

## Rick Minnich

Rhinower Str. 8  
10437 Berlin, Germany  
Tel.: +49-30-23271243  
Mobile: +49-179-7911131  
e-mail: rick@rickfilms.de  
[www.rickfilms.de](http://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  
since 2022 Tutor at Wave Akademie für digitale Medien, Berlin  
2025 Leader of a year-long video workshop for migrants, Bunt Stiftung Bildung und integrative Arbeit gGmbH, Berlin

## 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 / CineImpuls 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  
1992 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) grant  
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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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)  
2025 **The Presidents' Tailor**: Honorable Mention – 17th Festiwal Filmowy NNW (Poland),  
Special Award – Meetings in Siberia Film Festival (Russia)  
2026 **The Presidents' Tailor**: Humanitarian Award - Doc Utah (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**

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  
2024-2026 US International Awards  
2024 IDA Awards - Feature Documentary Jury