



B-MOVIE: LUST & SOUND IN WEST-BERLIN

Music Documentary, Germany 2015

Directed and produced by Jörg A. Hoppe, Klaus Maeck & Heiko Lange

Featuring **Mark Reeder, Gudrun Gut, Westbam, Blixa Bargeld, Nick Cave, Joy Division, Zazie de Paris, Nena, Die Toten Hosen, Der „wahre“ Heino, Einstürzende Neubauten, Die Ärzte, Malaria!, Ideal u.v.a.**

Short Synopsis

B-MOVIE is a documentary about music, art and chaos in the Wild West Berlin of the 1980s which became the creative melting pot for sub and pop culture. With mostly unreleased film footage and original interviews, **B -MOVIE** tells the story of life in the divided city, a cultural interzone in which anything seemed possible. A fast-paced collage from a frenzied but creative decade, from punk to techno, in a time when Berlin was like a **B -MOVIE**: cheap and trashy, threatened and thrown together, anxious and ambitious, clubbed and caned, stoned and drunk - but very special.

Synopsis

B-MOVIE is a documentary about music, art and chaos in the Wild West Berlin of the 1980s: the walled-in city which became the creative melting pot for the sub and pop culture, attracting ingenious dilettantes and world famous celebrities alike. Before the iron curtain would fall, artists and communards, squatters and hedonists of all kinds would enjoy Berlins unconventional lifestyle, starting with punk and ending with the Love Parade. It was about living for the moment - the here and now.

With mostly unreleased film footage **B -MOVIE** tells the story of living in the divided city. It's a fast-paced collage of stories from a frenzied but creative decade. Mark Reeder - a musician from Manchester, England - is 22 when he leaves Joy Division's legendary music scene to come to West Berlin, fascinated by German electronic music. As he delves into the urban jungle of the divided city he works as a record label representative, a roadie, a bouncer, musician, manager, sound engineer and even as an actor. Reeder meets them all - the heroes for a day of which David Bowie once sang. And he becomes one of the 100-odd participants of Berlin's first *Love Parade*. A few months later, the dreaded Berlin wall comes crashing down and West Berlin is history.

Content

In 1979, Mark Reeder - a musician from Manchester, England - is 22 when he leaves Joy Division's legendary music scene to come to West Berlin. Initially, he is fascinated by German electronic music, but as he delves into the urban jungle of the divided city he discovers the vibrant tension between the political and the cultural in the free city half, it is the perfect breeding ground for the artistic avant-garde, mixing underground and pop culture. Soon Reeder is right in the middle of it all – he works as a record label representative, a roadie, a bouncer, musician, manager, sound engineer and even as an actor in short and feature films. The exciting Berlin scene is always in motion, in this entanglement of talent there are new bands to be devoured all in constantly changing constellations. Reeder meets them all - the hero for a day of which David Bowie once sang. Amongst those who made it, we can find the most prominent directors, musicians, writers and photographers. Then, in the mid-80s, as everything starts to degenerate into the mainstream and as Reeder's own band



dissolves, he takes over a bar and to make ends meet, synchronizes porn movies and unknowingly produces the first and last indie-rock album of the GDR. But the next big bang is imminent: acid house and techno, the final musical innovation of the last century is ready and waiting. Reeder becomes one of the 100-odd participants of the first *Love Parade*, a positive demonstration with music on the city's main road, the Kurfürstendamm. Months later, West Berlin is history.

Form

There is no off- commentary, but a narrator: the British musician, producer, actor and author Mark Reeder. Reeder is also our main protagonist in this picture, his personal story is the binding thread running throughout this collage.

B-Movie consists mostly of authentic contemporary documents from numerous archives, a large extent taken from previously unseen or unreleased video material and Super 8 films made by witnesses, artists and filmmakers. In our extensive research, we have paid special attention to film material in which our narrator Mark Reeder appears. Otherwise, we condense his narrative voice to the compiled scenes, or we hear excerpts from interviews and conversations. Mark Reeder guides us towards other important protagonists in the film. Some scenes and images which are important for the narrative flow of the film, are reproduced as re-enacted documentary scenes. For example, the use of old mechanical devices such as VHS players, cassette players, Walkman, record players, tape recorders, photocopiers (Rank Xerox) and film projectors etc, with all the background noise and interference effects, as well as the analog creation of graphics (Letraset). To complement the various chapters, we also provide graphically designed collages, or as a cluster of subjects, partly as a collage of Radio-/TV-News and advertising, presenting an insight into the political and cultural events relevant to the time period.

Protagonists

Selected musicians accompany the various chapters of the film with their audio commentary, such as the former music student Annette Humpe, who became a spearhead of German New Wave pop with her band *Ideal* ; the then 20-year old Gudrun Gut, who with her avant-garde bands *Mania D* and *Malaria!* presented a highly respected new androgynous female image within the music scene; Nena, who managed to land a worldwide hit with a song about peace - and became the German Fräuleinwunder of the 80s; Blixa Bargeld, who gave a whole new impetus to pop music with his unconventional band *Einstürzende Neubauten*; the Australian singer Nick Cave, who sought and found creative inspiration and more in Berlin; or *DJ Westbam* who should be credited with co-inventing the last great genre of pop music: Techno. There is a reunion with artists Tom Kummer and Kain Karawahn who set the Berlin wall on fire: with Martin Kippenberger who rented and managed the legendary S.O.36; with actress Tilda Swinton, who cycled around the wall as well as with Jim Rakete, David Bowie, Christiane F, Dr. Motte, Keith Haring, Kiddy Citny, Ben Becker and many others.

Music

The great soundtrack includes music from Westbam, Joy Division, Sex Pistols, Ideal, Die Ärzte, Die Toten Hosen, Einstürzende Neubauten, Nena, Malaria!, Der Wahre Heino, Notorsche Reflexe, Die Tödliche Doris, Anne Clark and Mark Reeder's own bands Shark Vegas and Die Unbekannten. The score is composed by Mark Reeder and Micha Adams, many original titles are remixed in 5.1 surround sound.