

# IGOR LEVIT: NO FEAR



A FILM BY  
REGINA SCHILLING

124 mins / 2022 / German, English, English Subtitles / Germany



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## **FILM FESTIVALS & AWARDS**

Bild-Kunst Schnitt Preis Dokumentarfilm – Award Exceptional Editing  
Official Selection Hot Docs Canadian Int’l Documentary Festival  
Official Selection FIPADOC Film Festival of True Stories, France  
Classical Music Festival in Breda, Netherlands  
EDIMOTION Film Festival, Germany  
The Gillmore Screening Program, US

## **SYNOPSIS**

At 34, Igor Levit is one of the world's greatest living classical pianists. Over the course of 2 years, Igor Levit: No Fear presents an intimate portrait of his all-consuming passion with the piano, his collaborations with conductors, orchestras and recording artists, and the embrace of his audiences. When Covid hit, Levit adapted and began an online home concert series that inspired and became a sensation. Igor Levit: No Fear reveals his philosophies, passion and commitment to his art.

## **DIRECTORS' STATEMENT**

As a child I loved playing the piano, but hated practicing and lessons. So it became a very short episode in my life. But I remember well what happened to the melodies I played. They turned into stories. There were dangers, adventures, and there were last-minute rescues. I think I understand Igor Levit when he says that with music he tells stories, stories about people. I, too, am a storyteller. What always interests me in my films is the question: where does art come from? From biography? Is it a "divine gift"? How does this apply to Igor Levit? Having come to Germany from Russia with his Jewish family at the age of 8, he has effectively forgotten the first years of his childhood. But his hands remember that he received piano lessons at the age of three. What is the key to the incredible emotional and artistic intensity of his musical interpretation? How does Levit transform music into a state of mind? How does it feel to live with such a great talent that makes so many people happy? but can perhaps become an obligation, a burden, for the gifted themselves? Does Igor Levit sometimes feel the urge to break out of his life, which has been planned in advance for years, to seek freedom? How much freedom is there in music? We filmed from May 2019 to December 2020 and were allowed to accompany Igor Levit, to concerts, rehearsals and recordings. Spoke at the beginning in front of the camera about his career and his plans for the future. And we rattled along with him into the crisis, into the Corona Lockdown. It gave him many dark hours, but it also opened up new possibilities for him. The music saved him, he says. And so our film became another one. It became a film about music and working on music, also about the body and listening, about the connection that is formed between music makers and listeners. Some of the questions I asked myself at the beginning are perhaps best answered here, beyond language.

Regina Schilling

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **REGINA SCHILLING – DIRECTOR**

Regina Schilling, born 1962, lives and works in Cologne and Berlin. She studied literature and education and worked as a press relations officer in a book publishing house. She has been working as a freelancer since 1997. In addition to her work as a documentary filmmaker, she has been co-responsible for the program of the international literature festival lit.COLOGNE from the beginning (2001) and writes books for children and young people

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

With:

Igor Levit

Andreas Neubronner

Franz Welser-Möst

Markus Hinterhäuser

Antonello Manacorda u.v.a.

Director & screenwriter

Editing

Cinematography

Sound

Sound Designer

Sound Mixing

Additional Sound

Foley Artist

Foley Editor

Postproduction

Animation & Title Design

Producer

Funding

Regina Schilling

Carina Mergens

Johann Feindt, Piotr Rosolowski, Axel Schnepat, Jule  
Katinka Cramer, Thomas Keller, Hajo Schomerus

Miguel Murrieta Vásquez, Christian Lutz, Filipp Forberg

Andreas Hildebrandt

Matthias Lempert

Etienne Haug, Malte Hildebrandt, Karsten Höfer, Tim van  
Peppen, Ralf Weber

Carsten Richter

Kuen-Il Song

Swen Linde, Uta Huerter, Ninette Botha, Tanja Lüke

Mieke Ulfing

Thomas Kufus

Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Film- und  
Medienstiftung NRW, BKM und DFFF

Produced by: zero one film in coproduction with Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (RBB), ARTE