

## **Clemens von Wedemeyer**

### **Against Death**

**2009**, 35 mm film transferred to HD video, 9 min loop, Dialogues in English

Shot in 35mm film in a Barbican flat in London, an explorer tells his anthropologist friend about an experience with a previously uncontacted group in the jungle and a ritual he underwent which he claims granted him immortality. When his friend fails to believe him, the explorer demonstrates his inability to die, and the scene seamlessly loops back to its beginning. Like the endlessly repeating film, the explorer is frozen in a loop outside real time due to his immortal status.

Explorer: James Rochfort  
Friend: Geoffrey Burton

Producers: Tracy Bass, Pinky Ghundale  
Production Manager: Mark Gibbons  
1st Assistant Director: David Dickson  
Editor: Janina Herhoffer  
Director of Photography: Frank Meyer  
Focus Puller: Oliver Ledworth  
Camera Assistant: Pearce Crowley  
Grip: Alex Coverley  
Steady Cam Operator: Barney Davies  
Gaffer: Mathias Beier

Sound Recordist: Nigel Batting  
Sound Editor: Thomas Wallmann  
Foley artist: Foley Studio Berlin  
Production Designer: Imogen Hammond  
Art Director: Emma Landolt  
Art Department Assistant: Charlotte McEwan  
Costume Designer, Stylist: Heather MacVean  
Hair/Make-up: Danielle Hooker  
Special Effects: Artem  
Digital Effects: Andreas Tröger

### **Interview with Geoffrey Frand or: How to deal with the uncontacted?**

**2009**, HD video, 23 min., Dialogues in English

Interview with Geoffrey Frand, Lecturer, Ethnographer, Actor and Friend of the Indians, London, UK, April 2009

Frand discusses the diverse consequences of making first contact with isolated groups, like those living deep in the rainforests of Brazil. He explains that today's society has a responsibility to preserve such groups and that the best possible means of doing so is to prevent all contact with them. While recognizing the immediate scientific significance of studying the means of their existence and survival, he argues that prolonging their isolation is of greater importance and an invaluable resource for society in the future.

Von Wedemeyer points to the similarity with Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* in which natives are fenced off in reservations.

Agreeing, Frand states that just such reservations are the only hope for the future, since they would prevent the active destruction of what he considers to be the 'living past'. This idea is of particular interest to von Wedemeyer, and he is prompted to suggest that we are the ones the so-called savages must be protected from. Frand concurs, stating that opportunities for future anthropological and scientific research can only be guaranteed through isolation. Frand insists that society today should reject the idea of such global contact and exchange and enforce their continued isolation for a minimum of 500 years. This is to be done, he maintains, through the creation of new borders, including physical, illusory, and psychological ones.

### **Newspaper "First contact - filmmaterial 5"**

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