

MASTER CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS WITH FILMMAKER RICK MINNICH

(languages: English, German)

Writer/director Rick Minnich is offering master classes and workshops on working as an independent filmmaker. While he has some experience in narrative filmmaking, his specialty is documentary.

These events are flexible in structure and duration depending on the needs and resources of the organizers, and can range from a screening of one of his films with an extended discussion (approx. 3 hours total) to a week-long practical workshop on documentary filmmaking.

Rick is also available for one-on-one consultations and mentoring to help filmmakers shape their stories both BEFORE filming and DURING the editing process.

Rick is based in Berlin, Germany, but is available for workshops and mentoring worldwide, both in-person and online. For more information, please contact him at info@rickfilms.de.

Some points covered:

- What kind of story do you want to tell and how can you best tell it?
- How to follow your instincts and unveil your underlying motivations for wanting to make a film.
- Finding the creative and financial partners suitable to you and your project.
- Research: What and how much?
- Shooting alone vs. with a crew.
- Narration: Does your film need it? If so, what kind and how much?
- Working with home movies and/or archival footage.
- Music: When, what, why, and how much? How to use music (composed or licensed) to express story elements and emotions which images and words alone cannot convey. How to work with a composer.
- Getting your finished film out there: navigating the often confusing and overwhelming world of film festivals, sales agents, distributors, broadcasters, and streamers.
- Screenings of key documentaries of various genres which might help and inspire workshop participants.

Optional case study on making films about families

Ever since the release of his feature documentary **Forgetting Dad** in 2008, Rick has gained a reputation for being a master in making films about families. In this case study, he will show clips from his films **Homemade Hillbilly Jam** (2005), **Forgetting Dad** (2008), and **The Presidents' Tailor** (2024), and discuss how he and his team mastered the challenges they faced in making these three very different family stories. Topics include:

- How to navigate mine fields in stories about family trauma
- The challenges of being both a family member and the filmmaker
- Discovering the universal elements in your personal story which will make your film artistic and accessible to a wide audience
- Finding a beginning, middle, and end to a neverending story
- Finding the right partners to help you tell your story and prevent it from drifting into mere naval gazing
- Gaining the trust of the families you are filming and navigating their complex dynamics
- Distilling the most powerful images from family archives to help drive the narrative

About Rick:

Rick Minnich is an American independent filmmaker based in Berlin, Germany. He holds a B.A. in English from Columbia University and an MFA in film directing from the Film University Babelsberg "Konrad Wolf" in Germany.

Rick has been writing, directing and producing shorts and feature documentaries since 1993 through his companies Rickfilms and Our Man in Berlin, and in association with various German broadcasters, film funds, and production companies.

Rick's films have screened at the Museum of Modern Art, Lincoln Center, Anthology Film Archives, the National Film Theatre, and at film festivals throughout the world, and have been broadcast on public television stations across Europe, North America and Asia, including ARTE, ZDF, 3Sat, RBB, MDR, WDR, ORF, YLE, IKON-TV, SVT, Knowledge Network, etc.

His award-winning films include: HEAVEN ON EARTH (50 min., 2001, IDFA, Fipa d'Or Biarritz), HOMEMADE HILLBILLY JAM (80 min, 2005, Premiere at HotDocs, closing night film True/False 2006, distributed by First Run Features), FORGETTING DAD (84 min, 2008, Premiere: IDFA - Special Jury Award, True/False, Full Frame, Hot Docs, Grand Jury Prize at GZ DOC in Guangzhou, China, Shortlisted for the German Film Award 'Lola' - German Oscar), THE BOMB HUNTERS (52 min., 2015), THE STRAIT GUYS (99 min, 2022), THE PRESIDENTS' TAILOR (2024).

Visit him at www.ourmaninberlin.com.

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