

## **Kevin Merz** Biography:

Kevin Merz of Swiss/German/Ghanian nationality was born in 1978 in Switzerland.

He studied photography but always knew that his passion would be for the moving images. In 2000 he became assistant to filmmaker Wolfgang Lindroos in Zürich. This experience deeply influenced his approach to filmmaking and life and was more like an apprenticeship with a shaman, pushing boundaries of reality and sometimes diving into complete madness.

One year later he had the chance to become the assistant to German cult director Peter Fleischmann(2001) at the Babelsberg Studios in Berlin, another enriching experience, getting him closer to the author filmmaking. A few years later he worked as assistant with the Director of Photography Ueli Steiger on the "10'000 BC" movie, a fantastic excursion into Blockbuster Movies. Since 2007 he has worked as an independent filmmaker, making documentaries, culture reportages and developing screenplays.

In 2007 he directed his first feature length documentary "Glorious Exit" which was the start of his career as author of his own projects. His documentaries have since won several prizes and have been screened at many international festivals. In 2011 he co-founded the Bunkerville Film-production and the "Cerchio 91" art space. His eclectic spirit involves him in a variety of projects, "as long as there is a good vibration!". He has curated Video and Photography installations, concerts and film screenings and is active in the subculture Art scene of his Hometown Lugano.

## **KEVIN MERZ** Filmografia:

**2022 Il riflesso dell'onda**, documentary TV, 52min, Credit: Director

**2021 Il paese dei gatti**, documentary TV, 52min, Credit: Director

**2020 The gentle voice of "Rock"**, documentary TV, 52min, Credit: Director

**2018-2019 La Sosta**, documentary TV, 52min, Credit: Director **Ecocentro**, documentary TV, 52min, Credit: Director **Bar Corallo**, documentary TV, 52min, Credit: Director

**2017 Gotthard - One Life, One Soul**, documentary, 100 min, Credit: Director *Festivals:* Closing film of the 70th film festival of Locarno, Piazza Grande

**2016 Vision of Paradise**, fairy tale documentary, 90 min, Credit: Camera/ Creative Advisor **Cernunnos**, screenplay for feature film, Credit: Writer/Director

**2015 Foodies**, children series, 3 episodes, Credit: Director of photography **Human Nature**, video installation, 3 clips, Credit: Director **La Natura**, video clip, Credit: Director

**2013 Junior Revolution**, screenplay, Credit: Writer

**2012 Terra**, documentary TV, 52min, Credit: Director *Festivals*: Solothurner Filmtage 2012, Kaunas International Film Festival

2013 **2011 An African Election**, documentary, 90min Credit: Co-Director/Camera *Festivals*: participated in more than 30 festivals among which IDFA

2010, Panorama: Reflecting Images, Sundance

2011, World Cinema Documentary Competition *Awards and nominations*: RIFF (Rome Independent Film Festival) 2011: New Vision Award; Vision du réel

2011: Audience Award; Atlanta Film Festival

2011: Grand Jury Award; Nominee Film Independent Spirit Awards

2012; Winner of the "Nafca" (African Oscars) **2009 USA - MEX**, screenplay for cinema documentary, Credit: Writer

**2008 Glorious Exit**, documentary, 75min Credit: Director/Camera *Festivals*: participated in more than 20 festivals, Cinema du réell

2008, Competition Leipzig Documentary Film Festival 2008, Fortnight documentary MOMA

2009, Hof International Film Festival 2008 *Awards*: OUFF 2008, 13th Festival de Ourense; Best Documentary Award Real life documentary festival

2008, Walter Mosley Prize for Best Documentary; Astra Film Festival 2009, Special Jury Prize for Best Cinema Narrative

