

Director's note COAL-COUNTRY SONG. GUNDERMANN

By Grit Lemke

The East German singer/songwriter and excavator driver „Gundi“ – as everyone called him – Gundermann who died in 1998 at the age of 43 has become a legend, at least in Eastern Germany. He was my friend. We grew up together in a socialist model town built by our parents that bore the promise of a bright future and better society. This Utopia and what became of it after the breakdown of 1989 was what he spoke about in his songs. A fracture disrupting a whole generation. Therefore I didn't want to shoot another biopic or a music doc but to tell our story. Gundi's, mine and the one of not only East Germans who dreamt of building a just society and - like Gundi said – “never got the hands on the levers of what you might call power”. I wanted to make a film about us, a “skipped generation”.