

Munchausen

The Truth Behind The Lies

Docu-drama about Baron Munchausen starring Ben Becker, 52min/HD, NDR/ARTE

A film by Kai Christiansen, Producer Reinhardt Beetz, Gebrueder Beetz Filmproduction Hamburg in collaboration with NDR/ARTE and NDR Landesfunkhaus Niedersachsen, commissioning editors: Ulrike Dotzer (NDR/ARTE), Angelika Sonntag (NDR Niedersachsen), funded by nordmedia GmbH and Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein GmbH.

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What exactly is the truth behind the tall tales of Baron Munchausen? This docu-drama is a compelling detective story which sets out to discover the “true” Hieronymus von Munchausen. A righteous gentry man from the 18th century who falls prey to a story of lies himself. Starring the famous German actor Ben Becker as the show-off from Bodenwerder in Lower Saxony, he fails in life, but gains world-wide fame as literary character.

Munchausen's tall tales are world heritage: the Baron himself riding on a cannonball, the cherry-tree stag, the horn with the frozen tunes and much more. But hardly anyone knows the true stories behind all these lies.

Hieronymus von Münchhausen (Ben Becker) lives in the province of Northern Germany in the mid-18th century. His marriage with Jacobine von Dunten (Oana Solomon), a woman from the far-flung Latvia, is happy, but childless, however, the inherited estate provides a modest living. Among his relatives and friends Munchausen boasts about his time serving in the Russian military and offers some unique punch lines.

But soon there is a book traded under the counter, yet spreading like wildfire: The Adventures of Baron Munchausen. Based on true stories, the tall tales are published and the gentry man from Bodenwerder is mocked all over Europe. From now on, fate takes its course.

The author of this lampoon, Rudolf Erich Raspe, is well known as scientific genius, yet convicted of theft and expelled from the Royal Society in his exile in London. However, Munchausen is forced to watch without being able to intervene that albeit his name becoming world-famous, his reputation and his entire existence is destroyed.

The film “Munchausen – The Truth Behind The Lies” is a docu-drama about the turn of an era, where aristocracy loses power and the success story of books begins. Among them, one booklet with hilarious illustrations and tall tales based on the enlightenment's fascination for science – and a hero who is both admired and smiled at: Baron Munchausen.

In exclusive interviews with experts from around the globe, this film tracks the author of the tall tales. Matthias von Munchausen, a direct descendant of the Baron of Lies, reveals the family chronic and cult-director Terry Gilliam gives insight in his Hollywood-movie “The adventures of Baron Munchausen” (1988). Authentic recreations bring to live the era of Baron Munchausen and compare the historic person with the literary character. Eventually, this tragicomic and entertaining film is to reveal on an analytical basis the truth behind the world's greatest liar.