

## **Life Behind The Wall**

### **Part 1: Rebirth through Russia**

A film of Roland May and Karsten Laske

Broadcast Monday, 01.11.04, 9:45 p.m.

#### **BROTHERLY LOVE (approximately 1949-1960)**

The Second World War was over. In the Soviet occupation zone the population had to adjust to the permanent presence of the Russians. There was much antipathy for the occupying forces, but also cooperation with them and even some friendly relations.

The horrors of war were a thing of the past, but day-to-day life was still largely characterised by suffering and fear. Fear of the arbitrary power of a Stalinist-style dictatorship that crushed many a new hope right from the start by means of persecution and arrest of dissenters, intolerance and narrowmindedness, and which drove many to leave. But there was also the will to build a new society, and an air of optimism about the future and the belief that it was possible to create a new and better world on the basis of socialism.

The film covers the period from the founding of the German Democratic Republic to the eve of the construction of the Berlin Wall.