

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 workshop on documentary filmmaking.

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

Rick is based in Berlin, Germany, but is available for workshops and mentoring worldwide. 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, and broadcasters

- Screenings of key documentaries of various genres which might help and inspire workshop participants

Optional case study of “Forgetting Dad”:

- How to make a film 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.

About Rick:

Rick Minnich was born in 1968, and grew up in Kansas, Arizona, and California. After receiving his B.A. in English from Columbia University in 1990, he relocated to Europe, where he worked variously as a camera assistant for Latvian TV in Riga, and as a dishwasher and English teacher in Berlin. Following a year of graduate film studies at CalArts in 1991-92, Minnich returned to Berlin with a DAAD fellowship at the Film & Television Academy “Konrad Wolf.” His documentary HEAVEN ON EARTH (2001) received numerous awards including the Babelsberg Media Prize for the best graduate thesis film in



Germany and the FIPA d'Or at the FIPA TV Festival in Biarritz (France). His debut feature documentary HOMEMADE HILLBILLY JAM (2005) played theatrically and at festivals throughout North America and Europe and is distributed in the US by First Run features and in Germany by Epix Media AG. His latest film FORGETTING DAD (co-directed with Matt Sweetwood and co-produced with ZDF) won the "Special Jury Award" at its world premiere in the Joris Ivens Competition at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam IDFA in 2008, the Grand Jury Prize at GZ DOC in Guangzhou, China in 2009, and numerous other prizes. It was also shortlisted for the 'Lola' (German Oscar). FORGETTING DAD was released theatrically in Germany in June 2010, and has been broadcast on television throughout the world. Rick Minnich'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, including ARTE, ZDF, 3Sat, ORF, WDR, YLE, IKON-TV, SVT, Knowledge Network, etc.

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