



AGAINST THE TIDE

by Sobo Swobodnik



SYNOPSIS

Thomas Walter was part of the Berlin autonomous scene. In 1995 he and two co-perpetrators were accused of having attempted an arson attack on an uninhabited deportation prison in Berlin-Grünau which was prevented by the police. Arrest warrants for the three as members of a leftist terrorist association are still valid today. They went underground for decades. It is only in 2017 that Walter contacts his family in Germany again – from Venezuela, where he has applied for asylum.

Thomas Walter is also a relative of the Berlin filmmaker Sobo Swobodnik, who travels with a camera to the Andes in 2019 to meet the former autonomist in his home surrounded by vegetable gardens. This is where he is working on a music project with the Berlin singer Pablo Charlemoine aka Mal Élevé in an improvised studio in the kitchen. There's also an extensive interview in which Walter, in Baden dialect, talks remarkably frankly (and self-righteously) about attitudes and events then and now. His former...

FESTIVALS

2019

62 DOK Leipzig - World Premiere

2020

37 Kassel Dokfest

26 Filmschau Baden-Württemberg

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Sobo Swobodnik · PRODUCER Erik Winker, Ümit Uludag, Martin Roelly · SOUND Tom Weber, Andreas Mühlischlegel · EDITOR Manuel Stettner

2019

88 min

ORIGINAL TITLE

GEGEN DEN STROM

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait, Conflicts, Human Rights, Politics, POV

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

German, Spanish

PREMIERE

Leipzig, Germany (2019)

PRODUCTION COMPANY

[CORSO Film](#)

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