

Das Wunder von Bern

(The Miracle of Bern)

Germany 2003. Director: Sönke Wortmann.
117 mins. German with English subtitles.



1. What is the film about?

Summer, 1954. The Soviet Union is sending its prisoners of war home. Among them is the father of a quiet, football-loving 11-year-old, Matthias, who lives with his mother, sister and brother in a West-German mining town. The return of the boy's father Richard casts a shadow over the once-happy family: broken by his years in captivity, Richard has trouble adapting to life in post-war Germany and alienates his family through his severity. Unlike his son, Richard is neither interested in football nor in the World Cup that's about to be held in Bern, Switzerland. Matthias, however, longs to be there with his friend and idol, Helmut Rahn, who's been chosen to play on the German team. Through his passion for the game and his fighting spirit, Matthias rekindles a love of life in his dad's heart. And so, as the final match of the World Cup begins, a little miracle of love and generosity leaps across borders to help another miracle occur - the victory of Helmut Rahn and the German team, the miracle of Bern.

The director of *The miracle of Bern*, Sönke Wortmann, was born in 1959. After graduating from high school he played professional football before studying film in Munich and London. Since then he has worked as actor, scriptwriter, producer and film director. His first feature film was *Allein unter Frauen* (*Alone amongst women*, 1991), later films like *Der bewegte Mann* (1995) and *Der Campus* (1996) brought him critical acclaim. His latest work is *Deutschland. Ein Sommermärchen* (*Germany. A summer fairy tale*, 2006), a documentary about the national football team during the World Cup in Germany.

2. Themes related to the film

Post-War Germany, Wirtschaftswunder
Spätheimkehrer, prisoners of war

Football in the Ruhr Area, the World Cup of 1954
Family, emancipation, generation conflicts

Tasks

Vor dem Film

3. Read the background information. Then discuss the following questions in pairs or groups.

- Find out about the situation of young people in Scotland in the 1950s, especially regarding their relationships with their parents, household chores and hobbies.
- Compare this to the situation on Germany in the 1950s.
- Do you know any historic football idols? Compare their lifestyles with that of a contemporary football idol like David Beckham for example.
- Explain the following terms and phrases: Spätheimkehrer, Nachkriegszeit, Wirtschaftswunder, „Wir sind wieder wer!“

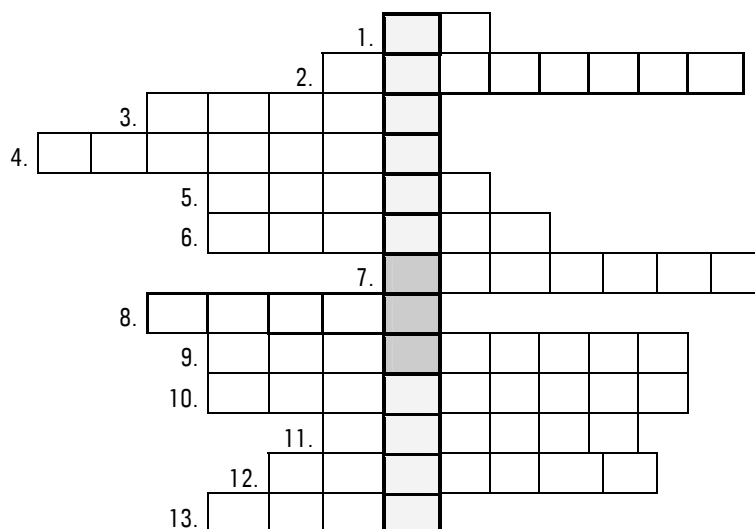
Nach dem Film

4. The plot. Rearrange these sentences to show the correct order in which they happen in the film. Write your answers in the grid below.

A	Paul und Annette planen ihre Hochzeitsreise.
B	Bruno geht nach Ostberlin und gibt Matthias einen Brief an die Familie.
C	Richard schlägt Matthias, weil er wegfahren wollte. Die Mutter beschützt ihn und streitet mit Richard.
D	Richard und Matthias fahren mit dem Auto nach Bern.
E	Richard und Matthias sitzen mit den Fußballspielern im Zug. Richard weint.
F	Die Familie sitzt zusammen und liest einen Brief. Der Vater wird bald aus Russland zurückkommen.
G	Helmut Rahn sieht Matthias im Fußballstadion und schießt ein Tor.
H	Richard Lubanski kommt am Bahnhof an und sieht zum ersten Mal seinen Sohn Matthias.
I	Richard schenkt Matthias einen Fußball.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Fill in the right answers.



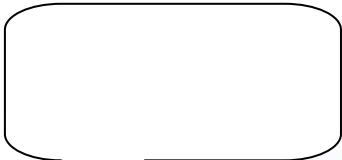
1. Abkürzung für "Weltmeisterschaft"
2. Matthias' Lieblingssport
3. Wohnort der Familie
4. Vorname des Vaters
5. Matthias' Haustiere (Plural)
6. Vorname der Tochter
7. beliebtes Auto der Zeit
8. Vorname des älteren Sohnes
9. wichtige Erfindung in den 50er Jahren
10. Familienname des Trainers
11. Der "Boss" (Vorname)
12. Vorname der Mutter
13. Der „Boss“ (Familienname)

Lösungswort: _____

6. Who says what? Write the quotes into the right speech balloon.

- a) "Der Ball ist rund und ein Spiel dauert 90 Minuten."
- b) "Ein deutscher Junge weint nicht."
- c) "Aus!Aus! Aus! DasSpiel ist aus! Deutschland ist Weltmeister!"

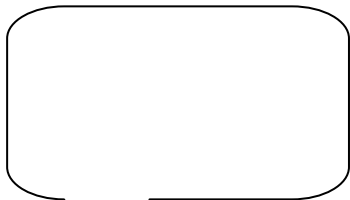
- d) "Du bist doch mein Maskottchen."
- e) "Ich finde, deutsche Jungen können auch mal weinen."
- f) "Nach dem Spiel ist vor dem Spiel."



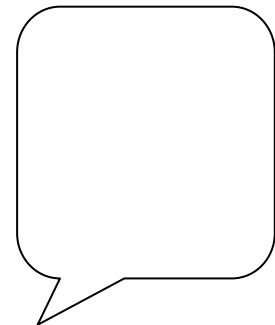
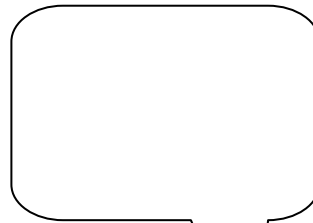
Sepp Herberger



Helmut Rahn



Herbert Zimmermann,
radio annotator



Matthias und Richard