

150km west of Berlin, near the village of Poppau in the Altmark. Here Germany's youngest village, "Sieben Linden" has come into existence over the last decade. The community numbers 43 women, 35 men and 33 children. Its priorities are ecology, holistic communal culture, self-administration and self-sufficiency.



Dreams

"If I ask myself: „What do I really want? What is my dream?“ And if I pursue that relentlessly and earnestly, ignoring all else and following my yearnings, then I am going my proper way. A way with which I can retreat from all of society's misadventures. Because things are good here. Germans need only decide to live differently, and they can do so. The system doesn't stop us."
Silke Hagmaier, Co-founder



Information: www.menschen-traeume-taten.de
Rental: info@stiglmayrfilm.de
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After „Bavarian Rebel“
(www.derbayerischeRebell.de)
the new film by Andi Stiglmayr.

PEOPLE DREAMS ACTIONS

A documentary about a small village
originating from the dreams of its inhabitants.
A place where dreams become reality.

D 2007 | 88 minutes | Music André Feldhaus
www.menschen-traeume-taten.de



A place with everything that humans have ever required: nature, movement, interesting challenges, adventure. You want to do a thousand things at once, face countless interesting problems, discuss matters with people and further important political, cultural or artistic aims. Everything seems possible, you're torn between possibilities. But where, then, is the time for contemplation, the time for yourself and your family? Is it really so difficult to change the conditioned virtues and values dictating industriousness, performance and success? But nonetheless, the inhabitants recognise their weaknesses as challenges and thus are in a position to change themselves and their surroundings for the better. Such initiatives are ever more common around the world, be they new settlements, transformed villages or town projects. People can take control of things themselves without waiting for "the powers that be" to implement change – and it is precisely this which makes this process so exciting.
Andi Stiglmayr, director



Critics

"... Instead of shedding a little light on everything, trying to show a few pictures of many inhabitants and processing figures and data, he gives the viewer the opportunity of submerging himself in the lives of two inhabitants. This kind of documentary was common in the sixties, and could even be seen on television. You don't just sit there, waiting to see what happens next but let things take their course. This is both more relaxing and more diverting. Stiglmayr observes instead of passing judgement..."
Giessner Anzeiger

"His gaze shows the many human components of co-existence. In keeping with "Der Bayerische Rebell" about the idiosyncratic chansonnier Hans Söllner, Stiglmayr is again presenting a fascinating documentary about the possibilities of following different ways of life."

Gießener Allgemeine Zeitung

PEOPLE DREAMS ACTIONS

What happens when more than a hundred people come together and change their lives?

In search of future-compatible social models, film maker Andi Stiglmayr came across the ten-year old Sieben Linden model settlement in the Altmark 150 kilometres west of Berlin. There 120 people have joined in founding various neighbourhoods and are attempting to interconnect the various fields of human life such as leisure, communication, healing, education, economics, ecology and culture.

In 1997 BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) published its "A Germany Viable for the Future" study. It is a contribution to global sustainability. The protagonists apply aspects of this study in their daily lives. Sieben Linden is the attempt of living the good life without owning much and without having to go back to the Stone Age. The contradictions this throws up are not a downfall but the perspective of a viable future
www.bund.net, the film's partner at the national Film festival
R.e.: www.diegesellschaft.de.



Contentment

'I have material concerns. My pre-pension work programme runs out next year. I don't know what will happen then. But what counts is not submitting to anxiety, but enjoying the present. You know, this meadow, these poles, the birds that fly by, and, thinking: thank you, it's great, I really feel at home here, I feel blessed.'

Henning Müller, village dweller



Longings

'Lots of people yearn for a life like this: They feel that something's missing but don't know what. They recognise there must be alternative life forms besides family, couple and single existences. But society doesn't offer them. This has economic reasons: Industry prefers one man, one lawnmower, to a 200-man group sharing one mower.'

Martin Goldstein, Project advisor

Neighbours

'It looks terrible, if you look at the gardens and so on. It's full of weeds.

It's like how gypsies lived. That's how they live.'

Local farmer



View from outside

'I'd imagined it differently, like... well, you know... outdoor loos and, all in all very primitive. It's a shame that there are so few colours and that the wood is so pale, but life here must be calmer, less stressful. Where we live, people are uptight, and envy their neighbours, but here there's no need to. I wouldn't mind manual work, and if everyone works and pulls together, then it's fun, too and you're proud of your own labour.'

Visitor

