



Winner  
Max Ophüls Preis  
2011

# THE OTHER CHELSEA

A STORY FROM DONETSK  
a film by Jakob Preuss



There is always a connection  
between business, politics and sport.

[www.theotherchelsea.de](http://www.theotherchelsea.de)

Kloos & Co.  
MEDIEN GMBH

Das kleine  
Fernsehspiel

german  
films

SUNDANCE  
INSTITUTE

Robert Bosch Stiftung

MEDIA



RISE AND SHINE  
WORLD SALES

## Film information

Title	THE OTHER CHELSEA - A Story From Donetsk
Original Title	THE OTHER CHELSEA - Eine Geschichte aus Donezk
Genre	Documentary
Length	88 min. / 54 min.
Material	HD 1080/25p, 16:9, Stereo
Original Languages	Russian/German or Russian/English
Subtitles	English / German
Shooting Country	Ukraine
Production Country	Germany
Year	2010
Screening Format	HD CAM / DigiBeta / DVD

## Credits

Written & Directed by	Jakob Preuss
Producer	Stefan Kloos
Camera	Eugen Schlegel, Pavel Kazantsev, Roman Yelensky, Maxim Kuphal-Potapenko, Philipp Gromov, Felix Korfmann
Editing	Markus CM Schmidt, Lena Rem, Philipp Gromov
Animation	Stephan Flint Müller
Sound	Oleg Goloveshkin
Music	Dominik Sprungala
Sound Design and Mixing	Raimund von Scheibner
Digital Grading	Matthias Behrens / Waveline
Script Consulting	Markus CM Schmidt
Commissioning Editor	Milena Bonse / ZDF

A Production of Kloos & Co. Medien GmbH in Co-production with ZDF „Das kleine Fernsehspiel“ in association with YLE and YES DOCU

With the support of SUNDANCE DOCUMENTARY FILM PROGRAM, ROBERT-BOSCH-STIFTUNG and MEDIA PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

## With

Nikolay Alexandrovich Levchenko, Alexander Borisovich Shukin,  
Vladimir Stepanovich Kiyan and Valentina Griogorievna Sulko

## Festivals

IDFA 2010 First Appearance Competition  
Max Ophüls Festival 2011 Doc Competition (Award)  
IFF Trieste 2011 Competition  
One World Filmfestival Prague 2011

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## LOGLINE

There is always a connection between business, politics and sport.

## SYNOPSIS

Donetsk, a city with a million inhabitants deep in Eastern Ukraine, is the centre of the Donbass coal basin. Here most people work for low wages in run down mines, while a few make a lot of money. No matter which side of the social divide you are on, coming from Donetsk you will almost certainly be an opponent of the Orange Revolution and a fan of the local football team, Shakhtar Donetsk. Billionaire Akhmetov invests heavily in the club, which is becoming a major European force during the football season followed by the film. Yet this sporting success funded by an oligarch's fortune only seems to highlight the wider social and political stagnation of the region. Off the pitch, the outlook appears bleak...



## CONTENT

These days, a real billionaire has to own a football club. Russian oligarch Abramovich bought the English club Chelsea, and Ukrainian billionaire Akhmetov pumped many millions into his hobby, Shakhtar Donetsk. He built a 250-million dollar stadium in Donetsk where the semi-finals of the European Championship will be played in 2012, and to offer a suitable venue for Shakhtar's Champions League home matches.

THE OTHER CHELSEA is about the fans of this club. Coal miner Sasha (55) sits among the common people on the terraces, while local politician and businessman Kolya (30) perches high above his head in the VIP box. Both are witnesses to Shakhtar's breakthrough on the international stage during the 2009 UEFA Cup when Shakhtar win one match after another, beating top-teams such as Olympique Marseille and Tottenham Hotspur. Both protagonists travel to the final of the UEFA Cup in Istanbul - Sasha's bus trip takes 40 hours, while Kolya catches a special charter flight together with other businessmen and politicians.

Filmmaker Jakob Preuss uses the club's success story to reveal the links between politics, business and sport, and to illustrate the social and political decline that the new elite has

brought to the country. According to Kolya, Shakhtar victories benefit his political party, the Party of Regions, which is pro-Russian and regularly wins 90% of the vote in Donetsk. The party of former president Yushchenko (which brought about the Orange Revolution in 2004) attracts almost no support in Donetsk.

Ukraine is politically divided into East and West. The whole Eastern region, the coal-basin of the Donbass, is traditionally a stronghold of the pro-Russian party. Many people here would vote in favor of unification with Russia and fear nothing more than the Ukrainian nationalists of Western Ukraine. Nevertheless, Sasha and his colleagues think that the leaders of the Party of the Regions are no less criminal than everybody else in Ukrainian politics, but - in their view - they can sort out the other bandits and defend the interests of the Russian-speaking population.

Kolya is a local politician in Donetsk and understands how to shrewdly exploit this general mood in the region. With populist appearances on local and national TV, he works to make sure that the East continues to vote for the Party of Regions. He demonizes the pro-Western Orange party members as nationalists and compares them to fascists. Barely 30, he has become a millionaire through real estate deals. He has also amassed a remarkable amount of power as the elected head of the City Council. His attitude towards Shakhtar is that of a local patriot: he is not really a football fan, but he knows that the club is important for the prestige of the region and therefore for his party. Getting access to the VIP balcony in Shakhtar's stadium means proximity to those holding political power. Club President Akhmetov is also a national deputy for the Party of Regions and a friend of current President Yanukovich. The two are always together in the VIP-box whenever Shakhtar is victorious.

Life in Sasha's coal mine "Putilovskaya" is hard. No investors, private or public, want to put money into the run-down mine. Potential investors show up regularly, but the employees' have limited faith in their sincerity about improving working conditions. Sasha's colleagues Valya and Stepanovich have a good time nevertheless. They are used to making the best out of what they have and manage to enjoy life despite their minuscule wages and their dangerous work. The miners are all critical of the new elite in their country. Sasha and his colleagues miss the Soviet times and they struggle to cope with the new capitalism. However, the fact that oligarch Akhmetov is a patriot, and invests in the team of his home town rather than in a big foreign club, means a lot to them.



THE OTHER CHELSEA humorously tells the story of these discordant worlds of rapid rise and unstoppable decay. Two parts of a post-Soviet society who meet in the football stadium and form a colourful social milieu which is firmly united by a sense of belonging to a strong Russia rather than to the Western world. The people know that their leaders are populist, corrupt and sometimes criminal. But as long as the choice is only between blue and orange, they will vote blue in Eastern Ukraine - a deadlock from which the whole country suffers and which plays into the hands of the elite in power.

## DIRECTOR: JAKOB PREUSS



Born in 1975 and based in Berlin, Jakob studied law in Cologne and Paris and European Studies in Warsaw. He performed his civilian national service in Nizhny-Novgorod, Russia, and worked in Moscow after his studies. Since 2002 - alongside his activities as a filmmaker - he has regularly worked as a freelance consultant/observer for international organisations in the field of elections. He was employed as an expert on the CIS for the human rights organization REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS in 2007/2008. Since 2007, he has also worked for the BERLINALE section "PANORAMA" during the festival. Jakob is fluent in Russian, English, French and Spanish. THE OTHER CHELSEA is his feature-length debut film.

### Filmography:

THE OTHER CHELSEA - A STORY FROM DONETSK (88/54min.) HD, 2010 Author & Director  
THE UNBURIED WAR - SREBRENICA, A DECADE ON (59min) DV, 2005, Author, Director & Producer  
TORN IRAN - YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORLDS IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC (53min) DV, 2003 Author, Director & Producer

## PRODUCER: STEFAN KLOOS



Born 1968 in Mainz. After 6 years at leading youth and music TV producer MME, an Adolf Grimme TV-Award for ARD-series POP 2000 and a 2-year-interval in multimedia, he founded Kloos & Co. Medien in 2002 and has since produced creative documentaries with international TV broadcasters and for the cinema. He is a member of EDN and AG DOK and an alumni of the DOCUMENTARY CAMPUS MASTERCLASS. In 2007, he also founded RISE AND SHINE WORLD SALES and has since been successfully involved in international distribution of selected award-winning documentaries.

### Selected Filmography:

AND WHO TAUGHT YOU HOW TO DRIVE? (90min.). DCM 2009. Coproduction with BR/ARTE, with the support of MEDIA, FFF, Kuratorium junger deutscher Film. *In production.*  
THE DAY WE DANCED ON THE MOON (11min.) Finalist of Berlin Today Award 2011. With the support of Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg  
THE OTHER CHELSEA - A STORY FROM DONETSK (88/54min.)  
PLANET GALATA - A BRIDGE IN ISTANBUL (ARTE 2010, 52min + Web-Documentary). With the support of Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg  
BREATHLESS - DOMINANCE OF THE MOMENT (2009, 163min.) Three of five films for German-Czech documentary project. Theatrical release. Coproduced with WDR and ZDF and with the support of Zipp/Relations e.V./Kulturstiftung des Bundes, FFA, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg  
NO WAVE: UNDERGROUND ´80 BERLIN - NEW YORK (ARTE 2009, 52 min.)  
PSYCHEDELIC REVOLUTION ´67 (ARTE 2007, 75 min.)  
DRAMA, TANZ UND BEINE (DANCE WITHME) (ARTE 2007, 67 min.)  
89 MILLIMETER (Theatrical, 2005, 79 min.)



## PRODUCTION: KLOOS & CO. MEDIEN

Since 2002, we have produced award-winning high quality documentaries for TV and cinema. We love films that dare to be different and pursue new and innovative ways of storytelling or that cross formal and structural borders. We love to laugh and we believe that documentary films can and should entertain. Our films are out there to move people, to leave a mark and make their audience think and talk about what they watched. We work with young talents, experienced directors, an excellent inhouse production crew and freelance experts in order to capture most different facets of reality. Our main topics include social issues, human interest and human rights related issues, pop culture and the arts.

We have established a fruitful working relationship in the international market with production companies and broadcasters incl. ZDF, WDR, ARTE, YLE and others. Our films have received funding from renowned funding institutions such as Sundance Film Institute, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Filmstiftung NRW, Kuratorium junger deutscher Film, FFF, MEDIA and many more.

We are members of AG DOK and the European Documentary Network (EDN) and regularly participate in the major industry events around the globe.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

During the shoot in Donetsk I was divided between sympathy for my protagonists and shaking my head with disbelief. But these are contrasting emotions which I already knew well from my two year stay in Russia. I met people with so much energy and humor but was struck by the degree of dysfunction in the society and by the wild mixture of values, views and ideas which had maybe replaced communist doctrine, but without any real coherence. Yes, I often understood the views of people in Eastern Ukraine criticizing the Orange government, or Ukrainian nationalism or the Ukrainian language policy... but the conclusions they drew from these opinions were often scary, and their legitimate criticisms were exploited by corrupt politicians.

No matter if pit workers or oligarchs, if Kolya, Valya or Sasha, I had a cordial, sometimes affectionate, relationship with my characters. But the effect of the breakdown of the Soviet Union was never a source of joy for me: a powerful elite getting rich at others' expense whilst working conditions for most people remain a catastrophe - especially in the coalmines in the Donbass-Region. Nevertheless the people cheer on their oligarchs, out of local patriotism and the yearning for strong leaders. Living conditions won't improve, no matter which power clan is in charge, if from the West or East, if pro-Russian or pro-European. Multi-billionaire Akhmetov's football club Shakhtar Donetsk provided me with a link between the different worlds of my protagonists - all the country's contrasts and conflicts can be found in the stadium. It was an unexpected happy chance that Shakhtar won, and kept on winning, in front of the eyes of all our characters, and our camera... in Marseille, Moscow and Istanbul. These were sporting successes which served to highlight, even more clearly, the social and political decline in the country.