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**Michael H -
Profession: Director..**

Production year:
2013

Countries: Austria,
France

Runtime: 60 mins

Directors: Yves
Montmayeur

Yves Montmayeur's documentary portrait of Michael Haneke, made originally for television, is a must-see for anyone who admires this director. The opening sequence pretty much justifies the admission price on its own: Haneke giving Jean-Louis Trintignant a "walk-through" rehearsal for the chilling dream sequence in his latest film, Amour. (Despite the title, Haneke is not asked for his opinion on Antonioni's 1975 film The Passenger, originally entitled Professione: Reporter, though it is surely an influence.) Montmayeur attempts to question Haneke closely

about his work, but the director is adamant in his refusal to interpret, much less defend his movies, though he will talk in general terms about how they challenge our consumption of violence, or our attitude to suffering or injustice. The documentary incidentally shows that Haneke's chucklingly jolly side with interviewers is a defence mechanism. He rather eccentrically says that the rewards of success might mean he gets a "better cut of meat from the butcher", a figure of speech that makes him sound like one of the villagers from The White Ribbon. A bracing study of this formidable and brilliant film-maker.

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