

INTERVIEW PROJECT GERMANY

Q&A

Why were you interested in the proposal to bring IP to Germany?

We were very excited about going to Germany to see if the approach that we took in the US would work in a different country. We also were excited about travelling through a country that we knew very little about. Going into the project we felt that it would work because the questions that we asked were not country specific and we felt that anyone could answer them no matter where they were from.

What is the message behind the IP? What is the idea/concept behind the IP?

There isn't any single message behind Interview Project. Everybody has a story to tell and we have the opportunity to hear some of these stories through the project. The idea for the series is simply to drive around a country, meeting people that cross our paths, and to ask them questions about their lives. This process yields short films that capture something of the experience that we have had with these people.

Which role plays David Lynch for the IP?

David was involved during the conception of the project and he offered advice to us throughout the process. Beyond that his role is to introduce each episode and be a proponent of the project spreading into as many countries as we can get to sign on.

What are the differences between the IP USA and the IPG? (people, landscape, reactions)

The differences between Interview Project USA and Interview Project Germany are fewer than you might initially think. Before we started our trip throughout Germany, a lot of people told us that the Germans would be more reserved and therefore less willing to share their stories with us. So, we didn't know what to expect when we started our trip, but we quickly realized that the German people were extremely kind and quite receptive to our project. We met many wonderful people in Germany, just as we did in the United States.

What was the most moving/emotional personal contact with the individuals of the IP?

Each person that we met became a special part of our lives. We came to regard them as being part of the IP family and are very thankful that they agreed to share a part of their lives with us.

Were there differences between the former „east“ and „west“ part of Germany? If yes, what kind of differences?

There certainly were differences between the former "east" and "west" parts of Germany. One of the most apparent differences to us, was the fact that the unification was something that almost everyone we interviewed in the former "east" spoke about – it was something that had a major impact on their lives. Whereas in the West, very few people spoke about this subject – it appeared to be much less a part of their day-to-day lives.

What impression of Germany did you get during your roadtrip?

We found Germany to be a very beautiful place with incredible people who openly shared stories about their lives with us. We had limited knowledge of Germany prior to our trip and feel that we now understand its culture a bit better.

DAVID LYNCH PRESENTS

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How did you proceed on the search for the IP protagonists?

Just as we did in the United States, we would drive through towns looking for people who caught our attention, or who looked like they were in a proper situation to participate in our project. When we came across someone in the right setting, we would approach them and ask them if they would be willing to be interviewed.

What kind of people were interviewed for the IPG?

We interviewed as many different types of people as we were able to given the approach that we took. We do not set out to interview any certain type of person, we interviewed the people that happened to come across our path.

Was it difficult to find/and to win people for the interviews? More difficult than in the USA?

Not really. Before we started our trip, a lot of people told us that it would be more difficult to get the people in Germany to agree to be filmed for our project. Nevertheless, we found that many of the people we approached agreed to be interviewed (just as they did in the United States).

Who developed the questions for the IP or were they figured out spontaneous during the interviews?

The questions were developed during a series of conversations that we had. They start with biographical issues and ends up in deeper, more emotional topics.