

Isa Hesse-Rabinovitch – The Movie Game

A film by Anka Schmid

Documentary, Switzerland 2009
Digi Beta/ Beta SP Pal/ HDcam/ DVD, 52 min, colour, 16:9, Stereo
Original version: German, Swiss German, English, Italian with german, french and english subtitles
Italian version

Screenplay and direction

Anka Schmid

Editing

Marina Wernli

Camera

Daniel Leippert, René Baumann

Sound

Olivier JeanRichard

Music

Stephan Wittwer, Guy Maget

With:

Annelies Ursin
Silver Hesse
Ula Stöckl
Julie Nero
Deidi von Schaewen
Vital Franz Hauser
La Lupa

Voices

Ursula Andermatt
Robert Hunger-Bühler

a production of RECK Filmproduktion, Zurich

in coproduction with
Redaktion SF: Marion Bornschieer, Nathalie Wappler, Urs Augstburger
Redaktion TSI: Luisella Realini
Redaktion 3sat: Barbara Riesen, Frank Hubrath

Production and worldrights:

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SYNOPSIS Isa Hesse-Rabinovitch – The Movie Game

A fascinating portrait of the Swiss film pioneer Isa Hesse-Rabinovitch, who has left us with a multifaceted and timeless film and video oeuvre.

The Swiss film pioneer Isa Hesse-Rabinovitch (1917-2003) followed unconventional paths all her life. The daughter of Russian Jewish immigrants grew up in Zurich. She married one of Herman Hesse's sons and had three children with him. Influenced by the artistic work of her parents, she worked first as an illustrator, then later as reporter and photographer, always determined to maintain her independence. At the age of fifty, she began to make films. Her very first experimental films brought her invitations to international film festivals and were extremely successful abroad. But in the male-dominated Swiss film scene of the Seventies, she had to fight for recognition of her lyrical work. Support for her playful, unconventional films was denied her. Nevertheless, Isa Hesse continued to experiment consistently, daring as a 67-year-old to try the new medium of video. She has left us with a manifold and timeless collection of film and video achievements.

Anka Schmid brings us closer to the person and personality of Isa Hesse-Rabinovitch in the same artistic style: playfully, she intertwines archive material, clips from the original works and interviews with companions – creating a shimmering and fascinating portrait of this extraordinary artist.

Anka Schmid

Born 1961 in Zurich, Switzerland. 1984-90 studies at (Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin). Since 1991 writes screenplays and directs fiction and documentary films. Teaches film and media at schools and institutes. Realisation of video-installations.

Filmography

1983 Fliegen (experimental film) / Glasfragmente (short film) / 1986 Rondo Gravitat (both as co-director, experimental film) / Herzensfreude (animated film) / Habibi – ein Liebesbrief (short film) / Die Reise zur Südsee (animated film) / 1987 Malima – eine Improvisation / 1988 Walkwomen (both short films) / Techqua Ikachi, Land – mein Leben (co-director, documentary) / 1991 Hinter verschlossenen Türen (feature) / Praktisch und Friedlich (experimental film) / 1995 Magic Matterhorn (documentary) / 1997 Little Sister (short film) / Labyrinth – Projektionen / 2000 Das Engadiner Wunder (both as co-director) / 2002 ABC Sound Alphabet (all experimental films) / 2004 Yello – Elektropop made in Switzerland (documentary) / 2006 Shake Hands / Found Footage I - IV , 1, 2, 3 / 2008 Hierig-Heutig (all experimental films) / Isa Hesse -Rabinovitch (documentary)

RECK FILMPRODUKTION GmbH

Founded 2000 by Franziska Reck. Focus on development and production of documentary and experimental films and film essays for cinema and television.

Filmography

2009 ISA HESSE-RABINOVITCH by Anka Schmid, documentary for television
2008 FEDERICA DE CESCO by Nino Jacusso, documentary for cinema
2008 MUSIKLIEBE by Yusuf Yeşilöz, documentary for television
2007 RAJA'S REISE by Karl Saurer, documentary for cinema
2006 SWEEPING ADDIS by Corinne Kuenzli, documentary for cinema
2006 ZWISCHEN DEN WELTEN by Yusuf Yeşilöz, documentary for television
Christian Berger Dokumentarfilmpreis, IFFI, Innsbruck
2005 IRENE SCHWEIZER by Gitta Gsell, Portrait for cinema
2005 TERRA INCOGNITA by Peter Volkart, short film
„Bester Schweizer Kurzfilm 2005“, 16 international festival prizes
2004 NAMIBIA CROSSINGS by Peter Liechti, Essay for cinema
Nomination for Schweizer Filmpreis 2005 „Bester Dokumentarfilm“
2003 DIETER ROTH by Edith Jud, documentary for cinema
2003 DIE GROSSE GARTENSKULPTUR VON DIETER ROTH by Edith Jud, documentary for ARTE
2002 ONOMA by Nino Jacusso and Gitta Gsell, 9 shorts for Expo 02
2001 VIRUS-L by Gitta Gsell, experimental short fiction
2000 TRANSITO by Nino Jacusso, documentary for television
1996 A PROPOS DE JOYE by Isolde Marxer, documentary for cinema
1992 TRAUMZEIT by Franz Reichle, documentary

In production and development:

2005 – 2010 MIT DEM BAUCH GEGEN DIE WAND by Anka Schmid, documentary for cinema
2007 – 2009 BOEDELE - STEP IT OUT by Gitta Gsell, documentary for cinema
2007 – 2009 WENN DER HALBMOND SPRICHT by Sandra Gysi und Ahmed Abdel Mohsen,
documentary for cinema