IT'S ALL DOWN TO WINNETOU

The documentary western "It's All Down to Winnetou" follows the journey of a group of friends who have decided to bring Karl May's stories to life through open-air theatre performances.

A grand plan was born, an idea of the five friends to make a feature film based on Karl May's message. After writing the screenplay, which had a budget of several million, they were hit by a harsh reality check. The millions didn't roll in, and due to the personal ups and downs of the theatre's leading figures as well as changes in society, which had somewhat lost interest in May's stories, the whole idea began to fall apart. But the most enthusiastic supporters, following the example of their heroes, didn't give up and took action. They covered the direct costs, including filming and post-production, resulting in a documentary western that seeks to show how values such as mutual respect between cultures, friendship and understanding are important even today. Perhaps even more so than when May's books were written. Thus, a completely independent film is coming to the big screen, exploring how a shared passion brings people and their destinies together, with implications for the present day.

The vast prairie, horses, Native Americans, bandits. The central characters in the adventure stories of the German writer Karl May are the bloodbrothers Winnetou and Old Shatterhand. An Apache chief and a white engineer who turns into a legendary frontiersman. Many of us read the books and watched the films as children, and there are even people for whom May's ideas are a natural part of everyday life. For actor, painter and horse trainer Filip Minařík, Winnetou has been a constant companion. Since 2014, he has been staging open-air performances in Strážovice near Neveklov in central Bohemia. The film "It's All Down to Winnetou" introduces the key members of the troupe and traces the history of their performances. From their beginnings in a playhouse, through special guest appearances and filming in Croatia, right up to the vagaries of the weather during outdoor performances.

Director's statement:

„Thanks to this film, I've had a taste of what it's like to be a screenwriter, director, cinematographer and editor all rolled into one. Whether the film is a success or not, I'll leave that to the audience. It's sort of a miracle the film was created at all But the protagonists deserve our admiration. Because the fact they not only share the values portrayed but also live by them can serve as an inspiration to the rest of us. An inspiration on how to cope with the difficult times the world is currently facing."

Juraj Šajmovič

Directed by:	Juraj Šajmovič
Screenplay by:	Juraj Šajmovič, Filip Minařík
Genre:	Documentary Western
Length:	72 minutes
Trailer:	https://youtu.be/V54mbJ1AvkU
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