



Erwin Wagenhofer, Sabine Kriechbaum

But Beautiful

On Life and Relationship

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What does a good life, a successful life, look like? And how do we tell the story of such a life? Notions of beauty and the beautiful (always preceded by a “but”) are at the heart of Erwin Wagenhofer’s new film and book. Both tell of people who have chosen a path towards a truly future-enabled world.

We can’t go on like this ... and yet on and on we go. Or do we? People are now looking for new approaches and a different way of being – which, like the world itself, can be different, but beautiful. This book is a companion volume to the film, written by Erwin Wagenhofer and Sabine Kriechbaum.

We meet the “Light-bringers” of India – women who cannot read or write but who train in solar engineering at Barefoot College and take their skills and knowledge back to their rural communities, providing light and improving the quality of life there. We meet the Grafs, who took on land in La Palma desolated by intensive farming and in just ten years transformed it into a teeming paradise. And Erwin Thoma, who builds wood houses, reliant on neither heating nor cooling to create the healthiest environment. We meet musicians from the US, Columbia and Austria who convey beauty in their own way. We meet the Dalai Lama and his sister, Jetsun Pema ... But Beautiful explores age-old but ever-important qualities like altruism, attentiveness and empathy. It reveals that in a world of finite resources the one thing that needs to grow is the quality of our relationships.



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Erwin Wagenhofer

Erwin Wagenhofer, born 1961, is a freelance author and filmmaker. His first cinema release, *We Feed the World* (documentary, 2005), reached a European audience of 800,000. His other films include documentaries *Let's Make Money* (2008) and *alphabet* (2013) and a feature film *Black Brown White* (2011). His work has received international recognition, including the German Documentary Film Prize in 2009. Erwin Wagenhofer has two daughters.



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Sabine Kriechbaum

Sabine Kriechbaum, born 1969, studied architecture in Vienna. After brief excursions into the world of architecture, she turned to theatre and film, working in research and script development and as assistant director on Wagenhofer's alphabet. Sabine Kriechbaum lives with her two daughters in Vienna.