

## Summary

As a documentary filmmaker I often face difficult situations in my work. Mostly these are ethical problems that pose complex moral questions. Although these cases can be very hard, proper decisions must be made. The artist is alone and can only count on himself, since there is no ethical codex accepted by documentary filmmakers which could be used as a guideline. Directors have to listen to their intuitions and moral convictions.

The aim of my DLA work is to chart, present, and summarize those problems arising in such situations. In addition to my own experiences as a director, I consider it highly important to represent the views of other documentary directors as well. This will reveal how different directors make different decisions in similar situations.

First I will show how the different definitions of what a documentary film is affects the ethical judgment of these problems.

I have categorized the different situations and problems in separate chapters, where I deal with those cases in which the director has responsibilities towards the character, the audience, or society. Since most complicated situations that require immediate decisions occur towards the character, these have been divided into sub-sections according to the phases of filmmaking.

After reviewing examples of the different situations, I drew the conclusion in my DLA work that it is very *difficult* to work out an overall system of ethical norms for documentaries that would answer all possible questions. However, it is *essential* to make an effort to deal with the issue and to analyze this topic deeply.

It is *difficult* because there are different ethical rules in every culture, and the cultural customs, including particular ethical attitudes, can change from time to time. Even within the same culture the situations are complex and hard to judge, and the filmmaker might have several responsibilities at the same time.

It is *essential* because this profession requires a solid ethical base, a feeling of safety which should be created in decision-making situations, based on the ethical education of this profession. My present study is intended to be a contribution to the analysis of this topic.