

Ima



Director Caterina Klusemann was born in Italy to a Venezuelan-Polish-Jewish photographer and a German painter. Her family was not a large one: she grew up with her grandmother, mother and sister in a villa in Italy. Her father died in 1981. But of her grandmother, the undisputed head of the family, she knows little more than that she came to Venezuela from Italy in 1948 and that she must have experienced World War II in Europe. Although her grandma refuses to discuss the subject, the filmmaker is convinced that her determined reticence is harming the entire family. Especially her mother, who, since her husband's death has suffered such severe depression that she can no longer leave the house. Klusemann interviews all her family members, and even appears before the camera herself, but nobody wants her to continue with the project. When the director finally hears her grandfather's name for the first time, she draws strength from it to keep on searching. She travels to Poland, where her mother was born, and arranges a confrontation with her grandmother, who reacts adversely and angrily. The camera gives Klusemann the courage to persist, even if the door is repeatedly slammed in her face. The spectator is forced to go along with the restless and intrusive camera with which Klusemann resolutely follows her grandmother. Klusemann perseveres in both a painful and amusing way, and is eventually rewarded. An intense personal documentary that explores how a grandmother's secrets of identity have had repercussions on two subsequent generations of women. In the film, Klusemann investigates her family's cultural and historical roots, which wind through Italy, Venezuela, the United States and Poland.

Festivals / Awards

Bayerischer Dokumentarfilmpreis 2002
 Niedersächsischer FrauenMedienPreis "Juliane-Bartel-Preis" 2002
 Visions du Réel Nyon 2002
 Shanghai IFF 2002
 Prix Italia 2002
 Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal 2002
 Shadow DFF Amsterdam 2002
 Input Conference Aarhus 2003

Contact

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Details

Country of Production
 Germany

Year of Production
 2001

Format
 Digi Beta Pal, Beta SP Pal

Length
 58 min

Director
 Caterina Klusemann

Production
 Caterina Klusemann in cooperation with ZDF,
 in association with ARTE

Original Language
 Italian, Spanish, English, German, Ukrainian

Subtitles
 English, French

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