

Interview Daniel Hetzel, director of the film “Chocolate”

How did this clip come about?

I met Mrs. Dietze at the beginning of 2014 through a project of a photographer friend (hobby). I was immediately impressed by her great strength and determination, but also by the special joy and confidence she radiated. Mrs. Dietze is one of those people who stay in your head, inspire you to think and also fascinate you. We quickly realized that the chemistry between us was right and that our ideas regarding project work, their topics, content and implementation were very similar. In addition to the photographic work, we were very attracted by leaving photography and moving in the direction of film. There were many ideas, thoughts and conversations from which the final clip was formed after some time.

What was your motivation to make this film?

In one of our conversations, Mrs. Dietze told me her story. How she initially felt uncomfortable, went to the doctor and the first suspicion arose. She told me about her time of uncertainty, her fears and worries and the finding that pulled the ground out from under her feet and changed her life. We talked about her time in the hospital and her thoughts. I felt my heart in my mouth when Mrs. Dietze told me that the cancer came back, spread in her body and she had to go back to the hospital, but still full of joie de vivre, love and confidence. None of this let go of me and we thought about how to present this story. We wanted to visualize to an outsider what happens in such a situation when one is overflowing with emotions. How cancer spreads in you, how you fight it and still enjoy life and love it.

Why did you use chocolate as a medium?

Chocolate has always been part of our shootings. We're big fans of this confection. At some point we had the idea of actively using chocolate in our projects. One of the pictures developed from such an idea shows Mrs. Dietze completely painted with chocolate with a mohawk hairstyle made from whipped cream on her head. Through this image we have experienced that such a use of chocolate in projects results in very funny and interesting pictures and fascinates, arouses curiosity, polarizes and sometimes frightens people. Even two years after the photo shoot we are regularly approached about this picture. Chocolate also has ideal properties for production, but it is dark but not black, yet shiny. The flowing property can be achieved quite simply by heat. It is also excellently suited for topics such as skin compatibility and cleansing. A third and most important reason, she's just in a good mood.

The music is really strong. How was this music chosen?

At the beginning no song or piece of music seemed suitable for the video, because it turned out to be very difficult to find a finished title with a suitable narrative structure. In this phase I met the musician Mathias Fritsche from Erfurt. He was burning to musically accompany the video and joined the project. With the first rough cut, I asked him to create a 20-second clip to discuss the next steps. Mathias surprised the team and me by presenting this piece within only two days. I was overwhelmed by the result, so I immediately set out to adapt the rough cut to the music and to combine both.

Mr. Fritsche, what is so special about the music to “Chocolat”?

The emphasis of the music is clearly on building on the high point, which clearly reflects the things one has to deal with in such a diagnosis. The climax is the moment of complete despair, where everything flows over you, as it is symbolized in the video. At this point the music has a deliberately

different style and structure than it had before, since also the course of the disease often deviates from any prognoses. Towards the end follows the glimmer of hope, the piece becomes slower, reaches a resting point at the end, again with piano, sedan sounds, which could mean that everything is again as in the beginning, without illness.

Vita Daniel Hetzel

Daniel Hetzel studied cultural and media education with a focus on photography and film, as well as social work. Since 2013 he runs a photo studio in Leipzig and works as a photographer as well as a teacher.

Vita Mathias Fritsche

Mathias Fritsche works as a composer, singer and arranger in Erfurt. The focus of his work is on writing new songs and arranging new pieces of music inspired by film music.