



AUGUST BIER - THE SURGEON WHO PLANTED TREES AND INVENTED THE STEEL HELMET

by Uli Aumüller (Alma Barkey)



SYNOPSIS

At the center of our historical documentary stands the many-facetted personality of August Bier (1861-1949) director of the University Clinic for Surgery in Berlin, who was connected with important historical events during his long life. Bier was a man of many talents: an innovative surgeon, he discovered spinal anaesthesia in a self-experiment; he invented the steel helmet that protected innumerable soldiers from injury and death during World War I. He also pioneered in forestry, conducting “ecologically” sustainable experiments on his estate, where he transformed the local sand-and-pine steppe into a healthy mixed forest. Bier operated on prominent patients, such as Wilhelm II and President Ebert, who unfortunately died on his operating table. In our documentary we emphasize the contradictory personality of August Bier, who, despite his arch-conservative weltanschauung was able to assert innovative ideas in many areas.

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Uli Aumüller (Alma Barkey) · SCREENPLAY Alma Barkey

Germany 2009

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

German

PREMIERE

Germany (2009)

PRODUCTION COMPANY

[Alma Barkey Film](#)

Germany