

# FREE STATE MIDPOINT

by Kai Ehlers



## SYNOPSIS

Free State Midpoint portraits the hermit Ernst Otto Karl Grassmé, who was a victim of eugenics. During the Nazi regime he was forcibly sterilized and disenfranchised. As a result he spent the rest of his life in the woods. His letters to a teenage girl from the neighbourhood and records of prolonged legal battles provide insight into his struggle for a dignified life. It continued in post-war Germany, which refused to give him recognition and reparation. Using a transzendential style the film raises the question what a dignified life looks like and how it depends on societal circumstances.

"The film has shaken me deeply. It is impossible not to get drawn into it. Because what is told to us is not delivered by commentary, but in the voices of the victimised. I feel a responsibility and I am ashamed of the justice system, which, even after 1945, shamelessly continued to exercise the Nazi-Justice (Hereditary Health Law) in the Federal Republic of Germany - until 1991.

I find the visual...

## FESTIVALS

2019

Seal of Approval 'highly recommended'  
visions du réel industry Media Library  
61 Nordic Film Days Lübeck  
16. dokumentarfilmwoche hamburg  
Film Fest Schleswig/Holstein

## CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Kai Ehlers · PRODUCER Kai Ehlers · SCORE Chris Hirson · SOUND Domenico Distillo, Jan Gabriel · COMPOSITING André Zacher, Björn Wiese · SOUND DESIGN Frank Bubenzer

Germany 2019

79 min

ORIGINAL TITLE

FREISTAAT MITTELPUNKT

FORMAL CATEGORIES

History, Politics

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

German

PREMIERE

Germany (2019)

COPRODUCTION COMPANY

[Moon Jar Film](#)

Kiehholzstr. 17 GWH II

12435 Berlin

Germany

[production@moonjarfilm.de](mailto:production@moonjarfilm.de)

<http://moonjarfilm.com>

LINKS / REFERENCE

TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/321690434>

<https://freistaat-mittelpun...>

<http://kaiehlers.de>

<https://www.facebook.com/Fr...>

<https://www.instagram.com/f...>