

Press Release by Inseltoechterfilm

September 2025

Since its premiere in Bremen in November 2023, the film THE LOVE OF LIFE has received over 50 invitations from all over Germany.

From Sylt to Upper Bavaria, from Cottbus to Emden. The film was invited by foundations such as Heinrich Böll, by state centres for political education, by memorial sites such as the Esterwegen and Torgau concentration camps, by working groups on the politics of remembrance, by regional and national peace alliances, by the DFG/VK, by trade unions such as DGB, Verdi and GEW, by church communities, by anti-militarist alliances, by anti-fascist working groups, documentary film events, schools, cinemas and many others.

LOVE OF LIFE touches people across generations. They are moved by the sensitive production of the film, its honesty and reflexivity, and its visual language. Ludwig Baumann's message of opposing all wars is more relevant today than ever and speaks to the hearts of viewers.

Content

"LOVE OF LIFE is a moving film about Wehrmacht deserter Ludwig Baumann, who changed the Federal Republic of Germany with his vision for the rehabilitation of Wehrmacht deserters.

Filmmaker Annette Ortlieb creates a unique memorial to him." (Rudi Friedrich von Connecton e.V.)

It is about the courage to resist, the strength to remain true to oneself, and a vision that changed the Federal Republic of Germany. A tribute to humanity and against war.

Annette Ortlieb accompanied Wehrmacht deserter Ludwig Baumann during his final years on various occasions. In the film, Ludwig Baumann himself, as well as his supporter and friend Ursula Prahm, historian Detlef Garbe and the Minister of Justice Herta Däubler-Gmelin talk about their encounters and Ludwig Baumann's fight for the rehabilitation of the 30,000 Wehrmacht deserters sentenced to death. These death sentences by the Nazi military justice system had not been overturned after the war. The few surviving deserters remained convicted criminals for the rest of their lives. In 2002 – almost 60 years after the end of World War II – the deserters were finally rehabilitated. Ludwig Baumann's long struggle was over, and he was the last deserter to live to see rehabilitation.

Ludwig Baumann was and remains a role model for his profound humanity, because he refused to participate in the crimes of World War II and clearly states how devastating wars are for people.

Film Details

Written, directed and produced by Annette Ortlieb, Inseltochterfilm

Germany 2023, 63 min., colour, 16:9, Dolby surround, DCP, language german, engl. SUB

“Highly recommended” by German Board of Film Recommendation 2024

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etc.

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