



**LITTLE FILM ROMA**

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# **RUN LITTLE HITLER**

(WORKING TITLE)

A feature documentary project by  
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Over 65 years have gone by since the end of World War II and the conclusion of any related military operation. Yet, in Poland and Germany, the emotional level on both sides of the Oder river is still very high: resentment, grudges, hostility and sometimes hate, even amongst the young generations that didn't experience the war.

At a private level, there are people who have dedicated their whole lives to the process of reconciliation between the two countries. At the public level, politicians and governments have held many initiatives, although there are recent political tendencies that exploit the concept of reconciliation for political gain, as for example some Polish and German Youth movements. Some people strongly promote nationalism and sometimes try to minimize the past, manipulating to that end both the reality and the facts.

Personalization is key. Thus, finding the right persons to be portrayed in our documentary will be our main task. Carefully selected photographs should help us to evoke, at first, the Second World War and its consequences on both sides. Then, the axis of the movie should move into the present, as we walk into people's home, workplaces, political headquarters, meeting places, churches, schools – all this, of course, on both sides of the border.

During Willy Brandt's visit in 1970, a joint schoolbook commission that is still working today was installed. Let us find out, what they are arguing about at the moment, and how they are trying to improve each other's image in Polish and German schoolbooks. Let's find out, whether there is more than a professional relationship among the members of this commission. And then let us go to Polish and German schools where these books are used.

While we are at it, let us also try to find humorous aspects of it all, maybe bring together Marek Fis (aka Wojciech Oleszczak), the most famous Polish comedian in Germany, and Steffen Möller, the most famous German comedian in Poland, and ask them to prepare and perform a gig together. Maybe they could do a sketch on a session of the Polish-German schoolbook commission?

We also need to go to places where it hurts to go: there are forces on both sides that are obstructing an improvement by insisting on conditions for their participation, and although we want to put an emphasis on what is being done to achieve reconciliation, we are very aware of this situation and will not ignore it. Let us at least find out why they are inhibiting it.

As a glimpse on how the Polish-German relations might develop in the future, let's find a Polish-German couple. We should be there when they marry or baptize their first-born child and see how their families interact. Making a marriage work is hard enough, how do they handle the cultural differences? What kind of difficulties will they find in educating their children between two cultures and two languages?

After all, it's also a couple that will be at the core of this film, thus making it more original both in terms of content and form: a Polish filmmaker and a German one, a dual point of view hopefully complementary, in search not only of a more balanced and objective result, but also an ideal.