FAMILY

(Die Familie)

Psychological Arthouse Thriller

by Constanze Knoche

Managing Editor ZDF, Das Kleine Fernsehspiel:

Diana Kraus / Lucas Schmidt
CAST

EINAR
Godehard Giese

ISABELL
Stephanie Amarell

JULE
Karin Hanczewski

INSPEKTOR
Miroslaw Baka

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MERET
Claudia Geisler-Bading

TEREZA
Emma Drogunova

SASKIA
Alma Leiberg

TOBI
Leon Ullrich

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LOGLINE

During a self-knowledge seminar in czech-polish Krkonoše mountains 16-year-old ISABELL meets german family constellation therapist EINAR (50). While Isabell is first being attracted by the charismatic man mood changes when a female seminar participant vanishes without a trace. Bit by bit Isabell gets plagued by a scary suspicion – which seems to concern her personally.

SYNOPSIS

Habitual truant Isabell, 16, is sent to a self knowledge seminar in the Sudeten Mountains for summer holidays by her desperate single mother. In the midst of untouched nature she encounters a group of psycho-esoterics led by therapist Einar and his wife Julia: both are considered to be luminaries of so called “systemic family constellation”. Though Isabell initially denies to take an active part in the eccentric group meetings, after a while she gets convinced by an arising feeling of togetherness. Above all she is highly attracted by Einar himself – it flatters her being aware that the charismatic man also has cast an eye at her. What seems like an exciting adventure in the beginning shifts as one of the participants – Saskia, a young woman who has lost her own daughter some years ago – loses her mind and disappears without a trace. Though Einar claims that the young woman just went home surprisingly Isabell can’t get rid of the feeling she’s been a victim of violent crime. A horror story (told by 19-year-old local Teresa during an exciting night hike in the mountains) about Einars Grandfather, who has allegedly been at that time the leader of a demonic mountain cult, makes Isabells confusion perfect. While there’s increasing evidence that the therapist is constantly lying, Isabell is getting bewitched by him more and more. The stay in the romantic German-Czech-Polish border region becomes definitely a nightmare when Saskias mutilated body is found in the woods. When it comes to her own family constellation shortly after, Isabell is moreover beginning to sense that the relation between her and Einar is closer than she could ever imagine …

A gloomy erotic psychological thriller about the universal trials and tribulations of growing up.
**DETAILS**

**Working title:** DIE FAMILIE  
**International working title:** FAMILY  
**Country of production:** Deutschland, Polen  
**Location:** Owl mountains, Poland  
**Date of shooting:** 07. Juli – 13. August (25 days)  
**Date of completion:** April 2017  
**Genre:** Psychological Arthouse Thriller  
**Running time:** 90 Minutes  
**Colour:** Colour  
**Framerate:** 25fps  
**Aspect ratio:** 16:9  
**Sound:** 5.1  
**Original language:** German & Polish  
**Produktionsfirmen:** Neufilm GmbH (Berlin)  
ZDF - Das Kleine Fernsehspiel (Mainz)  
Avantgarde Film Studio (Poznań)  
Cinelight Spółka (Kraków)  
LightBurst (Berlin)  

**URL:** [http://english.neufilm.com/family/](http://english.neufilm.com/family/)

**Director:** Constanze Knoche  
**Writer:** Leis Bagdach, Constanze Knoche  
**Managing Editor (ZDF):** Lucas Schmidt, Diana Kraus  
**Producer:** Leis Bagdach  
**Director Of Photography:** Andreas Bergmann ("The Machine Which Makes Everything Disappear")  
**Sound Mixer & Sound Designer:** Felix Andriessens ("Der junge Karl Marx", "A Coffee In Berlin")  
**Cutter:** Kai Minierski
Constanze Knoche was born in Germany, Magdeburg. After studying dramaturgy at the "Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig" she studied directing at the "Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen Potsdam", at the "Filmakademie Vienna" and at the "Escola Superior de Teatro e Cinema" in Lisbon. Since 2007 she works as director, writer and producer for film and television.

Showreel: [https://vimeo.com/136189835](https://vimeo.com/136189835)

**Filmography (selection):**

**SAD SONGS OF HAPPINESS** | 2014 | Documentary, 80 min. | NEUFILM on behalf of ZDF - Das Kleine Fernsehspiel (Milena Bonse) International screenings (inter alia): HAMBURG International Filmfestival 2014, FULL FRAME DURHAM 2015, ZLIN Int'l Filmfestival 2015

**VISITORS** | 2012 | Feature, 90 min (Debut) | Silvia-Loinjak-Filmproduktion | International screenings (inter alia): SAO PAULO International Filmfestival 2012, SLAMDANCE Filmfestival 2013, SHANGHAI Int'l Filmfestival 2013

**TERESAS ROOM** | 2007 | Feature, 40 min | Co-production HFF Konrad Wolf and RBB | GERMAN CAMERA AWARD 2007 (nominated) | FIRST STEPS AWARD 2007 for the male leading actor (Mehdi Nebbou)

Leis Bagdach

Born in Cologne. Studied literature and theatre studies at the University of Leipzig. Works and lives in Berlin since 2000 as a freelance writer for cinema, TV and theatre. Shareholder and manager of the film production company NEUFILM since 2012.

**Filmography (Writer & Producer, selection):**

**SAD SONGS OF HAPPINESS** | 2014 | Documentary, 80 min. | NEUFILM on behalf of ZDF - Das Kleine Fernsehspiel (Milena Bonse) International screenings (inter alia): HAMBURG International Filmfestival 2014, FULL FRAME DURHAM 2015, ZLIN Int'l Filmfestival 2015

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**JUNCTION POINT** | 2011 | Feature, 90 min | D: Kanwal Sethi | Coproduction of NEUFILM Leipzig and ZDF – DAS KLEINE FERNSEHSPIEL (Claudia Tronnier) | World premiere at the MAX-OPHÜLS SAARBRÜCKEN FESTIVAL 2011

**FOURTH WALL - THE GENTLE ONES** | 2009 | Experimental, 20 min | D: Clemens von Wedemeyer | World premiere at BARBICAN ART GALLERY LONDON