

HAMID DRAKE

FRED ANDERSON

LOUIS MOHOLO

JÜRIG WICKIHALDER

PIERRE FAVRE

CO STREIFF

JOËLLE LÉANDRE

MAGGIE NICOLS

LA LUPA


HAN BENNINK

irène schweizer

EIN FILM VON GITTA GSELL

Buch & Regie **GITTA GSELL**
Kamera **HANSUELI SCHENKEL**
Montage **KAMAL MUSALE / GITTA GSELL**
Musikalische Beratung **JULIANA MÜLLER**
Ton **DIETER MEYER**
Sprecher **GILLES TSCHUDI**
Sound Design **CHRISTIAN BEUSCH**
Produzentin **FRANZISKA RECK**

Eine Produktion der **RECK Filmproduktion Zürich**
In Koproduktion mit **MIRAPIX** und **SRG IDEE SUISSE**,
SF DRS, **3sat**, **TELECLUB**
Unterstützt durch Stadt und Kanton Zürich -
Kanton Aargau - Stadt und Kanton Schaffhausen -
MEDIA Erziehungsmassnahmen - Bundesamt für Kultur (EDI) -
UBS Kulturstiftung - **Clair** Storzwegger -
Jeanferre Stiftung - **Volkart Stiftung** -
Ernst und Olga Bubler-Habölzel Stiftung -
Dr. Adolf Streuli-Stiftung - **Karin** Bechler

Uraufführung im  **Beck**



IRÈNE SCHWEIZER

A Film by Gitta Gsell

DVD, 75 Min., 5.1 Mix, 16/9, Switzerland 2005
Original version: Swiss-German, German, English
Subtitles: English, German, French or Spanish

with

Irène Schweizer Piano, Drums – Zurich

Fred Anderson Sax – Chicago **Jürg Wickihalder** Sax – Zürich
Hamid Drake Drums – Chicago **Louis Moholo** Drums - Cape Town - London
Pierre Favre Drums – Zurich **Co Streiff** Sax – Zurich **Joëlle Léandre** Bass – Paris
Maggie Nicols Vocals – Wales **La Lupa** Vocals – Zurich
Han Bennink Drums – Amsterdam

and

Rosmarie A. Meier Intakt Records - Zurich **Patrik Landolt** Intakt Records - Zurich
Marianne Regard Zurich **Niklaus Troxler** Jazzfestival Willisau
Mpumi Moholo Cape Town **Jost Gebers** FMP Free Music Productions - Berlin
Rosina Kuhn Painter - Zurich

A **RECK Film production, Zurich**

in co-production with **MIRAPIX und SRG IDÉE SUISSE, SF DRS, 3Sat, TELECLUB**

Production and World Rights

RECK Filmproduktion GmbH

Dienerstrasse 7 - CH-8004 Zurich - www.reckfilm.ch - f.reck@bluewin.ch

Distribution Switzerland

Filmcoopi Zürich

Heinrichstrasse 114 - CH-8005 Zurich – www.filmcoopi.ch - tl@filmcoopi.ch

Synopsis

Music is and always has been Irene Schweizer's whole life. In her film, Gsell gets some rare one-to-one time with the internationally renowned Swiss pianist Irene Schweizer, whose music has roots in Jazz and improvisational music. The film gives a fascinating insight into the life of a great artist, where friendship and relationships always take second place to the music, shunted between foreign tour dates and rehearsals, between inspiration and creation. Music has inspired Schweizer to great heights, sometimes followed by deep loneliness. However, Schweizer's grand piano – her partner – is always there for her.

Production Team and Locations

Director	Gitta Gsell
Photography	Hansueli Schenkel
2nd and 3rd camera	Peter Volkart Gitta Gsell Matthias Kälin Kamal Musale
Underwater camera	Patrick Lindenmaier
Montage	Kamal Musale Gitta Gsell
Editing Consultant	Bernhard Lehner
Editing Assistants	Sascha Robert-Charrue Priska Ryffel Pepe Saro Musika
Music Consultant	Juliana Müller
Sound	Dieter Meyer Bernhard Schmid Wien Ingrid Städeli Roman Bergamin Philippe Koch Anita Hansemann
Narrator	Gilles Tschudi
Executive Producers	Alexandra Schild Juliana Müller Franziska Reck
Graphic Design	volkart & volkart
Sound Mix and Design	Christian Beusch Magnetix Zurich
Video Postproduction	Andromeda Film AG Patrick Lindenmaier
Light Technology	FTK – Filmtechnikerkollektiv
Producer	Franziska Reck
Original compositions by	Irène Schweizer, Hamid Drake, Fred Anderson, Louis Moholo, Pierre Favre, Co Streiff, Jöelle Léandre, Maggie Nicols, Han Bennink
Concert Locations	Jazzfestival Willisau, Café Casablanca Zürich Museum zu Allerheiligen Schaffhausen ICMF – Int. Classic Music Festival of South Africa Jazzfestival Nickelsdorf, Uncool Festival Le Prese Jazzclub Moods Zürich, Sorell Hotel Zürichberg Jazzfestival Berlin

Film, photo & sound archives

SF DRS Zurich

Cinémathèque Suisse

Radio DRS Peter Bürli

SFB Hörfunk Hans-Jürgen Paesch

SwissJazzOrama Uster

Beat Kennel – Bazillusarchiv Zurich

Art Ringger

Hans Naef Schaffhausen

Christoph Ullmann Steckborn

Veit Stauffer – RecRec Zurich

Franziska Pfeffer Zurich

Irène Schweizer Privatarchiv

ALL MUSIC TAKEN FROM RECORDINGS AND PLAYED BY IRENE SCHWEIZER, AS WELL AS
THE WILLISAUER CONCERT OF IRENE SCHWEIZER – FRED ANDERSON – HAMID DRAKE
WERE PUBLISHED ON CD'S BY INTAKT RECORDS, ZURICH

With contributions from

SRG idée Suisse, Tiziana Mona - SF DRS, Thomas Beckl, Urban Frye, Paul Riniker
3Sat, Frank Hubrath – Teleclub, Manuela Meier

Stadt und Kanton Zurich - Kanton Aargau – Stadt und Kanton Schaffhausen - MEDIA
Ersatzmassnahmen - Bundesamt für Kultur (EDI) - UBS Kulturstiftung - Claire Sturzenegger-Jeanfavre
Stiftung - Volkart Stiftung – Ernst und Olga Gubler-Hablützel Stiftung – Dr. Adolf Streuli-Stiftung –
Katrin Bechtler – Claire und Ruedi Häfeli

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Therme Vals, Annalisa Zumthor, Monika Tscharf - mit: Helen Pinkus und Jennifer Fox

WIM Werkstatt für improvisierte Musik – Rote Fabrik, Fabrikjazz, Fredi Bosshard – Intakt Records -
Jazzmuseum Uster - ICMF, Robert Brooks, Karien Louw, Maria Kurian, Mpumi Moholo

Judith Schmid – Barbara Bosshard – Gabriela Friedli – Jan Schlegel - Andrew Cyrille – Rüdiger Carl -
Martin Schütz

Johannes Anders – Ines Anselmi – Yvon Baumann – Peter Beeck – Anna Bjarndottir – This Brunner -
Peter Bürli – Elisabeth Dalucas – Michelle DeFalque – Stefan Eberle – Firorella - Dieter Gränicher
Sandra Gysi – Claire Häfeli – Stefan Haller – Isabella Huser - Rosemarie Jenni – Stefanie Kaiser
Georg Kling – Marisa Koch – Tabea Lerch - Madeleine Marti – Isolde Marxer – Küde Meier – Sophie
Reck – Sabine Schasse - Felix Schenker – Katrin Simonett – Bruno Spoerri – Sibylle Suter - Gilles
Tschudi – Bernhard Uhlmann

AND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

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RECK Filmproduktion – SUISSIMAGE – MIRAPIX/GG

Irène Schweizer – a Film Portrait

There it stands – the grand piano – waiting for her. For a woman who has referred to the piano as her companion for over 40 years, has shared happiness and sadness with it, was inspired by it and who has lived this inspiration to the fullest with it. Seldom has she had an affair with another – and if so, then with the drums. Friendships and relationships “played second fiddle” to music, were cultivated between appointments abroad, rehearsals, somewhere between inspiration and creation. It was always music that inspired her to soar to the heights, sometimes followed by the deepest sense of loneliness. Music was and is her life.

I'm not exactly sure when I heard Irène play for the first time. I only remember how delighted and enthusiastic I was. In the Swiss Jazz scene, she is an exception – as an instrumentalist. In the Fifties women were mainly singers, but even as a young woman, Irène had already been awarded first prize as a pianist at the Amateur Jazz Festival in Zurich. The atmosphere in the smoky Jazz locales of the Fifties and Sixties, the political change in the air in '68 and the Women's Lib Movement in the Eighties fascinated me. Irène improvised on the piano: elbows hammering and dragging along the keys, fingers pecking and darting over them. Pulling and plucking the strings inside the piano.

With a biography and an alternative lifestyle like hers, Irene is an exception in Switzerland. As a woman working in a creative area myself, she both interested me and inspired me to make this film. A good ten years older than I am, she is for me a forerunner of the Women's Liberation Movement and one of the very few female figures in the Swiss creative scene – 63 years old, with her musical roots in Jazz and, in the meantime, avidly involved in and internationally renowned for her Instant Composing and her improvised music.

Gitta Gsell

Gitta Gsell

Born in 1953 in Zurich.

1979-89 resided in New York; has lived in Zurich since 1990.

1977-79 Attended the F+F, Schule für Experimentelle Gestaltung, in Zurich.

1980-82 School of Visual Arts, New York, Bachelor of Fine Arts.

1982-84 Hunter College, New York, Master of Fine Arts in Combined Media.

Since 1977 scripts and direction of theatre and performances

Since 1981 screenplays and direction of films and videos.

Filmography

1981 Goodbye (experimental film)

1984 A.R.T. (documentary)

1985 Immer diese Ewigkeit (music film)

1987 Don't Stand on the Ocean (feature)

1990 Cornelia Forster – Künstlerin (documentary) / Perception/Tension (music film)

1994 Uma passagem/Umgezogen (documentary video)

1995 Lilo in der Tanzbar (short film)

1997 Propellerblume (feature)

1999 Virus-L (short film)

2004 Lilo & Fredi (feature) / augenblickeN (documentary video)

2005 Irène Schweizer (documentary)