



DOCUMENT
UK PREMIERE

I Want to Tell You Something (Ich Muss Dir Was Sagen)

Austria/2006/German dialogue with English
subtitles/Colour/Beta SP/16 x 9 Letterbox/65 min

THU 16 AUG 21:00 FILMHOUSE 3
SAT 18 AUG 15:00 FILMHOUSE 3

Director: Martin Nguyen
Producers: Ralph Wieser, Georg Misch
Scriptwriter: Martin Nguyen
Editor: Rosana Saavedra Santis
DoP: Martin Nguyen, Tim Tom
Sound: Nils Kirchhoff, Elisabeth Tarinkulu,
Wolfgang Mohaupt

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Director's Profile:
Born in Pulau Bidong, Malaysia, in 1980, Martin
Nguyen studied journalism in Vienna. In 2004 he
won the Shorts on Screen competition with his
film *Wirklich*. Further credits include *Preplay*
and *Am Anfang Steht*.

The title of Martin Nguyen's first feature documentary is a phrase used universally by children with stories to tell or secrets to impart. The information is significant; the listener must be gripped from the start. Words summon attention, provide connection, and permit self-expression. But things aren't so straightforward for Sandra and Stefan Badegruber. They require lessons in order to interpret the language their son Oskar is using to communicate.

Oskar Badegruber is an engaging and lively four-year-old boy who lives with his family on the outskirts of Vienna. He likes watching TV, eating pasta without a fork and winding up his twin brother Leo. Born to hearing parents, Oskar was diagnosed deaf at birth, and this sensitive portrait of their everyday life – filmed by Nguyen over the course of a year – throws into sharp relief the challenges facing deaf children and their hearing families. The interaction between parents and children is almost entirely carried out in signs and gestures, and through canny lack of extra-diegetic sound, Nguyen subtly accentuates the importance of the visual over the verbal. Everyone in the house has to learn sign language in order to participate in daily life, and conversations frequently involve a doubling-up of visual and aural communication – creating a powerful means of expressing feelings. In particular, Oskar's intense concentration on learning signs can lead to glimpses of his frustration with this world in which he must make himself heard. These moments are rare, however, and pale in comparison to his heroic patience, which is combined with a four-year-old's ability to be knocked down and get back up again – in some cases quite literally.

For a filmmaker, one year can mean a lot of videotape, and a daunting choice of events to include in the final cut. Nguyen's selections present a balanced picture – ranging from recording Sandra and Stefan's hope that their son may yet have an opportunity to hear using an implant, to displaying Leo's bilingual tendencies, to how a deaf person makes phone calls. Each member of the family is at ease with Nguyen and his camera, showing their happiness and their sadness with honesty and candour. It's through this absence of condescension that this film succeeds in conveying what living both without hearing and with hearing actually means – especially to a wee boy with a lot of stories to tell.

Shona Thomson

Screening with **0,08%**

The Netherlands/2006/English dialogue/Colour/ Digibeta/16 x 9 Letterbox/12 min

A unique and unforgettable look at the world through the eyes of a partially-sighted Spanish boy – his likes and dislikes, his triumphs and defeats, his heroes and villains.

Director/Scriptwriter: Johan Kramer **Producer:** Andres Duque, Marije Rhebergen

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Edinburgh Int. Film Festival 07

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