Church“ at Gethsemane parish in Berlin Prenzlauer Berg. In April 1985 she co-organized the circumvented wreath ceremony for the lesbian victims of fascism in the former concentration camp Ravensbrück. Increasingly she found herself in conflict with her family and the country they represented. In 1986 she finally left GDR and lives in West Berlin. She teaches German for grammar school students from migrant families.

Klaus Laabs:

Born in 1950 in Berlin. His father was secretary of state for national education in the 50s. As a child already Klaus was interested in politics and wanted to "get high into the act". He was haunted by constant fear that someone could guess he was homosexual. He studied diplomacy in Moscow, but was dismissed after three years, as he didn't "fit in there." He then joined the military and had to "prove" himself as a worker in the industry. In 1979 he took up studies again at Humboldt University Berlin. He had his coming out and engaged in the lesbian and gay groups that evolved in the early 80s. His goal was to discuss the gay issue inside the state party. As a result he was expelled from the party and lost his professional perspectives. He became a translator for literature and became a member of the GDR writers' association. He remained critically distant towards GDR until the end. He was under observation of state security. In October 1989 he took part in the demonstrations against the party leadership. He still today works as a literature translator, mostly from Spanish.

Christian Pulz:

Born in 1944, he grew up in Bad Elster, *Saxony*. Early on he suspects being homosexual, develops fear and a guilt complex, which marked his life for a long time. Through a friend he joins a Christian group and *is so* impressed, that he experiences a "flash-conversion." During his theology studies in Leipzig

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INTERVIEWEE LIST and BIOS Page 3

Christian Pulz continued:

he discovers gay life in public toilets *and parks*. Through an indiscretion of a fellow student his homosexuality gets known in the faculty. The open hostility of most lecturers and fellow students forces him to stop his studies. He works as a bookseller, in the late 80s in the social service. In the 80s, *together with Eduard Stapel*), he co-founds under the roof of the church working groups for the lesbian and gay emancipation in Leipzig and Berlin. During a peace camp in 1983 the group emerges under the motto „Better a warm brother than a cold warrior“. In the early 90s he was member of the Berlin state parliament for the Green Party and their spokesperson for youth issues.

Marinka Körzendörfer:

Born in 1960 in Berlin. Her mother was active in the state party. As a child already Marinka was interested in politics. She couldn't understand, why the Soviet army invaded Czechoslovakia. This is when the first questions arose. She studied journalism in Leipzig. Her coming out she only had at age 30 and then engaged in the working group "Homosexual self-help - Lesbians in Church" *at Gethsemane Church*. Together with Marina Krug and Bettina Dziggel she organized the circumvented wreath ceremony for the lesbian victims of fascism in the former concentration camp Ravensbrück. Marinka lamented that so many committed women left the GDR. For her moving West was out of the question. During the fall of the regime she worked with the civil rights activists. Now she works as librarian.

Peter Rausch:

Born in 1950 in Berlin into a communist worker's family, he grew up in one of the newly built apartments in former Stalin Allee. After his military service he studied electronics in the early 70s in Berlin. In his one-room apartment at Alexanderplatz in the very center of Berlin he founded, with Michael Eggert and others, the Homosexual Community of Interest Berlin (HIB) in 1973. Their goals: be family, education on homosexuality in GDR, publicity and education in the scene. The group shot a number of super 8 films, organized presentations and parties as well as their own cabaret. The numerous attempts for official registration and recognition by the government failed, and in 1979 they are finally forced to shut down the group. He later on engages himself in the "Sonntags-Club" and is still active for lesbian and gay issues today.

Michael Eggert:

Born in 1953 in Berlin. Co-founded with Peter Rausch the Homosexual Community of Interest Berlin (HIB) in 1973 and was one of the most active members. In the 80s he was active in church groups and later in the secular Sunday Club ("Sonntags-Club").

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Bettina Dziggel:

Born in 1960 in a village near Dresden. After her engineering studies in Halle she came to Berlin in 1981. She was active in peace groups, and in 1983/84 was one of the co-founders of "Homosexual self-help -Lesbians in Church," where she was engaged until the end of GDR. Works as educator with mentally handicapped people.

Michael Raimann:

Born in 1956 in Berlin. Coming out without complications. Apprenticeship as salesman (aborted) and photographer. Lived in Warsaw in the late 70s/early 80s. In a squat in Prenzlauer Berg he organized legendary parties and performances. In 1984 he moved to West Berlin. Is a singer under the name Marie Marlene von P.

Andreas Fux:

Born in 1964 in Berlin Lichtenberg. Trained as electrician with Deutsche Reichsbahn (GDR railway), but was really interested in photography. Fascinated by Prenzlauer Berg and its cultural scene. With his US friend Fred Frumberg, he worked at Komische Oper, a leading Berlin opera company, as an intern and Harry Kupfer's assistant. He travelled to Prague in 1985. At the border station Bad Schandau he was arrested and interrogated. He was accused of having attempted to leave GDR illegally. His passport was withdrawn. Back in Berlin, he was recruited by state security (the Stasi)—who took advantage of his difficult situation as a so-called "asaocial" (no regular work, difficult family background, no place of residence)—as unofficial staff. His mandate was to obtain information on and photos of the church working groups, and he was faced with the moral dilemma of having to spy on his friends. Andreas Fux was the first photographer of male nudes in East Berlin. Some of these photos were published still in GDR in MAGAZIN. He wasn't allowed to take up university studies and was barred from membership in professional associations. Today Andreas still lives in Prenzlauer Berg and is a renowned photographer.

Eddy Stapel:

born in 1953 in Bismark (Altmark,). Studied journalism, then theology in Leipzig. In 1982 with Christian Pulz cofounder of the working group homosexuality with the protestant student parish in Leipzig. Fought for the ordination of openly gay priests in the church, thus he was denied priesthood. From 1985 to 1990 he was appointed for working with gays at the protestant city mission in Magdeburg. He worked hard on founding working groups homosexuality in many, also small GDR cities, which made him suspicious to state security. His dossier fills more than 10 huge folders. After the wall came down he co-founded among others LSVD (lesbian and gay alliance Germany). With his brother Bernd he lives in Bismark in Saxony-Anhalt. Since 2011 he is mayor of the small town.

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Peter Tatchell

Born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1952, Peter Tatchell has been campaigning for human rights, democracy, LGBT freedom and global justice since 1967. He is a member of the queer human rights group OutRage!, and the left-wing of the Green Party. Peter is also the Green Party's spokesperson on human rights. Through the Peter Tatchell Foundation, he campaigns for human rights in Britain and internationally.

His first campaign was against the death penalty, followed by campaigns in support of Aboriginal rights and in opposition to conscription and the Australian and US war against the people of Vietnam. In 1969, on realizing that he was gay, the struggle for queer freedom became an increasing focus of his activism. After moving to London in 1971, he became a leading activist in the Gay Liberation Front (GLF); organising sit-ins at pubs that refused to serve "poofs", and protests against police harassment and the medical classification of homosexuality as an illness. He famously disrupted Prof Hans Eysenck's 1972 lecture which advocated electric shock aversion therapy to "cure" homosexuality.

The following year, in East Berlin, he was arrested and interrogated by the secret police - the Stasi - after staging the first ever gay rights protest in a communist country. Throughout much of the 1970s, and continuing today he is active in anti-imperialist solidarity campaigns. He is the author of over 3,000 published articles and six books, including *The Battle for Bermondsey* (Heretic Books), *Democratic Defence – A Non-Nuclear Alternative* (Heretic Books/GMP) and *We Don't Want To March Straight - Masculinity, Queers & The Military* (Cassell).

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CREW BIOS Page 1

Cinematography Thomas Zahn

Thomas Zahn was born in 1962 in East Berlin. From 1974-1977, he was a camera assistant at GDR television. From 1977-1981, he studied and received a diploma at the Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen (Film & TV Academy Potsdam Babelsberg). From 1981-1991 he was a cameraman for DDR Fernsehen in Bereichen Fernsehspiel, Publizistik-Kulturmagazine (GDR television for TV-play (fiction) and cultural programs. Since 1991, Zahn has been a cameraman for ORB and RBB public television. His filmography includes more than 60 TV documentaries and reportage, including:

2001 Heiner Müller - kommt Zeit kommt Tod, Feature

2003 Clown Gottes, Ballettfilm - über Waslaw Nijinsky

2004 ARD Exklusiv - Häusliche Gewalt, Reportage

2005 Das kalte Herz, Reportage

2006 Geheimnisvolle Orte - Der zoologische Garten, Feature

2007 Berlin Hansaviertel, Feature

2008 Ein Jude, der Deutschland liebte, Feature über Willy Cohn

2008 24 h Berlin- Porträt einer Stadt (Mitarbeit)

2009 Der Palast und seine Republik , Feature

2009 Das neue Museum -Nofretete kehrt heim ,Feature

2010 Leichensache Luxemburg, Feature

2010 Rebell im Frack - Wilhelm von Humboldt ,Feature

2011 DDR unterm Regenbogen, Feature

2011 Das Berliner Olympiastadion, Feature

2012 Der Rauswurf -Bärbel Bohley-Tagebuch einer Unbequemen, Feature

2012 Am Savignyplatz ,Feature

2013 Das Superhirn - die Staatsbibliothek unter den Linden ,Feature

2013 Mission Malle, Reportage

Editor Thomas Keller

Thomas Keller currently lives and works in Berlin, and edits on Final Cut Pro and Avid. Television series and films that he has edited include "Scitech – The World Tomorrow" (Science Series 2012 and 2013, 600 MIN, HD); "DDR Unterm Regenbogen" (Documentary 2011, 45 min, RBB); *The Good American*, (Documentary 2009, Galeria Alaska Productions 93 min, HDV); *Colonial Education*, (Documentary 2007/08, Goldgrund Tonfilm] 84 min, HDV); *Sonntags In Berlin*, (Documentary 2006/07, 27 min, DVCAM); and *Survive Berlin*, (Short film 2005/06, bellyfilms & FernWeh, 15 min, HDCAM). Keller has been involved in

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Editor Thomas Keller bio continued

multiple performance and multimedia projects. Until 2003, he was one of the founding members of the UK performance company Uninvited Guests, which performed in the UK, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Denmark, Slovenia and Australia. In 1999, he received his diploma in Drama, Theater, Media at Gießen University, focusing on directing, multimedia art and editing. From 1997-98, he studied at the Department of Drama, Film & Television at Bristol University. He received a one-year artistic development grant from the Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg, Germany; a Cell Culture Grant for a two month residency at Arteleku Arts Centre in San Sebastian, Spain; the Young Artists Award of the City of Ulm, Germany; and completed residencies at ZKM in Karlsruhe (Germany) and MMC in Manchester (UK).

Composer Matthias Köninger

German artist Matthias Köninger works and lives as a composer, arranger, sound designer, pianist and music therapist in Braunschweig, Germany. He has written scores and songs for TV shows, including the German "Sesame Street;" musical theatre, including "Momo;" feature films; documentaries; and acclaimed corporate and industrial films. Some of the films he scored were shown at the Berlin International Film Festival, including Jochen Hicks's documentary film *East West-Sex & Politics*. Since 2003, a lot of Köninger's music was created in collaboration with Berlin based singer, songwriter and actor Stefan Kuschner.

Composer Stefan Kuschner

Stefan Kuschner lives and works in Berlin as a singer, songwriter, composer, and actor. He was raised in Belgium, studied music at the Conservatorium Maastricht and plays and sings on various stages in Europe and in films. For many films and documentaries (including *Out in East Berlin*) Kuschner composes songs and scores with Matthias Köninger. Other films that Kuschner and Köninger have collaborated on include *18.15 h ab Ostkreuz*, and *East/West - Sex & Politics*.

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Sound Michael Kaczmarek

Michael Kaczmarek is a sound designer based in Berlin, Germany. He is also a re-recording mixer and producer. Since 2007, he has been the CEO of K13 Kinomischung, and prior to that he ran the K13 Music Studio from 1994-2007. Kaczmarek studied sound and music production at Musikhochschule Hanns Eisler, Berlin, Germany and also at Berklee College of Music, Boston, USA.

Other sound work includes:

- 2013 Journey to Jah (Documentary) (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2013 Planet USA (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2013 My Sweet Pepper Land (head of sound department) / (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2013 Lunchbox (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2013 Out in Ost-Berlin (Documentary) (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2012 Am Ende der Milchstrasse (Documentary) (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2012 On Air (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2012 Djeca - Kinder von Sarajevo (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2012 This Ain't California (Documentary) (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2011 Zimmer 205 - Traust du dich rein? (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2011 Meanwhile in Mamelodi (Documentary) (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2011 Moy papa Baryshnikov (supervising sound editor)
- 2011 Kampf der Königinnen (Documentary) (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2011 The Big Eden (Documentary) (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2011 An einem Samstag (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2011 Vaterlandsverräter (Documentary) (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2010 Hunter's Bride (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2010 Sergej in der Urne (Documentary) (sound re-recording mixer)
- 2010 Shahada (sound re-recording mixer)

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR

QUOTES

A Few Press Quotes about *Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR*:

“This could have been a dry and worthy subject, but co-directors Jochen Hick and Andreas Strohfeldt weave together these very human then-and-now stories with a sly wit and a sharp eye. *Out In East Berlin* is as much about first love, youthful idealism and unreliable memory as it is about sexual politics. After the Berlinale a warm welcome awaits at further festivals dedicated to human rights and queer themes, although television will most likely prove to be the film’s most natural platform.....*Out In East Berlin* is not targeted exclusively at LGBT audiences. Anyone with an interest in European political and social history, particularly the failed utopia of Soviet Communism, will find rich pickings here.

—Stephen Dalton, *The Hollywood Reporter*

“The GDR's lifting of the ban on homosexuality was portrayed by many as an example of its progressivism and forward-looking nature. Indeed, it took West Germany another year to follow the East's lead and decriminalize homosexual relations between consenting adults. Yet decriminalization hardly signaled a new era of freedom for gays in the GDR, as activists continued to be spied on and harassed by the Stasi, the East German secret police. The contradictions between this surface-level tolerance and state-sponsored repression are explored in the new documentary, "Out in East Berlin -- Lesbians and Gays in the DDR," a film by directors Jochen Hick and Andreas Strohfeldt.”

—James Kirchick, *Spiegel Online*

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR

HISTORY OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE GDR

Chronological Outline Of The History Of Homosexuality In The Gdr From 1871:

1871 Paragraph 175, a provision of the German Criminal Code that prohibited homosexuality, was enacted.

1920s During the Weimar Republic, even the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) had voted for the abolition of Paragraph 175. But it was not abolished.

1935 The Nazis broadened Paragraph 175 and made it stricter.

1949 After WWII, the GDR reverted to the less strict 1871 version, while West Germany kept the stricter 1935 version. However, Paragraph 175a (relating to alleged special protection of the youth) was kept in the GDR. Between 1945 and 1959 more than 3000 male adolescents and adults were convicted under Paragraph 175 and 175a, and sent to jail and prison.

1957 Through a change in criminal law, Paragraph 175 was rarely used in consensual sexual acts between adult men.

1968 Paragraph 175 was abolished in the GDR. The new Criminal Code of the GDR was established, in which Paragraphs 175 and 175a were deleted. A new Paragraph 151, which punished homosexual adults with underage boys and girls (under 18-years-old), was enacted. This was the first time that the law specifically included lesbians. The law provided for prison sentences of up to three years or a suspended sentence. People with suspended sentences were “free” unless some other conviction happened within the term of the first sentence. The age of consent for heterosexual young people was changed to 16-years-old.

For comparison, In the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) the stricter version of the law lasted until 1969, having maintained the 1935 broader versions of Paragraphs 175 and 175a enacted by the Nazis. More than 100,000 investigations were initiated in 1950-1969 in West Germany and more than 50,000 people were convicted. In West Germany Paragraph 175a was abolished on Sep 1, 1969.

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HISTORY OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE GDR Page 2

1973 Establishment of the Homosexuellen Interessengemeinschaft Berlin or HIB (Homosexual Community of Interest Berlin), inspired by the actions of Homosexuellen Aktion Westberlin (Homosexuals Action West Berlin, HAW), and the premiere of the movie *Not the Homosexual Who Is Perverse, But the Society in Which He Lives* (directed by Rosa von Praunheim). Peter Rausch and Michael Eggert were among the founders of the Homosexuellen Interessengemeinschaft Berlin (HIB).

1973 During the World Festival of Youth and Students in the summer of 1973 in Berlin, the first public protest for gay rights in a communist country happens when the only openly gay delegate of the festival, Peter Tatchell of the Gay Liberation Front London, protests openly for gay rights.

1979 Prohibition of HIB. From its foundation in 1973 until 1979, the HIB tried to get institutionalized and recognized. For a few years, from around 1976-77, while receiving "shelter/space" for their meeting at the Gruenderzeit Museum of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, they did not actively apply for a registration/institutionalisation and were still an illegal/wild reunion or group. But after Charlotte von Mahlsdorf was pressured by authorities not to provide them with a meeting space anymore, they tried again to legalise (register) their group. Their application to register was officially rejected (their case went up to the "Staatsrat"), with the explanation, that homosexuals are free to do what they want since Paragraph 175 was lifted in 1968, but that the state did not want to actively support the issue. They were told to stop their meetings.

1982 In February, a meeting of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of the Protestant Church Synod took place. As a result, the Protestant church opened for lesbians and gays in the GDR. Homosexual groups under the Church's umbrella arose, first in Berlin, then in Leipzig, and later in many other cities.

1983 The Stasi qualified the activities of the lesbian and gay groups under the umbrella of the Church as "hostile negative." The Stasi declared: "a public activity of these are effectively restricted and pushed back and largely eliminated."

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR

HISTORY OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE GDR Page 3

1984 At the Humboldt University Berlin (HUB), an interdisciplinary working group was formed with order of the magistrate of Berlin, to draft recommendations for dealing with lesbians and gays in the GDR. A year later, the first scientific symposium was held.

1986 Founding of Sunday clubs in Berlin and other non-church gay and lesbian groups, such as Rosa Linde in Leipzig. Gradually the media opened to the issue of homosexuality .

1987 The first scientific paper on the subject of homosexuality, "Homosexuality Challenge of Knowledge and Tolerance," was published as a book. Its author was the founder and director of the Forensic Institute in Berlin, Professor Rainer Werner. Because of his biologicistic approach, the book was heavily criticized—mostly by other scientists—but the first edition of 50,000 copies quickly sold out. Although the book opened the door to academic discussion of homosexuality, the lesbian and gay community did not have high regard for Professor Werner.

1988 The popular youth show "Man you!" Radio DT 64 starts to broadcast some programs on homosexuality. The editorial offices were inundated by numerous letters to the editor.

1988 By a decision of 14 to 12, the People's Chamber decided to abolish Paragraph 151. From that point in time, homosexuals and heterosexuals have had equal rights in the GDR de jure. The age of consent for homosexual and heterosexual acts was changed to 16-years-old. The Criminal Law Amendment was entered into law on May 30, 1989.

Out in East Berlin—Lesbians & Gays in the GDR

HISTORY OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE GDR Page 4

1989 After many quarrels with GDR censorship (this was done by party members established within GDR publishing houses and their chiefs in the locale and regional party administrations, Jurgen Lemke's book *INFOS Gay Men, Quite Normal Otherwise* appeared in print. On November 9, 1989, during the night of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the film *Coming Out* (directed by Heiner Carow) premiered in Berlin's Kino International Theater.

1994 Abolition of Paragraph 175 in the "joint" Federal Republic of Germany. Until then, there were—after the reunification of Germany—different offense provisions in the Eastern and Western parts of the country and a tangle of various laws. The abolition of Paragraph 175 was one of the very few instances where the final legislation originated in the GDR.