



LEAVING AND STAYING

by Volker Koepp



SYNOPSIS

In Uwe Johnson's last study in the English town of Sheerness, there was a map of Mecklenburg on the wall – the region of his childhood, to which he never returned after his emigration to the West and could only reconstruct in the literary sense afterwards. Volker Koepp's film is conceived as a geobiography: he travels with Johnson's texts to places from the author's life, finding people and landscapes connected to his work and his person, sometimes closely, sometimes more loosely. Koepp's and Johnson's poetic projects intertwine: their landscapes and biographies resist linear progression; history remains stored in them only to reveal itself again and again. For Johnson, when he swims in the Baltic Sea, the dead are present, floating in the Bay of Lübeck after the 1945 sinking of the Cap Arcona. Koepp speaks with a woman who recalls how holidaying in Italy evoked thoughts of those fleeing across the Mediterranean by boat. Johnson's sorrow at the invasion of Prague...

FESTIVALS

2023

73 BERLINALE – Forum

32 FILMKUNSTFEST MV

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Volker Koepp · SCREENPLAY Barbara Frankenstein ·
SOUND Stephan Settele · EDITOR Christoph Krüger · DOP Uwe
Mann

Germany 2023

178 min

ORIGINAL TITLE

GEHEN UND BLEIBEN

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Arts/Culture

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

German

PREMIERE

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