

THE FILM

In sealed rooms, as sterile as computer-processor factories, chicks hatch while being closely monitored. A huge hose sucks salmon out of a fjord. Metal teeth chomp up fields of sunflowers which withered at just the right time thanks to chemicals. Chickens are cut up and pigs are gutted in seconds, though cows take a little longer: This is high-tech agriculture and the industrial production of food.

OUR DAILY BREAD shows the places where food is produced in Europe: surreal landscapes plasticized and optimized for tractors and agricultural machinery, sterile rooms in cool industrial buildings designed to ensure logistic efficiency, machines that require uniform materials for smooth processing. What might look like something from the world of science fiction is reality. Our food is produced in spectacular spaces which are seldom seen.

There's little space for humans here. They seem like flaws in this system: undersized and vulnerable, though they adapt as best they can, with hygienic clothing, ear protectors and helmets. They're at certain places on the production line, doing the jobs for which machines have not yet been invented. One last bit of individuality interferes with the process.

When a worker takes a break for a bite to eat, it seems to provide an absurd contrast, but at the same time a reference is made to the actual purpose of these seemingly utopian factories.

Precisely framed continuous tracking shots take on the system's efficiency, bare it, put it on display, approach it with a mixture of fascination and horror. **OUR DAILY BREAD** shows the industrial production of food as a reflection of our society's values: plenty of everything, made quickly and simply by a specialized few.

Dispensing with commentary and explanatory interviews, the film unfolds on the screen like a disturbing dream: a detailed feast of images, an insistent gaze, accompanied by whirring, clattering, booming, slurping, the machines' hydraulic breathing – only the screeching of chickens is louder.

OUR DAILY BREAD is an invitation directed at our sense of curiosity, our desire to get to the bottom of things, to look, listen and be amazed, to associate and think about our civilization as it currently stands.

Only after seeing something for ourselves can we believe it.



CREDITS

directed and cinematography by
Nikolaus Geyrhalter

edited by
Wolfgang Widerhofer

sound
Stefan Holzer, Andreas Hamza,
Hjalti Bager-Jonathansson

assistant cameraman
Gerald Piesch, Konrad Edelbacher, Ludwig Löckinger

artistic collaboration
Maria Arlamovsky

production manager
Michael Kitzberger

producers
Nikolaus Geyrhalter, Markus Glaser,
Michael Kitzberger, Wolfgang Widerhofer

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1:1,85 + COLOR + DOLBY DIGITAL + 92 MIN



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© 2005 Nikolaus Geyrhalter Filmproduktion GmbH
Hildebrandgasse 26 A-1180 Vienna
T/F: +43-1-403 01 62
info@geyrhalterfilm.com

www.geyrhalterfilm.com



World Sales:
AUTLOOK Filmsales
Zieglergasse 75/1 A-1070 Vienna
T: +43-720-55 35 70
F: +43-720-55 35 72
mobile: +43-664-5105552
welcome@autlookfilms.com

www.autlookfilms.com

www.OurDailyBread.at

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a film by nikolaus geyrhalter