

10.08.2015 PRESS RELEASE - SCHOOLS OF TRUST

THE FILM SCHOOLS OF TRUST EMBARKING ON EUROPEAN TOUR - FILM-MAKERS SEEKING TO REVOLUTIONISE SCHOOLS.

Schools of Trust recently had its first public screening in Poland. At a conference for democratic education, the film celebrated its premiere with an audience of 300 people. Schools of Trust showcases innovative places of learning around the world, with personal stories from students, parents and teachers.

It all started in 2012, when Christoph Schuhmann, a physics teacher from Hamburg, began asking himself whether there are any schools where learning is self-motivated and enjoyable. He began searching for innovative school concepts and found them. At so-called “democratic schools”, the pupils themselves decide what they want to learn and how they spend their day. Schools of Trust is an emotional and very personal look behind the scenes at unique model schools in Germany, the Netherlands, Puerto Rico and Israel, many of which have been operating successfully for decades and demonstrate how education can work with no curriculum or marks.

“IT’S MUCH EASIER TO GET EXCITED ABOUT SUBJECTS HERE BECAUSE YOU LEARN THEM IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WAY.”

LEONARD BÖCK, FORMER PUPIL OF THE FREIE SCHULE KAPRIOLE, FREIBURG

Forty-three interviewees, 12 schools and a journey through five different countries on three different continents: the 62-minute film presents a wealth of personal experiences, insights and scientific data. Education experts and scientists, such as Prof. Manfred Spitzer, Prof. Dr. Dr. Gerald Hüther and Jesper Juul, analyse the theoretical concepts associated with these schools, placing them in a broader societal context.

“WE NEED ALL THE CREATIVITY AND INNOVATIVE CAPACITY DEVELOPED IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. WE HAVE TO ABSOLUTELY MAXIMISE THAT, OR WE HAVE NO FUTURE AS A PLANET. THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WE HAVE IS CONTRIBUTING TO AN UNSUSTAINABLE WORLD, AND WE HAVE TO CHANGE IT.”

DERRY HANNAM, SCHOOL INSPECTOR (UK) AND ADVISOR TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

A 7-minute trailer for the film has already amassed more than 40,000 views on YouTube. After a three-year production period, the film will soon be released on DVD and distributed throughout Europe. The aim is to enrich the debate on education and inspire people to found their own schools. Schools of Trust has a clear message: Take a look! There are schools where children love to learn.

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300 Menschen auf der Premiere von "Schools of Trust" in Ojrzanów, Polen
 300 people attending the premiere of "Schools of Trust" in Ojrzanów, Poland



Oben und links:
 Leon Siegmund, einer der vier
 Filmemacher leitet mit einer
 persönlichen Geschichte ein und
 bedankt sich bei allen Unter-
 stützern.

Above and left:
 Leon Siegmund, one of the four
 filmmakers introduces with a
 personal story and expresses
 thanks to all supporters.



Derry Hannam, Schulinspektor
 und EU-Berater in Großbritan-
 nien am Ende des Films.

Derry Hannam, school inspector
 (UK) and advisor to the Europe-
 an Council at the end of the film.