

NORA'S ARK



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Logline:

In the United States, children of undocumented immigrants become citizens by birth. Nora fights on behalf of thousands of these children, so that families do not get separated if a parent faces deportation. She carefully crafts her public image, puts trust in her friends in the Republican Party and turns all our expectations of a social justice hero upside down.



Hard Facts:

Title:	Nora's Ark
Country:	Austria, 2020
Length:	79 / 52 minutes
Genre:	Documentary
Format:	2K digital, 5.1
Locations:	Miami, Homestead, Florida (USA)

Synopsis:

In the US one becomes a citizen by one's birth on US-american soil - this also applies for the children of undocumented immigrants. However, their parents can be deported anytime. Nora, a conservative businesswoman in Miami has a power of attorney for thousands of these children. She uses her image of an altruistic hero in the media and her contacts with the republican party to fight for the children at all levels.

Gissel from Peru might soon have to give Nora power of attorney for her daughter, in order to ensure her a future in the US in case of deportation.

Carmen's sons are so-called *Dreamers*, whose future is hanging by a thread and who could be deported to a country they only know from their parents' stories.

NORA'S ARK follows three emancipated women during their fight for a better future and immerses into a parallel society that breaks with common stereotypes.

Crew:

Director:	Anna Kirst
Producer:	Lena Weiss
Writers:	Anna Kirst, Lena Weiss
Director of Photography:	Jakob Fuhr
Editor:	Anna Kirst
Sounddesign:	Theda Schifferdecker
Sound Edit:	Ken Rischard & Lenja Gathmann
Co-Director Project Development:	Clara Trischler
Re-recording Mixer:	Lenja Gathmann
Colorist:	Lee Niederkofler

Biography Anna Kirst:

Born 1987 in Vienna, Austria. She spent 1,5 years in Australia, where she discovered her passion for filmmaking. After film internships in Sydney and Vienna, she finished her degree in Theatre, Film and Media Studies and focused on Film Editing at the Vienna Filmacademy. In the US, she worked for two years as video editor-in-chief for the ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation). After her return to Vienna, she was awarded with the ARRI Media Förderpreis of the Filmplus Festival for Film Editing for her work on the short film WAITING TIME. Nora's Ark is her first feature documentary as director.



Filmography Anna Kirst:

2020 Nora's Ark, feature documentary, 79 min. (director & editor)

2020 Annamalai, short, D: Brigitta Kanyaro, 17 min. (editor)

2019 Schwarz Weiss Bunt, coming of age, D: David Moser, 87 min. (editor)

2018 Hoermanns, short, D: Siegmund Skalar, 20 min. (editor)

2018 No Half Life, feature documentary, D: Sybille Bauer, 70 min. (editor)

2016 Waiting Time, short, D: Clara Stern, 11 min. (editor)

2016 The Tunnel, short, D: Siegmund Skalar, 10 min. (editor)

2013 Christmas Spirit, short, 7 min. (director)

Director's Statement:

I got to know Nora in 2014 and was immediately fascinated by her social commitment. The more time I spent with her, the more I noticed that Nora doesn't fit into my idea of a typical social volunteer. When I also met those people, fighting by her side as well as receiving Nora's support, I realized: This is a self-contained, functioning microcosm that is constantly being threatened by political decisions.

NORA'S ARK raises the question whether atypical heroines can change the world in a positive way. I want to take the audience on an emotional journey that provides a new perspective on the lives of undocumented immigrants in the US - through a woman who stages herself as a heroine.

In the end everyone can make up their own minds about the protagonist. As a result, NORA'S ARK enables a critical discourse about the topics of immigration and civil courage.

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