

Rick Minnich

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Biography

- 1968 Born in Pomona, California
- 1988-1990 Internship at film distributor Kino International, New York
- 1989 Semester abroad at Institute for European Studies, Vienna, extensive travels throughout Europe especially Eastern Europe
- 1990 B.A. in English literature from Columbia University, New York
Internship as camera assistant for Latvian Television in Riga
- 1991-1992 Graduate studies in the School of Film and Video at CalArts
- 1995-2001 Graduate Studies in the directing program at the Film University Babelsberg "Konrad Wolf", Germany. MFA equivalent.
- 1993-97 Free-lancer responsible for documentary trailers at Deutsche Welle TV in Berlin
- since 1997 Freelance film and translation work
- 2002 Director of the SAT.1 series "So gesehen" (German television) 30 x 3'
- 2003 Participant in the Berlinale Talent Campus
- since 2012 Member of the symbologie. creative network (New York/Berlin)
- 2013-2022 Documentary Tutor at MET Film School Berlin
- 2015-2016 Documentary Tutor, Sabah Film Academy, Malaysia (Dean in 2015)
- 2017 Documentary Filmmaker in Residence, Robert Morris University (Pittsburgh, PA)
- 2019 Founded production company Our Man in Berlin (formerly Rickfilms)
- 2021 UN Create2030 Arts Envoy

Selected Filmography

- 1993 **DELPHI 1830**, experimental film, 16mm, color, 3'
- 1994 **Next Time Everything Will Be Better** ("Beim nächsten mal wird alles besser") fiction, 16mm, color, 9'
- 1993-96 **The Book of Lenins**, documentary, 16mm, color & b/w, 24'
- 1996 **Untitled Picture** ("Bild ohne Titel"), fiction, 35mm, Dolby SR, color, 4', ARTE/HFF
- 1997 **Good Guys & Bad Guys**, doc., S16, Dolby SR, col., 73', HFF/ORB
- 2001 **Heaven on Earth**, doc., S16, Dolby SR, col., 52', HFF/Hoferichter / Jacobs GmbH
- 2005 **Homemade Hillbilly Jam**, doc. S16, col., 80', Hoferichter & Jacobs GmbH
- 2008 **Forgetting Dad**, doc., HDCam, 83', ZDF / Rickfilms / Hoferichter & Jacobs
- 2015 **The Bomb Hunters**, doc., HD, 52', RBB / Kloos & Co. / Rickfilms
- 2022 **The Strait Guys**, doc, 4K, 100', MDR / Hanfgarn + Ufer / Cinelimpuls Leipzig, Torero Film
- In progress **The Presidents' Tailor**, doc., 4K, 53', MDR / InOneMedia / Our Man in Berlin

Awards, Grants, Residencies (selection)

- 1992 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) grant
- 1995 Writer's grant, Schloss Wiepersdorf, Germany
- 1992 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) grant
- 1995 Writer's grant, Schloss Wiepersdorf, Germany

- 1997 For **Good Guys & Bad Guys**: Honorable mention, DokLeipzig; Rector's Prize, HFF "Konrad Wolf"; Bronze Plaque, Columbus Int'l Film & Video Festival
For **The Book of Lenins**: Jury prize, Cinarchea Int'l Archeology Film Festival Kiel, Germany
- 2001 For **Heaven on Earth**: Babelsberg Media Prize—Best Graduation Film (doc.) in Germany
Hans W. Geissendoerfer Young Talent Award (Germany)
Bronze Plaque, Columbus Int'l Film & Video Festival (The Chris Awards) Audience Award, Williamsburg Brooklyn Film Festival
Special Prize of the European Film Schools Jury, SEE Docs in Dubrovnik Nominated for the IDA/David L. Wolper Student Doc. Achievement Award
Nominated for the German Cinematography Award
- 2002 For **Heaven on Earth**: FIPA d'Or (1st prize), FIPA TV Festival, Biarritz, France
- 2005 For **Homemade Hillbilly Jam**: Prize of the State Film Service Rheinland-Pfalz (Germany)
- 2006 Artist residency at the Villa Aurora in Pacific Palisades, California
Development grant from the DEFA-Stiftung, Berlin
- 2008 For **Forgetting Dad**: Special Jury Award, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam IDFA
- 2009 For **Forgetting Dad**: Honorable Mention – Achtung Berlin – New Berlin Film Award
Audience Award – Ippokrates International Health Film Festival, Kos (Greece)
William Dieterle Filmpreis (Special Prize), Germany
Grand Jury Prize, GZDOC, Guangzhou (China)
- 2010 For **Forgetting Dad**: Honorable Mention – Dallas Video Fest (USA)
- 2011 For **Forgetting Dad**: Short List – German Film Award ('Lola') – Oscar equivalent
- 2017 Documentary Filmmaker in Residence, Robert Morris University (Pittsburgh, PA)
- 2021 **The Presidents' Tailor**: D-Facto Motion Works-in-Progress Prize - DOK Leipzig

Master Classes/Panels/Lectures/Workshops/Visiting Artist

- 2009 Kickstart Panel "Writing for Documentary" - Hot Docs, Toronto
- 2009 Master Class - "How to Create a Film About Family Trauma," Planete Doc Film Festival, Warsaw, Poland
- 2009 Master Class on "Forgetting Dad" - iDocs Conference, Beijing Film Academy, China
- 2009 Visiting Artist - Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri
- 2009 Participant on panel "Families - They Really F*** You Up" - True/False Film Festival, Columbia, Missouri
- 2009 Participant on Panel "Writing for Documentary" - Screen Producers Ireland, Dublin
- 2010 SOURCES 2 lecture on "Forgetting Dad" (together with co-director Matt Sweetwood) - workshop in Potsdam, Germany
- 2011 Visiting Artist in Michael Renov's documentary seminar, USC School of Cinematic Arts, and at the New York Film Academy (Los Angeles campus)
- 2012 Tutor for Doc Stories Black Sea workshop, Sibiu, Romania
- 2015 Dean of the Sabah Film Academy, Malaysia
- 2017 Led workshop "Dokumentarfilm: The Berlin Connection" at Pittsburgh Filmmakers
- 2022 Visiting Artist in Mark Jonathan Harris' documentary class at USC and at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

Film Festival Juries

- 2009 Documentary Jury, Interfilm Short Film Festival, Berlin
- 2010 Documentary Jury, Achtung Berlin/New Berlin Film Award, Germany
- 2010 Mid-length competition Jury, Ippokrates Health Film Festival, Kos, Greece

2012 Millenium Jury, Planete Doc Film Festival, Warsaw
2015 Sabah Pitching Forum jury, Kota Kinabalu International Film Festival, Malaysia
2018 Gdansk Documentary Film Festival, Poland
2022/2023 BYU Public Domain Film & Music Festival, USA