

COAL-COUNTRY SONG. GUNDERMANN

A documentary by Grit Lemke, Germany 2019

produced by inselfilm Berlin

logline

The life and death of a cult rock poet who worked as a coal excavator and became “the Bob Dylan of the mine” before becoming the “voice of the East Germans” – told against the backdrop of a region in rapid structural change and facing global issues.

synopsis

The life and death of the cult rock poet and coal excavator Gerhard Gundermann who was initially called “the Bob Dylan of the mine” before becoming the “voice of the East Germans”. The film biography is told against the background of a mining region where global issues of our time are focused as if in a concave mirror. They permeate the artist’s oeuvre: home and devastation, the end of industry and work, utopia and individual responsibility. Observations and conversations, images of a post-mining landscape, and a first-person narrator from the coal region enter into a poetic dialogue with Gundermann through his songs, texts and largely unknown archive footage.