

Tiananmen

During the night from June 3rd-4th 1989 the Chinese People's Liberation Army opened fire on a defenceless crowd of people demonstrating in Tiananmen Square, Beijing. There are still no reliable figures as to the number of people killed. Above all they were students who were campaigning for the democratisation of China. 20 years later, there have been a lot of changes in the country, but many of the problems from 1989 have not gone away. Those demonstrators are still defamed, persecuted and regarded as counter-revolutionaries. The film begins in the present day – with five protagonists whose lives have radically changed since the massacre. From various situations in their everyday lives – in exile or within China – we reconstruct the events with the help of interviews, archive footage, private photos and pictures of present-day Beijing. The film tells the story of the protagonists' dreams, their struggles, their suppression, their flight, their time in hiding and their imprisonment. We show how the heroes of those days live completely unheroic lives these days, worrying about their jobs, living on social benefits, remaining committed or being resigned. How do they judge their efforts back then and the political situation in China today? This unique film with rare private archive film and photos will bring June 4th 1989 to life again – together with its impact on China and the Chinese today.



Tiananmen – 20 Jahre nach dem Massaker

Film by: Thomas Weidenbach, Shi Ming
Length: 45' / 52', ev, fv
Production: LÄNGENGRAD
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Contact: sales@united-docs.com