

# BIO-FILMOGRAPHY



MONICA MAURER

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Born in Munich, Germany. After concluding studies of Sociology and Communication Sciences in Munich and Berlin University she worked as a journalist for several newspapers in Germany and for the US radical magazine "Ramparts" having got involved in the Civil Rights movement during a research trip to the American South.

In 1967 she started to write features for television (New York-Urbs Ultima, 1967/8; film portraits of Bernardo Bertolucci, the Taviani brothers, Cesare Zavattini a.o.). From 1970-72 assistant director to the avantgarde theatre and film director Carmelo Bene ("Salome") and since 1972 independent filmmaker and producer.

For her documentaries "Chile '72" and "The factory is where the workers are" on the occupied LIP-watch-factory she also did her own camera and editing (1973-75). In the context of growing anti-arab tensions around '74, she left film-making aside for a while and gave the priority to political and cultural engagement against racism, setting up a multinational bookshop for immigrant workers in Cologne (Germany), distributing literature and progressive newspapers (unavailable otherwise) in Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic, Spanish and Italian.

Between 1977 and 1982 she made a number of films - as author, director and producer - in cooperation with the Palestinian Cinema Institution and the Information Dept. of the PRCS (Palestine Red Crescent Society).

Among those:

- "Palestine Red Crescent" on the social and humanitarian infrastructure and public health services for the population of the camps in Lebanon (1978).
- "Children of Palestine" (1979).
- "The Fifth War" with Vanessa Redgrave; co-directed with Samir Nimer (1980).
- "Born out of Death" 1981 (on the Fakhani bombing in 1981).
- "Why?" on the siege of Beirut in 1982.

- “War Lab” on regional wars as a test field for arms industry (1984).
- “Listen!” on daily life live under Israeli occupation (1985).
- “Palestine in Flames” on the historical and political background of the 1° Intifada (1988).

All films won several awards and participated in various International Festivals such as Bilbao, Cairo, Carthage, Cannes Fifa, Cracow, Karlovy Vary, Leipzig, Lille, Moscow, Oberhausen, San Francisco, Tampere, Tashkent, Toronto.

Most films were distributed internationally.

From 1994/96 she lectured and coordinated the production of graduate films at the International School of Film and TV (EICTV) in San Antonio de Los Banos, La Habana, Cuba, founded by a.o. Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Fernando Birri in 1986.

Throughout the 90ies she cooperated with the International Documentary Film Festival of Leipzig and the Int. Docfilm Festival in Munich.

She co-founded the Arab Film Festival AL ARD in Cagliari in 2003 where she continues to be the patron and head of Jury. Also she cooperates with the Palestinian Film show CINEMA SENZA DIRITTI in Venice.

She curated a number of documentary retrospectives on Cuba and Palestine.

Currently she is working on digitizing her filmarchive and on a filmproject in progress titled SHOOTING REVOLUTION.

She is a member of the Board of AAMOD (Archivio Audiovisivo del Movimento Operaio e Democratico) Archive of the Working class and Democratic Movement in Rome.