



FIRST HAND FILMS

Company Profile

**We love good television, and we love to make people watch it.
We are watch-makers.**

Accessible and passionate programming We offer one-offs, series, slots, theme nights, and strands. Our catalogue includes more than two hundred hand-picked films from all over the world and is constantly renewed.

International productions As international distributors we act as sales agents and executive producers at the same time. We also handle commissioned programs, and we facilitate and coordinate co-productions anywhere.

Talent and funds We have access to stories, directors, producers, broadcasters and funding bodies. We find partners and finance and simply make things work. We deal with the entire production process as its 'foreign ministers' - and then we deliver.

Strong, independent partners We distribute ambitious and realistic films and projects worldwide, combining unique intelligence with practical knowledge and experience. In our first decade, we have sold hundreds of licenses, turned over close to ten million Euro, solved zillions of problems, and we remain autonomous.

Now let's make them watch

Esther van Messel (owner and managing director),
Gitte Hansen (deputy director), Ayse Poffet (business manager),
Sarah Born (research and development)

The small print hard facts Since 1998, Esther van Messel runs FHF in Zurich and Berlin for international distribution of documentaries, TV series and fiction films. FHF acts as executive producer for selected projects and has worked with major broadcasters around the world (Arte, BBC, CH4, Ikon, SBS, VRT, ZDF and many others). FHF is present at all major festivals around the year, with booths and stands at the main events in Berlin, Cannes, La Rochelle and Amsterdam.

First Hand Films have competed in Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Rotterdam, Locarno, Sundance, Toronto and many others. FHF's very first pick-up went on to receive the OSCAR[®] for Best Documentary Feature. Since then, most First Hand Films have won awards: Emmy, Prix Europa, IDFA main awards, Biarritz, Banff, Grimme-Preis, Grand Prix Nyon, National Film Awards, European Film Awards, Silver Leopards, Golden Rose Montreux and more. In 2009, all First Hand Films have been seen by many millions of people.

In 2010 the second First Hand Film is Academy Award[®] nominated: BURMA VJ.

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