



# 27 STEPS

A SHORT FILM BY ANDREA SCHRAMM

Original Title: 27 SCHRITTE

International Title: 27 STEPS

Original Language: GERMAN

Subtitles: ENGLISH

Genre: DOCUMENTARY SHORT

Topics: HUMAN INTEREST, FAMILY,  
SOCIETY, PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW

Format: 16:9 HD BLACK AND WHITE

Length: 21 MIN

Written and Directed by: ANDREA SCHRAMM

Cinematographer: SEBASTIAN MEZ

Editor: GRETE JENTZEN

Sound Design/Mixing: MICHAL KRAJZCOK

Producers: ANDREA SCHRAMM, SCHRAMM MATTHES FILM

# SYNOPSIS

On the first day of the Corona lockdown, the director's father is picked up by an ambulance. He dies shortly thereafter.

Mother and daughter mourn in the parental apartment, isolated on 49 square meters — and connected to the outside world only by telephone. With painful intimacy, these phone calls exemplify the loneliness of the mourners in pandemic times. Photographic images of the desolate apartment are marked by an intense geometric strictness, which, in spite of the confinement, also creates a certain distance to the inevitable.

"27 STEPS" thus leaves room for interpretation and deals with a universal question: How does isolation affect us when we are dependent on solace and help? This is a very personal film which puts a magnifying glass on the circumstances that we are all experiencing right now.



I glance through the closed window and see the neighbors' closed windows.

*„I have sad news. Our dear Siegfried has passed away.“*

My mother repeats this message dozens of times, to all our relatives and friends, and always by phone. Nobody comes by to propose a toast to my dead father, or to give us a hug. My mother calls the next-door-neighbor, and at night she talks to her dead husband. At some point I press the record button on my phone. I have a strong feeling that something is transpiring here in isolation which transcends my personal grief.

Later, I film images that depict what I experienced: being locked up in the apartment, and being excluded when I was not allowed to go to my father's hospital. By decoupling image and sound, two strong layers emerge, and their collision creates something new. The montage condenses fragments of sadness into an essence which perfectly illustrates our interactions during the lockdown.

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

*My father is on his deathbed, but due to the visitation ban I cannot see him in the hospital. Should I throw pebbles at his window? Sing a song? Scream? I am not sure if he could still hear any of this. I am not even sure if he is still alive.*

# DIRECTOR / PRODUCER



Andrea Schramm works as a director and producer for Cinema and Television in Berlin, for example the European cultural channels ARTE and 3sat. After having studied journalism in Leipzig and directing in Potsdam-Babelsberg, she founded SCHRAMM MATTHES FILM together with Jana Matthes. They portray complex political and social developments in radically personal stories.

Many of their films have been screened on international festivals and won prizes, such as the 'DEUTSCHER FERNSEHPREIS' ('German Television Award') and the DISCOVERY CHANNEL AWARD. The theatrical release of their last documentary "TACHELES – The Heart of the Matter" is planned for 2021. It is nominated for a CLIO film award as best German documentary dealing with a historical topic.

# CONTACT

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