



## THE BIG WIDE WORLD

Leipzig, the big city in East Germany.

We shot the first film in 1986. Since then more than 10 years have passed. This period contained the fall of the Wall, the end of the GDR and finally the German Reunification.

Again and again we returned to Leipzig. Five films were made during these years. The films document the changes in the city -and in the country. We recount life - histories and individual destinies.

How did they experience these years? - the fall of the Wall, political campaigns and elections, the Economic Union, the chance to travel freely, the increasing economic uncertainties, the end of the GDR, a new beginning, the German unity and the world we live in today?

In those days Sylvia ran a pub in a working-class district, which she sold immediately after the Economic Union before she moved to Bavaria in West Germany together with her husband.

At the beginning of 1990, a time where hardly anyone was willing to talk about things like that openly, Renate, a journalist, spoke to us about her contacts to the STASI, about responsibility and guilt.

Isabell just turned 14 and was a punk. On the day the new currency was introduced there were tears in her eyes and after a year she armed herself in the belief that this was the only way to defend herself against the new wave of radicalism.

And "Papa"? A radical youngster. Previously he lived in a squat together with other red skins and punks. First he belonged to the left - wing, then he changed to the right - wing and returned to the left - wing again.

And what about Wolfgang, the worker? 8 years ago, in 1989, the old foundry in which he worked still existed.

Now it is closed. He took early retirement and sits at home.

So what and where are all these people so many years later?

In "The Big Wide World", the fifth and probably the last film in the Leipzig series, we meet them again.

Sylvia and Dietmar have a new house and live a new life in Bavaria, but they want to leave Germany to open a diving school somewhere.

Renate is one of those people who does not suppress her past. She is unemployed.

Isabell left the punk scene a long time ago. She works in legal chambers in Stuttgart.

"Papa" is no longer a red skinhead but rather a paratrooper and sergeant in the German Army.

THE BIG WIDE WORLD - Life - stories and destinies.

Images from then and now.