

THE BRANCH I AM SITTING ON - A TAX HAVEN IN SWITZERLAND

by Luzia Schmid



SYNOPSIS

Prosperity on the one side, misery on the other: just how directly the two can be connected comes to light in Luzia Schmid's film about the meteoric rise of her hometown of Zug upon becoming a tax haven.

Swiss filmmaker Luzia Schmid traces the rise of her hometown of Zug and its townspeople, who have succeeded in becoming very rich by converting their town into one of the world's leading tax havens. Even her immediate family is implicated in Zug's politics and economy. And yet a tax haven is also part of the wider economy and thus we also learn about international rivalries in the tax game: the invention of the first shell company, the carefully guarded banking secrecy and the development of offshore tax shelters. "Race to the bottom" is a phrase often used to describe this destructive momentum, which, with tax scandals involving companies like Apple, Amazon and Starbucks, reached its low point in the financial crisis of 2008. In Zug, success came with its fair share of...

FESTIVALS

2020

Zurich FF

FF Cologne

2021

Grimme Award Information & Culture, Germany

2021

GRIMME Prize Information & Culture

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Luzia Schmid · PRODUCER Birgit Schulz, Karin Koch · SCORE Pluramon · SOUND Ralf Weber, Reto Stamm, Matteo de Pellegrini · EDITOR Yana Höhnerbach · DOP Hajo Schomerus · ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Monika Mack · SOUND DESIGN Holger Buff · OTHER Andreas Busslinger (Droneoperator)

Switzerland, Germany 2020

104 min

ORIGINAL TITLE

DER AST AUF DEM ICH SITZE -
Ein Steuerparadies in der
Schweiz

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Current Affairs,
Ecology/Environment, Economy,
Politics

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

German, English, French

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