



# Blixa Bargeld

## Ma Vie/My Life

A documentary by **Birgit Herdlitschke**  
 Commissioned by ZDF in Collaboration with ARTE  
**45 min**

The stage of the "Einstürzende-Neubauten" concert looked like a building site. One observed the band working in the truest sense of the word. Pieces of machines, chainsaws and jackhammers were the instruments, metal pipes and scrap metal served as alternative percussion. Right in the center their front singer – one of the most dazzling persons in the history of German music: Blixa Bargeld.

Nobody embodied the awareness of life of the West Berliner punk- and dilettante scene in the early 80ies as Blixa Bargeld. Nobody else was so beat-up, so demonic and at the same time so inventive. Even today Blixa Bargeld is known as the head and front singer of "Einstürzende-Neubauten", although he is a multi-talent and has never restricted himself to being only a musician.

Since the beginning of the 80s Bargeld has worked in all branches of performing arts. In radio plays and movies, theatre productions, concerts, performances and installations he acts in different roles; He is singer and actor, director and author, musician, poet and above all: experimenter. Like he says: „I am everything that is possible and anything in between.“ Blixa Bargeld is an art character. Even though he has swapped his erratic and damaged appearance of former days – his partly shaped, partly desert magnificent hair, his black rubber and leather clothes – into dark tailored suits and a symmetric hairstyle, that seems in its symmetry almost symbolic, he hasn't lost his intransigence.

As a real artist he is exhausting too: He is despotic, impatient, explosive and dogmatic. Answering the question why he has such an arrogant image, he bursts out: „Arrogant – with qualification!“ On the other side he is lovable, hospitable and as a school dropout he is surprisingly erudite and educated.

We retrace the stations of his three centuries long artistic career and accompany Blixa to the current places of his artistic work. His residences are spread over three continents – San Francisco, Peking and Berlin – the basic for his worldwide operations until nowadays is his native city Berlin. There we meet his „band brothers“ Alexander Hacke and Andrew Unruh and watch the despotic Blixa during his rehearsals in the studio. In the next moment we find ourselves again in a noble and bright-arranged house in San Francisco. While the rain drops against the glass panes, we see a Blixa who sits on a white couch reading. Suddenly the film allows its viewers to take a look behind the noisy and flashy facade of the figure Blixa and picture its reflective, longing and deep side.

„Blixa Bargeld – My Life“ is an astonishing earnest and open-minded portrait of Blixa who has nothing lost of his radicalness despite his accessibility. Illustrated by old shootings, we are astonished about the resoluteness and destruct of the young Blixa and see his intransigence in the current pictures again. Even though gentler, friendly and in the middle of a routine surrounding Blixa has stayed loyal to himself and his radicalness. He does not mellow with age.