

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY JAN STEFAN KOLBE

ROT SIND DIE FUCHSE

SYNOPSIS

They were fulfilling their intellectual parents' revolutionary dreams: factory workers!

They believed that the key to a more humane society could only be found in Germany's industrial enterprises. At the same time they had ideal preconditions for a perfect career – they were the children of doctors, teachers or lawyers. But their parents, enthusiastic communists of the '68 generation, wanted them to become steelworkers, toolmakers or industrial electronics technicians. They grew up with a strong political awareness – when they were kids, Anne, Peter and Gabi were members of the „Red Foxes“, the youth organization of the Marxist Leninist Party of Germany (MLPD). Communist summer camps, raging protests and group meetings were fixed rituals throughout their childhood.

For two years director Jan Stefan Kolbe followed the private and professional lives of Anne, Peter and Gabi, all of them in their mid-thirties and from North Rhine-Westphalia. How do they cope with their ideological baggage that has been given to them along the way? Do they still believe in the armed revolution, in times where Communism in Germany is generally thought of as failed?





THE FUNCTIONARY



Gabi never made a secret out of her political and personal goal – the dictatorship of the proletariat - not even during her time as an apprentice. As a consequence Gabi and all of her fellow apprentices got fired. Lawsuits, mobbing and house ban followed. She continued her fight for the „real socialism“ by joining a political party. Today she is a member of the Solingen city council and is front runner of the MLPD, a party that is being observed by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and sees itself under the tradition of Marx, Lenin and Stalin.

THE WORKER



Anne is the one who stuck to her principles all the way. She has been working as a locksmith in a huge steel mill for over ten years. Five years ago she was voted for work council. In order to stay in contact with the workers, she insisted on continuing to work two days a week at the mill. As a punishment she was transferred to the rolling mill – the work there is much harder and she is the only woman in her shift. In her private life Anne tries to find a balance between her radical political attitude and an adapted, middle-class life.

THE DROPOUT



Peter is working as a truck driver and right now he'd rather be an artist than a proletarian. His family doesn't understand his decisions; »self-fulfillment« and »artistry« sound somewhat suspicious to them. He is the only one of the three protagonists who is actually revolting against the political ideology of his parents and former comrade-in-arms. But in contrast to Anne and Gabi he has lost sight of his personal goal in life. Now he is trying to find a new path, this time his own. One possibility is to retrain as a day-care teacher – he would love to work with children and help them developing their individual skills.

THE RED FOXES



The children's organization is the common ground between our protagonists and has shaped them in the past. Every year the MLPD is organizing summer camps, where the »red foxes« and other recruited children can spend their holidays. Activities like dodgeball, political team leader training and lectures on armed resistance appear on a tightly organized agenda. The golden thread of the documentary is a group of »red foxes« during summer camp and their everyday group lives in Southern Germany. The group symbolizes the past of our protagonists and shows how political indoctrination works – back then and today.

JAN STEFAN KOLBE



The author and director of the film »Red are the foxes« was born on October 21st 1975 in Herrenberg near Stuttgart as the son of two teachers. Ten years later his family moved to Wuppertal. There he founded a hip hop group for which he started to produce several music clips in 1991 - soon self-produced short films followed. In 1996 he began to study media education at the University of Applied Sciences Düsseldorf. He made use of the technical equipment available at the university as well as the support and advice of his professors and realized several short films and documentaries, among them »Sonnenregen« (Sunny rain), »Wenn du glaubst ... « (If you believe ...) and »Portrait: Alte Synagoge Wuppertal« (Portrait: Wuppertal's Old Synagogue). During his time at university he doing free-lance work for schools, youth clubs and a prison. There he organized music and video workshops for children and teenagers. In 2000 he did a one-year film editing internship at »Einschnitt Video- und Postproduktions GmbH« in Cologne. His graduate thesis film »Talwärts« (Into the Valley), a feature-length documentary, deals with the history of the Jews in Wuppertal, won the first prize of the »Netday Deutschland 2002« awards and is still shown in schools for educational purposes today. After graduating in 2002 he took a one-year editing and dramaturgy traineeship at »taglicht media Film- und Fernsehproduktion GmbH« in Cologne. From then on he successfully worked as a freelance film editor with emphasis on documentary film. He worked on films like:

Isoldes letzter Sommer (Isolde's Last Summer)

2003, ZDF, 37 °, 30 minutes, award: Lebensuhr 2004

Joaquims wilde Reiter (Joaquim's Riding Street Boys)

2004, arte Geo Reportage, 30 minutes

Black Starlets – How to Survive a Broken Dream

2005, arte, 52 minutes, awards: New York Festivals, US International Film, Mention d'Honneur

Der Herausforderer (The Contender)

2006, 3sat, 52 minutes

Räumkommando Riesenratte (Giant Rat Swat Team)

2007, arte, 43 minutes, awards: NaturVision, Atlantis, ekofilm

Die Rückkehr der Plagen (Return of the Plagues of Egypt)

2007, arte/ORF, 5 x 52 minutes

Auschwitz war auch meine Stadt (My Town Auschwitz)

2008, WDR/3sat, 100 minutes

To Russia with Jazz

2009, WDR/3sat, 98 minutes



CREW

DIRECTOR

Jan Stefan Kolbe

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Melanie Brugger

Lisa Völter

PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER

Christian Kiriakidis

Attila Makai

Bastian Barenbrock

Mathias Bozellec

Boris Schöder

FILM EDITOR

Dave D. Leins

Jan Stefan Kolbe

COLOR GRADER

Nora Schulte

SCREEN DESIGNER

Kerstin Barenbrock

COMPOSER

Jochen Naaf

Markus Girrulat

SOUND DESIGNER

Florian Ebrecht

DOLBY RE-RECORDING MIXER

Gerald Cronauer

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Aurel Beck

PRODUCER

Konstanze Burkard

FORMAT

35 mm, HDcam, DigiBeta

LENGTH

92 minutes

PRODUCTION

sarabandefim

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