

**BROADVIEW  
PICTURES**

Presents

A Film by  
**Sebastian Dehnhardt**

# KLITSCHKO

Produced by  
**Leopold Hoesch**

Starring  
**Vitali Klitschko & Wladimir Klitschko**

**PRESS KIT**



## Index

Starring .....	3
Staff.....	3
Technical Information.....	3
Content .....	4
Press Note .....	4
Director Sebastian Dehnhardt about KLITSCHKO.....	4
On Camera .....	5
Vitali Klitschko.....	5
Wladimir Klitschko .....	5
Behind the Camera .....	6
Sebastian Dehnhardt – Director.....	6
Leopold Hoesch – Producer .....	6
Johannes Imdahl – Director of Photography.....	7
Lars Edward Roland – Editing .....	7
Stefan Ziethen – Music.....	8
BROADVIEW Pictures .....	8
Fascination boxing in cinema: a selection.....	9
Quotations on boxing .....	10
Contact.....	11

## Starring

Vitali Klitschko	
Wladimir Klitschko	
Fritz Sdunek	(Vitali's coach)
Emanuel Steward	(Wladimir's coach)
Bernd Bönke	(Manager)
Wladimir Rodionowitsch Klitschko	(Father)
Nadeshda Uljanowna Klitschko	(Mother)
Natalia Klitschko	(Vitali's wife)
Lennox Lewis	(former Heavyweight champion of the world)
Lamon Brewster	(former Heavyweight champion of the world)
Chris Byrd	(former Heavyweight champion of the world)

and many more...

## Staff

Director	Sebastian Dehnhardt
Producer	Leopold Hoesch
Director of Photography	Johannes Imdahl
Editing	Lars Roland
Music	Stefan Ziethen
Sound Design	Florian Kaltenegger
Re-Recording Mixer	Stefan Korte
Assistant Director	Peter Wolf
Archive Researcher	Sascha Engling
Production Manager	Nina Hetzer, Jörg Rudolph, Susanne Hahn
Unit Manager	Niko Djordjevic

## Technical Information

Shooting locations	Germany, Ukraine, USA, Kazakhstan, Canada, Austria and Switzerland
Shooting period	May 2009 – March 2011
Duration	110 Minutes
Website	<a href="http://www.klitschko-film.com">www.klitschko-film.com</a>
Germany 2011	

## Content

The feature-length documentary tells the captivating story of the boxing world's most famous brothers: from the socialist drill of their childhood in the Ukraine and their first successes as amateurs to their move to Germany and their rise as international stars on the verge of holding the championship titles of all five boxing federations. Along the way they experience defeats and setbacks, low points and triumphant comebacks as well as conflicts with each other. Exciting conversations with companions and opponents, including the very first with the Klitschkos' parents, give insight in their personal lives and never-before-seen footage of the draining preparations for a fight and the spectacular boxing matches. Director Sebastian Dehnhardt composes an intimate and fascinating portrait of two exceptional athletes who are, before all else, brothers.

## Press Note

KLITSCHKO is a must-see for all boxing and sports fans. The brothers are a household name in international boxing and their matches draw audiences in more than 100 countries all around the globe. The feature documentary KLITSCHKO tells the story of both heavyweight champions Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko. The remarkable boxing brothers from the Ukraine are icons, idols, and heroes. The myth of the strongest man in the world has a face, or rather two: the Klitschkos. But who are these boxing gentlemen who hold PhDs and speak four languages? Where are they from and how did they come this far? Will Wladimir dominate the heavyweight boxing for another five years and will Vitali continue in politics to one day become president of the Ukraine? And will they really keep their promise to their mother to never fight each other? International Emmy Award winning director Sebastian Dehnhardt accompanied the Klitschkos over the course of two years in Germany, the Ukraine, the USA, Kazakhstan, Canada, Austria, and Switzerland.

KLITSCHKO is a BROADVIEW PICTURES production funded with monies from the NRW Film Fund and the German Federal Film Fund. KLITSCHKO will premiere at the end of April at Robert De Niro's Tribeca Film Festival in New York. Twenty Century Fox will release KLITSCHKO in Germany on June 16, 2011. For further press material please contact Sasha Berman: [SashaBerman@mac.com](mailto:SashaBerman@mac.com), Tel.: +1 (310) 450 – 5571.



### **Director Sebastian Dehnhardt about KLITSCHKO**

In heavyweight boxing, the Klitschkos are our Kennedys. An objectionable comparison perhaps, but at least - to some extent - that's the way it feels. We Germans have adopted the two Klitschko brothers from Ukraine as our own and have locked them away in our hearts. As many as 60,000 people will flock to soccer stadiums to see them, millions more will sit at the edge of their seats in front of their TV screens when "our boys" enter the ring, driven to give the rest of the boxing elite a thrashing. Making a film about the phenomenon "Klitschko" means documenting them in a brilliant picture-packed presentation. But I wanted much more. I wanted to get behind the scenes; to be taken by the hand and to climb into the catacombs of this formidable sport in order to gain a grasp of the human psyche that is so prevalent in the boxing scene. The Klitschkos granted me permission, allowing me to gain an exclusive insight into the cosmos that has so impressed me. That's what this film is all about. It's about chivalry, which, in our modern world, only reminds us of times long past. It's about values like allegiance, discipline and the power of purpose. It deals with fortitude, culture and intelligence, and with the killer instinct of exceptional athletes. But most of all it's about the strength only a cohesive family can provide. Moreover, it's about the unconditional brotherly love that gives these two extraordinary human beings their vigor, which in turn makes them the envy of the boxing world. I was privileged – I was allowed to capture this love with the camera.



## **On camera**

### **Vitali Klitschko**

Vitali Klitschko was born on July 19th 1971 in Kirgizstan. Vitali fought his first bout in 1996 and he won his first heavyweight championship in 1996 by knockout against the English Herbie Hide (WBO). In 2004 Vitali Klitschko became the holder of the WBC title by defeating Corrie Sanders in the Staples Centre of Los Angeles. But due to physical injuries he had to lay down the title in 2005 and resign from boxing. By returning to the ring after almost four years in October 2008 and winning the WBC title once again, he proved to be an exceptional sportsman. By doing so Vitali became the fourth boxer in the history after Muhammad Ali, Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis to win a world heavyweight belt for the third time. According to the boxing journal "The Ring" Vitali's victory was the "Comeback of the year 2008" and the Laureus Academy awarded him for this outstanding achievement with the „Laureus World Sports Comeback Award“. With this victory Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko are the first brothers in the history of boxing to hold world championship titles in heavyweight at the same time. Vitali Klitschko holds the world championship title of the international boxing organization WBC. Vitali Klitschko is a man with visions. One of these visions is to help his home country Ukraine toward a better future. Because of that he is pursuing a political career outside the ring in Ukraine. In Kiev he ran for mayor twice and as floor leader is a member of the city parliament. In addition he is a member of the organizational committee of the EURO 2012 in Ukraine. Together with his brother, Vitali Klitschko is ambassador to UNESCO and of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation. The brothers were awarded as „Champions des Sports“ and „Heroes for Children“ for their work. The holder of a doctorate in sport science is married and has three children. Vitali Klitschko has already been decorated with several awards, among them the Bambi (2005 and 2009) and the Goldene Kamera.

### **Wladimir Klitschko**

Wladimir Klitschko was born on March 25th 1976 near Semipalatinsk/Kazakhstan. He celebrated his biggest success as an amateur in 1996 by winning the gold medal in super heavyweight at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. According to of the WBO, Wladimir won his first world championship title in heavyweight on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2000, which he held for three years. 2006 he defeated the US American Chris Byrd in the fight for the titles of the IBF and IBO. When he achieved the first title unification since almost one decade in February 2008 with his victory against WBO world champion Sultan Ibragimov, Wladimir made boxing history. Together with his brother Vitali, who holds the title of the WBC, the Klitschkos are the first brothers in the history of boxing to hold world championship titles in heavyweight at the same time. Wladimir Klitschko is the incumbent world heavyweight champion of the IBF, WBO and IBO. Aside from the sport Wladimir Klitschko is active as an ambassador to the UNESCO and the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation for underprivileged children. Thus he has traveled to Namibia with his brother to raise money for the building of schools and hospitals. The brothers were awarded as „Champions des Sports“ and „Heroes for Children“ for their work. Furthermore the 35-year old Wladimir received the Bambi two times (2005 and 2009), the Goldene Kamera and the Felix Burda Award. In 2001 Wladimir Klitschko completed his doctorate in sport science at the University of Kiev. He already took part in Til Schweiger's cinema productions KEINOHRHASEN und ZWEIOHRKÜKEN as well as in Steven Soderbergh's OCEAN'S ELEVEN.

## Behind the camera

### Sebastian Dehnhardt – Director

Sebastian Dehnhardt, born 1968, is partner of the production company BROADVIEW. Since 1992 he has worked as a director and author. In the field of historical documentaries he has been responsible for several films, among them biographies for the ZDF about Hess and Freisler in the series “Hitler’s Helpers” (1996 und 1998), Johannes Paul I. in the series “Vatican – The Power of the Popes” (1997), Leni Riefenstahl in “Hitler’s Women” (2001) or Gustav and Alfred Krupp in “Hitler’s Manager” (2004). For “The Exiles – Hitler’s Last Victims” (ARD, 2001) Sebastian Dehnhardt received the Bavarian Film Award, for the trilogy “Stalingrad” (ZDF, 2003) a nomination for the international Emmy Award and for “The Miracle of Bern – The True Story “ (ZDF, 2004) the Deutschen Fernsehpreis. 2005 he received the International Emmy Award for the documentary “The Drama of Dresden” (ZDF). 2010 he won the Rockie Award at the Banff World Television Awards for “The Miracle of Leipzig“. KLITSCHKO is Sebastian Dehnhardt’s first cine film.

### Filmography (selection):

2011	KLITSCHKO	
2010	“The Chancellor Who Fell to his Knees – The Two Lives of Willy Brandt”	
2009	“The Miracle of Leipzig”	
2009	”The Krupp Family”	
2007	“Legends: Heinz Rühmann”	
2006	“Champions We Are – A Football Love Affair”	
2005	“The Drama of Dresden”	
2004	“The Miracle of Bern – The True Story”	
2003	“Stalingrad”	
2001	„The Exiles – Hitler’s Last Victims”	
2000	“Battlefield Vietnam: The Dirty War”	

### Leopold Hoesch - Producer

Leopold Hoesch, born in 1969, founder of BROADVIEW. Master of Latin American Studies. German Television Award 2004. International Emmy Award 2005. Banff Rockys Award 2010. Ambassador to Germany of the International Academy of Television, Arts & Sciences since 2008. Member in the advisory board of the Biography Channel Germany.

### Filmography (selection):

2011	KLITSCHKO	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt
2010	“The Chancellor Who Fell to his Knees – The Two Lives of Willy Brandt”	Directed by Manfred Oldenburg & Sebastian Dehnhardt
2010	„German Dynasties: The Oetkers“	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt
2009	“The Miracle of Leipzig”	Directed by Matthias Schmidt & Sebastian Dehnhardt
2009	”The Krupp Family”	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt
2008	„Franz Josef Strauß – A German Story“	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt
2006	„The Damned Third Goal: Wembley '66 – The True Story”	Directed by Manfred Oldenburg
2005	“The Drama of Dresden”	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt
2004	“The Miracle of Bern – The True Story”	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt
2003	“Stalingrad”	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt

### **Johannes Imdahl – Director of Photography**

Johannes Imdahl, born 1967, studied Theatre, Film and Television Studies at the Ruhr- University Bochum and completed a degree-camera study at the Dortmund University of Applied Science. He worked behind the camera for many feature film and documentary productions, short films, music videos, and commercials in Germany, Europe, Africa, North- and South America, Australia and Oceania. Among his cinematic works are JUNIMOND by Hanno Hackfort from 2002 (as Camera Operator), the documentary WHITE TERROR (2005) by Daniel Schweizer and the internationally awarded short dance film BURNT by Holger Gruß. By order of the public television „Das Spukhaus“ (by Volker Anding, 2003), the series „Tropenfieber“ (2008) and the 2-parts series „Das Imperium der Viren“ (by Francesca D'Amici, Petra Höfer, Freddie Röckenhaus, 2008) as well as the pilot- and following episodes of „Mord mit Aussicht“ (2007) were produced. Since 2004 Johannes Imdahl is the cameraman of the award-winning ProSieben series “Stromberg”. Together with director Sebastian Dehnhardt he made the internationally awarded documentary film “The Drama of Dresden” and “The Miracle of Leipzig” (2010). Currently Johannes Imdahl is shooting the fifth season of “Stromberg”.

#### **Filmography (selection):**

2011	KLITSCHKO	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt
2010	„Stromberg“(Season 4)	Directed by Arne Feldhusen
2009	“The Miracle of Leipzig”	Directed by Matthias Schmidt & Sebastian Dehnhardt
2008	„Mord mit Aussicht – Ausgerechnet Eifel“	Directed by Arne Feldhusen
2005	WHITE TERROR	Directed by Daniel Schweizer
2005	“The Drama of Dresden”	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt
2002	JUNIMOND	Directed by Hanno Hackfort

### **Lars Edward Roland – Editing**

Lars Edward Roland, born 1977 in Düsseldorf has worked as assistant editor for many TV productions since 1999, among them the detective series „Der Fahnder“ and „Tatort“. In recent years he was the cutter for several TV documentaries, TV series and TV movies, among them several BROADVIEW productions such as “Black September: – Munich Olympics '72 – The Attack” (directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt, Uli Weidenbach/ Manfred Oldenburg, 2006), “The Kings’ Children: Victoria of Sweden“ (directed by: J. Melchior, S. Dehnhardt, 2007), the documentary trilogy “The German Empire” (among others directed by: Sebastian Dehnhardt) and “The Thyssens” (also directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt, 2010). He has also edited films by Stephen Manuel, including SHOOT THE LUKE (2009) with Stephen Baldwin and Bettina Zimmermann, LUCKY FRITZ (2009), FATAL RESCUE (2009) and IRON DOORS (2011).

#### **Filmography (selection):**

2011	KLITSCHKO	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt
2011	IRON DOORS	Directed by Stephen Manuel
2009	SHOOT THE DUKE	Directed by Stephen Manuel
2009	FATAL RESCUE	Directed by Stephen Manuel
2007	“The Kings’ Children: Victoria of Sweden“	Directed by J. Melchior, S. Dehnhardt
2006	“Black September: – Munich Olympics '72 – The Attack”	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt, Uli Weidenbach, Manfred Oldenburg

### **Stefan Ziethen – Music**

Stefan Ziethen was born in 1971 in Cologne and studied Music and German at the local university. Before he studied film music and sound design at the film academy of Baden-Württemberg from 1995 to 1999, he completed the national choirmaster examination in 1995. During this time he set over 25, some award-winning, short film projects to music. In 1999 Stefan Ziethen received his degree with the German film orchestra Babelsberg and has since worked as a freelance composer. Since 1989 he composes incidental music and compositions of contemporary works and at the same time is part of various pop musical projects. For cinema and television Stefan Ziethen has composed the music for the documentary LOVE & MOTION (2005) by Christian Schmidt-David, the teen comedy FRECHE MÄDCHEN 2 (2010) by Ute Wieland and the Mystery-Thriller IRON DOORS (2011) by Stephen Manuel. Furthermore he has composed for several episodes of the detective series “Wilsberg” and “Polizeiruf 110”, the successful children’s program „Die Sendung mit der Maus”, the TV documentary series “Menschen hautnah“ or “ARD exklusiv“ and was also responsible for the music of TV documentaries such as “The Chancellor Who Fell to His Knees – The Two Lives of Willy Brandt” (2011) which was directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt.

### **Filmography (selection):**

2011	KLITSCHKO	Directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt
2011	IRON DOORS	Directed by Stephen Manuel
2010	FRECHE MÄDCHEN	Directed by Ute Wieland
2008	PATHOLOGY	Directed by Marc Schölermann
2008	THE MIDNIGHT MEAT TRAIN	Directed by Ryûhei Kitamura
2007	LEBEN UND STERBEN IN CASTROP RAUXEL	Directed by Bernd Schaarmann
2007	„Vertraute Angst“	Directed by Christiane Balthasar
2005	LOVE & MOTION	Directed by Christian Schmidt-David
2003	DER LETZTE LUDE	Directed by Stephen Manuel

### **BROADVIEW PICTURES**

BROADVIEW Pictures is a division of BROADVIEW, one of the leading independent documentary film production companies in Germany. The production house managed by Leopold Hoesch and Sebastian Dehnhardt has established itself over the last twelve years in the sectors of contemporary history, current affairs and arts programming as partner for international broadcasters and distributors.

### Fascination boxing in cinema: a selection

2011	THE FIGHTER	Directed by David O. Russell
2005	CINDERELLA MAN	Directed by Ron Howard
2004	MILLION DOLLAR BABY	Directed by Clint Eastwood
2002	ELEPHANT HEART	Directed by Züli Aladag
2011	ALI	Directed by Michael Mann
2000	GIRLFIGHT	Directed by Karyn Kusama
1999	FIGHT CLUB	Directed by David Fincher
1999	HURRICANE	Directed by Norman Jewison
1997	THE BOXER	Directed by Jim Sheridan
1996	WHEN WE WERE KINGS	Directed by Leon Gast
1985	ROCKY IV	Directed by Sylvester Stallone
1980	RAGING BULL	Directed by Martin Scorsese
1976	ROCKY	Directed by John G. Avildsen
1962	REQUIEM FOR A HEAVYWEIGHT	Directed by Ralph Nelson
1956	SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME	Directed by Robert Wise
1954	ON THE WATERFRONT	Directed by Elia Kazan
1953	FROM HERE TO ETERNITY	Directed by Fred Zinnemann
1931	THE CHAMP	Directed by King Vidor
1927	BATTLE OF THE CENTURY	Directed by Clyde Bruckman
1927	THE RING	Directed by Alfred Hitchcock
1915	THE CHAMPION	Directed by Charles Chaplin



### **Quotations on boxing**

I can entertain the proposition that life is a metaphor for boxing—for one of those bouts that go on and on, round following round, jabs, missed punches, clinches, nothing determined, again the bell and again and you and your opponent so evenly matched it's impossible not to see that your opponent is you....

Life is like boxing in many unsettling respects. But boxing is only like boxing.

- Joyce Carol Oates

When I fight someone, I want to break his will. I want to take his manhood. I want to rip out his heart and show it to him.

- Mike Tyson

Champions aren't made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them - a desire, a dream, a vision. They have to have last-minute stamina, they have to be a little faster, they have to have the skill and the will. But the will must be stronger than the skill.

- Muhammad Ali

Boxing is the ultimate challenge. There's nothing that can compare to testing yourself the way you do every time you step in the ring.

- Sugar Ray Leonard

"I'll be glad to see him coming into the ring because that's where it gets hard, where whatever you say doesn't mean a thing and you have to be honest and just fight." –

- Lennox Lewis

"I respect most boxers because they're violent people who learned to discipline themselves ... a good boxer is an artist ... Boxing is existential - some fights are better than others."

- Norman Mailer

Boxing is a celebration of the lost religion of masculinity all the more trenchant for its being lost.

- Joyce Carol Oates

"It is wonderful. It truly is. It is the only thing that is real! It's you against me, it's challenging another guy's manhood. With gloves. Words cannot describe that feeling - of being a man, of being a gladiator, of being a warrior. It's irreplaceable."

- Sugar Ray Leonard

Only a man who knows what it is like to be defeated can reach down to the bottom of his soul and come up with the extra ounce of power it takes to win when the match is even.

- Muhammad Ali

# KLITSCHKO

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