

Folgen – der Film



Info Kit

Folgen – der Film

A Video Project About the Long-term Effects
of Child Sexual Abuse

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Brief description

The term "Folgen" (effects) sounds so simple, it sounds cool and it sounds like classification. Yet trying to describe what it really means does not work. Child sexual abuse does not only refer to the very moment it happens. It affects every aspect of one's life, and its severe long-term effects are perceptible – on every single day.

The interviews in this movie offer insight into the thoughts and feelings of individuals concerned. They show very clearly that this disrespect for a child's requests and privacy destroys so much that everybody else takes for granted.

Poems, pictures and music videos complement these interviews.

The complete project is available on DVD. Excerpts of it are published on the respective website.

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Project Details

Idea	Team Folgen – der Film
Production	www.folgen-derfilm.de
Format (recording)	miniDV
Length of the Interview-Film	95 minutes
DVD-ROM feature	Texts, audio-recordings, music videos, interviews
Language	German (English, Chinese subtitles)
Production period	2004, 2005
Film locations	Berlin, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Ahrweiler, Essen
Availability	On DVD (depends on sponsor)

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Content

The project focuses on the interviews with five people affected by child sexual abuse. They independently talk about their thoughts and feelings that reflect the wide ranging effects of the abuse they experienced. There are various aspects to this.

First of all, there are the people affected. But there are also the effects on their relationships with their partners, the decision taking in various important stages of their lives, the impact of the internet, and last, their experiences with public authorities.

What does being normal imply? Which values are important to society? Who wears which masks – and why?

This project reveals the day-to-day struggle against the effects of the past. It also shows that those affected do not always win this struggle.

The apparent rationality of the spoken word enables the viewer to sense the severe pain of the soul even more today – decades after the disrespect for a child's requests and privacy by trusted adults.

Another, however different, approach to the subject is achieved by very diverse presentations of texts, pictures and music videos.

It outlines the taboo of child sexual abuse in Germany.

It is an outline that allows for the viewer's own thought but also demands for it. Consistently thinking through this project, it is clear that it is an impassioned plea for the future – our children.

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Background & Development

The idea for this video project came about on a quiet winter day in January 2004.

We had noticed that child sexual abuse had been dealt with a lot in the media. However, there had not been any information about the long-term effects the survivors of child sexual abuse have to deal with.

This project aims at sensitizing as many people as possible to this subject in order to tear down the walls that have been built up by the taboo and the superficial media feeding frenzy.

But how can someone accomplish this without any professional filmmakers on board?

One can do so by carefully checking the contents, working with a great team, putting in all your passion – and by knowing that this will help others.

Folgen – der Film is a non-profit project. This ensures the convenience of obtaining information on the subject.

Working on this project has been enabled by the team themselves as well as by in-kind gifts from committed sponsors. This is how we have been able to keep the necessary budget very low in all phases of production.

It has been possible to create a touching one-of-a-kind movie in a time in which child sexual abuse is still a taboo.

The medium DVD is extremely suitable for a simple and scalable distribution in terms of the project's aims.

Furthermore, it is planned to publish the interviews in the media and to show it on TV.

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Child sexual abuse is no strange kind of attaining sexual arousal. It is systematic destruction of vitality and sense of basic trust by agony felt by the physically weaker person. The effects do not only strongly influence the victim but all of society. (Helga)



Child sexual abuse is not something that 'does not exist here', but something that happens but something that happens in all social classes. Thus, it also concerns everyone. Those who walk away, who do not take action or close their eyes on the silent cries for help are complices. And the victims are sentenced to life. (Kristin)



Abuse begins when a child makes a choice and the adult knows, or really has to know, that he or she must not disrespect the child's choice. Abuse is when an adult deliberately disrespects the child's choice. It is the adult who is always responsible for the abuse, never the child. (Monika)



Folgen – der Film has a very good way of portraying what it means when it is said that "victims suffer for life". Anyone who would like to understand, will now be able to understand. (Bine)



Children are the weakest members of our society and it is especially them who have to carry heavy burdens. Many people cannot even imagine what child sexual abuse does to the children and that is why we have to throw light on this topic. A film that does not only show that child sexual abuse really exists, but also what effects it results in. (Bianca)



I consider a project like this movie that deals with the effects of child sexual abuse very important. People have to see that this crime is a tremendous problem of society and that every human being is called upon to find a solution to it. Not only the respective victim of the crime is affected but all of society. (Rolf)



We have to make people aware that child sexual abuse is a real problem. From my own experience I know that its effects have an influence on one's whole life – and that includes all those close to the one directly affected. (Sasita)



There are only very few subjects that bring about so many emotions in people. Yet, much too often, reality draws a different picture than social ostracism of child sexual abuse. This is what we have to change. (Thomas)