



TO-GATHER

'And I said hey hey hey hey, what's going on' (Four Non Blondes)

It is 100 years ago that World War One started and in some way it never ended. This idea seems to be true when I look at the news. According to Jay Winter from Yale University World War One is even getting closer. The five turning points that finally did lead to a human catastrophe are still there. Hopefully the new economy, the new technology, globalization, a past that's no history and human rights (the conflict between empathy and evil) will turn in the right direction. So these five turning points are still present and lead to seats of trouble such as in Ukraine, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey and Syria. The world seems to be divided in places of order and chaos (Thomas Friedman)

The film 'Hard to become who you are' as well as the book, the learning routes and the upcoming Oculus rift game are about these five turning points and about the impact on young people. Who are the firestarters? What can they do about it? What are the roles that the youth of today may, can or has to play? The previous hundred years are a learning landscape, including the roles of perpetrator, collaborator, by-stander, protestor and/or victim (Raoul Hilberg).

In the film eight different youngsters are living in a bubble and try to solve dilemmas at the turning points, the big or collective bubbles. It's a turbulent journey through the past and the present (1914-2014), including World War One, Auschwitz, the Cold War (1945-), the Crisis and 'To-Gatherland' as the future. They go by train through Europe and the Arab world in the past, the present and the future. They want to know who they are and they want to know the other. It's hard fun, because they feel good in their own bubble, but they are imprisoned in a big collective bubble. This may be a system or an ideology such as nationalism during World War One. communism and capitalism during the Cold War and the liberal economic system in the Crisis (2008-).

In the film and also in the game with the Oculus rift (2015), the mirror neurons are activated. The viewer can identify himself with the actors, including their fears and hopes, cleverness and naivety, indifference and a protesting spirit. The aim is to develop a 'multiple choice identity' and balance the five minds for the future (Howard Gardner) It's about developing a brainbased and passion driven learning style. The solution for future dilemmas may be found in education through real life, lifelong and virtual learning. *'Feel and therefore we learn'* (Mary Helen Immordino).

Sources of inspiration

-The brilliant film 'The Wave' about youngsters who are confronted with fascism in their class

-Cooperation with many young people and their teachers for 43 years.

The highlight was the international project To-Gather in 9 European countries and Syria.

-The German series 'Unsere Mütter, Unsere Väter' about five youngsters, playing different roles during World War Two.

-Books, paintings, design, film and especially music

-The Network of CiCe, including European working-groups

-The good work of Howard Gardner (five minds for the future), Mary Helen Immordino (brainbased education), Peter Sloterdijk (the bubble and the spheres), Jeremy Rifkin (The empathic civilization), Michael Sandel (justice and 'What money can't buy'), Rob Riemen ('Why have we forgotten what's important in life?'), John Gray ('Evil is in each human heart'), Carl Smith (post-digital design) and Daan Roosegaarde (social design lab).

-the crew of the film, Jan Doddema, Bouke Mekel, Joris Vermost, Irina Cavaion, Tessa Schinkel, Svenja Hintz, Anja Sinnige, Sandra Rone, Kinda Tabbah and Hugo Verkest.

'I heard the news today oh boy' (John Lennon). Breaking News is essential to know what's going on, including more and more past that's no history such as the Cold War, the trenches, poisoned gas, the crusade and the Caliphate.

For the film, songs and festivals go to:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQMsXzGfcES2DFI485p1O_Q

This film makes sense as

- **A passion driven and vibrating learning journey to know who you are** by film, music, gaming, digital design and social media. And you may travel along.
- **A wake up call** for the youth of today to know what's going on and what their responsibility is. *'A new generation to be the actors in their own scripts'* (Jeremy Rifkin)
- **A confrontation** with evil (John Gray) in order to create empathy (Jeremy Rifkin)
- **An art house movie** for, with and about the youth of today
- **The result of many years of experience in education and especially in the innovative international project To-Gather (2006-)**
- **An energizer** to create an own 'multiple choice identity'
- **'Multiple learning'** including blended, creative, active, passion-driven, lifelong, informal, real life and network-learning
- **Brain-based learning** inspired by 'Mind Brain and Education', Mary Helen Immordino .
- **A journey of moral reflection** (Michael Sandel. and Peter Sloterdijk).
- **A search** for an own learning style related to the five minds for the future (Howard Gardner)
- **The energizer** for didactical material in the GLO-Maker and background information in the book 'Hard to become who you are' (2015)
- **Good practice to implement in history, sociology, arts, it, economy, philosophy and design.**
- **A musical history tour.** During my travels in the project 'To-Gather' I did write songs to audiolize the atmosphere such as 'Passenger in Time', 'Come to gather', 'Circle of the square' and 'Faiza sometimes' and 'Let's go urban' (see www.to-gather.org)

We are looking for schools, projects, conferences, events and film festivals to present the film. You may invite us for a presentation of the whole film or a part of it, including a sense opener, a short lecture, a workshop and a performance. For booking or information, contact Wim Kratsborn (w.kratsborn@planet.nl). For more info go to the website: www.to-gather.org or make contact on twitter, facebook or LinkedIn

'Hey Brother there's an endless road to re-discover. Hey Sister. Know the water's sweet but blood is thicker.

Hey Brother, you still believe in one another. Hey Sister, do you still believe in love, I wonder

Oh if the sky comes falling down, for you. There's nothing in this world I wouldn't do'
(*'Hey Brother'*, Avicii)

Drs. Wim Kratsborn (0031-6-13458535): Director, (script)writer, musician and producer

[Go to the article 'Hard to become who you are'](#)