

Womenfolk



A film about women farmers with no husband



Six women farmers, their work
and the stories of their lives.

Gertraud Schwarz, A 2009
documentary, 105 min, color, 16:9
German with English subtitles



www.weiberleut.at



Director, Editor: Gertraud Schwarz; Cinematography: Gertraud Schwarz, Dominik Spritzendorfer, Sound Design: Florian Richling
with: Margret Duregger, Claudia and Margareta Lumplecker, Christine Maier, Greti Ployer, Anna Seer

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Womenfolk

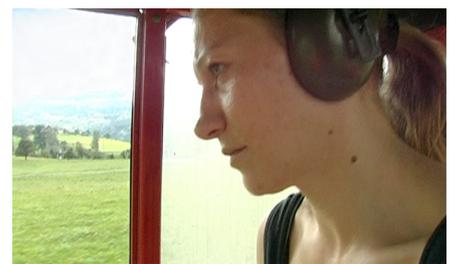
A film about women farmers with no husband

Gertraud Schwarz, Austria 2009, documentary, 105 min, color, DigiBeta/BetaSP or DVD, (original format: MiniDV), German with English Subtitles

In the traditionally very family-structured and male-dominated agricultural business, for women it is not always easy to keep a farm all by themselves. Be it with regard to the acceptance in society or the question how to manage all the challenging physical work, which on other farms is done by two or more people. Driving around in their tractors, handling the cattle and doing a lot of manual work, the six portrayed Austrian women farmers overcome the obstacles in their lives in quite different ways.

Margret leases her farm and can hardly make ends meet, but she would never want to give up the freedom of leading her own independent life. Anna drives over steep mountain meadows. She is very glad that she has an extra income from her ski lodge, which pays for all the expensive machinery. Greti takes care of her pigs, drives a big tractor and meets with her feminist women's group. Christine could have married and left often, but how would her family have managed without her? And Claudia's mother wishes for her that she will find a husband and have children. But what does Claudia want?

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Statement of the director:

Once when visiting my relatives in the countryside I saw a woman farmer on her tractor speeding by to bring in the feed for her animals. I was told that she was living without a husband and keeping the farm by herself. It was then that I realized I had not been aware of the fact that there are actually a lot of women farmers who manage their farms on their own. The topic caught my interest right away and I started my research for a documentary film.

In my film I want to show women farmers whose image differs from the one that can be generally found in the media. That is why you will mainly see them outdoors handling their machinery or doing physically challenging work. It has become a film without music but with a lot of machinery sound.

The women farmers I am showing in this film also seem to have the same problems as other single women or single mothers in other types of businesses. Watching the film, I find it quite intriguing that my protagonists and their environment have such different opinions with regard to certain topics like getting children, handling the workload or even money. At times spiced with a great sense of humor, the women tell their all but easy life stories while being shown doing similar work. These work processes form an integral part of the film's structure.



Credits:

Director, Producer, Editor: Gertraud Schwarz

Cinematographers: Gertraud Schwarz, Dominik Spritzendorfer

Sound: Gertraud Schwarz, Dominik Spritzendorfer, Angelika Unterholzner, Axel Bierbaum, Elke Mayr, Elisabeth Wildling

Color Correction: Manuel Maxl

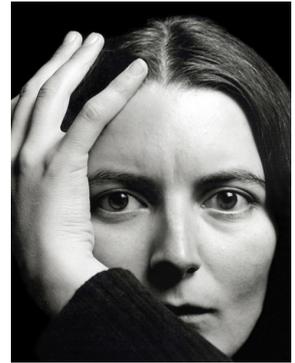
Sound Mixing: Highhat Media, Florian Richling

Subtitles: Jill Kreuer

Main Characters: Margret Duregger, Christine Maier, Claudia and Margareta Lumplecker, Greti Ployer, Anna Seer

Short Biography

Gertraud Schwarz



Born 1975 in Saalfelden, Austria

After graduation from the College of Photography at the School for Graphic Design Vienna in 1997, Gertraud Schwarz studied Visual Media at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and at London Guildhall University. Before completing her first documentary „Borinboresi“ she has created short videos and video installations, which could be seen at art exhibitions in Austria and the UK. Currently she is working as an independent filmmaker, artist and media designer.

Film- and Video work:

- 2009 “Womenfolk”, documentary, 105 min
- 2003 “Not - Connecting”, 12 short videos for mobile phones, 2003
- “Borinboresi“, documentary, 68 min
- 2002 „Dependences“, video installation
- 2001 “Hot Spots I and Hot Spots II“, videos, 30 sec
- 2000 Picture Videos: “By Eye“, video-loop, “Snot-Nose“, 6:30 min, “Pimple Tears“, 2 min
- 1999 “Interspaces“, video, 7:30 min
- “Heinrich Peiszer“, video, 5 min
- 1998 “Schriftvideo“, video-loop

Awards:

Prize of the Government of Lower Austria for the commercial “Hot Spots II” submitted to the competition “make art public” in 2001

The Black Int. Cinema Festival Berlin awards the prize of “Best film/video documentary production” to Borinboresi in 2004