

Stefan Banz  
Door to Door  
Break on Through to the Other Side  
Video, 5 Minutes 40 Seconds  
1997

Stefan Banz is filming a still life in his garden, with his video camera on a tripod. He goes briefly into the house.

The neighbour (opposite) enters the garden of his daughter (neighbour next door), climbs a garden chair and stares over the partition into the garden of Sabine & Stefan Banz.

The neighbour is speaking to his daughter, all the while staring into Sabine & Stefan Banz's garden.

Neighbour: (To his daughter) Don't let these primitive people upset you... Now this is the most primitive thing I've ever seen!

Short pause: Baby's noises from out of a neighbouring garden.

Neighbour: I'm going up to Dreschel (owner of the house where Sabine & Stefan Banz live).

Neighbour's daughter: Yes, yeaas...

Neighbour: That's impossible, we can't tolerate querulous people in the quarter, can we?

Stefan Banz comes back from inside the house into the garden.

Neighbour: (Brashly) Well, what have you got there...

Stefan Banz: Keep your mouth shut. What are you doing there?

Neighbour: (Excited) Listen, I won't keep my mouth shut because of you, you greenhorn. You destroy the whole quarter. Get back where you come from, you understand...

Stefan Banz: (Gets the camera in the garden) Say that again...

Neighbour: Clear off, get lost!

Stefan Banz: Say that...

Neighbour: Clear off! That would be the most sensible thing for you to...

Stefan Banz: Say that again.

Neighbour: Clear off, you get me? You had fights down there and now you come up here and start fights, you asshole! Make a note of that!

N's daughter: He's filming...

Neighbour: Will you please make a note of that, you art... art historian, make a note of that!

Stefan Banz: Thank you so much.

Neighbour: Make a note of that.

Neighbour's grandchild: (Looking out the window) Oh, they look cool!

Stefan Banz: Thanks a lot, that's super.

Neighbour: Clear off! You had fights down there and now you have fights up here... everywhere... you're well-known...

Stefan Banz: Uhu.

Neighbour: Down there, you didn't get along with anybody... you didn't get along with anybody...

Stefan Banz: About you, they say...

Neighbour: ... and now you start fights up here.

Stefan Banz: I've heard a lot about you.

Neighbour: (With pointed finger) And if you don't stop I go up and talk to Dreschel, and then you're thrown out of this house!

Stefan Banz: I've heard lots about you.

Sabine Banz: (Indistinctly in the background) Don't say anything!

Stefan Banz: No...

Neighbour: (Turning towards Sabine Banz) And you are exactly the same!

Stefan Banz: (To Sabine Banz) It's well-known how he reacts. A lot of people have told me about that.

Neighbour: You're making the whole quarter mad!

Stefan Banz: You don't say.

Neighbour: And you have naughty children!

Stefan Banz: Oh yes? I'm so sorry.

Neighbour: You know what your boy told me? He told me to put my car in the garage.

Stefan Banz: I'm so sorry about that.

Neighbour: Yes, that's what he said. The car isn't here...

Stefan Banz: I'm so sorry about that.

Neighbour: You're a very insolent... you're a very insolent man! You destroy the whole quarter.

Stefan Banz: You don't say... I'm sorry about that.

Neighbour: Make a note of that – you asshole – yes! ... And if you don't stop I come over – you...

Sabine Banz: (In the background) That would be trespass!

Neighbour: (To the artist) I'm not afraid of you at all!

Stefan Banz: No, what are you saying?

Neighbour: Not at all, I'm not afraid of you.

The neighbour attempts to seize the camera through the bush. As he does not succeed he leaves his daughter's garden with heavy steps and excitedly opens the high wooden door of Sabine & Stefan Banz's garden, furiously jumps at Stefan Banz and hits him with his fists.

Stefan Banz: Look out! Look out!

The camera swings back and forth uncontrolledly under the neighbour's fists Finally, Sabine Banz comes to her husband's aid and takes over the camera.

A noise of glass clattering.

Sabine Banz: (Several times shouting into the scuffle) This is trespass – Get out of our garden – Leave our garden!

Sabine Banz continues filming: The neighbour keeps attacking. One can see him, among other things, punching Stefan Banz on his chin with his fist. Finally, the one attacked defends himself against the aggressor by giving him a kick with his shoe between his legs.

Stefan Banz: Get out of our garden.

Neighbour: (To Stefan Banz) You think I'm afraid of you.

Stefan Banz: Where are my glasses?

Sabine Banz: Please get out of our garden!

Neighbour: This isn't your garden. You don't have anything to say around here!

Sabine Banz: Leave our garden! We'll report you.

Neighbour: (On leaving the garden) What an insolent brood!

The neighbour is being led out by a woman neighbour who had been standing by outside the garden, and she accompanies him to his house.

He turns round once more, points his finger at Sabine & Stefan Banz and curses indistinctly.

Stefan Banz: (Rather upset) I'm looking for my glasses, I can't see them.

Sabine Banz: You know I can't find them either, I want to photograph him, film him. Now we inform the police.

Stefan Banz: My glasses...

Sabine Banz: It's all right, Stefan, we'll inform the police – trespass.

Stefan Banz: Where are my glasses, it's important, I can't see anything...

Stefan Banz is looking for his glasses

Stefan Banz: Here they are (Out of breath, he shows the camera his glasses) They're broken, too... okay...

Neighbours's grandchild: I'll go out and congratulate my grandfather.

Sabine Banz: The garden door, it's damaged, leave it as it is, please...

The camera remains fixed at the open door. Children and grown-ups pass and glance into the garden. Stefan Banz is visibly upset and confused – nervously and out of breath, he clears up everything that had been thrown into disorder.

Translated from the German by Simon Lenz