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# Who is the Man?



with Markus Reindel, Jörg Fassbinder, Cécile Keller, Mayal, Leonard Knight. **Camera** Pierre Reischer, Felix Tissi, Cécile Keller; **Sound/Sound Editing** Pedro Haldemann; **Music** Mich Gerber; **Grading** Peter Guyer, Christoph Walther; **Mixing** Florian Eidenbenz; **Video to Film Transfer** ARRI Munich; **Written, Directed and Edited by** Felix Tissi; **Producer** Dieter Fahrer. **Production** Balzli & Fahrer GmbH; **in Coproduction with** Schweizer Fernsehen (Urs Augstburger, Madeleine Hirsiger, Paul Riniker); SRG SSR idée suisse/arte (Alberto Chollet, Anne Baumann). **Supported by** Bundesamt für Kultur (EDI) Schweiz; Berner Filmförderung; Kulturfonds Suissimage; Kanton und Stadt Schaffhausen; Succès Cinéma; Succès passage antenne. © 2007 Balzli & Fahrer GmbH; suissimage/SUISA; Schweizer Fernsehen; SRG SSR idée suisse/arte.

# DESERT

a film by Felix Tissi



## DESERT – Who is the Man?

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**Man keeps his secrets within himself.  
Humanity keeps its secrets in the desert.**

What has modern man lost in the desert? Above all, himself.

„DESERT – Who is the Man?“ confronts, in the Nowhere of the desert, strange figures of a long gone future: scientists, searchers, fanatics and free spirits, the roaming and the stranded, suicides, survivors and mutants.

The desert of today does not speak about itself, but about us. Of both the beginning and end of time, it becomes the projection screen for dreams, hallucinations and visions. In the vastness and magnificence of the desert man is miraculously shown to be what he is: small.

„DESERT – Who is the Man?“ is an 'archeological science-fiction film', an ecstatic journey far from all material needs.

Using purely documentary footage, „DESERT – Who is the Man?“ creates a fictitious desert planet. So it is not somewhere in Peru, Egypt or the USA that we find ourselves, but in a metaphor.

The desert represents the Other, the universal and the unnameable; it stands for something to which we humans are not privy but that nonetheless at times appears to be almost within our grasp.

We can cross the desert. We can interpret the desert. We can describe the desert. We can measure the desert. We can sing praise of the desert, but we cannot capture the desert.

Felix Tissi has gathered countless stories from several continents, but none is brought to closure. We are invited to develop the stories in our imagination. But at the same time the film only tells a single story: your story, my story, the story of being. *(Pedro Lenz, writer)*

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