



Michendorf

documentary

14 min, DV

Berlin, 2003

Camera:	Peter Holleber
Sound:	Udo Stowitz
Music:	Cory Vielma
Directing/Book/Production/Editing:	Susanne Ullerich

A movie about the reststop Michendorf about 50 kilometres before Berlin.

This movie is about the motorway restaurant Michendorf, on the highway A9, about 50 kilometres outside Berlin, Germany.

When the wall was built in 1961 in Berlin, separating the city and the rest of the country into east and west, West Berlin was an island in the east part of the country.

The only way to get there by car was on the highway A9-- formerly called the „Transitstrecke“. One was not allowed to leave the highway while driving through the East, from West Germany to Berlin.

The only places to stop were some parking lots and motorway restaurants.

Michendorf was one of those motorway restaurants and it was a special one: it was the last one before Berlin.

It was a place where people from East and West Germany met and where East German spies – the Stasi – had one of their headquarters, as well.

After the wall came down in 1989 and Germany was once again a united country a lot of things changed. Many people lost their jobs, and several old statues, buildings and other landmarks from the so called „DDR“ (Deutsche Demokratische Republik) were removed or are now in the process of being removed.

Michendorf is a reminder of these times.

Found within this relic from a different era are the people who have worked there since the days of a divided country.

(2003)