



U.S. POLICE DEPARTMENT

THE STRANGE CASE OF
WILHELM REICH

PRESS KIT



Synopsis

At the end of his life, Wilhelm Reich - psychiatrist and experimental scientist searching for the fundamentals of life - finds himself on trial, charged with deception. His dream of liberating human individuality makes him a dangerous opponent of an American system that is striving after 1945 for global hegemony, using all available means. Was it madness to believe in man's liberty or was Reich simply in the wrong place at the wrong time, and being a holistic global thinker, accurately observing far-reaching socio-political linkages? Ten years after his mysterious death, his writings, once burnt by the USFDA, become an important source of inspiration for a '68 generation in revolt.

About Wilhelm Reich

Wilhelm Reich, born in 1897, was an Austrian-American psychiatrist and psychoanalyst.

He was the author of several notable books, including *The Invasion of Compulsory Sex-Morality* (1932), *The Mass Psychology of Fascism* and *Character Analysis* both published in 1933, *The Function of the Orgasm* (1942), *The Cancer Biopathy* (1948), etc.

Reich worked with Sigmund Freud in the 1920s and was a respected analyst for much of his life, focusing on character structure rather than on individual neurotic symptoms. He tried to reconcile Marxism and psychoanalysis, arguing that neurosis is rooted in the physical, sexual, economic, and social conditions of the patient, and promoted adolescent sexuality, the availability of contraceptives, abortion, and divorce, and the importance for women of economic independence.

Reich was living in Germany when Adolf Hitler came to power in January 1933. On March 2 that year the Nazi newspaper *Völkischer Beobachter* published an attack on one of Reich's pamphlets, *The Sexual Struggle of Youth*, he left immediately for Vienna and moved to the United States in 1939.

Later in life he became a controversial figure who was both adored and condemned. He began to violate some of the key taboos of psychoanalysis, using touch during sessions, and treating patients in their underwear to improve their "orgastic potency." He said he had discovered a primordial cosmic energy, which he said others called God and that he called "orgone". He built orgone energy accumulators that his patients sat inside to harness the reputed health benefits, leading to newspaper stories about sex boxes that cured cancer.

In 1947, following a series of articles about orgone in *The New Republic* and *Harper's*, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) obtained an injunction against the interstate sale of orgone accumulators. Charged with contempt for violating it, Reich conducted his own defense, which involved sending the judge all his books to read and arguing that a court was no place to decide matters of science. He was sentenced to two years in prison, and in August 1956 several tons of his publications were burned by the FDA.

Reich died in jail in 1957.

His work influenced a generation of intellectuals, including Saul Bellow, William S. Burroughs, Paul Edwards, Norman Mailer, A. S. Neill, and Robert Anton Wilson, and shaped innovations such as Fritz Perls's "Gestalt therapy", Alexander Lowen's "bioenergetic analysis", and Arthur Janov's "primal therapy".

Ungepanzertes Orgonotisches System

Gepanzertes Orgonotisches System



Tech Specs

Feature film | Austria | 2012 | 111 min | English

Genre: Drama
Shooting format: 35mm
Exhibition format: DCP
A production of: Novotny & Novotny Filmproduktion and Coop 99 Filmproduktion
In co-production with: Lotus Film

World premiere: 28th of October 2012 at the 50th Vienna International Film Festival Viennale

Cast

WILHELM REICH	Klaus Maria Brandauer	EVA REICH	Julia Jentsch
ILSE REICH	Jeanette Hain	HAMILTON	Jamie Sives
PAUL	Kenny Doughty	AURORA	Birigit Minichmayr
THOMAS	Max Deacon	DR. CAMERON	Gary Lewis
PETER	Shaun Aylward	PETER	Shaun Aylward
AGENT KLEIN	Markus Schleinzner	JUDGE CLIFFORD	Michael Shannon
HILLS	David Rasche		

Crew

Writer/Director: Antonin Svoboda
Director of Photography: Martin Gschlacht
Production Design: Katharina Wöppermann
Costume Design: Tanja Hausner
Make - Up: Sam Dopona
Production sound mixer: Odo Grötschnig
Sounddesign/Re-recording mixer: Thomas Pötz
Original music: Bernd Jungmeir, Stefan Jungmeir
Editor: Oliver Neumann
Casting: Lisa Olah
Executive Producer: Gottlieb Pallendorf
Co-Producers: Tommy Priding, Peter Wirthensohn
Line Producer: Johanna Scherz
Producers: Antonin Svoboda, Martin Gschlacht, Franz Novotny, Alexander Glehr



Filmography Antonin Svoboda - director, writer, producer

Born 1969 in Vienna, Austria

1991 – 1997 Film Academy Vienna; Thesis about the actress Kathrin Cartlidge and her work with Lars von Trier and Mike Leigh

1999 co-founder of coop99 film production together with Barbara Albert, Jessica Hausner and Martin Gschlacht in Vienna

Writer and Director:

WHO IS AFRAID OF WILHELM REICH (2009)	documentary, 95 min.
FOREVER NEVER ANYWHERE(2007)	feature film, 90 min.
YOU BET YOUR LIFE (2005)	feature film, co-production: Triluna Film (CH), 90 min.
FRIENDLY ALIEN (2003)	documentary
KARL WIE KARLSPLATZ (1996)	documentary, 40 min.
MAH JONGG (1996)	short, co-production ORF
BETONGRÄSER (1995)	short, 23 min., prizes: best film, best camera, best main actor at Student Film Festival Vienna
GROBE FERIEEN (1994)	short, 40 min., prizes: Prix Special LVT d`Ecole Européen ;Festival Angers 98.

Producer at coop99:

PEPPERMINTA (2009)	by Pipilotti Rist , feature, co-production: Hugofilm, festival: Venezia Orizzonti 09
LOURDRES (2009)	by Jessica Hausner, feature, co-production: essential films (D) and SPP (F), festivals: Venezia Competition 09; Fipresci Venezia, Warsaw Best Film, Valencia Best Film
WOMEN WITHOUT MEN (09)	by Shirin Neshat, feature film, co-production: Essential Films (D), festivals: Venezia Competition 09
FREE RAINER (2007)	by Hans Weingartner, feature, co-production: Kahuuna Films (D) festivals: International Film Festival Toronto 2007
FALLEN (2006)	by Barbara Albert, feature, 90 min., festivals: Int. Film Festival Venice 06, competition
SLEEPER (2004)	by Benjamin Heisenberg , TV, co-production: juicy film (D), 90 min., festivals: Cannes 2004, Sélection Officielle – Un Certain Regard
DARWIN'S NIGHTMARE (04)	by Hubert Sauper , documentary, co-production: mille et une production (F), Saga Film (B), 80 min. festivals: Biennale Venice, 2004;
THE EDUCATORS (2004)	by Hans Weingartner, feature film, co-production: y-3film (D), 135 min., festivals: Cannes official competition
HOTEL (2004)	by Jessica Hausner , feature film, co-production: Essential Films (D), festivals: Cannes 2004, Sélection Officielle – Un Certain Regard
FREE RADICALS (2003)	by Barbara Albert, feature film, co-production: Zero Film (D) and Fama Film (CH), festivals: Locarno 2003 competition, London, Toronto
COLDFRONT (2003)	by Valentin Hitz , feature film, festivals: Saarbrücken 2003
LOVELY RITA (2001)	by Jessica Hausner, feature film , co-production: Essential Films (D), 80 min., festivals: Cannes, Sélection Officielle – Un Certain Regard



Filmography Novotny & Novotny Filmproduktion (selection)

SICKFUCKPEOPLE	Juri Rechninsky, AT/UA 2012, documentary (Hot Docs - International Competition)
THE FATHERLESS	Marie Kreuzer, AT 2011, feature (Berlinale 2011 - Panorama)
CHALET GIRL	Phil Trill, GB/DE/AT 2011, feature (release date: March 2011)
JEW SUSS - RISE AND FALL	Oskar Roehler, AT/DE 2010, feature (Berlinale 2010 - Official Competition)
INITATION	Peter Kern, AT 2010, feature (Berlinale 2010 - Panorama)
KARAULA	Rajko Grlic, BiH/SLO/MK/SRB/GB/HU/FR/AT 2006, feature (Festiroia IFF - FIRPRESCI Preis)
KELLER - TEENAGE WASTELAND	Eva Urthaler, AT/DE/IT 2005, feature (Locarno IFF, Max Ophüls Preis - Best young actor)
SUMMER IN THE GOLDEN VALLEY	Srdjan Vuletic, BiH/FR/GB/AT 2003, feature (Rotterdam IFF - Tiger Award)
GORI VATRA	Pjer Zalica, BiH/ AT/TR/FR 2003, feature (Locarno IFF - Silver Leopard)
011 BEOGRAD	Michael Pfeiffenberg, AT/SRB 2003, featue (Max Ophüls Prize)
THE PUNISHMENT	Goran Rebic, AT 2000, documentary feature (Diagonale 2000 - Best Film)
SLIDIN'	Barbara Albert, Michael Grimm, Reinhard Jud, AT 1998 (Karlovy Vary, Rotterdam)

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