

# *Katzenjammer Kauderwelsch* *A Comic-Pionier-Story*



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# Katzenjammer Kauderwelsch

## A Comic-Pionier-Story

PRESS RELEASE ON

**documentary film in development**

**A film by Martina Fluck**

**With Tim Eckhorst**

The documentary tells the story about two brothers from Heide/North-Germany, who emigrated as children with their family to the USA. At the end of the 19th century the young men went to New York to try their luck as cartoonists.

Comic strips were extremely popular in the New York Sunday newspapers at that time and are regarded as the first image-based mass medium to reach the poorer citizens – mostly immigrants – who themselves spoke only broken English. The anarchic cartoon „The Katzenjammer Kids,“ which lampoons the German immigrant milieu, made Rudolph Dirks famous. To this day, readers in the USA and Scandinavia enjoy the comic strips, which are still published in online magazines. Rudolph's younger brother Gus Dirks is considered a pioneer of animal comics. His suicide at the age of only 21 put an abrupt end to his steep career, but his characters wrote comic strip history, inspiring such classics as „Mickey Mouse“ or „Krazy Kat.“

Director Martina Fluck joins illustrator Tim Eckhorst, who has been researching the life of the comic strip pioneers for ten years, in retracing the Dirks brothers' footprints. Their research leads them to New York and to the artists' colony in Ogunquit, Maine, which Rudolph Dirks decisively influenced. Together, Martina Fluck and Tim Eckhorst document their journey in search of clues to the immigrant brothers' lives. The result is an intriguing six-minute trailer for the cinema documentary about the German-American comic strip pioneers, featuring their cartoons and film composer Felix Raffel's score.

**Movie trailer**

Six-minute movie trailer based on the research recordings  
<https://youtu.be/p3bbvRot6gl>

**Contact**

YUCCA Filmproduktion

Martina Fluck

Telephone 00 49 160 4392130

E-Mail [martina.fluck@yucca-filmproduktion.de](mailto:martina.fluck@yucca-filmproduktion.de)

[www.yucca-filmproduktion.de](http://www.yucca-filmproduktion.de)

