# Rick Minnich

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[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  
since 2012 Member of the symbolog**ie**. creative network (New York/Berlin)  
since 2013 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

2021 **Mr. Greenfield** - **The Presidents’ Tailor**, doc., 4K, 53’, MDR / InOneMedia / Our Man in Berlin

2021 **The Strait Guys**, doc, 4K, 100’, MDR / Hanfgarn + Ufer / CineImpuls Leipzig, Torero Film

**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 (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)

**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

**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