



DOG SOLDIERS

by Lena Leonhardt



SYNOPSIS

A remote forest: a place where dogs become canine soldiers. The dogs born here, in the military dog training school of the German Army, are all supposed to be both companion and weapon for their human counterparts. The dogs are trained to act like a weapon, and the soldiers are trained to make use of it. The initial play gradually becomes drill and the artificial training setting gets closer and closer to the scenario of a real military mission. A reality that is only too well known to another protagonist: at the same time, in the same training camp, a traumatised Kosovo veteran is to be rehabilitated with the help of a therapy dog.

DOG SOLDIERS is an essayistic look at what it means to be soldierly.

FESTIVALS

DOK Leipzig 2016 German Competition
Grimme Preis 2017
NaturVision Film Festival 2017
NaturVision Film Festival 2021

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Lena Leonhardt · PRODUCER Peter Kuczinski ·
SOUND Alexander Rubin, Christoph Schilling, Udo Steinhauser,
Simon Peter · EDITOR Timm Kröger · DOP Sebastian Bäumler ·
SOUND DESIGN Alexander Rubin, David Raedler · NARRATOR
Jeanette Hain

Germany 2016
69 min

ORIGINAL TITLE
HUNDESOLDATEN

FORMAL CATEGORIES
War/Peace, Nature/Animals

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES
German

PREMIERE
Leipzig, Germany (2016)

COPRODUCTION COMPANY
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FILM LOCATION
Germany