

Synopsis

A look inside the AfD - beyond the spectacle of the media. Simon Brückner's exclusive access to local, state and federal levels leads into the back rooms of a controversial party struggling with internal conflicts. A striking overall picture emerges, composed of precisely observed individual scenes, without external influence or linguistic commentary. Direct Cinema in the communication space of an organisation whose radical wing candidates fight against supposed moderates. Opposing political forces become visible down to the party's new generation, which seems to have already broken with the system of the Federal Republic. The international networking of a right-wing that is re-forming globally and gaining popularity is also shown.

Through grey areas and the sometimes depressingly mundane, the abysses of extremism, hostility and contempt towards supposed strangers unfolds.

In its striving for an analytical, neutral approach, the film takes us to places away from the public battlefields and begins where the daily news coverage must end. A balancing act in the field of tension between closeness and distance, which places one's own experience at the centre and invites one to continue thinking and arguing.

Simon Brückner managed to accompany entire networks and committees over several years. The cinematic mosaic, determined with sociological flair, confronts the audience with a parallel world that has long since become normality for many party supporters, even if some of them came from the centre of society.

A German Party is the uncomfortable document of a historical stocktaking. A journey to people on the border of democracy.

Director's Statement

„When the AfD showed up in the political arena, there was a great deal of concern about this rising right-wing party. At times the AfD seems like an alien spaceship that has landed in our allegedly perfect German democracy to mess it up, due to the ways the party has been talked about in the media. Nevertheless, the AfD has emerged from the centre of our society – not merely from the margins.

As a documentarist, I wanted to depict this particular part of our political reality on an adequate scale and offer a film that had not existed before: to put the audience directly into the party's communication space. The working question was: If I disregard everything I think to know about the AfD and manage to be accepted as their silent guest, neither friend nor foe – what do I actually see? The cliché that everyone expects? Or totally different aspects? Or both at the same time? The film does not give a definite answer to this. Yet it presents the essence of those situations that I was able to capture with the camera. It reveals abysses while retaining a realm for discoveries. In this way, the audience can embark on my journey itself. The emergence of the AfD brought polarization and communication breakdowns within German society. I chose to take a step back and look at things from a distance. Therein lies the power of observational documentaries: To let the phenomena speak for themselves in the darkness of the cinema and the size of the projection.“

About the Production

A GERMAN PARTY is a production of Hubertus Siegert and his production company spicefilm. It is a co-production with ZDF/3sat and Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg. The film was supported with funding from the Federal Commission for Culture and Media, the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and the German Federal Film Fund.

The film's research began in 2017 and it was shot between 2019 and 2021. The filming took place openly and with the consent of the people and bodies involved. The AfD had no say in the editing of the film.

Crew

Written and Directed: Simon Brückner
Cinematography: Simon Brückner
Editing: Sebastian Winkels, Gesa Marten, BFS
Sound Recording: Nils Plambeck
Sound Design: André Zacher
Production Manager: Susanne Bauer
Producer: Hubertus Siegert

General Information

110 minutes
Germany 2022
Feature Documentary
German Distribution: Majestic Filmverleih
World Sales: Hubertus Siegert/ spicefilm GmbH
Press: Petra Schwuchow