

WASTE LAND

by Jens Schanze



SYNOPSIS

By 2045, twenty localities in Germany will be resettled because of brown coal open pit mining. The film *Waste Land* follows the inhabitants of three villages in the Rhenish coal-mining district during their last years in their old home and documents how an entire region prepares for its collective relocation. "I wish you much joy planning your new house!" That is what the director of the Rheinbraun AG calls out to several dozen people in the gym of a small town near Cologne. Floor plans for one-, two- and multiple-family houses hang on exhibition walls. Rheinbraun AG, a subsidiary of RWE-Energy, has big plans. It wants to relocate 17 Rhenish localities in order to mine the brown coal lying below. The coal will produce power, which will contribute to the energy supply of the Federal Republic of Germany for decades to come. For 12,000 people, that means the loss of their home. Brown coal open pit mining has a long tradition in Rhineland. Since WWII, 30,000 people have...

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Jens Schanze · SCREENPLAY Jens Schanze · EDITOR
Jens Schanze · DOP Bernd Weiffenbach
(Grimmepreis/Bayerischer Fernsehpreis/ Deutscher
Kamerapreis) · COMMISSIONING EDITOR Margrit Schreiber

Germany 2001

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES
German

PREMIERE
Germany (2001)

PRODUCTION COMPANY
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