

PACO

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Jacqueline becoming JAKE

JAKE, a film by Francisco Paco Carrascosa (documentary film portrait, 116 minutes)

It was the beginning of the 1960s. Not a good time for people who moved outside conservative norms. In 1962, an underage woman from Appenzell (Switzerland) gives birth to a child. Conceived with an African-American man during a language study trip to New York. The mother's family wanted to get rid of her as quickly as possible. Jacqueline is adopted, grows up in a conservative rural environment and discovers at puberty that she is a boy.

The teenager now calls herself Jeremy and embarks on a grueling double life: At home with his adoptive parents, he pretends to be a girl. On the way to school, he changes his clothes and pretends to be a boy. At 15, he takes heart and tells his adoptive parents that he is a boy. He promptly receives a slap in the face. At 16, he leaves his adoptive parents' house and begins to live his own life: as a man.

JAKE is neither lesbian nor homosexual, he likes women and is a man. An attractive man to boot. He has charisma, knows how to dress and is an excellent dancer. Not everyone is well-disposed towards him. His skin color stands out in those years. He is harassed and sometimes beaten up in discos. Being different comes at a price.

JAKE and Francisco Paco Carrascosa met in 2002. Since then, the photographer and director has accompanied the transgender JAKE with his camera and on film on his journey of finding his identity and transformation. At first they met privately at JAKE's home. One day they traveled to New York together and visited a famous performance club for drag kings. JAKE spontaneously felt at home in this scene. His previous life had been characterized by identity conflicts, insecurity and experimental experiences. Twice he entered into close relationships with women whose voices can be heard off-screen in the film. Both are strong personalities, and he still feels a deep friendship with both. In a third relationship with a woman, he took the risk of marriage.

JAKE is a fascinating person and personality. In Francisco Paco Carrascosa's documentary film portrait, he talks about himself, his experiences and his feelings. Intense and direct. In his own words and with a presence that is impossible to escape.

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<p>JAKE A film by Francisco Paco Carrascosa</p> <p>Documentary film portrait, independent</p> <p>2024, 116 minutes, Switzerland</p> <p>Languages: Swiss-German (French in few parts) Subtitled: English, German</p> <p>Production: Francisco Paco Carrascosa</p> <p>“JAKE” is on FilmFreeway</p> <p>World rights: © Francisco Paco Carrascosa, Zurich, Switzerland</p> <p>ISAN 0000-0007-4699-0000-M-0000-0000-8</p>	<p>Idea, Script, Direction: Francisco Paco Carrascosa</p> <p>Photography, Cinematography, Editing: Francisco Paco Carrascosa</p> <p>Cast – documentary film portrait with: Jake Ludescher and with: Barbara, Ann, Genevieve Etong Nkou</p> <p>Editing assistance Sven Prausner, Laura Rodríguez Pérez</p> <p>Subtitel, Postproduction Laura Rodríguez Pérez, Jonathan Wüest</p> <p>Distribution Francisco Paco Carrascosa</p>
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Synopsis:

JAKE

A 16-year-old Appenzell (Switzerland) girl from a good family gives birth to a child after a language study trip to New York. The father: African-American, unknown. The child is immediately given up for adoption by the mother's family. She is given the name Jacqueline and grows up in a rural, conservative, strictly Catholic environment. At the age of eight, she realizes that she was born into the wrong body. Jacqueline now knows that she is a boy. Three years later, the teenager discards the hated girl's name and henceforth calls herself Jeremy. He embarks on a long journey of identity search and transformation, characterized by inner turmoil, drama and conflict.

In one sentence:

JAKE

An illegitimate child in Appenzell (Switzerland) is born a girl, feels like a boy and sets out in search of an identity as a man.

Voices about the documentary film portrait **JAKE**:

“JAKE's thorny path to his actual gender identity reveals how deeply traditional sexual norms are anchored in our world view and how difficult it is for us to free ourselves from prejudices.”

“The film with JAKE impressively shows that being different is still a stigma in our society that pushes people to the sidelines. That should make us think.”

“As long as people are marginalized, discriminated against and threatened with violence because of their sexual orientation, films like JAKE are urgently needed.”

Credits:

(Film JAKE, film stills and photos of the film JAKE)

© “JAKE”, 2024, a film by Francisco Paco Carrascosa, Zürich/CH (jake-film.ch)

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