

In darkness let me dwell – Lieder aus der Finsternis

Radio drama by Merzouga.

Produced by Deutschlandfunk/Hessischer Rundfunk 2016.



Not far from the PALAOA observatory in the Weddell Sea Sir Ernest Shackletons Imperial-Trans-Antarctic-Expedition glamorously failed 100 years ago. His ship “Endurance” was destroyed by pack-ice before the expedition could even set foot on the Antarctic continent. In winter 2016 the modern research ship “FS POLARSTERN” disembarks on another expedition to the Weddell Sea.

Merzouga combines the fictitious protocol of a modern expedition and the unlikely story of Shackleton’s rescue with an electro-acoustic composition. At the threshold of water, ice, and air, boundaries between genres dissolve. Radio drama and ars acustica, history and the present, science and contemporary music touch, and we dive deep into the world’s last habitat free of man-made sounds.

With special thanks to Film- und Medienstiftung NRW and AG Ozeanische Akustik des Alfred-Wegener-Instituts, Helmholtz-Zentrums für Polar- und Meeresforschung for their permission to work with sounds from the PALAOA data-archive.

Directed by Merzouga
Featuring the voices of Christian Brückner, Jean Paul Baeck, Bruno Winzen, Ulrike Schwab

Composition: Merzouga

Vocals: Tobias Christl
Drums: Lucas Niggli
E-Bass: Janko Hanushevsky
Electronics: Eva Pöpplein

Editor: Sabine Kuchler
Produced by DLF/HR 2016

With kind support of Filmstiftung NRW and AG Ozeanische Akustik des Alfred-Wegener-Instituts

Duration: ca. 60'
Premiere broadcast: December 17, 2016 (DLF)