

# The Wave

(Die Welle)  
(2008)

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**Director: Dennis Gansel**

## Summary:

It's project week at a German high school and Rainer Wenger (Jürgen Vogel) is teaching a class about autocracy. Everyone in the class gets bored quickly. Not this stuff again! We could never have a dictator in Germany now, could we?

The class is a typical group of high school kids. Marco (Max Riemelt) is handsome and sporty, one of the best players in the school water polo team. He's popular and outgoing but has problems at home. Marco's going out with Karo (Jennifer Ulrich). She's sensible, intelligent and hard-working and always gets good marks. Karo's best friend, Lisa (Cristina do Rego), is pretty but not as confident as Karo. Another student, Sinan (Elyas M'Barek), is Turkish-German. He's as good-looking and sociable as Marco and a good water polo player, too but they both fight all the time. Tim (Frederick Lau) is an unhappy loner with no friends. He's brilliant with computers but doesn't get on with his family.

The enthusiastic and hard-working Mr Wenger starts an experiment. First, he moves around the desks and the students. Everybody has to stand up when they speak and sit down again immediately. They do relaxation exercises together. They march in time next to their desks to annoy the class downstairs. They choose a name, The Wave, for their group. Everybody has to get a uniform (white shirt and jeans) to get rid of differences between them. They think of a symbol and a salute for the group.

Most of the students enjoy the class. They're not as divided as before. It doesn't matter if they're rich or poor, good or bad students. They're all part of the group now. Even Marco and Sinan start getting on better in the water polo team. Tim is the keenest – he loves the discipline. Only Karo and a friend refuse to wear the uniform; they don't like what is going on in the class. Karo argues with Marco and Lisa about it. They don't understand her negative attitude.

Then, The Wave spreads outside the school. They paint their symbol all over the town and have parties only for group members. Fights start between Wave members and other local groups. At the end of project week, Mr Wenger's little experiment ends up in a real tragedy.



a Karo



b Marco



c Tim

d Mr Wenger

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