

Spielzeugland (Toyland)



Jochen Alexander Freydank
Director

Christoph "Cico" Nicolaisen
Director of Photography

Germany

• • • It is Nazi Germany in 1942. In order to protect her young and innocent son, Marianne Meißner tries to make him believe that their Jewish neighbors are going on a journey to "Toyland" to hide the truth that they are about to be deported. One morning her son has disappeared – the Jewish neighbors too. *Spielzeugland* is a film about guilt, responsibility, and small and big lies.

Synopsis

It is winter 1942 in a small town in Nazi Germany. Despite her good neighborly relations with the Silbersteins, a Jewish family, Marianne Meißner finds it difficult to be really close to them in those dangerous times. Marianne's son Heinrich entertains a close friendship with David, the Silbersteins' son. He manages to live simply as good friends with David, since in Heinrich's innocent and naive world there are no such things as Jews or Jewish. Both

boys have piano lessons with David's father and often play duets together on the piano. However, the deportation of the Silbersteins is imminent. What can Marianne tell her son? For his sake, in order to protect him from the truth she tries to make him believe that their neighbors are going on a journey to "Toyland." Heinrich believes his mother, since mothers don't tell lies. One morning Heinrich has disappeared, together with the Silbersteins. Panic-stricken, Marianne storms out of the house looking

for her son. Of course she knew that there was no such thing as Toyland, just as the whole nation knew what really happened to their Jewish citizens. Marianne just wants to rescue her son.

Main Filmmakers and Cast

Writer and director **Jochen Alexander Freydank** began in the 1990s as a cutter and assistant director. In 1999 he created his own film production company, Mephisto-Film GbR. He has had success with the short films *Glückliches Ende*, *Notfall* and *Dienst*, among others.

Christoph "Cico" Nicolaisen has been in high demand since 1991 as a DOP for music videos, TV and cinema commercials, and documentaries. Among his accomplishments, he won the 2001 Echo Award for the best music video and the 2004 Golden Camera Award for advertising film (Mitsubishi).

Julia Jäger has participated in countless TV series and television films, including *Polizeiruf 110*. The first leading role in which she attained extensive fame was in the motion picture film *Karniggels* in 1991. ■



Spielzeugland

Production

Mephisto Film production with backing from the German Federal Film Board and Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg

Distributor: Magnetfilm

World Sales: Mephisto-Film

Executive Producer: Christoph Nicolaisen

David C. Bunners

Jochen Alexander Freydank

CREW

Director and Screenplay Jochen Alexander Freydank

DOP Christoph "Cico" Nicolaisen

Editor Anna Kappelmann

Camera Operator Kim Howland

Camera Assistants Stefan Walkowiak, Peppa Meisner

Producer Jochen Alexander Freydank

Production Manager Corona Bellin

PROJECT INFORMATION

Format 35mm 1:1.85

Duration 13.56 min

Language German (with English subtitles)

Genre Short Film

Principal Photography January/February 2007

Locations Germany: Berlin and surrounding areas

Main Cast Julia Jäger

Cedric Eich

Tamay Bulut Özvatan

Torsten Michaelis

Claudia Hübschmann

Raw Stock ETERNA 500

Release Date March 1, 2009

Spielzeugland

STOCK USED ETERNA 500