

Die Welle (1981)

Filmdaten	
Deutscher Titel:	Die Welle
Originaltitel:	The Wave
Produktionsland:	USA
Erscheinungsjahr:	1981
Länge:	42 Minuten
Originalsprache:	Englisch
Stab	
Regie:	Alex Grasshoff
Drehbuch:	Johnny Dawkins
Produktion:	Fern Field
Musik:	John Anderson
Kamera:	Hanania Baer
Besetzung	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Davison: Ben Ross • Lori Lethin: Laurie • John Putch: David • Johnny Doran: Robert • Pasha Grey: Amy • Wesley Ann Pfenning: Mrs. Ross • Marc Copage: Eric • Robert DeLapp: Brad • Matthew Dunn: Brian 	

Die Welle ist ein US-amerikanischer Fernsehfilm nach dem Drehbuch von Johnny Dawkins unter der Regie von Alex Grasshoff. Er beruht auf einer Kurzgeschichte des Geschichtslehrers Ron Jones, über sein Experiment The Third Wave. Der Film ist ein sogenanntes „One-Hour-Drama“, das mit einer Nettospielzeit von 42 Minuten und Werbeunterbrechungen auf eine Länge von einer Stunde kommt. 2008 erschien eine Neuverfilmung als deutscher Kinofilm.

Vorlage

Der Lehrer Ron Jones veröffentlichte 1972 eine Kurzgeschichte unter dem Titel "The Third Wave - Take as Directed", in der er von seinem Experiment aus dem Jahr 1967 berichtete. (Auf Deutsch erschienen in: Ron Jones, Stories Volumes I-IV, Vol. I.) Johnny Dawkins erstellte daraus das Drehbuch für den Fernsehfilm.

Handlung

In einer Unterrichtsreihe des Geschichtslehrers Mr. Ross, in der es um den Nationalsozialismus, insbesondere um Konzentrationslager geht, tut sich in der zutiefst betroffenen Klasse die Frage auf, wieso das deutsche Volk von diesen Gräueln nichts gewusst haben will und vor allem nichts dagegen unternommen hat. Der Lehrer kann dies

nicht beantworten, doch hat er für die nächste Stunde eine Idee für ein Projekt entwickelt.

Fortan müssen alle Schüler aufrecht sitzen, absolut diszipliniert sein und aufstehen, bevor sie sich zu Wort melden. Mr. Ross macht seinen Schülern klar, dass nicht das Individuum zählt, sondern die Gemeinschaft. Den Schülern macht der neue Unterrichtsstil sehr viel Spaß, der sonstige Außenseiter Robert fühlt sich sogar „neu geboren“ und der Gruppe zugehörig. In der darauf folgenden Unterrichtsstunde wird das Zeichen der „Welle“ eingeführt, eine weiße Fahne mit einem blauen Wellenzeichen in einem Kreis. Mr. Ross prägt die Schlagworte *Macht durch Disziplin*, *Macht durch Gemeinschaft*, *Macht durch Handeln*. Außerdem verteilt er Ausweise an seine Schüler, wobei manche sogar zu Aufpassern werden, die darauf achten sollen, dass die recht strengen Regeln des Lehrers befolgt werden. Blind folgt fast die gesamte Klasse diesen Vorgaben, doch der Schülerin Laurie kommen so langsam Zweifel auf. Da es ihr nicht gelingt, die Meinung ihres Freundes David umzustimmen, veröffentlicht sie in der Schülerzeitung Artikel, die die Welle in ein schlechtes Licht rücken sollen.

Der Aufpasser David und ein paar andere Aufpasser versuchen daraufhin, Laurie davon abzubringen, weitere Artikel zu schreiben. David wird Laurie gegenüber recht grob, und kurz bevor er sie fast geschlagen hätte, erkennt er, dass sie doch Recht haben könnte. Zusammen besuchen sie Mr. Ross und bitten ihn, das Projekt zu beenden. Er lenkt ein, aber er möchte es auf seine Weise beenden.

Am nächsten Tag kündigt der Lehrer an, dass es eine Versammlung in der Aula zur Zukunft der Welle geben werde, zu der nur Mitglieder zugelassen sind. Er behauptet, dass die Welle nicht nur ein klasseninternes Projekt sei, sondern ein landesweites. Möglicherweise wird die Welle sich überall ausbreiten. David möchte protestieren, doch wird er dazu aufgefordert, sich hinzusetzen. Daraufhin erhebt sich Laurie, bezeichnet Mr. Ross als Lügner und möchte ihre Mitschüler dazu bringen, ihm nicht mehr zu glauben. Der Lehrer lässt beide von Aufpassern aus dem Klassenraum führen.

Kurz vor der Versammlung planen Laurie und David, in die Sitzung zu gelangen und dabei alle Zuhörer davon abzuhalten, Mr. Ross zu glauben, jedoch ist das Gebäude gut bewacht. Ihnen gelingt es aber, und sie mischen sich unter die Menge.

Mr. Ross kündigt an, der nationale Führer der Welle werde über das Fernsehen zu den Schülern sprechen. Nachdem auf zwei Fernsehgeräten aber nur Bildrauschen zu sehen ist, werden die Schüler unruhig. Ein Schüler fragt, wo der Anführer sei, und Mr. Ross lässt einen Ausschnitt einer Hitler-Rede auf die Leinwand projizieren. Dann erklärt er den Schülern, sie wären alle gute Nazis geworden, so blind, wie sie seinen Anweisungen gefolgt wären. Dies würde die ursprünglich im Unterricht aufgetretene Frage beantworten. Schockiert erkennen die Schüler, was mit ihnen passiert ist. Die Aula leert sich, und Laurie und David sind erleichtert darüber, dass der Lehrer die Welle beendet hat.

Das "Buch zum Film" von Morton Rhue

Die Geschichte wurde vor allem durch das „Buch zum Film“ von Morton Rhue bekannt. Rhue übernahm weitgehend die dramaturgische Struktur des Drehbuches von Dawkins, fügte aber Szenen und Figuren neu ein, da das Drehbuch als Grundlage für einen 42-minütigen Film zu kurz für einen ganzen Roman war. Entgegen der verbreiteten Meinung beruht also der Roman auf dem Film und nicht umgekehrt.

Siehe auch

- Die Welle (Roman)
- Milgram-Experiment
- Gruppenzwang

Weblinks

- *Die Welle* in der deutschen ^[1] und englischen ^[2] Version der Internet Movie Database
- Website für *The Wave* ^[3]
- Website des Lehrers *Ron Jones* ^[4]

Referenzen

[1] <http://www.imdb.de/title/tt0083316/>

[2] <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0083316/>

[3] <http://www.thewave.tk>

[4] <http://www.ronjoneswriter.com>

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