

Press Kit

# **MICHAEL S., RE-COLLECTED**

**A film by Steven Swirko**

Contact:

[steven\\_swirko@yahoo.de](mailto:steven_swirko@yahoo.de)

# Michael S., re-collected

Original title: Michael S., versammelt

Year/month of completion: September 2013

Country: Austria

Original language: German

Length: 2:35 min

Filming location: Berlin, Germany

Shooting format: Super 16mm

## Credits

Starring

Michael Schneider

Directed and written by

Steven Swirko

Produced by

Steven Swirko

Cinematography by

Matthias Pötsch

Orig. sound recording by

Sebastian Mayr & Steven Swirko

Edited by

Steven Swirko

Sound mix by

Anna Kirst

Coloring by

Matthias Geck

Matthias Tomasi

Film labs

Synchro Film, Video & Audio

Listo Videofilm eU

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## Synopsis

Michael Schneider is a passionate cinéaste. No love in his life has been as enduring as his love for the movies. Ever since he was a teenager he has been collecting Super 8mm versions of films of all sorts: features, commercial, old newsreels - he's got it all. While his private life fell victim to his passion, his collection is growing bigger and bigger every day. Now, for the first time, Michael has to ask himself, if the choices he made will keep him happy.



# Q&A with director Steven Swirko

## **What was your inspiration for the film?**

It was myself. As far back as I can remember, I always collected something: first it was trading cards, then comic books, then records and DVDs. I never thought of it as a problem until I moved from Berlin to Vienna in 2009. When I packed together all of my things I ended up with over 40 boxes. I was only 26 at the time and I started thinking: "Where is this going to take me? If I continued like this, how much will I have by the time I am 40? And at what point will my collection start owning me?" I decided to stop collecting for the time being until I figure out what to do. So when I met Michael, my protagonist, I just knew this guy can help me reflect on myself and figure out what to do. Also he had a great passion for films which I could really relate to.

## **How did you meet Michael Schneider?**

Once a week he used to present one or two 8mm film treasures at a small living-room-cinema in Berlin. I heard of the screenings and went there to watch short version of Jesus Franco's "Jack the Ripper". Michael was there and he told me about his huge collection of 8mm films with so much passion that I felt a connection to the guy right away.

## **When did you decide to make a film about Michael S.?**

It was right there on the spot when I met him. When I met him I was looking for a topic to shoot a short documentary about for my studies at the Filmacademy Vienna. Also I had just moved to Vienna and the question of continuing collecting or not was very present in my head.

## **Did you plan to make the film as short as it is?**

Originally I had planned to shoot a documentary about 10min long. During shooting though, I have to admit, I got to pushy and demanding towards Michael. I was just too eager to enter his apartment and so I scared him and had to stop filming much earlier then planned. I actually used 100% of what was filmed in the finished film.

## **How long did you shoot?**

We shot only for about three days. After that I lost my protagonist. We tried to find a way to shoot other material but none of it make it into the film.

## **Why did you shoot on Super 16mm?**

The film is not only about collecting. It is also about passion for film and analogue film material. So I thought it was most important to honor the topic by filming it on actual analogue film. I was very happy to find my cinematographer Matthias Pötsch who studied with me in Vienna. He has a great feeling for composition and captured my ideas perfectly.

# About the film makers

## Steven Swirko / Director / Producer / Editor

Swirko was born in Germany as the son of an American soldier. In 1988 his family moved to Berlin. After graduating he started working on film sets in several departments, e.g. as 1st assistant director and production assistant. He then started a vocational training as management assistant in audiovisual media at a television production company. He continued to work at a German TV network in the production department. In 2009, Steven Swirko attended the University of Music and Performing Arts/ Filmacademy Vienna to study film producing and script writing. He produced several award winning short films and works for several commercial production houses.



## Filmography:

### As director:

2013: **Michael S., re-collected** (Short Doc)

### As Producer (selecton):

2014: **Salvation** (Short, Dir.: Mark Gerstofer) , e.g. Diagonale Graz, Vienna Independent Shorts  
**9/11** (Short, Dir.: Sebastian Mayr)

**Behind the Door** (Short, Dir.: Catalina Molina & Patrick Vollrath), Diagonale Graz

2013: **Ketchup Kid** (Short, Dir.: Patrick Vollrath), e.g. Awarded „Best Short Film“ at the Festival Goldener Spatz and the Childrens Film Festival Mumbai

2012: **Your beauty is worth nothing** (Feature, as Production Manager, Dir.: Hüseyin Tabak), e.g. 4 Austrian Film Award, 6 Awards at the Ankara Film Festival

## Matthias Pötsch / Cinematography

Matthias Pötsch , born 1984 in Upper Austria worked in Filmbusiness since early Years. He began as an Electrician on numerous Movies in whole Europe. After several Years he started studying Cinematography at the University for Music and Art in Vienna (Vienna Filmacademy). Still in school, he already worked on his first successful commercial jobs for national productionhouses, short films and music videos.



### Filmography (selection):

2014: **Garish-Ganz Paris** (Musicvideo, DSLR)

**Clara Luzia-Sinnerman** (Musicvideo, Sony F55 4K)

2013: **Cinematique-Miasmata** (Musicvideo, RED Epic 4K), e.g. Vienna Independent Shorts, Skepto International Filmfestival  
**Garisch-Auf den Dächern** (Musicvideo, RED Epic, 4K)

**Freistil** (Short, ARRI Alexa 2K)

**9/11** (Short, S16mm)

**Stalemate** (Short, ARRI Alexa 2K)

2011: **Snitch** (Short, RED 4K), e.g. Camerimage Official Selection

**Commercials** e.g. Uniqa, T-mobile, Neuroth, McDonald's, Spar, Heineken, Ford, Kurier, The GAP

# Festivals

## Awards:

Best Documentary (Filofest, Slovenia)

## 2015:

August: Festival Kansk, Russia

May: AVIFF Cannes „Art Film Festival“, Cannes, France

March: American Documentary Film Festival, Palm Springs CA, USA

March: Landshuter Shortfilmfestival, Germany

February: Thin Line Festival, Denton TX, USA

## 2014:

November: Filofest, Slovenia

November: Short Short Story Film Festival, RI, USA

October: Berlin Short Film Festival, Germany

October: dokumentART, Germany

August: World Film Festival Montreal, Canada

August: DokuFest, Kosovo

July: Latitude Festival, United Kingdom

July: Biografilm Festival, Italy

June: Sheffield Doc/ Fest, United Kingdom

May: Vienna Independent Shorts, Austria (OPENING FILM)

February: FAKONALE Vienna, Austria (OPENING FILM)

## 2013:

November: Munich International Festival of Film Schools, Germany

September: International Independent Feature Film Festival Warsaw, Poland

September: Seoul Extreme Short Image and Film Festival, South Korea (WORLD PREMIERE)

## Other:

Supporting Film in Austrian cinemas for Ulrich Seid's „In the Basement“

Cinema Next Screenings in several Austrian movie theatres





## **CONTACTS**

### **Sales / Distribution**

#### **Steven Swirko**

Tel.: +43 699 171 676 96

Tel.: +49 174 946 1203

E-Mail: [steven\\_swirko@yahoo.de](mailto:steven_swirko@yahoo.de)

#### **University for Music and Performing Arts / Filmacademy Vienna**

Tel.: +43 1 711 55 - 2902

E-Mail: [jaeger-ka@mdw.ac.at](mailto:jaeger-ka@mdw.ac.at)