

A man with a shaved head and glasses, wearing a white tank top and blue overalls, is working in a workshop. He is standing at a workbench, focused on his task. The workshop is filled with various tools and equipment, including a large piece of machinery on the right side of the frame. The lighting is warm and focused on the man and his work area.

Max und die Anderen

Ein Film von Richard Rossmann

mit
MAX FINGER
DMYTRO LISNYCHYI
JAN GROSSER

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Short Synopsis:

Berlin. Max is 61. He has a lot of sex with his friends. Everyone comes to Max's Kreuzberg playroom. Luckily, Max was once a lieutenant colonel in the German army, so he's good at ordering his life. But when a routine check-up delivers some shocking news, the lives of Max and his friends need to change. Max and the Others is a true story about intimate relationships in a subculture where identity and sexuality tangle in an ever tighter knot.

Long Synopsis:

Berlin. Max is 61. He has a lot of sex. Sex with escort guests. Sex with his leather friends. Sex with his boyfriend Dima, 25 years his junior. Sex with his old friend Jan. They all come to the playroom in Max's Kreuzberg apartment. Max doesn't hide his HIV positive status from anyone - today he only practices safer sex. For Dima, who is HIV negative, Max's status isn't a problem. Dima enjoys the freedom of their open relationship. He lives in Kiev but regularly visits Berlin, where he can live openly and pursue his sexual preferences without hiding.

At Max's apartment, there's always something going on. If Dima isn't visiting from Kiev or no guests or friends are visiting, Max makes whips from old bicycle tubes or cooks up a special fisting lube using a recipe of his own invention. The playroom also needs a lot of work: to avoid chaos, everything must stay in its allocated place. Max runs his life with military precision; order is of utmost importance to an ex-lieutenant colonel. The suspension of the sex sling is adjusted regularly; the steel cage cleaned and the toys are sorted and arranged. For Max, swapping the playroom for a regular bedroom is out of the question. He sleeps in the living room.

Max's life runs like clockwork. But when a routine check up during one of Dima's visits to Berlin delivers some shocking news, Max's ordered life starts to come apart at the seams. We are taken on a journey between clinics and immigration departments, between Berlin and Kiev. In the complicated cats-cradle strung between the loaded silence of the family kitchen and the comfort and safety of the playroom, lies a wordless craving for acceptance, affection and security. Max and the Others lifts the curtains on a hidden world in which survival is achieved by excluding others until only loneliness remains.

Stills from the film:



Max in his apartment in Kreuzberg organizing his agenda



Max making whips from old bicycle tires



The first interview with Dima during one of his visits in Berlin



Max cooking fisting lube using a recipe of his own invention



The first interview with Jan in his flat in Berlin, Schöneberg



Dima on his way to Tegel airport to fly back home to Kiev



Max at his house showing his old lieutenant uniform



Max preparing the playroom for a client



Self portrait of Jan



Max in an interview shortly after receiving the shocking news of a routine checkup during one of Dima's visits



Dima in the Eternal Glory Park in Kiev



Jan taking his HIV meds in Kiev



Max and Dima in a rental apartment in Kiev



Max, Dima and Jan in a public bus on the way to visit Dima's house in the outskirts of Kiev



Max, Dima and Jan during the visit at Dima's house in Kiev



Dima's mother the day before him moving to Germany



Max and Dima getting married at the register office in Berlin, Kreuzberg



Max and Dima taking a road trip to visit Max's family in Hesse, Germany



Max's sister and brother in law sayin their daily prayer before lunch



Max and Dima at the kitchen table with Willi, Max's brother in law



The clothesline at the farm of Max's relatives



Max's sister Anneliese and brother in law Willi after Max's and Dima's visit



Jan at Schlachtensee shortly after his application for early retirement went through



Max cruising in the Boiler Sauna Berlin



Berlin at night



Max and Dima in their Berlin Kreuzberg apartment

Protagonists' Biographies:

Max Finger

Dmytro Lisnychyi

Jan Grosser

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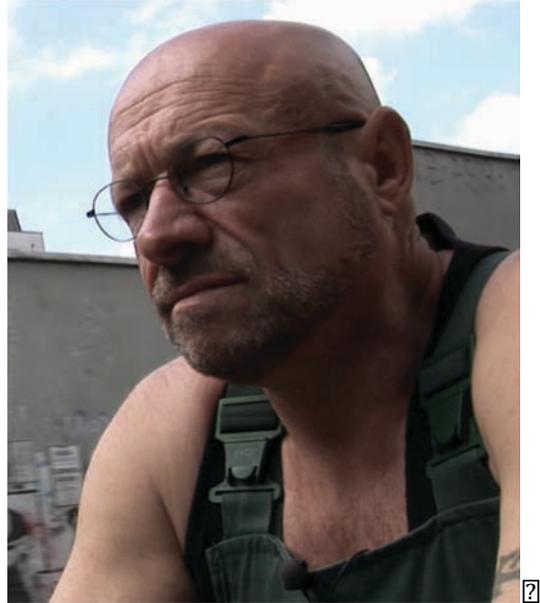
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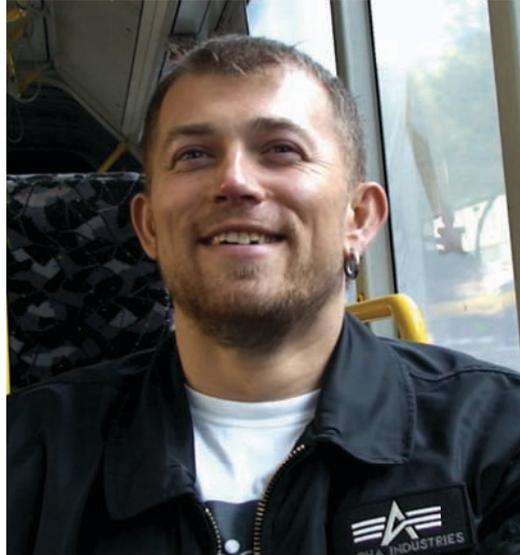
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Max Finger was born in 1952 in Bad Wildungen in Hesse, Germany. He grows up with three sisters in Löhlbach. His parents run the local post office in the village. After his A levels he starts his military service in Kassel in the early seventies. In 1975 he begins his studies of educational science at the University of German Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg. In the first year of his studies Max comes out. Two years later he leaves university to go back to the troops where he serves as a trainer for recruits till the early eighties in Munster. His last rank is lieutenant. He decides to leave the army and begins an occupational re-training as travel agent in Hamburg. After three years of training he starts a new job as administrator at an insurance company in Hamburg. In 1995 he is diagnosed with HIV. Due to increasing health reasons he enters early retirement in 1999. One year later he moves to Berlin, where he still lives today.

DIMA



Dmytro Lisnychyi was born in 1976 in Kiev, Ukraine. He grows up with his parents and a sister. After finishing his A levels he studies Ukrainian Language and Literature at the National Pedagogical Dragomanov University. He graduates in 1998 and goes back two years later to do a PhD in Ukrainian Language and a Bachelor in English and Foreign Literature. While at college, in 2002 he starts to work as a freelance journalist and editor for the regional radio programme of the Kiev Broadcasting National. After graduating successfully in 2007 he takes on a job as editor at the translation office of MTV Ukraine. In 2008 he travels to Berlin for the first time. After many short visits to Berlin he moves there for good in March 2012 where he still lives today.



JAN

Jan Grosser was born in 1963 in Kiel. He grows up as a single child with his parents. In 1981 he converts to the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon). After finishing his A levels in 1983 he moves to South Carolina, USA where he works as a missionary for the South Carolina Columbia Missionary. In 1985 he starts to study medicine at the Southern Utah University but with his coming out two years later he leaves the Mormon church and moves back to Germany. In 1988 he returns to university to study medicine at the university of Hamburg. During his college years he works in nursing and as a medical intern in the US. After his successful graduation from med school he starts to work as a doctor in the department of psychiatry at the Moabit hospital in Berlin. In 1996 Jan is diagnosed with HIV and starts therapy instantly. He moves to London in the following year where he works as an assistant doctor for several London hospitals. He finishes his residency in psychiatry and begins work as a psychiatrist. Soon he specialises in the field of mental disorders and addictive disorder. Due to consistent health problems – the consequences from a serious brain tuberculosis in 2002 - he reduces his job to work part time. In 2011 Jan moves back to Berlin and retires from his work as a psychiatrist. Today he lives in Berlin Schöneberg and works as a freelance photographer.

Key Crew Biographies:

Director, Cinematographer and Editor: Richard Rossmann

Dramatic Advisor: Louise East

Soundmix: Mario Dancso

Music: youguysmusic & Pascal Briggs

RICHARD ROSSMANN

Director, Cinematographer and Editor



Richard Rossmann was born in 1971 in Saalfelden, Austria. After graduating from the university of economics in Vienna, he took a job in Hamburg where he learned the art of television. Since then, he has worked as a freelance producer for international TV and commercial productions all around the world. Max and the Others is his third feature documentary as director and independent filmmaker. Richard lives in Pinzgau and Berlin.

www.richardrossmann.com

FILMOGRAPHY

„Max and the Others“, Documentary 78min. Austria 2013

www.maxunddieanderen-derfilm.com

„Day-in, day-out“, Documentary 80 min. Austria 2011

www.tagaustagein-derfilm.com

„Ski Heil – Two blanks that ment the world“, Documentary 86 min. Austria 2009

www.skiheil-derfilm.com

Wins the ISAH film award of the Int. Ski History Association, USA 2012
Best European Documentary at ÉCU in Paris 2009.



Louise East

Dramatic Advisor

Louise East was born in Dublin in 1973. After studying English literature and history in Trinity College, Dublin, she joined the Irish Times as a staff writer and columnist. Having completed an MA in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia (England), she is currently working on her first novel. Four years ago, she decided to spend three months in Berlin. She has not yet found a good reason to leave.

Max and the Others is her first documentary film project.

MARIO DANCOSO

Soundmix



Mario Dancoso was born in Feldkrich, Austria in 1978. At the age of 15 he bought his first electronic guitar, soon after he was jamming with Jazz musicians from all over the world, making ends meet as a session leader in Vienna's finer jazz bars. Five years later he enrolled at the highly regarded Vienna conservatoire, studying jazz guitar. After his graduation he started teaching at the conservatoire himself, where he still teaches today. Today, his work as a composer for international Film, TV and Theater productions is at the core of his oeuvre.

FILMOGRAPHY (extracts)

Max and the Others

Documentary by Richard Rossmann, 80 min. Austria 2013

Ski Heil - The two planks that mean the world

Documentary by Richard Rossmann, 86 min, Austria 2009

Feuchtwanger lebt!

Documentary directed by Herbert Krill, 3sat/ZDF, 2008
nominated for the "Adolf-Grimme-Preis 2009"

Das afrikanische Jahrzehnt

Documentary directed by Peter Zurek, 3sat/ZDF, 2007

Caves of Oman

Documentary directed by 2006 Manfred Haspel, ZDF/3SAT, 2006

Music

**youguysmusic &
Pascal Briggs**



Niels Zuiderhoek and Fritz Rating are the guys behind youguysmusic Berlin. They opened their new studio in Kreuzberg in summer 2012. Niels and Fritz both are passionate musicians. With „A killer, friend and foe“ they arranged the perfect song for „Max and the Others“. The voice is by Pascal Briggs. You can find more info about them on their official website.

www.youguysmusic.com

Imprint:

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Email: mail@maxunddieanderen-derfilm.com

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