

**OPENING IN
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Ein Dokumentarfilm von SOPHIE NARR



Der Die Das

THE AMOUNT OF SMALL THINGS

**DVD-RELEASE
15.09.2009**

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»Eine Reise zurück in die Kindheit.«
»A journey back to childhood.«

PRODUCER ANJA STANISLAWSKI-FOEST KAMERA ANNE MISSELWITZ TON SOPHIE NARR & CHRISTIAN SIMON MISCHUNG HENRIK CORDES
MUSIK CHAO DU MONTAGE SOPHIE NARR & JANINA HERHOFER DRAMATURGIE SONJA NARR HERSTELLUNGSLEITUNG HOLGER LOCHAU
EIN FILM DER HFF »KONRAD WOLF« WORLD SALES RISE AND SHINE WWW.RISEANDSHINE-BERLIN.DE



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DER DIE DAS

- THE AMOUNT OF SMALL THINGS -

a documentary by Sophie Narr

SELECTED BY GOETHE-INSTITUT FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES WORLDWIDE

Every day life in classroom 1e.
Four children and their lonesome fight for adjustment and accomplishment.
However Fuat, Sanita, Bright and Laethicia break ranks over and over again.
Who will get a chance and who will not? A journey back to childhood.



SYNOPSIS

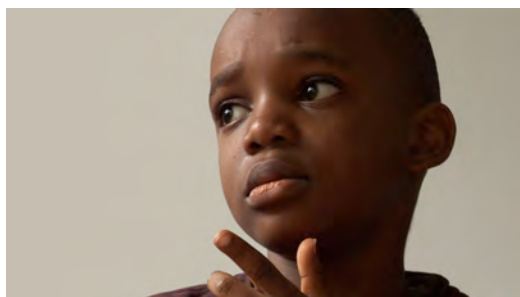
Sleepy and too late again, Sanita sneaks into the classroom. She sits down next to Bright who is hiding his face behind his folded arms as if this would make him invisible.

Laethicia adjusts her plastic crown on her head and blankly stares at the slide rule, while Fuat prefers to dream about riding in a car with his father.

Fuat, Sanita, Bright and Laethicia live in Berlin and they are all confronted with the same problem: they are first graders. It does not matter whether they are Nigerian, Bosnian, German or Turkish; for the 7 year-olds going to school means the daily confrontation with the feeling of being different.

However, there is no place for emotions in a packed classroom. Everyday life is a lonesome rat race for adjustment and accomplishment. But who will get a chance and who will be left behind? A moving journey back to childhood.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION



Original Title DER DIE DAS

English Title THE AMOUNT OF SMALL THINGS

Land GERMANY

Year APRIL 2008

Length 92 MIN / COLOUR
58 MIN TV - VERSION

Language Versions GERMAN
GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Shooting Format HDV

Screening Format DIGITAL / HD CAM
DIGITAL BETA
DVD
16:9 ANAMORPH. 25 B/S

Sound DOLBY SURROUND

Website WWW.DERDIEDAS-FILM.DE

World Sales RISE AND SHINE
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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For weeks I sit in a corner, punished with indifference, watching 22 alien children between six and eight years during their talk-and-chalk lessons. Not only are they strangers to me because they do not want to tell me their names, but also because they do not want to know anything about me. They are like shells that invite projections and grin sardonically over and over again when I voice speculations about their characters packed in shy questions.

No, they do not know why I am interested in them and they do not know, above all, why I am always there. Sometimes they observe me how I observe them. I smile and they pull a face at me. But anyway I stay put. They have noticed me.

I am at Anna-Lindh elementary school, which is located in Berlin's Wedding district. The fact that the share of foreign nationals here is counting about 60 percent reflects in the blend of pupils. More than 40 percent of the first graders will be certified as having bad to unsatisfactory command of German language.

In class the realities clash. The multi-colored mixed ethnic-religious backgrounds demand a big tolerance among the children themselves and above all from the teacher. The majority of the children comes from Turkey, the others are from Lebanon, Bosnia, Russia, Nigeria or Colombia. Yet in contrast to many of the parents, their special cultural situation does not carry much for the children. They back away from being different. They do not want to be different and consequently have little interest in their origins. Many of them do not even know where their parents come from and are ashamed of speaking their language at school.



A deliberate and deep involvement with their origins fades away behind a far bigger and much more serious problem; the gap between the everyday requirements at school and their living conditions outside the school since life at the poverty line and the often following lack of prospects for their parents also had an influence on the lives of the six- and seven-year-olds.

In conversations and drawings, the children finally show their small and big hopes, wishes and problems. Gradually a picture detail of our society in Germany unfolds. Little but enduring food for thought emerges, which forces us to think more deeply and in a more universal way: How do we deal with each other and how do we treat our children?

Sophie Narr

FESTIVALS – AWARDS



2009

26. Kassel Documentary Film & Video Festival
- Nomination Goldener Schlüssel –

32. Rencontres Henri Longlois, France

International Women's Film Festival Dortmund
- Camera Award -

Bergen International Film Festival, Norway

Astra Film Festival, Rumania

2008

Achtung Berlin Festival – New Berlin Film Award
- Nomination for Award of the Ecumenical Jury -

2. Film Festival Wismar, Germany

25. Film / Video Days Gera, Germany
- Subsidy Award Rheinland-Pfalz -

JURY'S VERDICTS

Subsidy Award - 25. video/film days

Looking into children's eyes is a little like looking into the future: There is hope, there is a sparkle of curiosity, there are roguish smirks, and smiles of longing. But their eyes can also darken and evoke an inkling of something very opposite. Sophie Narr and Anne Misselwitz let us participate in the everyday life of a few first graders from Berlin's Wedding district. The fact that most of them do not have a German family background is of little consequence, yet it remains always important. More than that it is the new requirements which can become excessive demands quickly, it is the fact that duty now takes priority over pleasure, and the (still) unknown structures which dominate the everyday life in school.

There is no commentary „from outside“. In sensibly conducted conversations the children themselves tell about their small and big hopes, their wishes, longings, and problems. The camera observes them cautiously and with empathy during the lessons, in the break, before and after school, and in their free time. The film remains always on eye level with the protagonists – and displays them with dignity.

Due to a clear-cut dramaturgical structure the resulting expressive mini-portraits form a display detail of our multicultural society in Germany in 2008. **THE AMOUNT OF SMALL THINGS** is a film of small but lasting impulses for thought. If we do not evade these thoughts, they will result in deeper considerations: How do we deal with each other and with our children? How do we address the future – within the family, at school, and in society?



International Women's Film Festival Dortmund

(Jury: Sophie Maintigneux, Bella Halben, Ute Freund)

Always on par with the pupils.

Respectful, reserved, loving.

Patient, calm, observing.

A first graders' classroom is a place we all know. Usually our first conflicts arise there. We immerse in Fuat's, Leathicia's, Bright's and Sanita's world. This film is never judgmental or presumptuous. Its unprepossessed view enables a direct experience of the pupils' feelings. This film leaves its marks.

TEAM

Idea, Director SOPHIE NARR

Producer ANJA STANISLAWSKI - FOEST

Director of Photography ANNE MISSELWITZ

Sound Recording SOPHIE NARR

Sound Editing CHRISTIAN SIMON

Sound Mixing HENRIK CORDES

Music CHAO QU

Editing SOPHIE NARR

Dramatic Adviser Editing JANINA HERHOFFER

Dramatic Adviser Script SONJA NARR

Assistant Editing MARTIN REIMERS

Foley Artist GÜNTHER RÖHN

Foley Recording GINETTA FASSIO

CHRISTIAN SIMON

Title, Credits MARTIN EICHHORN

DVD Design VALERIE ASSMANN

Colour Matching DOREEN BORCHERT

Technical Support ULRICH SPARRER

MARTIN BÖMER

Line Producer HOLGER LOCHAU

A Film by the Film and Television Academy (HFF) „Konrad Wolf“ Potsdam-Babelsberg

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SOPHIE NARR – DIRECTOR

Sophie Narr was born 1980 and grew up in Berlin, Germany. After high school in 1999 she started a professional training in editing for Film and Television in Berlin and worked for several production companies. In 2002 Sophie Narr studied screenwriting at the AFTRS in Sydney and in 2003 she started her studies in screen writing at the Film and Television Academy (HFF) - Konrad Wolf in Babelsberg, Germany. In 2006 Sophie Narr directed her first short film PLATZ IM SCHATTEN (In the shade) that deals with a child's perception of unresolved family conflicts. The film had it's world premier at the 53. International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Germany and was invited to several Film Festival throughout the world. Among other awards Sophie Narr received for her directing the „Hans W. Geißendörfer Nachwuchspreis“ at the 24th Video/Film Days in Koblenz, Germany. In 2008 she finished her studies with her first feature length documentary THE AMOUNT OF SMALL THINGS. In 2009 she received a scholarship at the Academy of Arts in Berlin. Currently she is working on her next short film in Hannover with the “Cast&Cut” scholarship.

Filmography – Director

- 2010 **Mit Ohne Dich (AT)**
Kurzfilm, 20 min, HD, *In Vorbereitung*
- 2010 **Pull The Plug – Venice & Las Vegas**
Videoinstallation, 20 min, HD, Sound: Annesley Black, Akademie der Künste Berlin
- 2008 **Der Die Das (the amount of small things)**
Documentary, 92 / 58 min, HDcam, HFF – Konrad Wolf
- 2007 **Platz im Schatten (in the shade)**
Short Film, 15 min, 35mm, HFF – Konrad Wolf
- Festivals / Awards (selection):
53. Int. Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen / 24.Video-Film Tage – Hans W. Geißendörfer Nachwuchspreis / Next Reel Film Festival – Cinematography Award / Slow Film Festival – Best Short Fiction / Asolo Art Film Festival – Best School of Cinema Production / Amirani Int. Short Film Festival - Best Sound

Filmography – Screenwriting (selection)

- 2009 **Ich ist ein anderer – Fünf Variationen über ein Thema**
Hörspiel, 50 min, Regie: Alfred Behrens, HFF – Konrad Wolf / rbb
- 2009 **Es sind noch Berge draußen**
Dokumentarfilm, 60 min, HD, Regie: Janina Herhoffer, HFF – Konrad Wolf
- 2006 **hydrophil**
Kurzfilm, 20 min, 35mm, Regie: Mia Grau, HFF – Konrad Wolf



ANNE MISSELWITZ

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Anne Misselwitz was born in 1977 in Jena, Germany. In 1997 – 2002 she lived and studied in London. In 2001 she finished her studies at the London College of Communications with the Bachelor of Arts in Film and Video. From 2002 to 2007 she studied Cinematography at the Film and Television Academy (HFF) Konrad Wolf. After several documentaries and fictional films she finished her studies with her diploma film DER DIE DAS.

Filmography (Selection)

- 2009 **Auf Deutsch, bitte!**
Documentary, XDCamEX, Director: Bianka Bertram
Editing: Sylke Rohlrach, Bettina Blickwede
- 2008 **Cuers**
Video Installation, DVCPHD + Mini35, Director: Johanna Domke
Support: Danish Art Council
- Football under Cover**
Documentary, HDV, Director: Najafi / Assmann
Flying Moon Production, Berlinale 2008 Perspektive Deutsches Kino
- Der Die Das (The amount of small things)**
Documentary, HDV, Director: Sophie Narr, HFF – Konrad Wolf
- 2006 **Jin-Riki-Shaw**
Short Documentary, DV, director: Dirk Schreier
Co-Production Arte / HFF – Konrad Wolf / SRFTI Calcutta, India
- 2005 **Göttliche Durga**
Short Fiction, DVCPHD, Director: Heiko Aufdermauer
Co-Production Arte / HFF – Konrad Wolf / SRFTI Calcutta, India
- Unexpected Rules**
Short Fiction / Installation, 35mm, Director & Producer: Philippe Schwinger / Frederic Moser
- 2004 **Belgrad Backspin**
Documentary, DV, Director: Anne Misselwitz, Moritz Siebert
Co-Director: Margarete Misselwitz
- Du bist tot**
Short Fiction, 16mm, Director: Fabian Möhrke, HFF – Konrad Wolf
- 2003 **Zwei Leben**
Documentary, 16mm, Director: Timo Gössler, HFF – Konrad Wolf
- Lachen gehen**
Short Documentary, 16mm; Director: Lena Kammermeier, HFF – Konrad Wolf
- 2001 **Zwielicht**
Short Documentary, DV, Director/DOP: Anne Misselwitz Production LCP London



ANJA STANISLAWSKI-FOEST

PRODUCER

Anja Stanislowski-Foest was born in 1981 in Teterow, Germany. After high school she came to Berlin and worked for several Production Companies in Film, Television and Commercials. Since 2003 she studies Film and Television Producing at the Film and Television Academy (HFF) Konrad Wolf - Babelsberg. During her studies she has been working on several student film productions as production Manager and producer. Besides her film projects she is working in Event Managing: In 2005 she co-founded the Short Film Festival „Great Shorts“ where she worked as a Jury member. In 2008 she managed the opening of KUKI – 1st International Children' and Youth Short Film Festival in Berlin, Germany. Currently Anja Stanislowski-Foest is working on the project “Children make Short Films 09”.

Filmography Production Manager / Producer (selection)

- 2009 **Luise / Königin der Herzen**
Documentary, 52 min / Director: Georg Schiemann
LOOKS Medienproduktionen GmbH (NDR, ARTE)
- 2008 **Kinder machen Kurzfilm 08**
Short Fiction, 10 min + Documentary 15 min
Bewegliche Ziele e.V. in cooperation with interfilm Berlin and VISION KINO
- Der Die Das – The Amount Of Small Things**
Documentary, 90 min / Director: Sophie Narr / HFF – Konrad Wolf
- 2007 **Der letzte Sommer**
Documentary, 40 min / Director: Britta Nandelstädt / HFF – Konrad Wolf
- 2005 **Die Ideale**
Short Fiction / Director: Sven Jakob / HFF – Konrad Wolf / ZDF Theaterkanal
- 2004 **Hamlet ff.**
Image film 50 Jahre HFF Potsdam / Director: Rolf Sakulowski / HFF – Konrad Wolf
- Sommerspiele**
Short Fiction / Director: Matthias Luthardt / HFF – Konrad Wolf
- Vor einer Sekunde**
Documentary, 15 min / Director: Britta Nandelstädt / HFF – Konrad Wolf
- 2003 **downstairs**
Short Fiction / Director: Benjamin Lucchesi / B_MoviE Filmproduktion

Filmography - Assistant of Production Manager

- 2001 **Führer Ex**
Feature Film / Director: Winfried Bonengel / Next Film Filmproduktion
- 2000 **Suck my Dick**
Feature Film / Director: Oskar Roehler / Helkon Media Filmproduktion

CONTACT



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