



the transatlantic feedback

a documentary film by dietmar post and lucía palacios

“Fantastic film! Respect! Full of facts and details, wonderfully tied into the art net, interwoven brilliantly with the band-member interviews. It reminded me of the beautiful film by Fechner about the Comedian Harmonists – in its mix of intelligence, sensitivity and the description of the greatness of a band, which for a few years were the essence of the (art) world.”*

(Berthold Seliger, Seliger Concert Agency)

the film (short synopsis)

The monks were 5 American GI's in cold war Germany who billed themselves as the anti-Beatles; they were heavy on feedback, nihilism and electrical banjo. They had strange haircuts, dressed in black, mocked the military and rocked harder than any of their mid-sixties counterparts while managing to basically invent industrial, heavy metal, punk and techno music.

The genre-overlapping documentary film not only illustrates the pop music phenomenon in its political, social and cultural-historic contexts, but also reveals the monks project as the first marriage of art and popular music and this months before Andy Warhol and the Velvet Underground.

The five protagonists of the film came to cold war Germany in 1961 as soldiers and left the country in 1967 as avant-garde monks. For more than thirty years they were not able to talk about their strange experience. In the film the five original band members recount for the first time their adventure.



the filmmakers

With “monks – the transatlantic feedback” Dietmar Post and Lucía Palacios collaborate on a project for the third time. Their first short fictional film “Cloven Hoofed” premiered at the Rotterdam Film Festival and was included in the series The Cruel Machine because of its uncompromising imagery and content. Their second collaboration was the documentary film about the performance artist Bill Talen/Reverend Billy, which played (and still is playing) numerous festivals and movie theatres around the globe.

Dietmar Post was born in Germany in 1962. He studied Television, Theatre & Cinema Studies and Spanish Language at the Free University of Berlin, New York University and at the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain). He received a Master’s degree in 1995. After living for many years in New York Post currently resides in Berlin.

His most recent credits are:

- Assistant director/researcher for the documentary film *Wall Street*, by German filmmaker Thomas Schadt for German TV (ARD and Arte).
- Co-director of a series of sports commercials (Soccer World Cup 98, Tour de France 98) (ARD)
- Assistant director/production manager for the documentary *Walker Evans*, by German filmmaker Reiner Holzemer for German TV (BR and Arte).
- Service and Line Producer (USA) for the documentary *The Nomi Song*, by American filmmaker Andrew Horn for German TV (WDR).
- Assistant director/researcher/production manager for documentary *The Net* by German artist and filmmaker Lutz Dammbeck for German TV (SWR and Arte).

List of films as director/producer:

- Bowl of Oatmeal (short, USA, 1996, 16mm, 10 min)
- Cloven Hoofed (short, USA/Germany/Spain, 1998, 16mm, 12 min)
- Reverend Billy (documentary, USA/Germany/Spain, 2002, digital video/16:9, 60 min)

Lucía Palacios was born in Spain in 1972. She studied Cinema Studies at the Complutense University of Madrid. In 1996 she obtained a scholarship at New York University through the Spanish government. While in New York she worked as production manager for several films and as TV news reporter for Canal+, Televisión Española and SAT. Currently she resides in Berlin (Germany).

Her most recent credits as producer and production manager include:

- Reverend Billy & The Church of Stop Shopping, documentary by Dietmar Post.
- The Nomi Song, documentary by Andrew Horn for WDR (Germany).
- La Espalda del mundo, documentary by Javier Corcuera for Elías Querejeta P.C (Spain).
- Cloven Hoofed, short by Dietmar Post (Germany/USA).

Post and **Palacios** will start shortly work on their new documentary film “Franco’s Settlers”. The development of the film has been supported by Nipkow Programm (Berlin) and MEDIA Plus - New Talent (Brussels).

play loud! productions is in preparation of several documentary and fiction films and also will present soon the DVD release of the “play loud! concert series”. Furthermore play loud! music label will release in conjunction with the monks documentary film the long awaited “silver monk time – a tribute to the monks” album.



monks – the transatlantic feedback

a play loud! feature documentary film

featuring

Gary Burger (vocals/guitar)
Larry Clark (organ)
Dave Day (banjo/guitar)
Roger Johnston (drums)
Eddie Shaw (bass)

Charles Wilp (fashion photographer, composer, Afri-Cola guru, ARTronaut and collaborator of the monks)
Jimmy Bowien (Polydor record producer of the monks)
Werner Henjes (Polydor sound engineer of the monks)
Wolfgang Gluszczewski (tour manager of the monks)
Joachim Irmiler (Faust, 60's eyewitness, fan, musician)
Jon Spencer (Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, 90's fan, musician)
Byron Coley (Spin Magazine staff writer)
Genesis P-Orridge (Psychic TV & Throbbing Gristle, 60's fan, musician)
Peter Zarella (Fleshtones, 90's fan, musician)

credit list

production company	play loud! productions
produced and directed by	Dietmar Post & Lucía Palacios
edited by	Dieter Jaufmann
additional editing	Karl-W. Huelsenbeck
camera & sound by	Dietmar Post & Lucía Palacios
additional camera	Renato Falcao
script	Dietmar Post
music by	the monks
film advisor	Peter Stockhaus
legal advisor	Stephen Mark Goldstein
music consultant	Sascha Bretz
drawing movie poster	Daniel Richter
in collaboration with	Chicago Underground Film Fund Other Music (New York) Reel Life (New York) Anthology Film Archives (New York) ZDF/3sat (German Public TV) Hessischer Rundfunk (German Public TV) Filmförderung Hessen hr (German Film Board) Filmbüro NW (German Film Board) Cine Impuls (Berlin)

special dedication

in memory of monks drummer Roger Johnston (1939 – 2004)
monks collaborator Charles Wilp (1932 – 2005)

technical data

title	monks – the transatlantic feedback
format	DVCAM – DigiBeta 4:3 100 minutes USA, Germany, Spain 2006
genre	Documentary: Music Arts Politics History Portrait
original language	English + German (with English subtitles)