

# THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Produced and Directed by Michael Verhoeven

**97 Minutes, Color & B/W, Video, 2006, Germany**  
**Dolby SR, 4:3/1:1.85, Dolby Stereo**  
**In German with English Subtitles**



## FIRST RUN FEATURES

The Film Center Building  
630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 1213  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 243-0600/Fax (212) 989-7649  
[www.firstrunfeatures.com](http://www.firstrunfeatures.com)  
[info@firstrunfeatures.com](mailto:info@firstrunfeatures.com)

# The Unknown Soldier

*What Did You Do in the War, Dad?*

## THE FILM ABOUT THE EXHIBITION THAT SHOOK GERMANY

The Wehrmacht-Exhibition, shown in eleven major German cities between 1999 and 2004, challenged the people of Germany to rethink what their fathers and grandfathers did during WWII. Most believed that the cold-blooded murder of civilians had been a crime of Adolf Hitler's Waffen-SS exclusively. But for the first time, German citizens could access photos and films of Wehrmacht soldiers tormenting and executing civilians on the Eastern front. This powerful documentation of seemingly ordinary people committing extraordinary crimes shook Germany, inciting violent protests from those who claimed that the evidence was manufactured. In the wake of this explosive exhibition, director Michael Verhoeven (*The Nasty Girl*) interviews historians and experts, including those who deny the crimes, about the accuracy of these allegations. Filming in the killing fields of Ukraine and Belarus and incorporating archival footage unearthed in the exhibition, Verhoeven weaves a portrait of a nation as it confronts its past.

*"My father acted on orders.... I am proud of my father."*

VISITOR OF THE EXHIBITION 1997

*"Berlin rightists mount protest of war exhibition... the sins of the grandfathers."*

THE NEW YORK TIMES

*"The Wehrmacht-Exhibition splits up Germany...the armed forces lost honor."*

LE MONDE

*"Street battles erupt as neo-Nazis back Hitler's army over atrocities."*

THE OBSERVER

*"An Exhibition that has changed the memory of Germany forever"*

JAN PHILIPP REEMTSMA

*" ... the dark power of hatred"*

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER IMRE KERTÉSZ

*"Everyones potential crime, everyones husband's, brother's, uncles', and grandfather's crime... (a) historical event."*

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

## **Producer/Director – Michael Verhoeven**

**Michael Verhoeven** was born in Berlin in 1938 and studied Medicine in Berlin and Munich. He completed the state medical examination in 1966 and qualified as a doctor in 1969. He appeared as an actor on the stage and screen from the early 1950s to the early 60s and has worked as a screenwriter, producer and director since 1967, having set up his own company Sentana Filmproduktion with wife Senta Berger in 1965. He has received domestic and international awards for films like **O.K.** (1970), **A Terrific Exit (Sonja schafft die Wirklichkeit ab oder Ein ziemlich starker Abgang, 1973)**, **Sunday Children (Sonntagskinder, 1979)**, and **The White Rose (Die weisse Rose, 1982)**. His 1989 film **The Nasty Girl (Das schreckliche Maedchen)** was nominated for both the *Academy Award* and *Golden Globe* and won a *Silver Bear* in Berlin in 1990 as well as a *BAFTA Award* in 1992. After that, he made **My Mother's Courage (Mutters Courage, 1995)**, **Zimmer mit Fruehstueck** (TV, 1999), **Enthuellung einer Ehe** (TV, 2000) which won two awards at the FIPA Biarritz in 2001, and **The Unknown Soldier - What Did You Do in the War, Dad? (Der unbekante Soldat, 2006)**.

*“My questions were often met with counter questions, such as: did I know of any other people besides the Germans who would defile their own soldiers who had fought for their country? I am not searching for ready answers. Each country has its own history. And I’ll stick to ours.” -Michael Verhoeven*

**DOCUMENTARY | GERMANY 2006 • DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER | MICHAEL VERHOEVEN** **RUNTIME | 97’00 • SHOT IN GERMANY, USA, UKRAINE, BELARUS •**  
**FORMAT | DIGI-BETA, DOLBY SR, 4:3, 1:1,85, DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL**  
**WORLD SALES: KINOWELTINTERNATIONAL/FUTURAFILMWELTVERTRIEB,**  
**KARL-TAUCHNITZSTR. 1004107 LEIPZIG | TEL.: +0049(0)34135596-0 FAX: +0049(0)35596999,**  
**E-MAIL: FILMVERLAG@KINOWELT.DE | WWW.KINOWELT-INTERNATIONAL.DE**

<b>PRODUCER/ CO-PRODUCER / FILM FUNDING</b>
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<b>ORIGINAL TITLE</b>	<b>Der unbekannte Soldat</b>
<b>PRODUCER</b>	<b>Sentana Filmproduktion GmbH</b>
<b>CO-PRODUCER</b>	<b>Eikon</b>
<b>IN COOPERATION WITH</b>	<b>Transit Film GmbH</b>
<b>TV STATION</b>	<b>Bayerischer Rundfunk/ARTE/WDR</b>
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	<b>FFF Bayern GmbH/ BKM/ Filmstiftung NRW</b>

<b>CREW EUROPE</b>
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<b>DIRECTOR PRODUCER</b>	<b>Michael Verhoeven</b>
<b>ASSISTANT</b>	<b>Luise Lindermaid</b>
<b>EDITOR</b>	<b>Gabriele Kröber, BFS</b>
<b>PRODUCTION MANAGER</b>	<b>Magnus Augustin</b>
<b>PRODUCTION ACCOUNT</b>	<b>Johanna Kohtz</b>
<b>PRODUCTION COORDINATOR</b>	<b>Barbara Bauermeister</b>
<b>PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS</b>	<b>Daniela Wüst Tamara Freigang Stefan Hornung</b>
<b>LAWYER</b>	<b>RAIN Margarete Deiseroth</b>
<b>DoP</b>	<b>Stefan Schindler Knut Muhsik Britta Becker, bvk amm.</b>
<b>ORIGINAL SOUND</b>	<b>Zoltan Ravasz Johannes Rommel amm</b>
<b>PHOTOGRAPHER</b>	<b>Christoph Wirsing</b>
<b>INTERVIEWER BERLIN</b>	<b>Cornelia Leitner</b>
<b>EDITING SUITE</b>	<b>B.O.A. Videofilmkunst</b>
<b>GRAFICS</b>	<b>Friederika Riechert Jürgen Pertack</b>
<b>SCORE</b>	<b>Martin Grubinger &amp; Art Percussion Mike Herting</b>
<b>SOUND DESIGN / MIXING</b>	<b>Sören Blüthgen</b>
<b>COLOUR CORRECTION</b>	<b>Jürgen Pertack</b>
<b>POSTPRODUCTION</b>	<b>m s f . Michael Sanger Fil</b>

<b>CREW UKRAINE/USA</b>
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**CREW BELARUS/UKRAINE**

<b>SERVICE PRODUCER</b>	<b>Ilya Kouznetsoff</b>
<b>DoP</b>	<b>Sergey Yemerov</b>
<b>ORIGINAL SOUND</b>	<b>Vasily Shitikov</b>
<b>DRIVER</b>	<b>Vladimir Stelmanoshok</b>
<b>TRANSLATION</b>	<b>Katya Yushkevich</b>

**CREW WASHINGTON**

<b>DOP</b>	<b>Charles Borniger</b>
<b>ORIGINAL SOUND</b>	<b>Doug McCash</b>

<b>INTERVIEW-PARTNER</b>
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GERMANY

Miriam Y. Arani  
Klaus von Dohnanyi  
Jörg Friedrich  
Ralph Giordano  
Hannes Heer  
Martin Jordan  
Ulrike Jureit  
Peter Klein  
Charlotte Knobloch  
Hans Mommsen  
Rudolf Mössner  
Bogdan Musial  
Oskar Negt  
Petra Pau  
Dieter Pohl  
Jan Philipp Reemtsma  
Dirk Rupnow  
Paul Spiegel  
Christian Ude  
Wolfgang Wippermann  
Christian Worch  
Klaus Wowereit

WASHINGTON, USA

Peter Black

MINSK, BELARUS

Irina Voronkova  
Sergey Azaronok  
Vyacheslav Kovalevich  
Kuzma Ivanovich  
Vladimir Rubezhin

DUBNO, UKRAINE

Tamara Dmitrenko  
Tatjana Ilinichna  
Maria Shisko  
Vasily Zakharov

TARNOPOL, UKRAINE

Irina Ivshina  
Elena Abbaya  
Bella Haritonovna  
David Chaimowitsch  
Irina Zaig Anufrievich  
Nikolay Zaig Anufrievich  
Yaroslava Sinivska-Onufrenko

## **ABOUT FIRST RUN FEATURES**

First Run Features was founded in 1979 by a group of filmmakers to advance the distribution of independent film. Under the leadership of the late independent film pioneer, Fran Spielman, First Run Features quickly gained a reputation for its controversial catalog of daring independent fiction and non-fiction films. Today First Run remains one of the largest independent theatrical and home video distributors in the United States; its legacy includes films by such notable directors as Spike Lee, Michael Apter, Jane Campion, Ross McElwee, Michael Winterbottom, Sven Nykvist, Peter Jackson, Dariush Mehrjui, David O. Russell, Lizzie Borden, Claude Chabrol, Jan Svankmajer, Peter Watkins, Radley Metzger, Victor Nunez, the Quay Brothers, Kim Ki-Duk and Satyajit Ray.