

Erwin Slegers

Where There's Smoke

1993

In 1993, Erwin Slegers worked with anti-racism information centre ARiC in Rotterdam on the development of picture postcards, matchbooks and fifty leaders that were screened free of charge before all films shown in cinemas in the Netherlands for a month.

The project was prompted by the attack in the German city of Solingen in the night of 28 May 1993, when arsonists set fire to the house of a Turkish family, causing the deaths of five women and girls (aged 4, 9, 12, 18 and 27), and injuring eight, some seriously. Four extreme-right German youths were convicted of the assault. The attack was one of a series of violent incidents targeting foreigners in Germany in the years immediately after German unification, which also included the riots in Hoyerswerda (1991) and Rostock (1992).

Erwin Slegers is a pioneering educational developer, head of the Graphic Design department and international relations manager at art college HKU's School of Media. He began his career as an independent filmmaker and designer. In 2014 he was awarded a Master of Arts degree for a documentary on the future of graphic design.