

Teens & Families !

What are the «Teen Families» like in Europe ?
a new project by Uwe Ommer

Presentation



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Teens & Families in Europe

Photographs UWE OMMER
Interviews Régine Feldgen

«*Teens & Families*» illustrates and documents family relationships between two generations.

Teenage marks an epoch in the life of every family. For teens, it is a time of choices as their future opens before them—but they have yet to attain independence and their passport to full adult status. For parents, it is a disconcerting time as they watch their children mutate—but also a time of great hopes vested in their children's success.

A positive view of the young generation and a personal view of the European experience.

«*Teens & Families*» offers an immersive voyage through the Europe of today. Here is a chance to meet our European neighbours, whose existence we hear of but whose faces we never encounter.

Families and teens welcome us into their homes and show us their lives, their optimism, their passions, and their dreams.

Teen Families offers us an insider view of the expansion of Europe. By bringing us face to face with a generation that will shape the EU's future, it offers a vision of what Europe might become.

ITINERARY - 40 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

2010
France
Germany
Belgium
Portugal
England
Wales
Ireland
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Denmark
Sweden
Norway
Austria
Switzerland
Spain
Turkey

2011
Italy
Malta
Lichtenstein
Slovenia
Croatia
Monténégro
Albania
Greece
Macédoine
Kosovo
Bulgaria
Romania
Serbia
Bosnia
Hungary
Slovakia
Czech Republic
Poland
Ukraine
Lithuania
Latvia
Russia
Estonia
Finland



Lennie & Mårta



Anna (17) - Ellen (13)

EXHIBITIONS outdoors

We start with the first OUTDOOR EXHIBITION in summer 2012 in France and Germany - followed by exhibitions in major European Cities.

We propose to show between 80 and 200 photographs. Each panel is accompanied by an interview. (Size 100cm x 150cm)

Exhibition programme 2013 of «*Teens & Families*»

Bruxelles, Jardin du Botanique (Belgium) - printemps 2013.

Zingst, Festival Horizonte (Germany) - mai 2013.

Followed by Italy, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Greece...

Due to many experiences acquired in expositions of the further project "1000 Families", we are introducing various popular events to present this new project to the public. (More information : www.1000families.eu/teens)

PHOTOGRAPHER

Uwe Ommer

Uwe OMMER has been taking photos for as long as he can remember. In 1963, he came to live in Paris where he started working as a photographer's assistant. His work was soon recognized and he began shooting fashion and advertising photos.

In December 1995, he took on a personal challenge to make a worldwide family photo album. For four years, he crisscrossed the five continents with his Rolleiflex and his portable studio, creating a unique photographic record of the family at the dawn of the third millennium: 1,251 families photographed and interviewed.

This work was presented for the first time at the Photokina 2000 (Cologne, Germany). 1000 family portraits were exhibited over 1,6 km. After his book, "1000 Families", was published by Taschen, Uwe Ommer then revealed what went on "behind the scenes" during his epic photographic project in his funny and exuberant travel journal, "TRANSIT".

Since his "Family Album of Planet Earth" voyage through Europe, America, Asia and Africa, Uwe Ommer has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship to the Royal Photographic Society for the impact of his lifetime of work.

EXPOSTIONS "1000 Families"

More than 40 exhibitions, outdoors all over the world.

PUBLICATIONS

1000 Families (Taschen 2000), Familles d'Afrique (Glénat), Familles d'Europe (Glénat), Familles d'Amérique (Glénat), Familles du monde entier (Seuil Jeunesse 2003), TRANSIT (Taschen, 2006). Enfants des cinq continents (Albin Michel Jeunesse, 2011)

SHORT-FILMS "1000 Families"

National French Television (France 3) 20 x 1min 20, 2007.

NETHERLANDS
HARLINGEN



ITINERARY -Teens & Families

Uwe Ommer and Régine Feldgen photographed and interviewed 267 families with some 500 teenagers, crossed forty European countries and travelled 45,000 km by car, boat and plane.

BOOK - Teens & Families

The book Tennes & Families is published by Éditions de la Martinière (France), October 2012 and by Knesebeck-Verlag (Germany), in 2013.

FILM - Teens & Families

A TV-program of short films (100 x 1 min) is under construction with CALT Production (Paris).

INTERVIEWS Régine Feldgen

Régine Feldgen is born in Hambourg and came to live in France in 1990. She is graduated in visual arts and worked since 20 years in arts management,

In 2003 she founded her own agency for cultural communication «Impulsion». It consists of direct support for cultural projects and artistes, in the field of fine arts, photography and performing arts.

Since 2007 she is working for the network of the exhibitions of «1000 Families». Together with Uwe Ommer, and as a mother of two teenager, she traveled between 2010 and 2011 to 40 European countries and realized more than 260 interviews with the families and their teenager.

[Exhibition panel]

LATVIA

SMARDE

*'My girlfriend's just dumped me
— I need to change my image.'*

Klaus (19)

2020

- **Lucja (17):** I shall leave for England to continue my studies. I'll have a family with one child.
- **Klaus (19):** I see myself succeeding as an entrepreneur in ICT (information and communication technologies).

EUROPEAN UNION

- **Klaus:** The EU gives us greater opportunities to travel, earn money and receive funding for our projects. But there are so many Russians in Latvia that I don't feel very European. And we're at the very far end of Europe.
- **Juris:** The situation for farmers is very bad. For example, the apples we eat are Polish though Latvia grows excellent apples.
- **Ilona:** The EU funds lots of projects and not all the subsidies are very well targeted. I meet unemployed workers who receive a lot of help; they probably get more than someone in work.

ECOLOGY

- **Lucja:** Only a catastrophe could make me do something about it!
- **Ilona:** In our garden and greenhouse, we grow things without fertiliser. The only things we buy are bread, eggs and meat. Our milk comes directly from our neighbour's cow.

PARENTS

- **Klaus:** When the time comes, I shall be stricter with my children. I'll tell them what they should do and give them whatever they need to fulfil their ambitions.
- **Lucja:** My mum's always grumbling at us; she belongs to an earlier generation, she was born under the Soviet regime.

CHILDREN

- **Ilona & Juris:** They're hard work; they think they know everything and they don't give a damn about anything. But when there's a job to be done we can count on them.

WISHES

- **Klaus:** I want to be a star!
- **Lucja:** Make love not war!
- **Ilona:** I'd like more development for Latvia. I'd love to live without stress and earn more money.



Juris & Ilona
In their greenhouse with lots of tomatoes ripening in late October.

Juris is an engineer in energy technology working in Riga. His hobby is hockey. Ilona is a social worker in Riga doing volunteer work with the unemployed; she loves folk dance and song.



Klaus (19) - Lucja (17)
In Klaus' room in front of his mixing console.

Klaus is studying computer engineering in Riga. He loves photography and video and is the guitarist and composer in a hardcore group. Lucja is in her first year as a student of interior decoration; she adores music and fashion design and makes her own clothes.

[Exhibition panel]



Maaike, gérante de boutiques d'accessoires et jouets à Amsterdam. « Mon fils est très sensible. Il a le don de découvrir la valeur des petites choses dans le quotidien. »



PAYS-BAS
AMSTERDAM

« J'aime que ma mère s'habille comme ça lui plaît, dit ce qu'elle pense et fait ce qu'elle veut. J'essaie de faire comme elle mais ça ne marche pas encore vraiment. »

Yavid (17)



Stela, electrical and mechanical engineer. « I always wanted my daughter to study abroad. Now, that it has become possible and she is leaving, I know I'll feel very lonely... »



BULGARIA
STARA ZAGORA

« I think my parents have never been together... as long as I remember I lived with my mother alone. We like to be together, we sing, we walk, we talk. »

Yulia (19)



Francis & Axelle. Consultant / Productrice de cinéma. « Il y a 10 ans j'étais assez contre l'UE, aujourd'hui je trouve ça formidable, même indispensable pour contrebalancer le reste du monde et également pour les financements de la production cinématographique. » (Axelle)



FRANCE
PARIS

« J'aimerais bien avoir le même fils que moi, pour voir comment je me comporterai avec lui. »

Antoine (16)



Christos & Athena. Ingénieur civil à la régle des eaux / Retraitée, ancienne employée de banque. « Je m'inquiète beaucoup pour l'avenir de ma fille. La crise ne sera pas finie, avant 10 ou 20 ans. Elle doit s'inventer un chemin pour réussir sa vie, qui sera plus difficile que celui de ses grands frères. » (Christos)



GRÈCE
IOANNINA

« C'est important que les Européens se connaissent et se rencontrent. Il faut s'entraider. »

Androniki (14)

GERMANY

ESSEN

'... The Earth has given us so much
—it's time we gave something back.
Scientists need to find new ways
of doing things so that we can lead
our lives with a clear conscience.'

Marie (15)

2020

— Marie (15): I shall work in event management, like my father, in the UK or in United States. I shall have two children but only after I am thirty-five.

— Thomas: Before, the whole family used to live in a caravan following the circus around. When the children started going to school, we began this sedentary life. I suggested to Meike that, when the children leave home, we could go back to the caravan but all she said was 'Get me a divorce lawyer!'

ECOLOGY

— Florian: I really like the idea of having an 'eco' car. On the other hand, having to change all the bulbs in my house is a bit much. There are thousands of ways of saving energy without that kind of trivia.

— Meike: It's like cancer, you don't realise because it doesn't hurt. As long as humanity doesn't suffer, there's no one to get up and say: 'Enough! Time to act!'

EUROPEAN UNION

— Florian: The most important thing is to create connections between countries. Apart from that, everyone can keep their own customs and culture.

— Meike: What I regret is the loss of identity. It's really depressing, finding the same products everywhere.

— Thomas: The circus is a form of entertainment that doesn't pollute and, in a very simple way, it makes people happy. So perhaps the circus is one way of contributing to ecology.

PARENTS

— Florian: I'm very happy with my parents! When I see the families of my classmates, I think that I'm pretty well brought up and have a good moral outlook.

CHILDREN

— Thomas: Each age has its own charm for me. But having a daughter in her teens is a bit more of a strain.

WISHES

— Thomas: Our circus under the Eiffel Tower in Paris!



Thomas & Meike
with a recently arrived family of lions...

Meike is a freelance journalist and author. Her astrological sign is Leo and the lions boost her concentration. But this family of lions is no danger to her family; they're fresh out of the auction house. Thomas is assistant director of a big circus.



Florian (18) - Marie (15)
with a feline in full working order!

Marie is studying for her bac; she loves photography, the circus and cabaret. Florian will do his 'voluntary social year' in Spain then study law in order to become a business lawyer. He also volunteers in a workshop for the handicapped.



