

## 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)
- since 2013 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)

## 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
- 2018 **The Presidents' Tailor**, doc., 4K, 30', MDR / InOneMedia
- in production **The Strait Guys**, doc, 4K, 90', MDR / Hanfgarn + Ufer / CineImpuls Leipzig,  
Torero Film

## 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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)

### **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

### **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