

PRESS RELEASE

972 BREAK-DOWNS



ON THE LANDWAY TO NEW YORK

A film by **leavinghomefunktion & Daniel von Rüdiger**

Journey info - Press Folder - About book and film all under:
www.972breakdowns.com



972 BREAKDOWNS

ON THE LANDWAY TO NEW YORK

Experienced and documented by leavinghomefunktion (Anne Knödler, Efy Zeniou, Elisabeth Oertel, Johannes Fötsch, Kaupo Holmberg) // Director Daniel von Rüdiger // Edited by Daniel von Rüdiger & leavinghomefunktion // Music: 0101 // Digital Colourist: Thomas Herget // Sound Design: Clemens Becker // Music mixing: Reinhard Gross and Willy Löster // Visual effects: Felix Brokbals // Typography in collaboration with T'n'T // Voice director: Philipp Nawka // Speech coaching by Alexis Krüger // Languages: German, English and Russian // Subtitles: English, German // Translations in cooperation with Elena Poddubnaja, Emma Louise Charalambous, Mikhail Piskunow, Ute Rittner // Produced by leavinghomeproduktion // Cinema release: 03. 09.2020 (DE) // Length : 110:20 min (25fps) // Country of production: Germany, 2020

Distribution

leavinghomeproduktion GbR
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LEAVING HOME FUNKTION

“Leaving Home Function”, is a key feature designed by the automobile industry. At the click of a button your car’s headlights will switch on, ensuring a safe route from your doorstep to your car. And then there’s “leavinghomefunktion”: 5 artists, plus 4 rusty sidecar motorcycles – ready for the road!

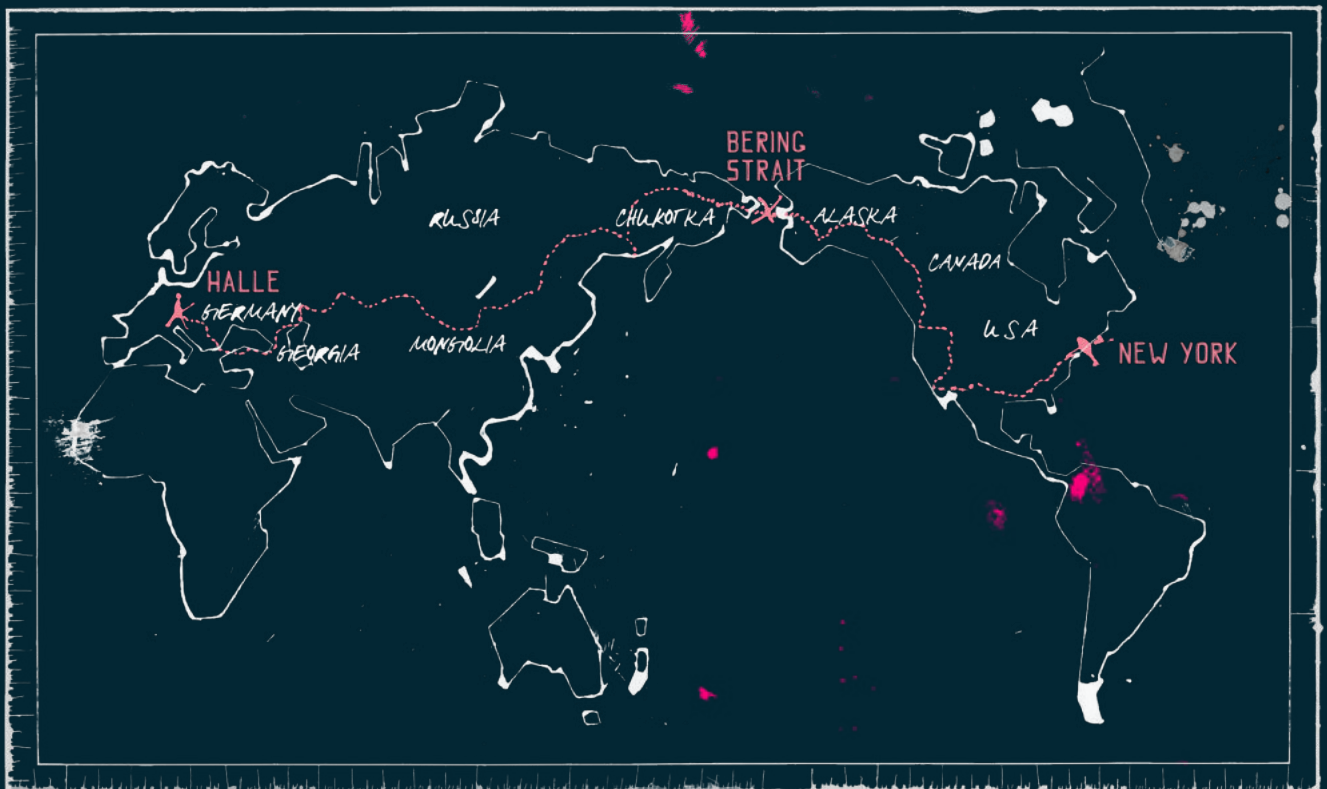
It feels like our home environment is made of safety nets and risk eliminations. We are curious though what happens when we leave our familiar surroundings and take risks. We want to experience what adventure looks like when adventure happens...



ON THE LANDWAY TO NEW YORK

When plans collapse things become interesting: Welcome aboard the Ural 650 — A charming yet moody side-car motorcycle which will take you on a 40.000-kilometer journey through Russia, all the way to New York city!

Pulled, pushed and towed... we keep stumbling from one breakdown to another, looking for the point where we can't go on. Through this "Breakdown Theater" we come in contact with the strangest mix of people around the globe. With their help we always get a bit further... until the next breakdown!



LONG STORY SHORT

972 BREAKDOWNS - On the Landway to New York

Anne, Efy, Elisabeth, Johannes and Kaupo: By 2014 we had all finished our art studies and got together to form the „leavinghomefunktion“ collective. We wanted to leave behind the privacy of our studios and the safety net of our home environment. And so a plan was constructed: We would travel 40.000-kilometers, from Germany, deep into the Russian Far East ...all the way to New York city!

We had a team, we had route, all that was left was finding the right vehicle. The Ural 650 was the perfect match: Well known through out our whole route. We heard it's easy to find spare parts, and easy to repair.

If you follow the red line along the map, our journey unwinds all the way from Germany, through the Balkans, towards the Caucasus region. From there direction Russia, Kazakhstan and the Altai mountains... Further into Mongolia... And even deeper into the remotest corners of the Russian Far East.

In the Kolyma region, where taiga meets tundra, the red line abandons the road, following a Siberian river northwards, up to Bering Strait: an 80km water divide that separates Russia from Alaska.

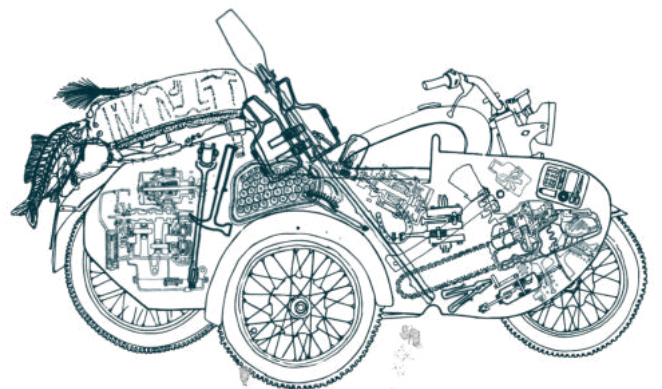
From Alaska, our route continues all the way through the wild Yukon, down towards British Columbia and the Lower 48, until finally ending up in New York City.

The first 30.000 kilometers of our journey, were one huge driving lesson and a non stop fixing tutorial! We learnt how to steer our rickety Urals through the rough Mongolian steppe. We got to know what it means to be in the middle of remote wilderness without a hospital in sight... and what happens when roads flood in the north of Russia, and bridges cease to exist.

When all roads eventually ended, it was time to exchange helmets for life-vests and final-drives for propellers! After 8 months of experiments we managed to transform our motorcycles into amphibious creatures. Summer 2016 we took-off for 1600 km on the Kolyma River, direction Arctic Ocean...

„The Ural 650 is what set the pace of our journey. This flimsy motorcycle with all its breakdowns made our journey feel unrealistic in the beginning. It didn't take long to though realize that all a breakdown is in fact a real ice-breaker! Our breakdowns allowed us to come in contact with people along the way, warmly opening up the doors into local kitchens, living rooms, and above all... workshops!“

With the help of all the people who picked us up from the side of the road - who pulled us and pushed us along the way - we eventually made it to New York... just slightly slower than your usual plane ride!





THE TEAM

Art studies, exchange programmes and artist residencies... Up to a certain point, the main red thread of our team was our background as artists. But in 2014 when we founded leavinghomefunktion company our red thread changed into rusty motorcycles and a world of adventures.

Like all subjects, there are naturally many useful things to extract from studying art. You don't have to have mechanical training to repair a vehicle, you don't have to have a medical degree to sew up a wound, and you don't have to get on a plane to go to another continent... But, you can improvise!

We believe you can get anywhere with any vehicle - it's just a question of time. Johannes wanted to visit his sister who had moved to Canada... he just didn't want to go by plane! It didn't take him long to convince all of us that this was the perfect chance to drive overland not just to Canada... but all the way to New York.

Since our route would take us through the former Soviet union our choice in the vehicle had to be decisive. It had to be something that the locals recognize throughout both Asia and North America. It had to be a vehicle for which we could find spare parts along our way. And that's how we ended up with the Ural 650: a Russian sidecar motorcycle... with a mind of its own!

Every sidecar had its own responsibility on the road, which pretty much reflected each person's character. Anne kept things in well collected order: In her sidecar was our most important paperwork nestled up against a carton of a dozen eggs, padded by a handbag full of wrenches. It was a miracle that our visas and insurance papers remained without a single stain the whole journey. But most importantly Anne was in charge of our medical equipment... and as she realized throughout the trip, handling a mechanical breakdown is not so different from managing a medical breakdown: All you need is the right spare parts, a team on standby, and a confident set of hands!

At the age of 16, Elisabeth was already riding her moped to school, which makes her the most experienced driver out of all of us... Although given the fact that her bike is x10 her size, it's not always clear if it's her or the bike who has the upper hand!



Over the course of our trip Elisabeth became our voice behind the camera, overseeing our 500 hour collection of raw footage. Apart from making sure that our trip is documented from every angle she tried to protect our film equipment as we crossed through sand storms, thunderstorms and ice-cold rivers!

Johannes jumped in to his new role as mechanic quite fast. With the most know-how in Ural 650 maintenance he also was in charge in all our bike transformation endeavors, from land to water - from water to land! Beyond that he was responsible for the journey's navigation, reasonably so - after all, he's the only one in our group with 100% eyesight... and 50% functioning brakes!

Efy originally wanted to hitchhike a ride in the sidecar back home, to Cyprus. But one thing led to another, and at some point she found herself in the middle of Siberia, sitting quietly in Johannes's sidecar, knitting with needles made out of discarded Ural spokes! Whenever the mood would drop Efy would light up a fire, cook some coffee and calm down our wild horde. Efy's 2-year mission in the sidecar was keeping track of every single breakdown: 972 to be exact!

Kaupo spontaneously decided to join us during our first winter camp in the Republic of Georgia. After deciding to leave behind his artist's studio in Estonia, his life would revolve around 200 kg of metal and small parts stacked to the brim under his sidecar tarpaulin just waiting to be used. Given the frequency of our breakdowns, Kaupo's workshop on wheels was the most often used sidecar during our entire trip...!



1984

2006-13

11/2013

12/2013

04/2014

06/2014

09/2014

01/2017

Born in Poesneck, Deutschland
Studied sculpture at the Burg University of Art & Design, Halle, Germany
Diploma in Fine Arts
Motorcycle driving license (DE)
Founder of project: „leavinghomefunktion - ON THE LANDWAYTO NEWYORK“
Motorcycle „Suzanne Schweppches“, Ural 650, 1996
Departure from Halle, Germany // Previous driving experience includes 8.000 km on a Simson moped
Arrived in NYC - 45.000 km across the world

JOHANNES FÖTSCH



EFY ZENIOU

1987

2006-10

06/2010

04/2014

06/2014

09/2014

01/2017

Born in New Jersey, USA // Raised in Nicosia, Cyprus
Studied Fine Arts at Nottingham Trent University, UK
Bachelor Of Fine Arts
Founder of project: „leavinghomefunktion - ON THE LANDWAYTO NEWYORK“
Sidecar passenger in „Suzanne Schweppches“ - Ural 650, 1996
Departure from Halle, Germany // Previous experience includes: 6.000 km on a Honda scooter.
Arrived in NYC - 43.000 km across the world



1985
2008-13

Born in Greiz, Germany
Studied sculpture at the Burg
University of Art & Design,
Halle, Germany

11/2013

Diploma in Fine Arts

12/2013

Motorcycle driving license (DE)

04/2014

Founder of project:
„leavinghomefunktion -
ON THE LANDWAYTO NEWYORK“

06/2014

Motorcycle „Irbitt Untype“ -
Ural 650, 1992

09/2014

Departure from Halle, Germany //
Previous driving experience includes
8.000 km on a Simson moped

01/2017

Arrived in NYC - 43.000 km across the world



ELISABETH OERTEL





1985
2006-13

Born in Zeulenroda, Germany
Studied sculpture at the Burg
University of Art & Design,
Halle, Germany

11/2013
04/2014

Diploma in Fine Arts
Founder of project:
„leavinghomefunktion -
ON THE LANDWAYTO NEWYORK“

06/2014

Motorcycle „The Rooster“ -
Ural 650, 1995

07/2014

Motorcycle driving license (DE)

09/2014

Departure from Halle, Germany //
Previous driving experience: 00 km

01/2017

Arrived in NYC - 43.000 km across the world

ANNE KNÖDLER

KAUPO HOLMBERG



1985

Born in Tallinn, Estonia

2009-14

Studied sculpture at the Estonian Academy of Arts, Tallinn, Estonia

06/2014

M.A in Fine Arts

03/2015

Joined the project:

„leavinghomefunktion -
ON THE LANDWAY TO NEW YORK“

03/2015

Motorcycle drivers license (GE)

03/2015

Motorcycle: „Lisa Lindenhorn“ -

Ural 650, 1988

03/2015

Departure from Tbilisi, Georgia //

Previous driving experience: 00 km

01/2017

Arrived in NYC - 43.000 km across the world



DIRECTOR DANIEL VON RÜDIGER



1983 Rosenheim, Deutschland
09/2007 Diploma in Media Design
02/2011 M.A in Design & Communications strategy
09/2011 M.A in Visual Communication & Iconic research
11/2013 Motorcycle drivers license (CH)
12/2018 PhD on „Rhythm as the intermediary of audiovisual fusions“
06/2019 Collaborated with leavinghomefunktion on the movie „972 BREAKDOWNS - On the Landway to New York“

It is only fitting that the naivety with which this journey was conducted should live on through it's film production. And so leavinghomefunktion collaborated with a director whose overall experience involved music videos and video installations and whose longest film was a 16-minute social documentary.

Daniel von Rüdiger, also an artist, traveller and motorcycle enthusiast, was inevitably convinced by the prospects of the collaboration and gladly took on the film material created during the trip. He really had no idea what it would mean to make a 110-minute film from over 500 hours of raw material! But after defending his doctoral thesis on rhythm as a link between documentary footage and music, he was over-motivated to put his research to work.

Beyond directing, he also took on the task to produce the film's original soundtrack, which he implemented with his long-time band partner Stefan Carl. Daniel von Rüdiger and Stefan Carl (aka 0101) work with reflective sounds and mixes of genres to interpret the images, emotions and breakdowns of the film. While von Rüdiger's drums utilize original repairing sounds, Carl's oscillating guitar feedbacks are modulated to scream out like worn down Urals.

For the original soundtrack of "972 BREAKDOWNS", 0101 have collaborated with musicians from various musical backgrounds to expand their vocal and instrumental repertoire.

The violin by Malwina Sosnowski stir up two very important ingredients in this breakdown saga soup: irony and tragedy.

The DIY character of the film is equally attributed to the director as much as the production company. As leavinghomefunktion turned into leavinghomeproduktion they expressed a passion for their own project which manifests through cinematic experiments and analogue animations. In this sense the film can thus be understood as a collective work of art, in which film editing, music composition, narration and animation were worked on simultaneously.

972,000 decisions later, this one-year production journey has reached its end. A total of 165,500 film frames have been meticulously chosen in an attempt to turn cinema seats into sidecars and take visitors on an audiovisual journey around the world!

Director info: www.danielvonruediger.com
Original Soundtrack: www.0101.wtf

a film by **leavinghomefunktion & Daniel von Rüdiger**



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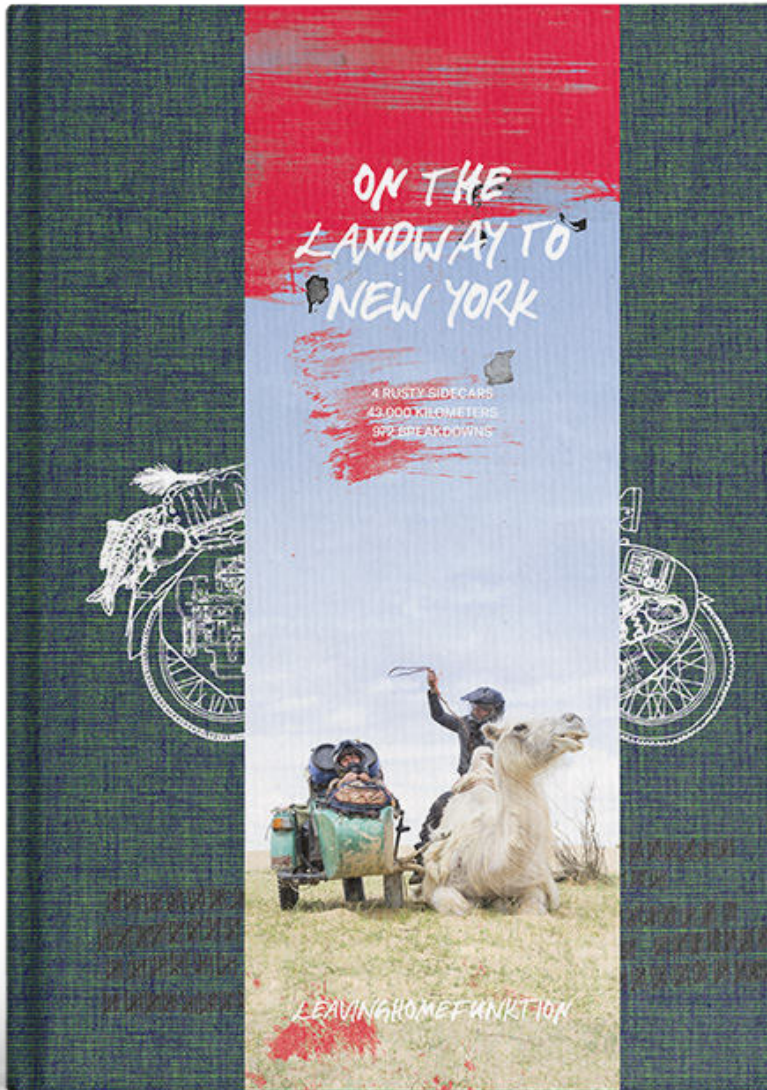
LEAVINGHOMEFUNKTION ANNE, EFY, ELISABETH, JOHANNES & KAUPU PRESENT 972 BREAKDOWNS – ON THE LANDWAY TO NEW YORK
DIRECTED BY DANIEL VON RÜDIGER // PRODUCED BY LEAVINGHOMEPRODUKTION // MUSIC 0101 // GRAPHICS T'n'T
DIGITAL COLOURIST THOMAS HERGET // SOUND DESIGN CLEMENS BECKER // MUSIC MIX REINHARD GROSS, WILLY LÖSTER
VISUAL EFFECTS FELIX BROKBALS // VOICE DIRECTOR PHILIPP NAWKA // STARRING THE URAL 650 TOWED, PUSHED AND PULLED ...
ON THE LANDWAY TO NEW YORK.

NEXT
AVANT
GARDE

soundpost.sendling.
postproduction facilities







BOOK COMING SOON

2,5 years... 2,5 kilos of pages – and 972 breakdowns – are under construction!

In the meantime we will try and set the mood for our 43.000 kilometer saga: We recommend brushing your teeth with a mixture of toothpaste and sand. Take an ice-cold shower straight from your neighbor's garden hose and throw your navigation system out the window because soon there will be no more roads...!

- Language: English
- Coffee table book
- Pages: 400
- Dimensions: 30.5×24.6
- Weight: 2,5 kg
- Screen printed hardcover
- 240 large format, high quality photographs
- Custom made ink prints
- Full spread sidecar graphics

www.972breakdowns.com

