

ABC-Light crane on tour far away in Russia

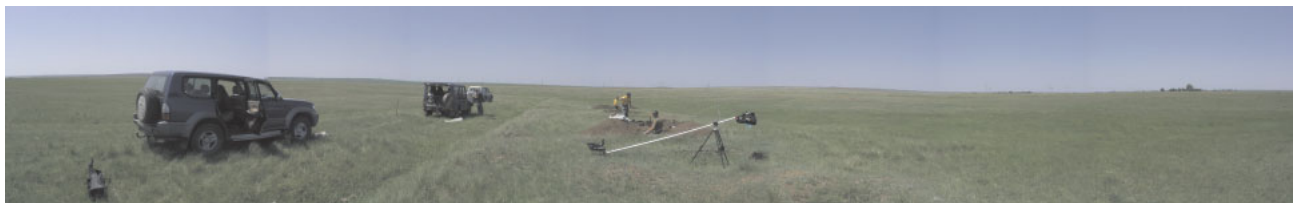
Steppengesichter

a movie by Daniel Erb

Diploma film in line with the course of studies at the FH Dortmund, for Movies and Television
Dokumentary film HDV & Super 16 mm
Film location: Wolgograd (Russia) and surroundings (steppe)

The steppe of Russia. As German this part of Russia evokes pictures from movies of wars, coldness, barren land and unbelievable vastnesses. However, the image of the steppe in Germany is very onesided.

In May 2005, Daniel Erb observed the people at their homes, at work and at recreation. People of a territory which influences their live.



A camera crane with a documentay film, especially on a journey, is it needless knickknack or even luxury?
Thanks to the support of ABC-Products/Movie Tech, a company which manufactures camera light cranes, I had the possibility to make a test with the ABC MiniCrane 350.

Definitely the answer is "yes": The dimensions when packed and the weight are smaller than my small camera tripod. With a little practice it is assembled in less than 5 minutes and the operating is very easy. Assembly the tubes, hook in the wiring, in 3-5 minutes it's done.

Thanks to the crane you can discover absolutely new horizons: Even in the endless territory of the steppe it was possible to create new perspectives and bring some action into the smooth landscape. The crane enables impressive camera movements which help to make the idea of the film more clear. However, to assess the pictures it would be helpfull to use a small monitor mounted to the weight rod.



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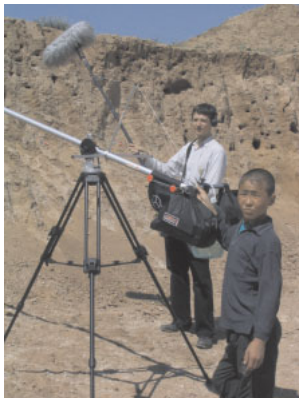
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Continuation

The crane had a weight of 4.5 kg with a length of 3.5 m. These dimensions were very helpful by modifications respectively by relocations: Dismantle weights and camera, take the crane together with the tripod and move it to the new location. Even covering small distances with the fully equipped crane are possible with a little help.



When using such a camera light crane you have to consider one important point: In spite of the low weight from approx. 4.5 kg you have to use a stable tripod, because together with camera and counterweights (water, stones ore sand) fully equipped it has a weight of nearly 25 kg. Not all video tripods are able to carry those load.

