

Script: Thomas Imbach  
Camera: Peter Liechti  
Sound: Gido Dietrich

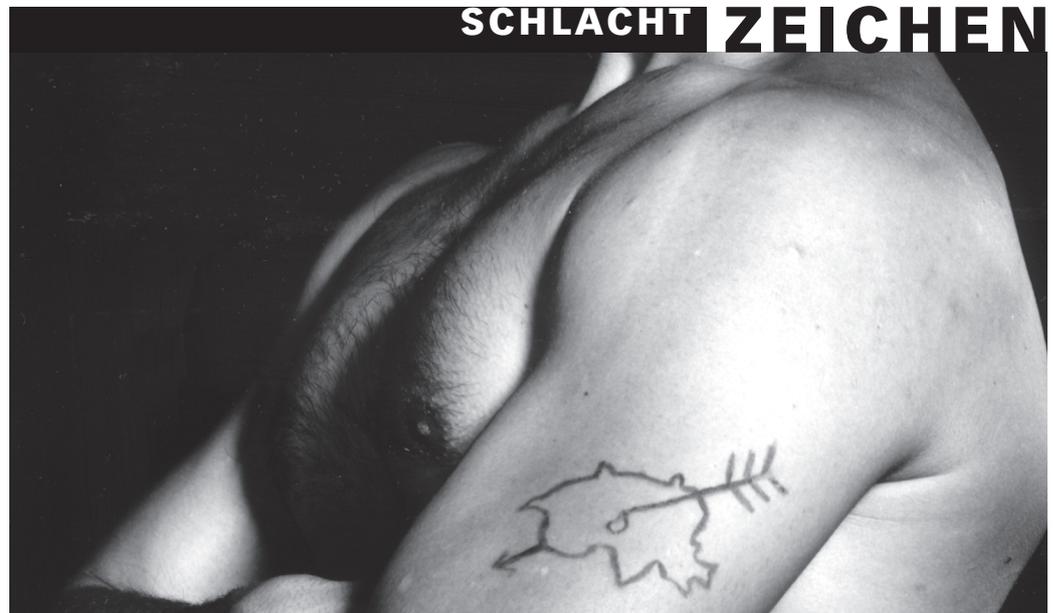
Editing: Thomas Imbach  
Music: Richard Wagner, Johann  
Sebastian Bach

Cast: Judith Bürgin, Hans Eggermann,  
Simon Meyer, Werner Meyer, Melchior  
Morger, Rémi Odermatt, Tschuli  
Portmann, Peach Reichlin

Production: Bachim Film, Zurich  
World Rights: Thomas Imbach  
Original Version: German

“Crowds in a festive mood, patriotic swaggering, the masses dancing with abandon pass in front of our eyes, placed in context with excerpts from war films and play-acted scenes showing a group of soldiers ordered to attend the celebrations commemorating the Battle of Sempach. The ‘found’ footage is combined in an imaginative collage, not exactly a ‘hymn to the fatherland’, but a work that rouses the viewer by sanctioning criticism of myths and heroes, armies and motorways.”

*Der Bund*, 1988 (Fred Zaugg)



| 1988 | 16 mm | colour/bw | 27' | Instructions on Handling Sunday Myths

In his first film Imbach looks at the myths surrounding the Swiss hero Arnold von Winkelried and the Battle of Sempach. Going out from the festivities surrounding the 600th anniversary of this historic event, Imbach combines feature-film elements with reportage to take a docudrama-style look at the hero worship the battle has engendered. The underlying military ideology is always the same: Winkelried's self-sacrifice symbolises the willingness of Swiss soldiers to sacrifice themselves for their country. Hundreds of years ago, military leaders held up the hero of Sempach as the archetype of the individual who is prepared to sacrifice himself for the community, to preserve the freedom of his nation. The film makes it quite clear that, despite the dramatic changes in our society and culture, the language and outlook in military circles has remained unchanged. Swiss identity is another key topic, which Imbach raises through his use of contrasting images. This is a film pitted with satirical humour.