

An indie film that breaks records

21-year-old Henrik Völkl amazes with One More Time

The young Potsdam-based filmmaker Henrik Völkl has scored a hat-trick with his documentary *One More Time*, which has now been submitted to several filmfestivals. The 65-minute production was shot on a budget of under 10,000 euros. The funds were raised through Fund Raising, friends and relatives, as well as his own resources. It is also noteworthy that the young filmmaker is only 21 years old.

A third distinctive feature is the film's subject matter: A 21-year-old grandson takes his 85-year-old grandfather, who suffers from heart disease, on a journey and asks him about his life. He realises that he knows far too little about his beloved grandad and that time may be running out. What begins as a personal family conversation turns into a heartfelt encounter between two generations – and as a reminder to all young people to ask their grandparents about their life stories whilst they still have the chance.

The topic of faithfulness causes a stir

“That’s why I didn’t want to just make a superficial film about my grandfather,” says Henrik Völkl of his indie film, “I wanted to ask him questions, listen to him and find out who the person behind the stories really is.” For four years, grandfather and grandson refined their plan, knocked in vain on the doors of many production companies, and then decided to make the film on their own. Henrik hired a professional cameraman, and the three of them set off on a river cruise from Cologne to Rotterdam and Amsterdam and back. Henrik: “Grandad couldn’t avoid me there, and he had no excuse to shy away from the conversations.”

As the ship glides through the countryside, an unusually candid conversation develops between grandson and grandfather. Henrik asks the questions and Horst tells his stories. Henrik’s questions are at times very intimate, and his grandfather’s answers shockingly honest. At one point, a heated argument breaks out on the subject of fidelity and infidelity – and the camera and sound are rolling. On the other hand, the camera captures intimate moments and gestures that make one forget the 64-year age gap.

For post-production, Henrik once again hired a specialist to handle the editing, colour grading and sound. So, including the protagonist, only four people were involved in the film, which runs for over an hour – actually another of Henrik’s records. And how does he envisage the film’s future? Henrik: “The plan is for it to be screened in selected arthouse cinemas across Germany next spring.”

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