

SHORT CUTS Notes for the filmmaker's handbook  
by Thomas IMBACH and Jürg HASSLER

- Documentary can't capture reality, it must create a new reality.
- Documentary must stop defining itself as a document.
- Reinvent film with every film.
- The fiction film is dead. The documentary film is dead. Long live film!
- Your equipment should be of the lowest cost but of the highest quality.
- The most innovative technologies are developed for amateurs: handy, steady, auto.
- Forget planning - hanging around is creative.
- Totally downsize - cinema copain!
- There is no such thing as overtime.
- Time is your most valuable resource. Use it efficiently, even while hanging around.
- There is no such thing as wasted time.
- Be your own technician at every step of the creative process
- Be absolutely professional in all areas of postproduction.
- The more you shoot the less it will hurt to cut most of it out later.
- Throwaway everything over 2 kilos: cameras, tripods, light kits.
- All you need is the white of an eye in the moonlight.
- The forest knows it's being filmed.
- Free association is professional.
- Always go the extra step.
- There is no division between behind and in front of the camera.
- No hidden cameras, forget discretion and stay in your subjects face.
- Avoid interviews and commentary.
- Don't be afraid to doze off while your camera is running.
- Shoot like an amateur - with enthusiasm, inspiration, and barely any luggage. But edit like a pro - cool and merciless
- Try to do everything yourself.
- Don't trust anyone who says it can't be done.
- Don't trust anyone just because they claim to be a pro.
- Don't work with professionals until you can do it all yourself.
- The film edits itself.
- Reinforce your edits, let the cuts show.
- There is never more than one right edit.
- Keep on working with all your footage.
- Profit from your mistakes: don't try to hide them
- Don't keep making the same mistakes, make new ones every time,
- There are no short cuts.