

VIKTOR DOK.deutsch Wettbewerb

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Anna, an experienced midwife and doctor, attends to a home birth during which the child dies. A manslaughter charge is brought against her. Observing the trial, Baumgarten develops a concise and factual narrative that is empathetic to all the parties involved, based in a trusting relationship with her protagonist in a common search for truth and justice. With perseverance and tenacity, she succeeds in creating an oppressive long-term observational piece: a "documentary narrative of ten years," as she calls it. The conscious simplification of the creative tools she uses, enhances the clarity of the film narrative. Baumgarten lets the facts speak for themselves and thus fosters the audience's sympathy and ability to judge. Meticulously and patiently, she puts together the pieces of the puzzle surrounding Greta's birth in order to highlight the questions of personal blame and responsibility that lie behind the tragedy of the event. From an unpretentious and feminist standpoint, she tells the story of a progressive midwife and doctor whose life becomes a nightmare as a result of the trial. We become witnesses to a tendentious and unprecedented verdict that not only destroys an entire existence but also advances long-standing efforts to limit the work of independent midwives. With GRETAS GEBURT the filmmaker succeeds in making an essential contribution to this highly sensitive topic and impressively demonstrates the social relevance of documentary film work.

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