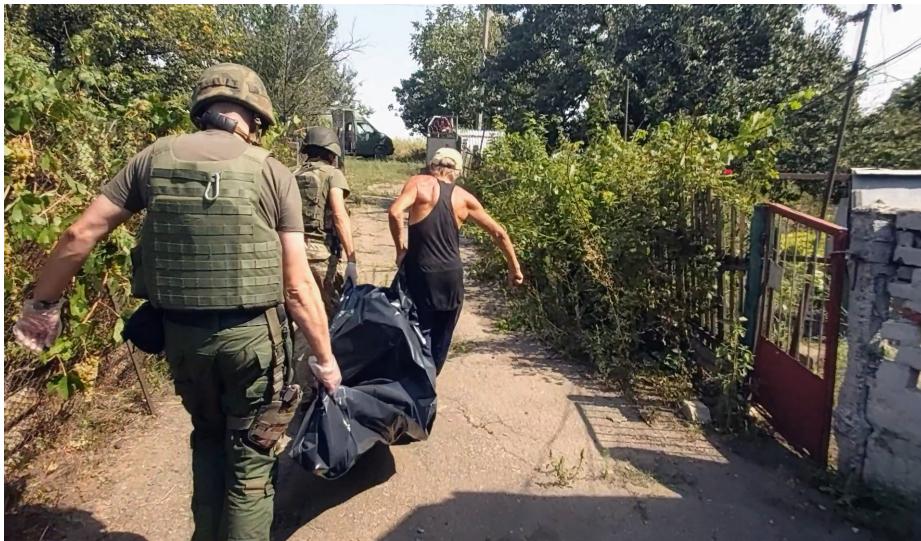


"White Angel – The End of Marinka" by Arndt Ginzel to open DOK Leipzig 2023

This documentary by a German investigative reporter follows police officers in eastern Ukraine on evacuation operations in 2022

Press Release
5 September 2023



DOK Leipzig 2023 | White Angel – The End of Marinka (director: Arndt Ginzel)

The 66th edition of the DOK Leipzig film festival will open on 8 October 2023 with the world premiere of Arndt Ginzel's documentary "White Angel – The End of Marinka".

This film documents evacuation and rescue operations in the small town of Marinka in the Donetsk region from the spring to the autumn of 2022. The impressive close-up footage of the operations is from a GoPro camera worn by police officers who repeatedly drive around the town in a white van which the civilians call the "White Angel". In the spring of 2023, Arndt Ginzel and his team returned to Ukraine and spoke with the rescuers and survivors about their traumatic experiences – and about the demise of their home town, which no longer exists.

"The survivors' testimony speaks of loss, of pain and grief, but also of hopes and dreams," comments festival director Christoph Terhechte. "More than a film about war, 'White Angel – The End of Marinka' is a document of humanity and a longing for peace."

Leipzig journalist Arndt Ginzel has been producing TV documentaries for German public broadcasters ARD and ZDF for many years. Two weeks prior to the Russian invasion, he travelled to Ukraine to shoot reports for German television about the killing of Ukrainian civilians and the abduction of children from Russian-occupied territories. He was in the country at the time of the invasion and reported from there in the weeks that followed. In 2022, he was awarded Netzwerk Recherche's Leuchtturm-Preis (Lighthouse Award) for his war reporting from Ukraine.

Ginzel has done investigative journalism in numerous regions affected by war and other crises. In Syria, for example, he uncovered crimes committed by Russia's Wagner Group. In Croatia, he tracked down a network of arms dealers linked to right-wing extremists of the German political party AfD.

Ginzel became known, among other things, for his research into the "Sachsensumpfaffäre" (Saxony Swamp Affair) which was published in

66th International Leipzig
Festival for Documentary and
Animated Film

8 October to 15 October

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“Der Spiegel” and “Zeit Online” in 2007. For a TV report titled “Spiel im Schatten – Putins unerklärter Krieg gegen den Westen” (Operating in the Shadows – Putin’s Undeclared War on the West), he and Markus Weller received the Bavarian Television Award in 2017. That same year, his report “Putins geheimes Netzwerk – Wie Russland den Westen spaltet” (Putin’s Secret Network – How Russia Divides the West) was nominated for a German Television Award. In 2019, along with Gerald Gerber, he received the Prize for the Freedom and Future of the Media by the Media Foundation of Sparkasse Leipzig for his research in connection with the Pegida demonstrations in Dresden.

DOK Leipzig will hold its opening in CineStar 4 on Sunday, 8 October 2023 at 7 pm. Film director Arndt Ginzel will be there for a film talk.

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page 2 of 2

Content note: „White Angel – The End of Marinka“ contains depictions of war scenes and death. The film is approved for the age of 18.

The entire selection of films in the programme inclusive all dates is online on 21 September. At the same time the advance ticket sales starts.

DOK Leipzig will take place on site from 8 to 15 October, 2023. Each day during the week of the festival, a different film will be available online throughout Germany for 24 hours in the DOK Stream. Accredited participants worldwide can also view the majority of the films in competition online. You can apply for press accreditation via our website: [Press Accreditation 2023](#)

This year's poster design and logos can be found here: [Press Download](#)

If you need film stills for your coverage of DOK Leipzig 2023, please contact us.



White Angel – Das Ende von Marinka

Documentary Film

Arndt Ginzel

Germany 2023 | 103 min, Colour

World premiere

Sommer 2022 im Osten der Ukraine: Die Polizei evakuiert Menschen aus dem Kriegsgebiet, Bodycams zeichnen das dramatische Geschehen auf. 2023 spricht das Filmteam mit Überlebenden. –
Summer 2022 in eastern Ukraine: The police evacuate people from the war zone, bodycams record the dramatic events. In 2023, the film team talks to survivors.

Language Ukrainian, Russian

Subtitles English

Wir danken für die Unterstützung

Thank you for your support

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