

Hochschule für Film & Fernsehen "Konrad Wolf"
and Ostdeutscher Rundfunk Brandenburg (ORB)
present

GOOD GUYS & BAD GUYS

a film by Rick Minnich



Genre: Human Interest – **Running Time:** 73 minutes – **Format:** 35mm,
1:1.66, Dolby SR, color, English

World Premiere: Oct. 1997, Feature Competition, DOKLeipzig (Germany)

Prizes: Honorable Mention – DOKLeipzig, Rector's Prize - Hochschule für Film
& Fernsehen "Konrad Wolf", Bronze Plaque - 46th Columbus International Film
& Video Festival (The Chris Awards)

Short synopsis:

"Good Guys & Bad Guys" is a post-Cold War romp through suburban Los Angeles. In 1996, expatriate filmmaker Rick Minnich returned to his native California for his ten-year high school class reunion to confront the right-wing suburban "patriots" who had made his life miserable during the Reagan era. The result is an entertaining and provocative look at what has become of the "Good Guys & Bad Guys" of yesteryear.

Long synopsis:

Rick Minnich was a California boy. Born in 1968, he came of age during the Reagan era, and went through high school when the cold war between the "good guys" – the good old US of A – and the "bad guys" – the "Evil Empire" – was in full swing. "Pom poms and atom bombs – that's what I remember about high school," he says. "The elusive cheerleaders and the insane military buildup going on in the nearby Mojave Desert. It was the Reagan era – time to blast the Soviets off the planet." The larger conflict found its way into the classroom, and when Minnich went so far as to even raise questions about the whole Us vs. Them scenario, he found some of his classmates acting like he was one of "them." After college, Minnich went off to Eastern Europe for a first-hand look. He wound up studying film there, and working for Deutsche Welle TV in Berlin. In 1996, he returned for his ten-year high school class reunion, camera in hand, to, as he says, "rehash old strifes with former adversaries and reestablish contact with lost friends. A journey back to suburbia – to neatly manicured lawns, model citizens, gospel music and Harleys. A look at those who are fulfilling their pre-prescribed roles, and those who are still searching for an alternative." The result is this unusual personal documentary. (From the catalogue of the Denver International Film Festival, 1997)

Contributors (in order of appearance)

Rick Minnich
Alexander Pecel
Karen Boyd
Ron Bloom
Stephanie Bloom
Chuck Willett
Daniel Veluzat
Crista Veluzat
Colin Smyth

Crew

Written, Produced, Directed by: Rick Minnich
Director of Photography: Axel Schnepat
Sound Recordist / mixer: Christian Eulitz
Editor: Xina Graff
Music: Camper van Beethoven, Season of Rain,
Untaymd, The Village Church Choir, Hart High
School Marching Band
Producer: Holger Lochau, HFF "Konrad Wolf"
Commissioning Editor (ORB): Cooky Ziesche
Advisors (HFF): Petra Tschörtner (Directing)
Hans Hattop (Cinematography)
Franz Ritschel (Cinematography)
Christel Kreinbrink (Editing)
Karin Geiss (Editing)
Negative Cutter: Cornelia Schumann
Titles: Moser & Rosié
Film Labs: Geyer-Werke GmbH, Berlin
Foto-Kem, Burbank

Production facts

Original Title: Good Guys & Bad Guys
English Title: Good Guys & Bad Guys
German Title: Nette Jungs & böse Buben
Shooting format: Super 16
Screening formats: 35mm (English), DigiBeta (PAL or NTSC, English OV or German subtitled)
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Length: 73 minutes
Shooting locations: Santa Clarita, Agua Dulce, and Los Angeles, California
Shooting period: Sept. 1996
World premiere: Oct. 1997, DOKLeipzig (Germany) - feature competition

Festivals

- Denver International Film Festival, October 1997
- The International Leipzig Festival of Documentary and Animated Films, Germany, Oct.-Nov. 1997. Honorable Mention.
- Berlin International Film Festival, European Film Market, February 1998
- 5th Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short & Animation Films, Mumbai (Bombay), India, March 1998
- SehSüchte, 27th International Student Film Festival, Potsdam, Germany, April-May 1998
- Lichtschicht International Festival of New Film, Leipzig, Germany, June 1998
- 7th International Film Forum "Arsenals," Riga, Latvia, September 1998
- 46th Columbus International Film & Video Festival (The Chris Awards), Oct. 1998. Bronze Plaque.
- Pisek '98 International Student Film Festival, Pisek, Czech Republic, Oct. 1998

Awards

- Honorable Mention, The International Leipzig Festival of Documentary and Animated Films, Germany, Oct. 28-Nov. 2, 1997.
- Rector prize from the Hochschule für Film & Fernsehen "Konrad Wolf" for "exceptional artistic achievement"
- Bronze Plaque, 46th Columbus International Film & Video Festival (The Chris Awards), Oct. 1998

Television broadcasts

- Ostdeutscher Rundfunk Brandenburg (ORB), Germany, 28 November 1997 and 4 May 1998
- Planet (Pay TV) throughout Europe and Africa, 7 - 13 April 1998 (7 broadcasts)
- ZDF Dokukanal, Germany, 9 March - 28 April 2003 (5 broadcasts)

Archival footage of the Hart High Class of 1986 graduation ceremony supplied by Wm. S. Hart High School.

Concert footage of "Untaymd" at the Roxy, Hollywood, California, August 29, 1993 supplied by Daniel and Crista Veluzat.

PRESS

"There weren't many good guys in Minnich's high school back home in suburban Los Angeles, but there were plenty of bad guys. Now Minnich returns with the camera to settle old scores. Those 'good guys' will hang themselves on strips of celluloid, in their own words.... It's a fine debut film for Rick Minnich, who by the way, seems like an authentic good guy." - Gordon Hitchens, "The 48th Annual Berlin International Film Festival" in International Documentary, Los Angeles, June 1998

"Despite a marked aversion to certain statements, Minnich always takes his interview partners seriously, never condemning them even on a subliminal level.... Minnich's presence is a continual provocation, which elicits some uncontrolled statements from those being interviewed, who try with all their might to maintain their composure."
- Frank Jast, "Reagan's Long Shadow - Current Film Discussion about 'Good Guys & Bad Guys'," Potsdamer Neuesten Nachrichten, 2 October 1998

"In an incredibly open manner, Minnich's interview partners offer up their conservative, nationalistic world view, which lacked a place for a 'communist sympathizer' like Rick: 'Good Guys & Bad Guys,' just like the title suggests."
- Sylvia Dominguez, "A Concert Pitch of the Cold War - Richard Minnich Casts a Private Glance Back at the Reagan Era," Märkische Allgemeine Zeitung , Potsdam, 23 February 1998

"The film provides deep insight into the daily life of the American middle class between football games and barbecues. The filmmaker succeeds at coming close to his interview partners ... in this way, the film never seems denunciatory, he never makes fools of his classmates, even though some of their expressions leave you shaking your head." - Gerd Dehnel, "Nothing New in the New World - `Good Guys & Bad Guys: From Potsdam to Santa Clarita - Documentary about a Memorable Class Reunion," Märkische Allgemeine Zeitung , Potsdam, 29 September 1998

Music

"GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS"

Written by Lowery, Krummenacher, Segal, Molla, Lisher
Published by Camper van Beethoven Music /
Administered by Bug Music
Performed by Camper van Beethoven
Courtesy of Pitch-a-Tent Records

"MACARENA"

Written by Antonio Romero Monge
& Rafael Ruiz
Performed by Los del Rio
Courtesy of BMG Ariola, Hamburg
& Neue Welt Musikverlag GmbH, Munich

"AM"

Written by Ron Bloom
Performed by Season of Rain
Courtesy of Season of Rain

"TRY & MAKE IT IN MY WORLD"
Written by Crista & Daniel Veluzat
Performed by Untaymd
Courtesy of Crista & Daniel Veluzat

"A MOTHER'S SON"

Written by Ron Bloom
Performed by Season of Rain
Courtesy of Season of Rain

"TOO FAR"

Written by Ron Bloom
Performed by Season of Rain
Courtesy of Season of Rain

"BONEYARD"

Written by Ron Bloom
Performed by Season of Rain
Courtesy of Season of Rain

"SEND IT ON DOWN"

Written by Geron Davis
Performed by
The Village Church Choir
Courtesy of The Village Church,
Newhall, California

"FALL ON ME"

Performed by
The Village Church Choir
Courtesy of The Village Church,
Newhall, California

Yearbook quotes from the end credits:

“Republicans or failure and death.”

– Alexander Pecel, yearbook quote

“Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar.”

– Ronald Bloom, yearbook quote

“That’s all bad.”

– Daniel Veluzat, yearbook quote

“Live with honor, fight for victory,
enjoy life, search for knowledge.”

– Colin Smyth, yearbook quote

“Caricature is the tribute mediocrity
pays to genius.” (Oscar Wilde)

– Richard Minnich, yearbook quote

“We didn’t turn into freaks until
after we were grown up.”

– Charles Willett, 1996

Thanks:

John Balkin	The Reunion Committee
Bernd Barthel (Kodak Berlin)	Karl-Heinz Sass
Tony Berquam	Saugus Swap Meet & Speedway
Ivy Chang	Alexander Schmidt
Alberto Couceiro	Gisela Schulz
Edwards Air Force Base	Gerry Schumm
Elaine Foderaro	Brett Shomber
Matt Gould	Six Flags Magic Mountain
Jackson Haring	Frank Smith (Kodak Hollywood)
Wm. S. Hart High School	Laurence K. Strauss
The Mad Hatter	Universal Sheraton
Anne Minnich	Valencia Town Center
Jaime Muldoon	André Veluzat
Rosemary Pearson	The Village Church
Pete Pew	Ulla Viol
Gudrun Prietz	Vista Valencia Golf Course
Dean Ramser (Foto-Kem)	Chuck Willett

Special Thanks to:

Paul Graff, René Jung, Christel Kreinbrink, Susanne Rahner,
Thomas Rist, Petra Tschörtner, Tom Sutton

Shot entirely on location in Santa Clarita, the Antelope Valley
and Los Angeles, California

In memory of Randy Wicks (1954-1996).
You would have gotten a laugh out of this one.

A co-production of the
Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen "Konrad Wolf"
and Ostdeutscher Rundfunk Brandenburg

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Hope you enjoyed GOOD GUYS & BAD GUYS.
See ya at the 20-year reunion!

SCREENINGS / SALES

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