

# Ahimsa – The strength of Non-Violence

## A film by Karl Saurer

Documentary, Switzerland 2012  
DCP / HDCam / BlueRay / DVD, 65 Min., colour, 16:9, Stereo  
Original version: english, hindi, oriya  
Subtitles: german, english, french

with  
**P.V. Rajagopal, Saokhilal & Agasia**  
**Kasturi Patel, Santosh Singh**  
**Bahadur Singh, Pandit Pooran Singh**

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Karl Saurer Filmproduction

**IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH**

RECK Filmproduktion Zurich

**WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM**

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## Synopsis

After a tenacious, non-violent struggle, the villagers of Sannai in Madya Pradesh, India, obtain their rights for land and water. The exemplary story of these tribal people shows the fascinating strength inherent in the principle of AHIMSA: non-violence.

In a society, where corruption and caste conflicts undermine democratic rights, the Adivasi are supported by activists of the Gandhian Forum for Solidarity: « Ekta Parishad ».

We see how its founder P.V. Rajagopal was inspired by his experiences with terroristic rebels during the Seventies. He convinced them to lay down their weapons and use non-violent methods for their claims.

To this day, he and his colleagues from the Forum train young people in non-violence when struggling for a dignified and sustainable social change.



## **Biographical Note Karl Saurer:**

Born 1943 in Einsiedeln/Switzerland. M.A. in media and literature. Works as film publicist in Switzerland and Germany. 1980-84 Director of Studies at Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin. Lecturer for universities and film schools.

Since 1970 screenwriter and director of fiction films: "Das Brot des Bäckers" (1976) and "Der Hunger, der Koch und das Paradies" (1982) (both as co-author); and documentaries such as „Kebab & Rosoli“ (1992), „Der Traum vom grossen blauen Wasser“ (1993), „Steinauer Nebraska“ (1997), and „Rajas Reise“ (2007).



## **Filmografie**

**2012 AHIMSA – DIE STÄRKE VON GEWALTFREIHEIT** (Dokumentarfilm)

**2007 RAJAS REISE** (Dokumentarfilm)

**1997 STEINAUER NEBRASKA** (Dokumentarfilm)

**1993 DER TRAUM VOM GROSSEN BLAUEN WASSER** (Dokumentarfilm)

**1992 KEBAB & ROSOLI** (Dokumentarfilm)

**1991 HOLZ SCHLAEIKE MID ROSS** (Dokumentarfilm)

**1982 DAS UNBEHAGEN AN DER VERGANGENHEIT** (Dokumentarfilm)

**1981 DER HUNGER, DER KOCH UND DAS PARADIES** (Spielfilm)

**1976 DAS BROT DES BÄCKERS** (Spielfilm)

**1975 TATORT LUZERN ODER WEM GEHÖREN UNSERE STÄDTE?** (Dokumentation)

**1975 KAISERAUGST** (Dokumentarfilm)

**1973 ES DRÄNGEN SICH KEINE MASSNAHMEN AUF** (Dokumentarfilm)

**1971 RUHE** (Dokumentarfilm)

**1970 DAS KLEINE WELTTHEATER** (Dokumentarfilm)

## **RECK FILMPRODUCTIONS GmbH**

RECK Filmproduction was founded in 2000 by Franziska Reck and focuses mainly on the development and production of documentary and experimental film – especially film essays – for cinema and television.

Franziska Reck has been actively involved in the world of film for twenty years, promoting independent filmmaking in Switzerland. Beginning as a film distributor at the Filmcoopi in Zurich (1983–1990), she continued building up the distribution and promotion of Swiss films as director of the IGV/CID (1993-2000) and as freelance film producer herself (since 1990).

RECK Filmproduction stands for – and features – interest in the lifestyles and the diverse forms in which people express themselves, as well as the fascination in images – whether documentary, staged or experimental in nature. In the centre of the search are human encounters, images depicting what happens when different cultures come together.

### **Filmography**

**2012 ROOM 606** by Peter Volkart, Short Fiction 15', Premiere World Film Festival Montréal, Price H.R. Giger *Narcisse* at Neuchâtel Fantastic Film Festival for the best swiss short film

**2012 AHIMSA – THE STRENGTH OF NON-VIOLENCE** by Karl Saurer, Feature Documentary 65'

**2012 ACTUALLY, WE WERE PLANNING TO GO BACK HOME** by Yusuf Yeşilöz, Documentary 52',

**2011 SIRA – SONGS OF THE CRESCENT MOON** by Sandra Gysi & Ahmed Abdel Mohsen, Feature Documentary, Premiere Competition Visions du Réel Nyon 2011, Price for Best Documentary IFFI, Innsbruck 2011

**2010 AGAINST ALL ODDS** by Anka Schmid, Feature Documentary, Premiere Competition Generation Berlinale 2011, Zurich Film Price 2011 «Best Documentary»

**2010 BÖDÄLÄ – DANCE THE RHYTHM** by Gitta Gsell, Feature Documentary, 78'  
Public Price Solothurn Film Festival 2010

**2009 ISA HESSE-RABINOVITCH – The Movie Game** by Anka Schmid, Documentary, 52'

**2008 FEDERICA DE CESCO** by Nino Jacusso, Feature Documentary, 95'

**2008 MONSIEUR SELAVY** by Peter Volkart, Short Film, 10'  
Nomination Swiss Film Price 2009  
Special Mention Leuven Int. Short Film Festival 2009

**2008 THE LOVE OF MUSIC** by Yusuf Yeşilöz, Documentary, 54'

**2007 RAJA'S JOURNEY** by Karl Saurer, Feature Documentary, 78'  
Würdigungspreis der Stadt Freistad (A)

**2006 SWEEPING ADDIS** by Corinne Kuenzli, Documentary, 50'

**2006 BETWEEN THE WORLDS** by Yusuf Yeşilöz, Documentary, 54'  
Christian Berger Documentary Film Price, IFFI, Innsbruck (A)

**2005 IRENE SCHWEIZER** by Gitta Gsell, Feature Documentary, 75'

**2005 TERRA INCOGNITA** by Peter Volkart, Short Film, 15'  
Best Swiss Short Film 2005; Zurich Film Price 2005; Nomination Lutin 2007;

**16 International Festival Awards**

**2004 NAMIBIA CROSSINGS** by Peter Liechti, Film Essay, 92'

Nomination Swiss Film Price 2005 «Best Documentary»

**2003 DIETER ROTH** by Edith Jud, Feature Documentary, 115'

Award FIFAP Paris 2004; 2004 Zurich Film Price for cameraman Pio Corradi

**2002 ONOMA** by Nino Jacusso and Gitta Gsell, 9 Short Films for Expo 02

**2001 VIRUS-L** by Gitta Gsell, Experimental Short Film, 12'

**2000 TRANSITO** by Nino Jacusso, Documentary, 47'

Nomination Prix IRIS Europa

**In Production:**

**CHRISTMAS IN MULHAPAR** by Paolo Poloni, Documentary

**SHANA - THE WOLF'S MUSIC** by Nino Jacusso, Fiction Film

**CESAR'S GRILL** by Dario Aguirre, Feature Documentary

**A PASSAGE THROUGH INDIA** by Christoph Schaub, Feature Documentary

**In Preparation:**

**WILD WOMAN – GENTLE BEASTS** by Anka Schmid, Feature Documentary