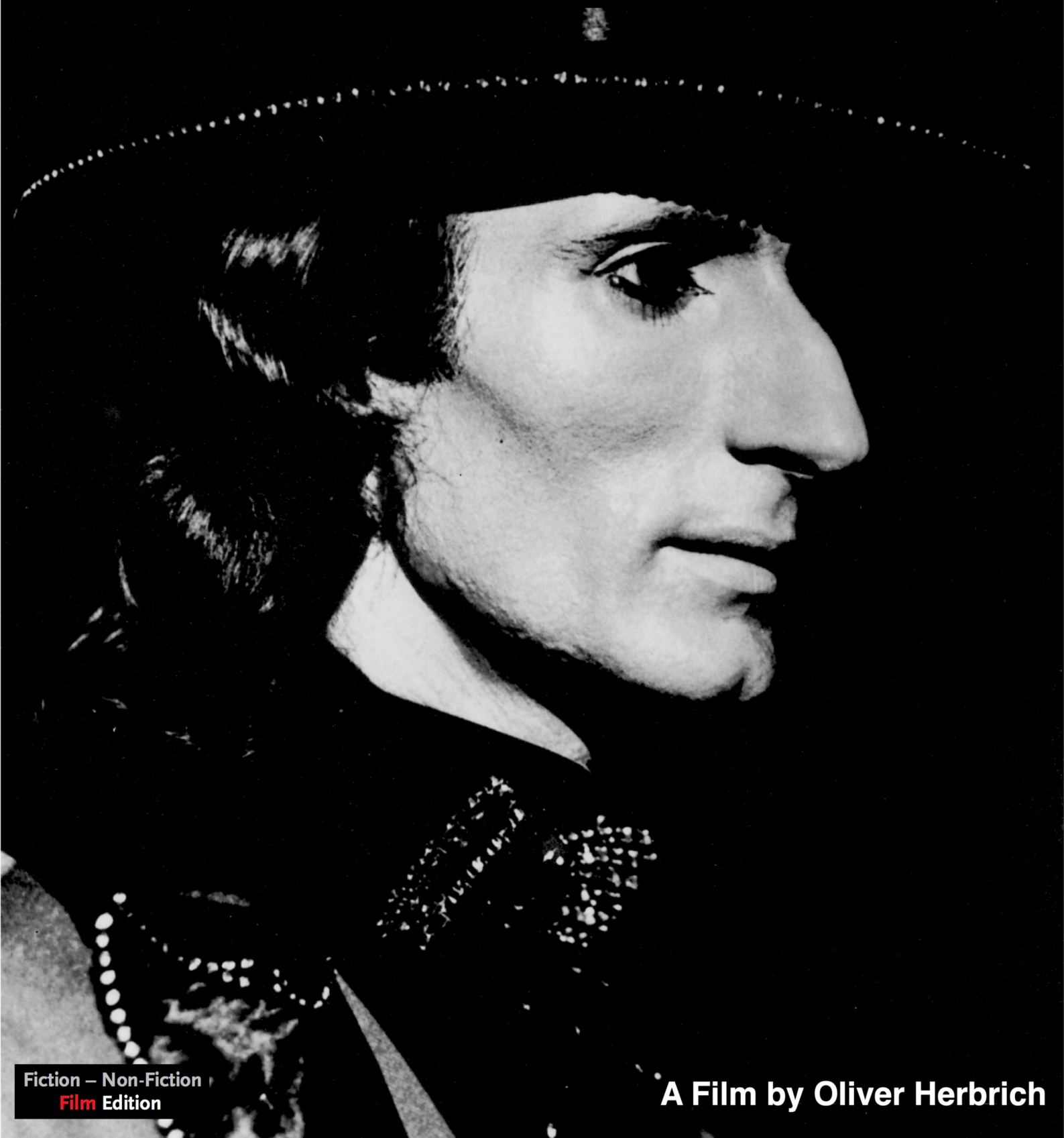


THE WORLD *BEYOND* THE WORLD



Fiction – Non-Fiction
Film Edition

A Film by Oliver Herbrich

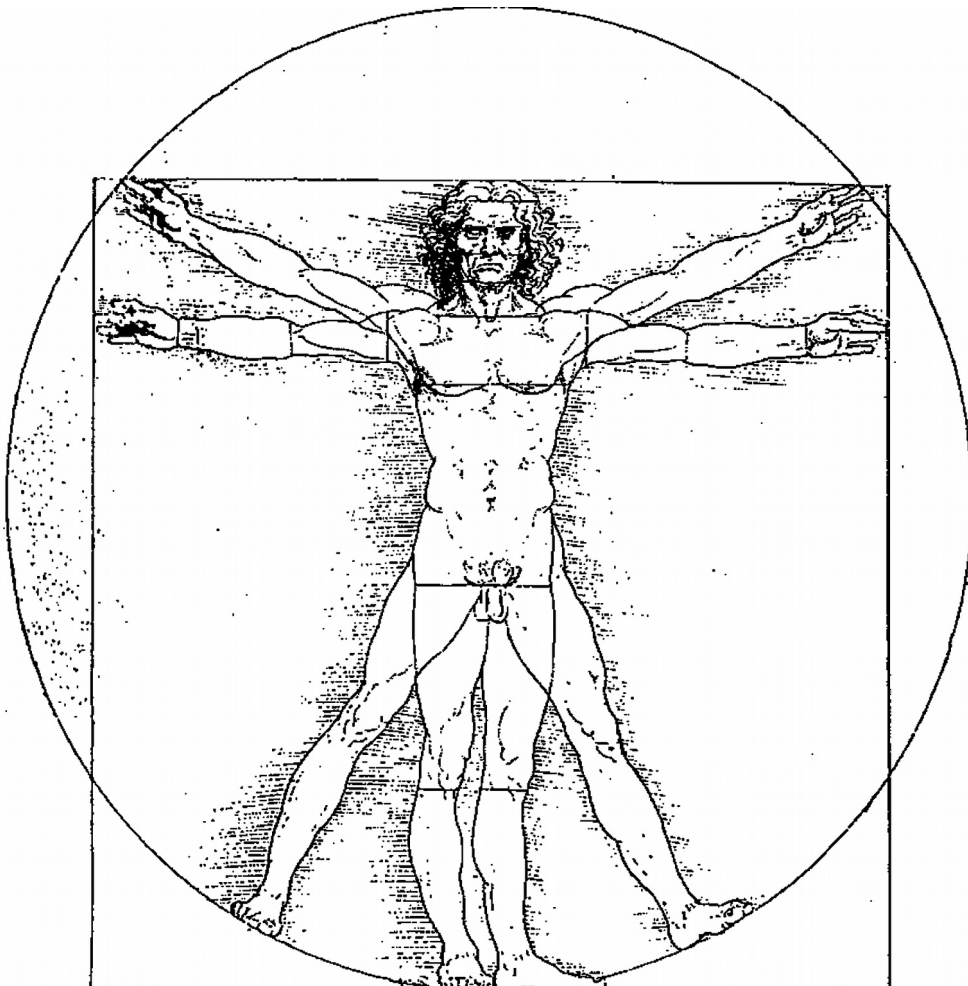
The World *beyond* the World

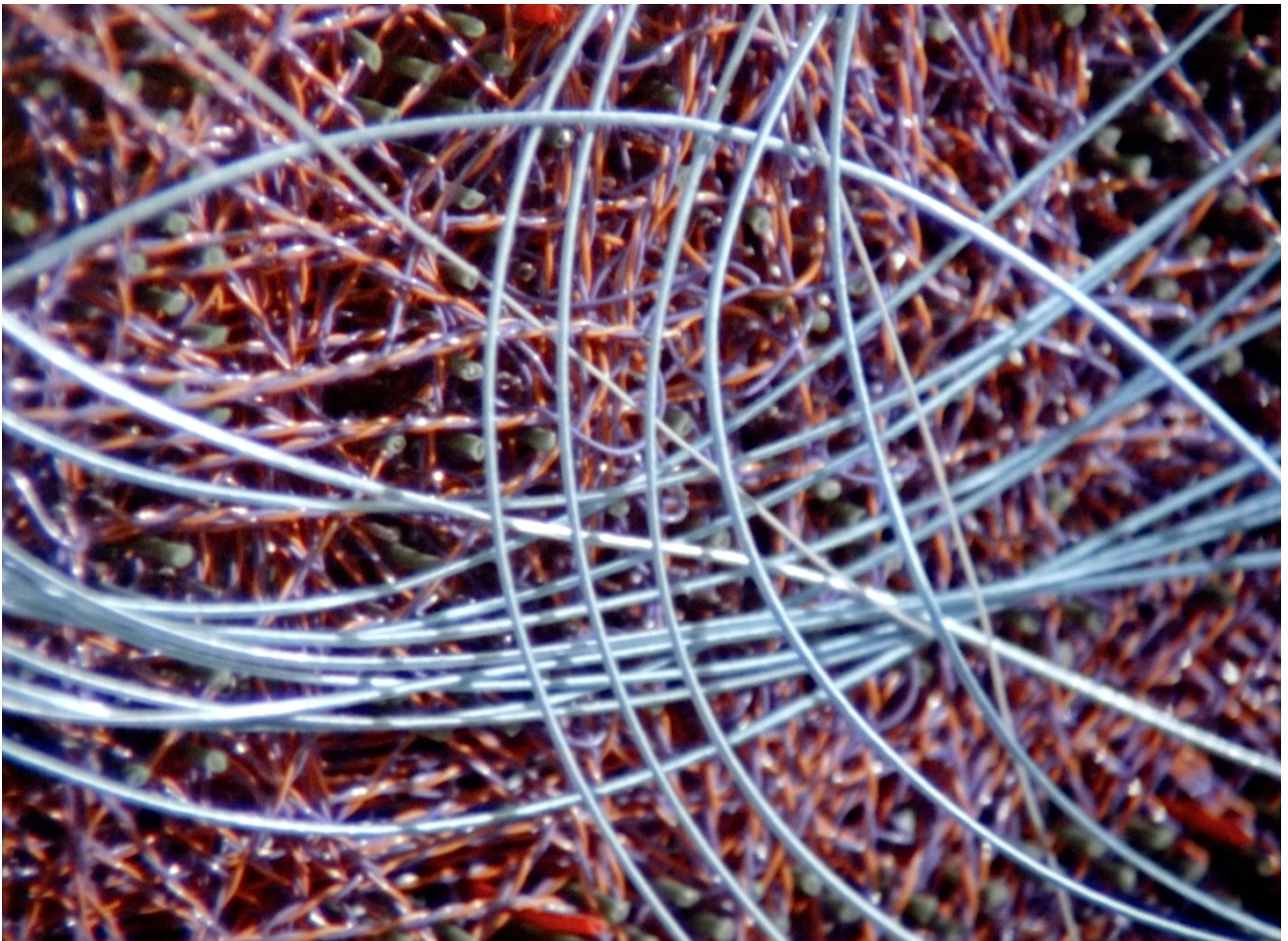
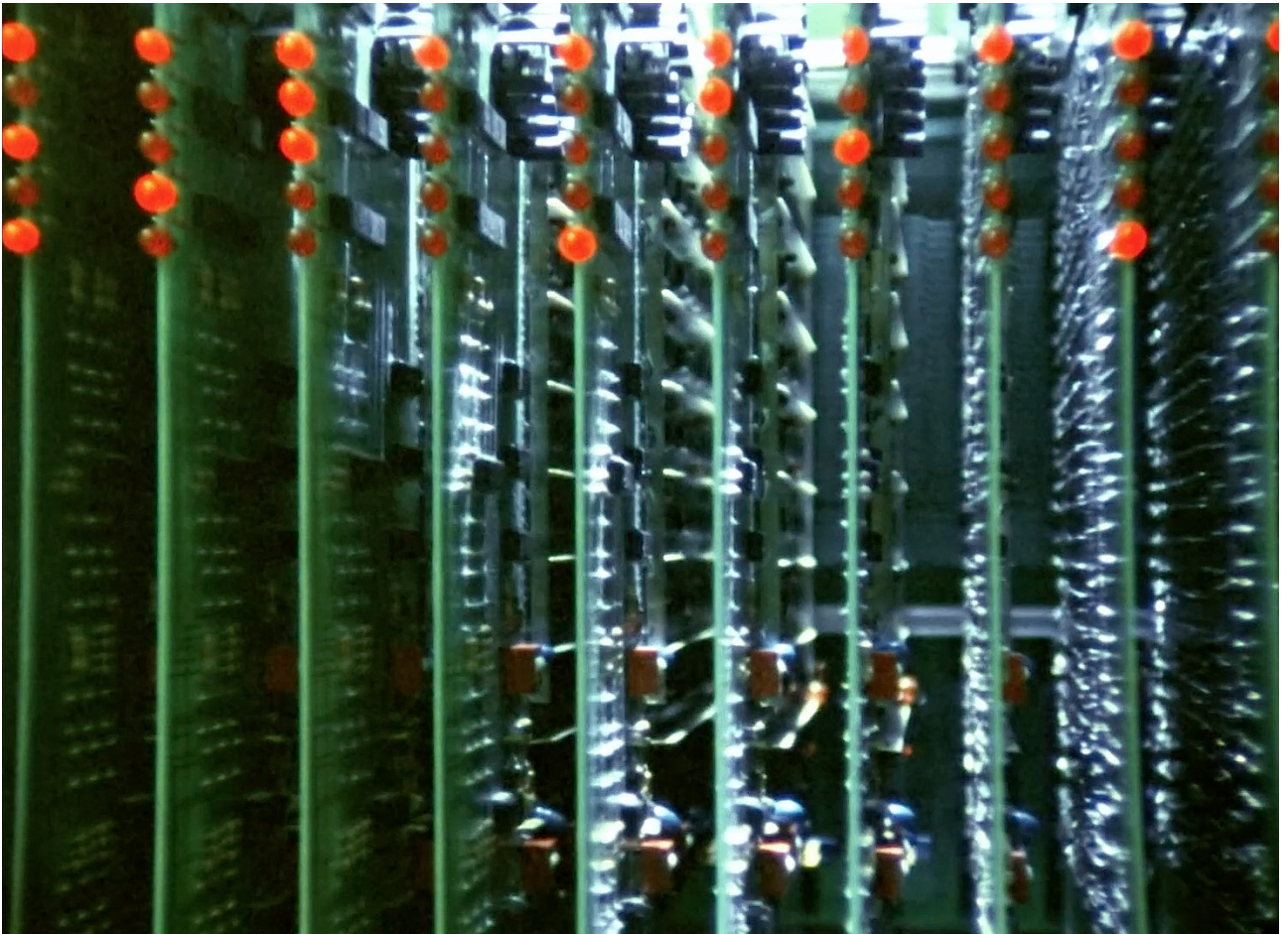
A film by Oliver Herbrich

The "World beyond the World" is a cybernetics documentary. 'Thinking machines' and 'people thinking as machines' (super-computerprogrammers who have internalized computerese) are perhaps two of a kind. But clashes with the 'real world' are preprogrammed for these machines of flesh and blood. The film traces humankind's striving to discover itself again in its mechanical creations, from the effort to construct automatons in Switzerland some 200 years ago, to a pinnacle display of the 1980ies achievements: a robot playing Haydn's 'The Creation'" at the World Expo in Japan. The film concludes with an interview between human being and computer, the later issuing the final summation: "We are discussing you - not me". Is it only the internalized mechanization which separates us human beings from animals?

"The infallibility of the machine is a promise of things to come. This has nothing to do with reality as we are moving in symbolic worlds. Ultimately, this experience has no lasting value. And at the end of the day you are alone with all your numbers."

(Grant Johnson, computer expert and philosopher)





The World *beyond* the World

Credits

Oliver Herbrich	screenplay and director
Ludolph Weyer	cinematography
Benedikt Röskau	sound recording
Jan Betke	technical support
Romy Schumann	editing
Oliver Herbrich	German narration
Paul Carmine	re-recording mixer
Peter Rosenwanger	title design
Manfred Gahr	expert advice
Grant Johnson	expert advice
Gilbert Jakubczyk	performance L'automate
Oliver Herbrich Filmproduktion	production company
Petra Vonhausen	still photography
Katja Naumann	contribution
Isolde Herbrich	production assistant
Harald Kißling	production accountant
Kuratorium junger deutscher Film	distribution funding
Fiction – Non-Fiction Film Edition	digital remastering
Wolfgang Caspar	scanning
Wolfgang Grimmeisen	color grading
Thabita Urban	encoding

Thanks to

Chaos Computer Club (Steffen Wernéry, Wau Holland), Daimler Benz AG, DEC Digital Equipment Corporation, Institut Human Technologies, IWB (Joachim Milberg), Max Planck Institut für Psychiatrie (Detlev Ploog), LICHT & TON, HFF University for Film & Television, SIEMENS Museum.

[> Website](#)

[> Trailer](#)

[> Making of](#)

The World *beyond* the World

Synopsis

Thanks to the advances in microelectronics, we are 1985 on the cusp of a third technical revolution, the dawning of the information society. People have always sought to express their discoveries and machines in cultural terms, with machines constituting a reflection of human thought. Now, however, our machines are able to reflect human thought.

Entitled **The World *beyond* the World** the film explores the new relationship between people and machines. It analyses the phenomenon of "super programmers", who are able to internalize the ways in which machines think to write extremely complex computer programs straight out of their heads.

It also looks at the ways in which artificial art produced by computers is finding its way into cultural life. Another aspect is the Hamburg-based computer hackers ("Chaos Computer Club"), who with their unique take on new technologies have adopted a different approach to society.

It also deals with the relationship between humans and machines and the opportunities and boundaries of research into artificial intelligence. The way in which real-time simulation can be used to create synthetic realities: *"Computer-generated digital reality has a number of major advantages over true reality ..."*

And robots and the self-definition of their fathers: *"Yet, people are the measure of all things - the human dimension of the robot becomes evident in its characteristics ..."*. One example of this is the organ player on display at the 1985 world expo in Tokyo who with his steel fingers plays "The Creation" by Joseph Haydn.

However, when at the end of the film the computers get a chance to speak, they categorically reject any discussion about themselves: *"We are discussing you - not me,"* is how the computer laconically terminates the interview.

