

TRACEROUTE

A Personal Journey Into The Uncharted Depths Of Nerd Culture, A Realm Full Of Dangers, Creatures And More Or Less Precarious Working Conditions...

Written and directed by Johannes Grenzfurthner (2016)



Artist and life-long nerd Johannes Grenzfurthner is taking us on a personal road trip from the West Coast to the East Coast of the USA, to introduce us to places and people that shaped and inspired his art and politics. Traceroute wants to chase and question the ghosts of nerddom's past, present and future. An exhilarating tour de farce into the guts of trauma, obsession and cognitive capitalism.

Genres: Documentary | Biography | Comedy | History

Features interviews with Matt Winston, Sandy Stone, Bruce Sterling, Jason Scott, Christina Agapakis, Trevor Paglen, Ryan Finnigan, Kit Stubbs, V. Vale, Sean Bonner, Allison Cameron, Josh Ellingson, Maggie Mayhem, Paolo Pedercini, Steve Tolin, Dan Wilcox, Jon Lebkowsky, Jan "Varka" Mulders, Adam Flynn, Abie Hadjitarkhani...

Tech specs:

Runtime: 2 hr (120 min)

Sound Mix: 5.1 Surround Sound

Aspect Ratio: 16:9 HD

Recorded on Canon 7D, Flip Mino HD, iPhone 5s, GoPro Hero

Traceroute's Team:

monochrom Propulsion Systems, monochrom art group and Reisenbauer Film present a film by Johannes Grenzfurthner

Sound design and mastering by Daniel Hasibar and Christian Staudacher

Director of Photography: Eddie Codel

Edited by Johannes Grenzfurthner

Production Designer: Jenny Marx

Producer: Johannes Grenzfurthner / Co-produced by Andreas Reisenbauer, Heather Kelley, Guenther Friesinger / Associate producers: Josef P. Wagner, Michael McEnroe

Art by James Brothwell, Bonni Rambatan, Karin Frank, Ben Lawson, Michael Marrak, Michael Zeltner, Josh Ellingson...

Music by Peter Barnett, Kasson Crooker, Damien Di Fede, Matthew Huffaker, Brady Leo, Vera Lynn, Kevin MacLeod, Hans Nieswandt, Roger Sandega, Eric Skiff...

Links:

Project page (screenings, awards, images): <http://monochrom.at/traceroute>

Video on Demand download: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/traceroute>

IMDb: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4490762/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/traceroutemovie/>

Praise for Traceroute:

"Traceroute is the most fun I've ever had watching a documentary. If you're a nerd (and you are) this is the road trip you've always wanted to take with your smartest, geekiest friend. You're not going to want to come home. It's Cosmos. It's DragonCon on wheels. It's your favorite sex fantasy. It's alcohol soaked nonviolent subversive protest mobile and WiFi linked. It's On The Road updated with tech, science, pseudoscience, sex, and fandom. This is Sheldon Cooper, Stan Lee, and your favorite Suicide Girls showing up at your door with an electric supercar, a bag of legal weed, and a cooler full of jello shots. No, this is Doc Brown showing up in the DeLorean saying "Where we're going we don't need roads." This is Buckaroo Banzai texting to ask you if everything is ok with the alien spacecraft from Planet 10 or should we just go ahead and destroy Russia?"

(Bradley Gibson, Film Threat, 10/10)

"Traceroute is radical individual empiricism, a narrative biographical puzzle and an experimental projection matrix. Despite continual stimulus satiation, it is wonderful fun: the film tickles the synapses with a perfectly mixed cocktail of collectively shared context and quirkiness."

(Boing Boing magazine)

"As many nerds have noticed, there's a glut of nerd-positive documentaries out there, but they tend to be either too self-serious, or too focused on the trappings of fandom to actually say much. Traceroute manages to be a real film, with humor and true insight (sometimes called out for us-and delightfully nullified-with a blinking INSIGHT faux-HTML tag onscreen), primarily because it focuses on Grenzfurthner's personal journey, and he doesn't take himself too seriously. Let's put that another way: The director uses himself and a handful of subjects to create his story, and that specificity-coupled with his playfulness-makes it work. At one point he licks the chrome head of a Terminator prop.

Then he licks a zombie head prop. Then he licks the propmaster himself. It's delightful."

(Mental Floss)

"Magical. (...) After watching Traceroute, I was left with a real exhilaration and a deeply reflective feeling at once. (...) What Traceroute reveals is the tradition of alterity just beneath the surface of Western culture, and that it has a powerful effect on our mass consciousness, whether it is in plain sight or not."

(Patrick Lichty, Furtherfield)

"Traceroute is game, challenge, encyclopedia, and *sentimental journey* all in one. As a documentary it is most skillfully composed. And as a narration it is highly compatible. This film will, in passing, sweep proclaimed nerds off their feet. And it will touch the hearts of those who still need some explanation."

(Thomas Kaestle, Zebrabutter)

"Johannes is a brilliant lunatic of surpassing and delightful weirdness."

(Sci-fi author Cory Doctorow)

"Traceroute offers deep insights into the world of nerddom. A woman who creates cheese from bacteria on sweaty feet. A man who wants to construct a giant network of independent Geiger counters. Or a sex worker who identifies as a nerd. The multitude of topics and people shows how being a nerd is not restricted to programming and computers."

(John F. Nebel, Metronaut)

"If you do so happen to be lucky enough to be given the chance to watch this documentary, embrace the geek in yourself and make sure you do. I did and I fu\$*ing loved it."

(Carl Burgess, Screen Critix - 5/5 stars)

"Traceroute is a surprisingly honest and visually stunning self portrait and culture portrait."

(Marco Rauch, Press Play - 8/10 points)

"Reality based entertainment... but at its finest. (...) I can almost guarantee that if you're 30 or older, no matter how hard you try not to, you'll find something to like here."

(IndyRed - 4.5/5 stars)

"This doc works in some very unconventional ways, not the least of which is our plucky protagonist. Grenzfurthner is an absolute charmer as our host and his narration is note-perfect (the accent is so cool in that Werner Herzog kind of way). It's really rare in a documentary about a not-that-famous person where you become almost instantly won-over and invested in their personal journey."
(Mark Schwab, Diamond In The Rough Films - 3.5/4 stars)

"For me it is the best nerd documentary I've seen so far. Simply for the fact that it doesn't take itself as deadly serious as the other ones. (...) Traceroute deserves high praise because it represents an old-school definition of nerd culture, one that is never compatible with fintech, unicorn and iGod."
(Felix Knoke, Engadget Germany)

"The film is much more than a glimpse into the world of freaks, who can't keep their fingers off computers. Being a nerd is not about worship, it is about how you worship."
(Georg Fuchs, Lotek64)

"The different people Grenzfurthner chatted with were genuinely interesting and the organic way he moved from place to place was intriguing. [...] You'll find that you've learned an awful lot about technology, nerdiness, and America."
(Microfilmmaker Magazine)

"If you're expecting nothing more than your usual nerd doc with its cosplay cuteness and asocial gamers, you're going to be not just disappointed but probably traumatized. Grenzfurthner is clearly full-on willing to challenge culture, stereotypes, accepted thoughts and just about everything else. There's a healthy dose of sexuality in Traceroute, which one might expect, yet Grenzfurthner also immerses the film in politics, activism and social shifts. [...] Refreshingly devoid of the pretentiousness so often found amongst truly intellectual films, Traceroute is simultaneously a pretty wonderful personal journey and an immensely satisfying cinematic experience."
(Richard Propes, The Independent Critic)

"Some of the places, subjects and people are bizarre, some insightful and some politically and socially challenging, but always fun. That is the brilliance of Traceroute. It's a social commentary delivered from a totally new angle

and with real flair. Johannes is always opinionated, but always open with a real sense of self-discovery. I loved every minute of this quirky film. There is such a wide variety of subjects, tied together by the geek theme, that it feels fluid and expansive, much like the subject matter itself."

(UK Films)

"To think like a nerd doesn't necessarily mean that you are a consumer; it means creativity, visions, openness to experimentation, subversion -- and not only regarding program code and video games, but regarding society, values and ideologies. And cheese."

(VICE Alps)

"Johannes Grenzfurthner's unashamedly nerdy documentary shows us the wonders and horrors encountered >>through hardship to the stars.<< What begins seeming like a nostalgia trip, soon becomes a maverick essay on the absurd fallacy of capitalist >>progress<<, as we journey through America, from the Navajo Nation to the moon, care of Fed Ex. In a world where space exploration is enabled by Nazi science, landfills bulge with discarded video-game cartridges, and teens fight tooth and claw over consumer goods in the same mall where *Dawn of the Dead* was filmed, a film like this is the only way to make sense of it all."

(Jack Brindelli, Norwich Radical Film Festival)

Awards and Nominations for Traceroute (as of April 11, 2016):

Phuture Con Awards 2016: Best Documentary

Accolade Global Film Competition 2016: Award of Merit / Documentary

Austrian Documentary Award (ADA) 2016: Nominated for Best Documentary

Director's Biography:

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Grenzfurthner)

Johannes Grenzfurthner is an award-winning director, artist, writer, and researcher. He lives and works in Vienna, Austria and Durango CO, USA.

He is the founder and artistic director of monochrom, an internationally-acting art and theory group. He likes to engage in 'Urban Hacking', or more specific: 'Context hacking', a term that Grenzfurthner coined.

He directed the dark sci-fi comedy "Die Gstettensaga: The Rise of Echsenfriedl", the feature documentary "Traceroute" and is currently working on several other movie projects ("Tycho", "Sierra Zulu", "Nothing To Hide"). He is founder of US-based movie production company monochrom Propulsion Systems, LLC.

He is one of the most outspoken researchers in the field of sexuality and technology, and one of the founders of 'techno-hedonism'. He is head of "Arse Elektronika" (sex and tech festival) in San Francisco, "Hedonistika" (food tech festival in Montréal and Tel Aviv) and host of "Roboexotica" (Festival for Cocktail-Robotics) in Vienna.

He teaches art theory and art practice at the University of Applied Sciences in Graz, Austria, and is a lecturer on culture jamming at the University of Arts and Industrial Design in Linz, Austria.

He gave talks at SXSWi, O'Reilly ETech, FooCamp, Maker Faire, HOPE, Chaos Communication Congress, Google (Tech Talks), ROFLCon, Ars Electronica, Transmediale, Influencers, Mozilla Drumbeat Barcelona, Neoteny Camp Singapore, Columbia University, Carnegie Mellon University...

He and his projects have been featured in The New York Times, Liberation, Spiegel, San Francisco Chronicle, CNN, Reuters, Slashdot, Playboy, Boing Boing, New Scientist, The Edge, the Los Angeles Times, NPR, ZDF, Gizmodo, io9, Wired, Sueddeutsche Zeitung, CNet, Toronto Star...

Johannes' artistic and textual work are contemporary art, activism, performance, humor, philosophy, postmodernism, media theory, cultural studies, sex tech, popular culture studies, subversion, science fiction and the debate about copyright and intellectual property.

Director's Filmography (selection):

2016 Traceroute (Documentary)

2014 Die Gstettensaga: The Rise of Echsenfriedl (TV Movie)

2013 monochrom: 23 Works (Documentary)

2012 Earthmoving (Short)

2011 monochrom's ISS (TV series)

2010 The Earth Has Been Destroyed (Video short)

2009 Soviet Unterzoegersdorf: Sector 2 (Video Game)

2008 Kiki and Bubu and the Good Plan (Short)

2007 Applicant Fisch (Short)