



# TOUCHING

by Mechthild Gaßner



## SYNOPSIS

Nina, Edith and Ronald are sexual assistants. Their clients are people with disabilities, their job: to satisfy their desire for physical contact. Is this a form of prostitution? A study of a taboo subject.

"I'm no different to anyone else!" says Torsten in his wheelchair. "I also long for tenderness, intimacy and sex." The sexual needs of the disabled are generally not recognised; in fact, we do not expect disabled people to have such feelings. People like Nina, Edith and Ronald have a different approach.

They call themselves sexual assistants. "Sexual companionship is a paid service", says Nina de Vries, the pioneer of sexual assistance in Germany. So it is prostitution? The film TOUCHING explores the longings and wishes of Christine and Torsten, but also shows the empathy and skills the sexual assistant need in order to engage with their clients. Their work is all about touching. Ever since Adam met Eve, touching has been the most basic form of reassurance that we are...

## CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Mechthild Gaßner · SOUND Andrea Schmidt · EDITOR Anja Bombelli · DOP Johann Feindt · ASSISTANT EDITOR Claudia Trost

Germany 2017

52 min

ORIGINAL TITLE

BERÜHRUNGEN –

Sexualassistenten bei der Arbeit

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Human Rights, Social issues

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

German

PREMIERE

Germany (2017)

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