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MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE NORTH

A FILM BY
SUNG-HYUNG CHO

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MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE NORTH

Original Title *Meine Brüder und Schwestern im Norden* Director *Sung-Hyung Cho* Production *Kundschafter Filmproduktion GmbH* Format *Made for Cinema* Runtime *90/109 min* Category *Documentary* Language *Korean, German* Subtitled Versions *English* Country *Germany* Year *2016* Genre *North Korea, Human Interest, Society* Broadcaster *HR, WDR* Sales *Theatrical release in Germany September 2016 (Farbfilm)*

Synopsis

Who really knows anything about North Korea beyond its borders? Whatever we see or hear about this isolated land is always the same: Military parades with tanks and rockets, male and female soldiers marching like robots, threats of war, famine, obedient children and not least of all, three generations of dictators and their hysterically adoring followers. Award-winning filmmaker Sung-Hyung Cho pursues this question from right within its midst – in North Korea. MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE NORTH portrays the people behind the persistent clichés and stereotypes of a misunderstood nation and provides an in-depth look behind the garish façade of propaganda in a living environment that is usually inaccessible to us. The people encountered by the director on her journey through the country – engineers, soldiers, farmers, painters, seamstresses – are not chance acquaintances, they were chosen by the regime. Nevertheless, Cho approaches her protagonists with sincere interest, respect and most of all, devoid of any judgement. Thus appears a cheerful folk who, despite their often peculiar-seeming love towards their »leader«, have by no means given up on their dreams or the hope of a reunification of both Koreas.

Director's Bio

Sung-Hyung Cho, born in Busan, South Korea in 1966, is an independent filmmaker and Professor of Moving Image/Film at HBK Saar in Saarbrücken, Germany. After studying Communication at Yon-Sei University in Seoul, she moved to Germany in 1990 to study History of Art, Media Studies and Philosophy at Philipps University in Marburg. Initially working as an editor on German TV series, Sung-Hyung Cho produced her own music videos and short documentaries on the side. FULL METAL VILLAGE (2006), her first feature-length documentary, received several national film awards (Hessischen Filmpreis, Schleswig-Holstein Filmpreis) and was the first documentary to be conferred with the Max-Ophüls-Preis.

Her further works as a documentary director include HOME FROM HOME (2009), 11 FRIENDS (2011), FAR EAST DEVOTION (2015) and 2 VOICES (2015).

Selected Festivals & Awards

- »Best Regional Feature Award« – LICHTER Filmfest Frankfurt International, Germany
- »Best Documentary« – 26. FILMKUNSTFEST Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany