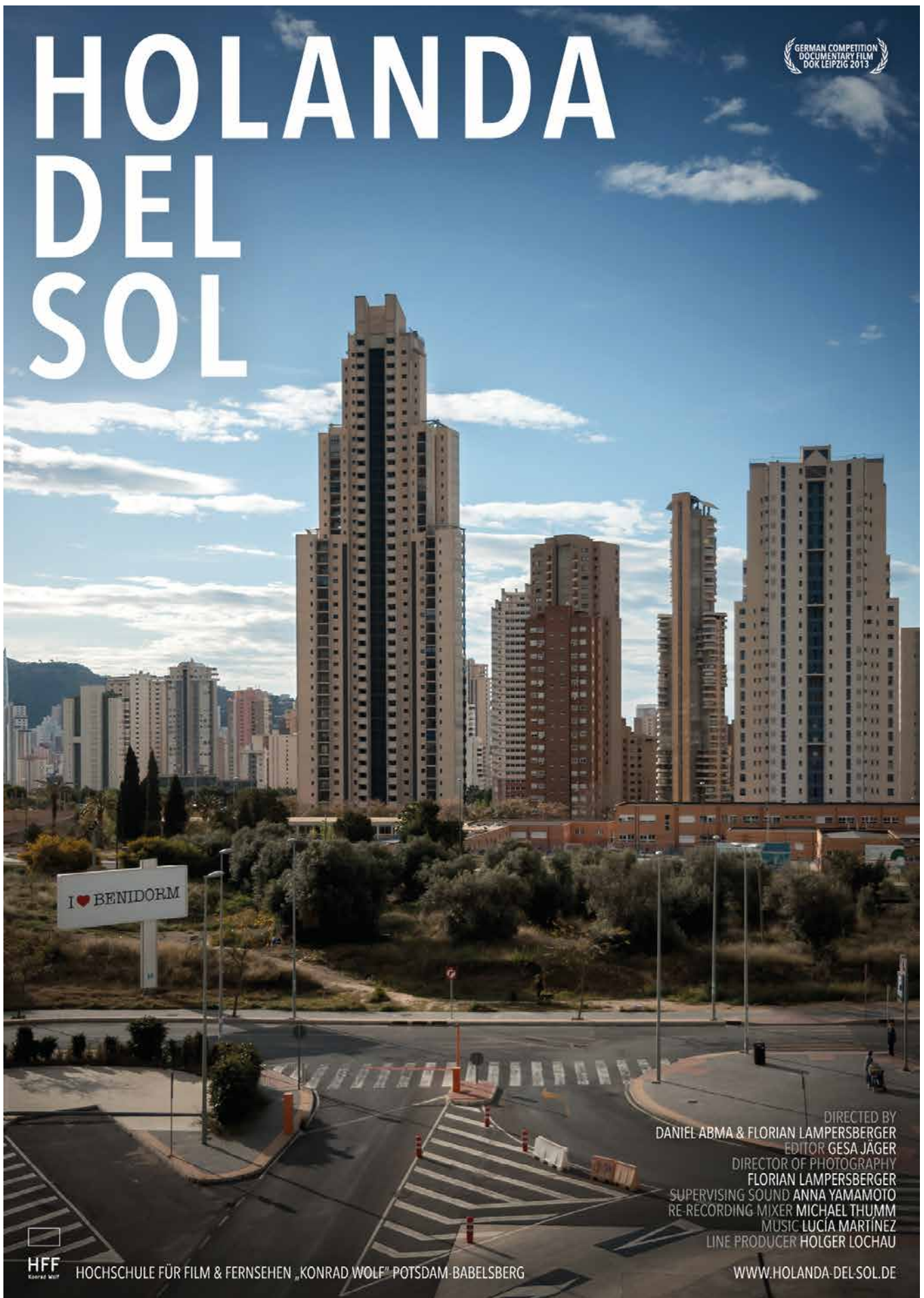


P R E S S K I T

GERMAN COMPETITION
DOCUMENTARY FILM
DOK LEIPZIG 2013

HOLANDA DEL SOL



DIRECTED BY
DANIEL ABMA & FLORIAN LAMPERSBERGER
EDITOR GESA JÄGER
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
FLORIAN LAMPERSBERGER
SUPERVISING SOUND ANNA YAMAMOTO
RE-RECORDING MIXER MICHAEL THUMM
MUSIC LUCIA MARTÍNEZ
LINE PRODUCER HOLGER LOCHAU



HOCHSCHULE FÜR FILM & FERNSEHEN „KONRAD WOLF“ POTSDAM-BABELSBERG

WWW.HOLANDA-DEL-SOL.DE

HOLANDA DEL SOL

DIRECTED BY DANIEL ABMA & FLORIAN LAMPERSBERGER

EDITOR GESA JÄGER

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FLORIAN LAMPERSBERGER

SOUND-SUPERVISING & SOUND-EDITING ANNA YAMAMOTO
RE-RECORDING MIXER MICHAEL THUMM
SOUNDDESIGN CHRISTOPH KOZIK
FOLEY CARINA SCHLAGE
FOLEY ARTIST PETER ROIGK

COMPOSITION & INSTRUMENTATION LUCÍA MARTÍNEZ
GUITAR DAVID RIAÑO
VIBRAPHONE LUCÍA MARTÍNEZ
PIANO DAVID SCHWARZ

POST-PRODUCTION-SUPERVISOR ULI KUNZ
FLAME-OPERATOR OLIVER SEITER
COLORGRADING FLORIAN LAMPERSBERGER
FINALIZING JAN KREMZOW

TRANSLATION CAROLINE BEIERSDORF
SUBTITLING GERMAN KERSTIN DAMBECK
SUBTITLING ENGLISH CHRIS WALKER

LINE PRODUCER HOLGER LOCHAU

SUPERVISING PROFESSORS INGO KOCK
STEPHAN KRUMBIEGEL
SUSANNE SCHÜLE
KLAUS STANJEK

A film of the university of film and television „Konrad Wolf“ Potsdam-Babelsberg



HFF
Konrad Wolf

45 minutes | 1:1,78 | color | 25 fps | Dolby Digital 5.1 | DCP
Dutch original with German or English subtitles

Index

CREDITS & DATA 01

INDEX & CONTACT 02

SYNOPSIS (SHORT) 03

SYNOPSIS (LONG) 04

DIRECTORS NOTES 05

DIRECTORS BIOGRAPHIES 06

CREW BIOGRAPHIES 07

SCREENING-DATES 08

Contact

Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen (HFF) „Konrad Wolf“
 Cristina Marx - Festivals & Distribution
 Marlene-Dietrich-Allee 11
 D-14482 Potsdam-Babelsberg - Germany
 Email: distribution (at) hff-potsdam.de
 Tel: +49 (0) 331 / 6202-564
 Fax: +49 (0) 331 / 6202-568
 www.hff-potsdam.de

Press contact:
 Sabrina Spiegeler
 +49 (0) 176 / 20770346
 presse (at) holanda-del-sol.de

www.holanda-del-sol.de
www.facebook.com/holandadelsol
www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EnNMvCfN0



Log Line:

HOLANDA DEL SOL takes you to the beaches and streets of Benidorm, a coastal Spanish town dominated by aging Dutch retirees. Far away from the cold winter of home, they enjoy the mild climate and a golden sunset for their final years of life.

Synopsis:

Every winter, the Spanish beach town of Benidorm with its amazing skyscraper-skyline is taken over by a community of aging retirees from the Netherlands. Daniel Abma and Florian Lampersberger's documentary film HOLANDA DEL SOL captures this community's take on dignified aging. Far from home, they enjoy the mild climate with song, celebration and laughter. This is where they want to grow old. This is where they want to die.

DOK Leipzig:

[...] Daniel Abma and Florian Lampersberger have collaborated to produce a touching look at old age in the affluent society, in carefully framed images and episodes full of wry humour. The Dutch pensioners who populate the skyscraper universe of Benidorm lack nothing. And yet this film shows us a world where a piece of chocolate and a hug are the greatest, maybe the only, joy.

Grit Lemke - Head of Documentary Programme DOK Leipzig



Majorca for Germans. Benidorm for the Dutch. In summer time British party people populate the hotels and promenades of Benidorm, in winter retired people from the Netherlands take over control.

A whole infrastructure follows this principle: Dutch homes for the elderly ensure pleasant sunset years and dutch health insurance pays a new artificial hip in dutch speaking hospitals. During Yoga-lessons, in restaurants with dancing and even in radio: Dutch is the language. Therefore this business model seems nearly exotic: a bar offers Spanish lessons for free all financed through the drinks consumed.

Daniel Abma and Florian Lampersberger show in *HOLANDA DEL SOL* examples of dignified aging under Spanish sun.



They ask themselves what makes our lives liveable when you're getting old and your mobility is more and more limited. Six protagonists observed during their everyday lives in their elderly home or in their apartments in town deliver possible answers.

There is Theo signed through his battlefield injuries. A shell splinter is still in his head and is the reason for his time to time blackouts. Therefore a belt always takes sure that he is not falling out of his wheelchair. He likes playing dominos. He lovingly cares for his demented wife Gonny who lives in a special group for patients suffering Alzheimer's disease.

There are the noble old ladies Lenie and Madame Simonis. Sitting together in the dining room they share their fate and their fears to be forgotten by the nursing staff or simply not to get food.

Nel already lost her son, her daughter and her husband. Very late she found her peace in God. In her Bible class she finds therapy and her late baptism gives her peace and power.

Mieke is a master in the art of living. The former gymnastic instructor is a living legend in Benidorm as she is known all over the place. She enjoys to tell the story how she saved two Euros by booking her bus to the airport half a year before the travel. Benidorm seems to be something like her last harbour: When she dies she wants her ashes to be spread over bay and mountains of Benidorm.



Hardly we can imagine what intensive lives they lived.

How much pain and grief they suffered. They all wish to make the best out of their sunset years here under Spanish sun in Benidorm. With dance and music. Playing the dominos. Learning Spanish. Doing gymnastics. Here they want to get old. Here they want to die.

Daniel Abma

The increase of life expectancy in combination with the declining birth rate has resulted in a massive aging population in Western Europe. I had never really encountered this topic before we visited Benidorm, where we were immediately faced with the reality of age and "getting old" in all its facets.

I remember this city mainly from the Saturday night television shows in the Netherlands, in which the main prize was often a trip to Benidorm: A little Amsterdam for seniors along the Spanish Costa Blanca. The Dutch pensioners in this film simply decided to live abroad after retirement. I was often asked why they decided to live in a Dutch community, isolated within a purely Dutch world in which there is no or little contact with the Spanish population. Is it really more pleasant to grow old and die inside this community rather than at home?

During the production of the film, we lived in a nursing home and I started to think about myself and my own family, parents and friends. Besides the warm climate in Benidorm, you also find yourself confronted with death, Alzheimer's disease, isolation or loneliness. Immediately I asked myself questions like: How do I want to live when I'm old? How and especially where do I want to be? What will I need to be happy?

I am looking forward seeing the various responses that arise from this film, and hope that these thoughts and questions also stir in the heads of the audience.

Florian Lampersberger

In a time advertising tries to cover the process of aging with an expressive youth lifestyle, I consider the cinematic discussion about this as more important than ever. Even when it takes some years until my own retirement.

How do we get old in today's hedonistic society? There are only a few places worldwide illustrating this contrast so explicitly and humorously like the Spanish beach town Benidorm. The town shows with its panorama of skyscrapers from the 70s and 80s the beginnings of European mass tourism.

But what are the Dutch looking for in a place where hardly nothing is left from Spanish identity? The city appears like a bizarre art product. For me as a cinematographer Benidorm is a city of plenty. The city offers a flood of architecture, images and situations. On the first sight Benidorm has lots of absurd attractions. But we should not forget that Benidorm became a safe harbour for lots of people.

It took some time until I understood the enthusiasm of the elderly for this city. The City enables mobility and offers a piece of Dutch home under the Spanish sun. It unites several characters, lives and social classes. The Dutch community provides contacts and new friends, gives comfort and let them forget some of their worries.

We were looking for a respectful and intimate insight and wanted to give our protagonists a wide scope. The film represents our own point of view of the people's everyday life and the character of their city.

Daniel Abma - Director

Born 1978 in the Netherlands. He previously studied Primary school education and worked as a youth worker in Berlin and Brandenburg. Since 2008, he has been studying film directing at the University of Film and Television „Konrad Wolf“ in Potsdam- Babelsberg, Germany, with focus on documentaries.

Film history (excerpt):

2012 Beyond Wriezen, doc, 88 min, HFF Potsdam

2012 Trajectories, doc., 29 min, HFF Potsdam

2011 Gabriella and the golden boys, doc., 45 min, HFF Potsdam

2011 Hannes - about papas and power rangers, doc., 28 min, HFF Potsdam

2010 Lothar Erdmann, doc., 13 min, HFF Potsdam



Florian Lampersberger - Director & DoP

Born 1981 in Southern Germany. He began his professional career as a trainee at a small TV station and went to Munich in 2003. He works for several national TV channels until he moved to Berlin in 2007 to start study camera at the University of Film and Television „Konrad Wolf“ in Potsdam-Babelsberg. In the meantime he has been finished filmschool successfully. His diploma film is in post production at the moment. It's a full-length-documentary about unemployed in Berlin.

Gesa Jäger - Editor

While studying the humanities, she discovered her passion for editing through various internship programs. She completed specialist training for both film and news editing at NDR in Hamburg.

After being employed for two years at NDR in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, she was drawn to Potsdam in 2008 by her interests in film editing at the University of Film and Television „Konrad Wolf“ Potsdam-Babelsberg. There she edited several shorts and feature films. The feature Film LOVE STEAKS, she edited as a master project, won four German Cinema New Talent Awards. She graduated a Master of the Fine Arts in September 2013.

Anna Yamamoto - Supervising sound

Anna Yamamoto studied music education at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich before she went to Potsdam to study Sound at the University of Film and Television „Konrad Wolf“. She graduated successfully in 2013. Besides her education, she gained experience as a freelancer by working and assisting in several sound and post-production studios especially in the area of film and advertisement.

Lucía Martínez - Music

Born 1982 in Vigo (Spain). Percussionist, drummer and composer living in Berlin, Germany. Degree in Classical Percussion at the Music Conservatory of Vigo. Degree in Jazz from the School of Music and Performing Arts Porto-Portugal . Master in Jazz by the University of Arts Berlin. Since 2011 Master in Film Music at the University of Film and Television „Konrad Wolf“ Potsdam-Babelsberg.

Recordings as leader: Lucia Martinez Quartet Sonos e Delirios, Lucia Martinez Berliner Projekt AzulCielo, MBM Trio and over twenty albums as a side woman. Composer of music for film and radioplay.

Screening-Dates:

Worldpremiere at the **Dok Leipzig 2013**, German competition:

30.10.2013, 13:30 h at CineStar 4

01.11.2013, 19:00 h at CineStar 4

02.11.2013, 14:00 h at Schaubühne Lindenfels

Achtung Berlin filmfestival, mid-lenght competition, Germany
winner of the "**Zitty audience award**":

13.04.2014, 17:30 h at Babylon 2

15.04.2014, 22:30 h at Babylon 3

DOK.fest München, filmschool competition, Germany:

09.05.2014, 18:00 h at HFF München, Kino 1

International premiere at the **Krakow Film Festival**, mid-lenght competition, Poland:

26.05.2014, 17:45 h at MOS 1

28.05.2014, 22:00 h at MOS 2