

## **Gamma Bak Filmproduktion Gamma Bak**

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### **Producer: ENGELBECKEN**

Born in 1965 to a family that emigrated from Hungary in 1956, Gamma Bak grew up in Germany and Canada. She began working with personal stories as a film student in Vancouver, Canada and has continued along these lines ever since. Based in Berlin since the mid-80s, in addition to producing and directing projects with her own production house, she has worked as TV journalist, assistant to producer Klaus Volkenborn, learning the producer trade from him, and as line producer and executive producer. Gamma Bak is a member of the German Documentary Association (AG DOK), the EURODOC Network, and Reporters Without Borders as well as the union VERDI.

Gamma Bak Filmproduktion produces and directs and/or co-produces and co-directs Bak's own works as well as the personal films and autobiographical works of others. The firm's focus is on personal creative documentaries since the early 1990s. The company was founded in 1993.

The most recent production, which she also co-directed, is **Engelbecken**, an essayist autobiographical documentary about Steffen Reck (co-director and editor) telling the story of his work with the underground theater group Zinnober in East Berlin and his subsequent defection to the West in 1988. Funded by the Federal Government Commissioner of Culture and Media (BKM) and the DEFA Stiftung, the film has premiered in 2014 in Leipzig Dok, German Selection and has had its theatrical release in Germany in September 2015. German Distribution: GMfilms, Berlin. The international premiere of **Engelbecken** is at the 2015 VERZIO Human Rights Film Festival in Budapest.

Since 1992, with **East...West...Home's Best** (75 min., documentary), the films have become more autobiographical. **Head Cold** (92 min., documentary), a long-term project requiring over ten years to complete, follows her journey to a normal life after having been diagnosed psychotic. Featuring the views of Gamma's family and friends and using her filmic archives, **Head Cold** is a very honest and caring film. It is the second part of the family trilogy, which will be completed with the new project **Phoenix** in 2015/2016. To date, **Phoenix** has been awarded a treatment grant by the FFA and a research grant by the DEFA-Stiftung and a work stipend by the Women's Film/Video Fund by the Berlin Senate of Culture . It is going into production in 2017.

**Head Cold** premiered at the Berlinale 2010 and has had a very successful theatrical and DVD release in Germany, where it toured to full houses in over 50 cities with Q&As meeting the audience. Gamma Bak's works are in distribution with Moving Images (Vancouver) and GMfilms (Berlin).

Recently, Gamma Bak Filmproduktion co-produced J. Jackie Baier's **House of Shame – Chantal All Night Long**, which premiered at the Berlinale 2011 (1<sup>st</sup> Prize Documentary, Chéries-Chéris Festival 2011). Subsequently, J. Jackie Baier, Dagne Vildziunaite and Gamma Bak co-produced **Julia** by J. Jackie Baier (89 min., documentary). World Sales, m-appeal, Berlin; German distribution, GMfilms. World Premiere: 10<sup>th</sup> Venice Days / Giornate degli Autori – 70<sup>th</sup> Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica 2013. **Julia** was awarded the Prize for Best Documentary at the Athens Outview Festival 2014 and the Tel-Aviv TLV Fest 2014 and the Lisboa LGBT Fest as well as the 2014 St.Petersburg Side by Side Fest (Best Documentary and 1<sup>st</sup> prize Journalist Jury). **Julia** also received a special Jury Mention Primo Maguey at the Guadalajara Int. Film Festival in 2014.

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For further information please refer to the following websites:  
[www.headcoldfilm.net](http://www.headcoldfilm.net) [www.engelbecken.net](http://www.engelbecken.net) [www.phoenixthefilm.info](http://www.phoenixthefilm.info)