



DEARBROTHER

A FILM BY **JULIA HORN**



with **MARKUS BECKER · MICHAEL BECKER · FRANK BECKER · RUDOLF BECKER · MIRKO BECKER · ULRICH MENGEL · MARIA AARTS**
director of photography **TIMM LANGE** sound **FILIPP FORBERG** editor **ALEXANDRA KARAOULIS · JOHANNES HIROSHI NAKAJIMA**
music **JÖRG FOLLERT/SUNSUNPARK** sounddesign **TIM ELZER** re-recording mixer **KARL ATTELN** color correction **FELIX HÜSKEN**
production manager **FLORIAN-MALTE FIMPEL** commissioning editor **MARTIN PIEPER** producers **ERIK WINKER · MARTIN ROELLY**
script & director **JULIA HORN** a **CORSO FILM PRODUCTION** in co-production with **ZDF** and **ARTE** in cooperation with **HORN FILM**
funded by **FILM - UND MEDIENSTIFTUNG NRW · FILMFÖRDERUNGSANSTALT · SAARLAND MEDIEN**

CORSO FILM

HORNFILM

ZDF

arte

Film und Medien
Stiftung NRW

FFA

M
SAARLAND MEDIEN



DEAR BROTHER

Feature Documentary

106 min. / Germany 2019 / 1,78:1 / 5.1 / HD

Original Language: German

English subs

Written and directed by Julia Horn

Produced by CORSO Film

PRODUCTION CONTACT

CORSO Film

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

Markus Becker is hit by a car, dragged along, his head bashed on a curb and he falls into a coma. The doctors don't believe that the 45-year-old will survive the next five to ten days. His father makes preparations for the funeral. Markus' brother Michael refuses to accept this fate and begins an extraordinary battle. In his brother's apartment he seals Markus' clothes to preserve the smell. He records the neighbors' voices. Every day, Michael exposes his brother to things that are familiar and films

everything that is part of Markus' life with a DV camera. He wants to keep him in his world and to bring this world to his bedside. He documents every step of Markus' development, risking his own life in the process, wishing that his brother will one day regain the ability to lead a normal life. This full-length documentary accompanies Michael Becker for 10 years on his unwavering and creative mission to bring his brother Markus back to life.



LONG SYNOPSIS

Markus Becker is hit by a car, dragged along, his head bashed on a curb and he falls into a vegetative state. The doctors don't believe that the 45-year-old will survive the next five to ten days. His father makes preparations for the funeral.

Markus' brother Michael refuses to accept this fate and begins an extraordinary battle. In his brother's apartment he seals Markus' clothes to preserve the smell. He records the neighbors' voices. Every day, Michael exposes his brother to things that are familiar and films everything that is part of Markus' life with a camcorder. He wants to keep him in his world and to bring this world to his bedside. He documents every step of Markus' development.

Michael relocates his brother Markus from the Saarland to Cologne, where he cares for him 24/7, sacrificing a private life and his career. His life has a single purpose: to retrieve his brother from his coma. And he succeeds—much to the surprise of the doctors. Michael constantly finds new ways of stimulating Markus, encouraging him to come back to life. He takes his camcorder and films how people walk, filming their feet and then films Markus' foot. Markus is to rediscover his lust for life and see how it can be done. Michael examines methods of communication. How can he reach Markus, find out how he is doing and re-teach him how to speak.

With his unwavering dedication, Michael Becker comes into repeated conflict with caregivers and doctors, who are less than thrilled about his heightened involvement. His constant presence, suggestions for improvement and propensity to ask questions are not always welcome. Michael wants the caregivers to view his brother as a human being in the process of convalescing and wants them to actively challenge him. He calls into question all accepted opinions and assertions about persistent vegetative state; he wants to make sure that light is shed on his stories.

Michael runs himself into the ground, inching closer and closer to his physical and emotional limit. In the end, he breaks down and suffers a heart attack. Where is he to go from here?

This documentary follows Michael Becker for 10 years on his unflinching and creative mission to return his brother to a sense of normalcy. Intimate and up-close, the camera depicts the brotherly connection within their microcosm, which captures both scores of humorous moments and serious conflicts. The film is also the tale of a familial tragedy. A father's son is "dead" to him for a long time, and the antics of his living son are a source of consternation. Will the father ever see his lost son again?

TEAM

Script and Director	Julia Horn
Cinematography	Timm Lange Arne Wolter
Sound Recordists	Filipp Forberg Michael Arens Michael Ciesla
Editors	Alexandra Karaoulis Johannes Hiroshi Nakajima
Sounddesign	Tim Elzer
Re-Recording Mixer	Karl Atteln
Color Correction	Felix Hüsken
Music	Jörg Follert / SunSunPark
Graphic Art	Jürgen Schnetzer / VJS Agentur für Film
Production Manager	Florian-Malte Fimpel
Commissioning Editor	Martin Pieper, ZDF/ARTE
Producers	Erik Winker Martin Roelly

with Markus Becker · Michael Becker · Frank Becker
Rudolf Becker · Mirko Becker · Ulrich Mengel · Maria Aarts

produced by **CORSO Film**

In co-production with **ZDF** and in collaboration with **ARTE**
in co-operation with **HORNFILM**

funded by **Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, FFA** and **Saarland Medien**



JULIA HORN

Julia Horn was born in 1961 in Viersen, Germany. As a child, she made her first films and took an active interest in people's personal stories, which she portrays inquisitively and vividly. From 1981 to 1990, she studied media education, psychology and sociology in Düsseldorf and Bonn. Upon graduating, she embarked on an extensive career as a journalist as a steadily employed freelance author for television and reporter for WDR. She tackles current events as well as longer formats such as reportages and documentaries. The fundamental core principle in her film work is a respectful curiosity for the decisions made by human beings, as well as finding striking images that tell and drive these stories.



Since 1990 documentary reports and documentary films for television:
WDR, ZDF, 3sat, arte

The full-length documentary film "Bruderliebe" (Dear Brother) is her cinematic debut.

www.hornfilm.de

FILMOGRAPHY (Selection)

Mission: Menschen retten, Rupert Neudeck und die Cap Anamur

Documentary 45'00 / WDR 2015

Lesbos: Helfer der Gestrandeten

Documentary 45'00 / WDR 2015

Über Liebe&Wut

Documentary 45'00 / BR 2015

Zu mir? Zu dir? Zu uns!

Docu-Series in 4 parts / WDR 2015

Momente, die uns veränderten

Documentary 45'00 / WDR, 2014

Tsunami: Überlebt, aber nicht überwunden

Documentary 45'00 / WDR 2014

In mir keine Welt

Documentary 93'00 / 3sat 2012

Die Klinik

Docu-Series in 5 parts / WDR 2012

Buon Giorno Deutschland

Documentary 45'00 / WDR 2011

Die Seele wohnt im Kopf

Documentary 45'00 / WDR 2010

37°: Mama ist anders

Documentary 30'00 / ZDF 2009

Jacky und die süße Gier

Documentary 60'00 / WDR 2008

Den Störern auf der Spur

Reportage 30'00 / WDR 2006

Die süße Gier der Jacky D.

Documentary 45'00 / WDR 2005

Ein Traum tritt ab

Documentary 45'00 / WDR 2004

Leben mit dem Sterben

Documentary 30'00 / WDR 2002

CORSO FILM

The beginnings of CORSO Film lie in the year 2008 when Erik Winker, Martin Roelly and Andreas Brauer founded the production company HUPE Film in Cologne/Germany. With increasing success the company produced documentaries and fiction films for the national and international market. Until today the team considers intensive plot development and close cooperation with the authors most important. The films of the company are running regularly on festivals worldwide and have been awarded several times. Since August 2016 Martin Roelly and Erik Winker are running the company under the new name CORSO Film. In December 2017 the company launched a new office in Stuttgart in South-Germany, led by Ümit Uludag.

The credits of CORSO Film include successful films such as SEARCHING EVA by Pia Hellenthal (Berlinale, CPH:DOX, HOT DOCS, Sheffield Docfest beyond others), WORK HARD PLAY HARD by Carmen Losmann (FIPRESCI Prize DOK Leipzig, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury DOK Leipzig, Grimme Award), FIGHTER by Susanne Binniger (German Camera Award, preselected for the German Film Awards) or HAPPY by Carolin Genreith (German Critics' Award, Best Documentary Film Festival Bozen, preselected for the German Film Awards) and international co-productions like A WOMAN CAPTURED by Bernadett Tuza-Ritter (Documentary Competition Sundance, Main Competition IDFA, nominated for the European Film Awards), 15 CORNERS OF THE WORLD by Zuzanna Solakiewicz (Award of the Semaine le la Critique Locarno, International Competition DOK Leipzig) or AIDA'S SECRETS by Alon Schwarz (HOT DOCS Toronto, Audience Award Doc Aviv)

