

## **Basil R. Gelpke – Executive Producer / Director**

Basil Gelpke was born 1962 in Basel, Switzerland. After his studies in Social Anthropology, Economics and in the production of scientific films Basil soon became fascinated by all kinds of moving images. He started his career in advertising but soon changed profession to become one of the youngest journalists to ever work for national Swiss Television. Among his first assignments was a highly acclaimed interview with Lisa Minelli.

1987, at a time when CNN had just started to broadcast, Basil got interested in round-the-clock television news coverage and joined Europe's first TV news channel, the European Business Channel where he soon got promoted to become EBC's Paris correspondent. During his time for EBC Basil also reported from South-East Asia. He was one of the first journalists to venture into Cambodia after the fall of the Red Khmer.

1990 he moved to Cologne to become the producer of Tacheles, a weekly political talkshow on German television. There he worked closely with host Johannes Gross, a legendary figure in German journalism.

Whilst in Cologne he also compiled his first one hour documentary "The Artificial Paradise" on behalf of Germany's WDR channel. This film, about the history of LSD and its Swiss inventor, Albert Hofmann later got nominated for Germany's prestigious Grimme awards.

1992 as an advisor and senior editor he became involved in setting up Germany's first truly 24 hours news channel, n-tv in Berlin.

1993 Gelpke returned to Zurich, Switzerland where he was one of the journalists to start NZZ Television, the TV department of Switzerland's oldest and most respected newspapers. On behalf of the Neue Zuercher Zeitung he compiled dozens of TV documentaries in the years to follow: mostly on topics of Science, Economics, Medicine and Technology: (<http://www-x.nzz.ch/format/authors/36.html>). Basil still occasionally works for NZZ Television. In October 2005 his latest documentary about the little known cloning of animals in Texas ([www.nzz.ch/format/broadcasts/broad\\_504.html](http://www.nzz.ch/format/broadcasts/broad_504.html)) was shown on national TV in Germany and Switzerland.

Basil also has a track record in producing reality TV programs. With his company Lava Productions Ltd he in 1999 and 2000 was the Executive Producer of the legendary "Survive" TV series in Switzerland ("Expedition Robinson") and Germany ("Inselduell"). The three series he was responsible for attracted record-breaking ratings.

Basil became interested in the state of the world's dwindling oil reserves after reading a paper from a Sydney-based hedge fund back in 2002. He's been laughed about his obsession with the peaking of oil production many times but lately more and more people seem to understand and share his concerns.