

Presskit – Golden Age



Golden Age by Beat Oswald
Switzerland 2019
84 Minutes, English (DE, FR)

The Palace in Miami is the last home of party-loving seniors and a thriving business. The owners of the company put it in a nutshell when they say: Old and sick always will be. This is the best business to be in.

The documentary *Golden Age* explores the everyday life in this buzzing senior living community with its very own and contemporary understanding of retirement: Loud, extravagant and glamorous. But even the fanciest parties, the sparkling interiors and the finest buffets can not disguise the daily struggles of aging. It's tough to leave home, to feel the body getting weaker and to miss the spouse who has passed away. As a whole, the demanding residents and the well-trained staff of The Palace try their best to turn the final phase of life into an exciting one. Loud parties and glamour line up in an existential contest against loneliness, slackening limbs and weariness.

Directors Statement, Beat Oswald

I started thinking about the concept of retirement when my children were born. I was 31 at this point and had always lived from hand to mouth, not worrying about the future or financial safety.

But with the birth of our first child me and my wife started to reflect on how to live differently than we did before.

I for example had to decide, if I wanted to invest in my future retirement and save up and work hard to get the most money or if I wanted to spend those precious years with my kids.

I decided to work as little as possible at this time in life, well aware that this means that I will not have a lot of money, once I retire. Actually maybe I will never be able to retire.

As I observe the development of the world economy and the socio demographic changes in our society I start to have serious doubts, if my generation will ever be able to get a safe pension and retire in the manner in which the generation of the baby boomers does now.

I came to realize that we are living in a time and place where something extraordinary happens. People who retire now lived in an area of economic growth and safety. They were able to save money and benefit from corporate and state retirement plans. So there is a great number of people in western societies who live a lifestyle that has never been possible in the past. Retirement at this point in history is in full bloom and it will stay like this for some time but not for forever.

I think we witness a unique and extraordinary social phenomenon in this time and age. Now is the Golden Age of the concept of retirement.

With these thoughts in mind I started to look out for a place where we could show one facet of this Golden Age. After talking to several people in the large and growing industry that emerged around senior living, a German investor told me about The Palace in Coral Gables, Miami and called it the most outrageous and stunning place there is for seniors.

We were welcomed with open arms in The Palace. Not only because they always like a good media presence (We told them straight ahead, that this will not become a marketing film, but a film in which we depict The Palace as we see it with our eyes – they liked this idea). More important the management of The Palace wanted us to make this movie, because it would be entertaining for the residents to have a camera crew around. So we became part of the entertainment overload which we planned to document.

It was interesting to observe how our perception of the building changed during the shoot that took three months. At first, we were blown away by the looks of the place. But after a couple of days we got used to it. It was normal. And after a couple of weeks all we saw were seniors with human desires that cannot be disguised by all the noise and glamour.

We worked on this project for five years and it was an incredible experience. And it assured me, that retirement is certainly a nice stage if you worked hard and have enough money. But all the seniors told me to rather spend my young life with the kids instead of working hard. Because in the end, no matter how much glamour and noise they can afford, all they really want is to be on good terms and close to their children.

Crew:

Directed by	Beat Oswald
Co-Directed by	Samuel Weniger
Executive Producer	Beat Oswald
Executive Producers TV Version	Beat Oswald Esther van Messel and Gitte Hansen for First Hand Films
Director of Photography	Samuel Weniger
Edited by	Lena Hatebur
Sound	Beat Oswald
Music by	Marcel Vaid
Additional Composing	playmob.il
Sound Design	Robert Büchel,
Audio Mixing	Robert Büchel, Jingle Jungle
Color Grading	Mustafa Sert
Onlining	Wolfgang Weigl
Script Consultant	Josy Meier
Subtitles	Cynétyp
Produced by	Conobs – Contemporary Observations
Co-Prodced by	Wenigervideo SRF Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen
Comissioning Editor	Urs Augstburger
Supported by	Amt für Kultur St. Gallen Kulturamt Thurgau Stadt Frauenfeld Kulturpool Regio Frauenfeld Markus Oswald Jingle Jungle

About The Palace

<https://www.palacecoralgables.com>

<https://www.palacecoralgableslife.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/thepalacecoralgables>

About Conobs

Conobs stands for Contemporary Observations. The company was founded in 2010 by Beat Oswald.

The company produces documentary films and aims to transform thoughts and feelings into artistically and intellectually challenging films.

About Beat Oswald



Born 1982 in Frauenfeld Switzerland. BA in Anthropologie and Public Communication at the University of Zurich. Married to Nicole Oswald, together they have three kids.

2010	„Weisser Horizont“, 52min, Dok. (Drehbuchmitarbeit und zweite Kamera)
2010	„Pullup Orchestra in Avignon“, 9min, Kurzdoku
2011	„Thanks to the Rawberry“, 45min, Musikdoku
2012	Beginn der Arbeit an „All Tag“ Kurzportraits über Menschen und ihren Alltag
2014	„Volksfest“, 9min, Essayfilm
2019	„Golden Age“, 84min, Documentary

About Samuel Weniger



Born 1986 in St. Gallen. BA at HSLU in Video. Lives currently in London.

2012	„Boomyear“, 7min, Exp.
2014	Kameraarbeit für „Opak“ / Regie: Eliane Bertschi & Elias Gamma
2014	„We are OK“, 28min, Essayfilm
In Progress	„Super Life“, Exp.

Contact

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World Sales TV –Version

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