

Rick Minnich

Rhinower Str. 8
10437 Berlin, Germany
Tel.: +49-30-23271243
Mobile: +49-179-7911131
e-mail: rick@rickfilms.de
www.rickfilms.de



Biography

- 1968 Born in Pomona, California
- 1988-1990 Internship at film distributor Kino International, New York
- 1989 Semester abroad at Institute for European Studies, Vienna, extensive travels throughout Europe especially Eastern Europe
- 1990 B.A. in English literature from Columbia University, New York
Internship as camera assistant for Latvian Television in Riga
- 1991-1992 Graduate studies in the School of Film and Video at CalArts
- 1995-2001 Graduate Studies in the directing program at the Film University Babelsberg "Konrad Wolf", Germany. MFA equivalent.
- 1993-97 Free-lancer responsible for documentary trailers at Deutsche Welle TV in Berlin
- since 1997 Freelance film and translation work
- 2002 Director of the SAT.1 series "So gesehen" (German television) 30 x 3'
- 2003 Participant in the Berlinale Talent Campus
- 2013-2022 Documentary Tutor at MET Film School Berlin
- 2015-2016 Documentary Tutor, Sabah Film Academy, Malaysia (Dean in 2015)
- 2017 Documentary Filmmaker in Residence, Robert Morris University (Pittsburgh, PA)
- 2019 Founded production company Our Man in Berlin (formerly Rickfilms)
- 2021 UN Create2030 Arts Envoy

Selected Filmography

- 1993 **DELPHI 1830**, experimental film, 16mm, color, 3'
- 1994 **Next Time Everything Will Be Better** ("Beim nächsten mal wird alles besser") fiction, 16mm, color, 9'
- 1993-96 **The Book of Lenins**, documentary, 16mm, color & b/w, 24'
- 1996 **Untitled Picture** ("Bild ohne Titel"), fiction, 35mm, Dolby SR, color, 4', ARTE/HFF
- 1997 **Good Guys & Bad Guys**, doc., S16, Dolby SR, col., 73', HFF/ORB
- 2001 **Heaven on Earth**, doc., S16, Dolby SR, col., 52', HFF/Hoferichter / Jacobs GmbH
- 2005 **Homemade Hillbilly Jam**, doc. S16, col., 80', Hoferichter & Jacobs GmbH
- 2008 **Forgetting Dad**, doc., HDCam, 83', ZDF / Rickfilms / Hoferichter & Jacobs
- 2015 **The Bomb Hunters**, doc., HD, 52', RBB / Kloos & Co. / Rickfilms
- 2022 **The Strait Guys**, doc, 4K, 100', MDR / Hanfgarn + Ufer / Cinelimpuls Leipzig, Torero Film
- 2023 **We Are Here: A Group of Friends Deliver Personalized Aid to the People of Ukraine**, doc, 4K, 8', Meet the Good Ones / Our Man in Berlin
- 2024 **The Presidents' Tailor**, doc., 4K, 39', MDR / InOneMedia / Our Man in Berlin

Awards, Grants, Residencies (selection)

- 1992 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) grant
- 1995 Writer's grant, Schloss Wiepersdorf, Germany
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- 1995 Writer's grant, Schloss Wiepersdorf, Germany
- 1997 For **Good Guys & Bad Guys**: Honorable mention, DokLeipzig; Rector's Prize, HFF "Konrad Wolf"; Bronze Plaque, Columbus Int'l Film & Video Festival
For **The Book of Lenins**: Jury prize, Cinarchea Int'l Archeology Film Festival Kiel, Germany
- 2001 For **Heaven on Earth**: Babelsberg Media Prize—Best Graduation Film (doc.) in Germany
Hans W. Geissendoerfer Young Talent Award (Germany)
Bronze Plaque, Columbus Int'l Film & Video Festival (The Chris Awards) Audience Award, Williamsburg Brooklyn Film Festival
Special Prize of the European Film Schools Jury, SEE Docs in Dubrovnik
Nominated for the IDA/David L. Wolper Student Doc. Achievement Award
Nominated for the German Cinematography Award
- 2002 For **Heaven on Earth**: FIPA d'Or (1st prize), FIPA TV Festival, Biarritz, France
- 2005 For **Homemade Hillbilly Jam**: Prize of the State Film Service Rheinland-Pfalz (Germany)
- 2006 Artist residency at the Villa Aurora in Pacific Palisades, California
Development grant from the DEFA-Stiftung, Berlin
- 2008 For **Forgetting Dad**: Special Jury Award, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam IDFA
- 2009 For **Forgetting Dad**: Honorable Mention – Achtung Berlin – New Berlin Film Award
Audience Award – Ippokrates International Health Film Festival, Kos (Greece)
William Dieterle Filmpreis (Special Prize), Germany
Grand Jury Prize, GZDOC, Guangzhou (China)
- 2010 For **Forgetting Dad**: Honorable Mention – Dallas Video Fest (USA)
- 2011 For **Forgetting Dad**: Short List – German Film Award ('Lola') – Oscar equivalent
- 2017 Documentary Filmmaker in Residence, Robert Morris University (Pittsburgh, PA)
- 2021 **The Presidents' Tailor**: D-Facto Motion Works-in-Progress Prize - DOK Leipzig
- 2024 **We Are Here**: nominated for the Smiley Charity Film Awards and the Geographical Better World Video Awards
- 2024 **The Presidents' Tailor**: Best Documentary Short, Gig Harbor Film Festival (USA)
Special Jury Award (Short), Workers Unite Film Festival (USA)

Master Classes/Panels/Lectures/Workshops/Visiting Artist

- 2009 Kickstart Panel "Writing for Documentary" - Hot Docs, Toronto
- 2009 Master Class - "How to Create a Film About Family Trauma," Planete Doc Film Festival, Warsaw, Poland
- 2009 Master Class on "Forgetting Dad" - iDocs Conference, Beijing Film Academy, China
- 2009 Visiting Artist - Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri
- 2009 Participant on panel "Families - They Really F*** You Up" - True/False Film Festival, Columbia, Missouri
- 2009 Participant on Panel "Writing for Documentary" - Screen Producers Ireland, Dublin
- 2010 SOURCES 2 lecture on "Forgetting Dad" (together with co-director Matt Sweetwood) - workshop in Potsdam, Germany
- 2011 Visiting Artist in Michael Renov's documentary seminar, USC School of Cinematic Arts, and at the New York Film Academy (Los Angeles campus)
- 2012 Tutor for Doc Stories Black Sea workshop, Sibiu, Romania
- 2015 Dean of the Sabah Film Academy, Malaysia
- 2017 Led workshop "Dokumentarfilm: The Berlin Connection" at Pittsburgh Filmmakers
- 2022 Visiting Artist in Mark Jonathan Harris' documentary class at USC and at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

Film Festival Juries

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| 2009 | Documentary Jury, Interfilm Short Film Festival, Berlin |
| 2010 | Documentary Jury, Achtung Berlin/New Berlin Film Award, Germany |
| 2010 | Mid-length competition Jury, Ippokrates Health Film Festival, Kos, Greece |
| 2012 | Millenium Jury, Planete Doc Film Festival, Warsaw |
| 2015 | Sabah Pitching Forum jury, Kota Kinabalu International Film Festival, Malaysia |
| 2018 | Gdansk Documentary Film Festival, Poland |
| 2022/2023 | BYU Public Domain Film & Music Festival, USA |
| 2024/2025 | US International Awards |
| 2024 | IDA Awards - Feature Documentary Jury |