**Generation ’89**

Growing up in the year of change

It is the untold story of the reunification - the year of change from the perspective of six teenagers from East Germany. They jointly remember what happened 25 years ago. At that time, in the fall of ’89, they are too young to fit into the usual grid of ‘stasi victim’ or ‘east German nostalgics’, too old to simply grow up in the new Germany as if nothing had happened.

Anke and her friends are between 14 and 18 years old, when the wall falls. Her parents are teachers, priests or army officers. In the transition from child to adult, the cornerstones of their existence are put into question. Home, school, state, what was true in the GDR? For them, the generation of ’89, the fall of the wall is neither moment of joy nor sorrow. They see in disbelief how their entire life is abruptly declared invalid.

Generation ’89 waives the usual images and moments of the year of change. Even stronger is the effect of the poetic motifs of cameraman Robert Coellen and the super-8 material from private archives. The very personal film by Anke Ertner, daughter of a former NVA officer, foregoes any voice over, instead works only with sound bites of his protagonists.

Generation ’89 - Growing up in the year of change is the long overdue different perspective on the fall of the Berlin wall and the German reunification.

**Director’s point of view**

I was 14 years old when the Berlin wall fell in November 1989. Back then I didn’t dance on the wall. I just watched the pictures on TV like so many people around the globe. And I was afraid, because for me “the west” was the enemy. It was very difficult to find out that so many things I had learned from my parents, teachers and society were wrong or ideologically biased. 25 years later I wanted to know, whether my friends of the same age had similar memories. Together we once again travelled back to a period of time that we experienced so differently than the rest of the world thinks.

Anke Ertner