



## MAIN DETAILS:

English Title	SILENT SUMMER
Original Title	STILLER SOMMER
Genre	DRAMA
Directed by	NANA NEUL
Screenplay	NANA NEUL
Country of Production	GERMANY
Production Year	2013
Shooting Location	ARDECHE (FRANCE), BONN (GERMANY)
Producer	JÖRG SIEPMANN, HARRY FLÖTER, ARNE LUDWIG
Produced by	2PILOTS FILMPRODUCTION GMBH
Director of Photography	LEAH STRIKER
Edited by	ISABEL MEIER, DORA VAJDA
Music	HENNING GRAMBOW, JÖRG-MARTIN WAGNER
With backing from	SWR (STEFANIE GROSS), FILM- UND MEDIENSTIFTUNG NRW, DFFF, KURATORIUM JUNGER DEUTSCHER FILM, MEDIA

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Format	DCP
Running Time	89'00"
Screen ratio	1:1,85
Frames / second	24
Sound Format	DOLBY DIGITAL
Original version	GERMAN/FRENCH
Subtitled version	ENGLISH
First public screening	30.06.2013 (WORLD PREMIERE FF MUNICH)
First release	03.10.2013 (GERMAN THEATRICAL RELEASE)
Festival Participation	MUNICH FILMFESTIVAL

## Title

SILENT SUMMER

## Tagline

One marriage, two perspectives

## Synopsis

Kristine, an smart and charming art historian in her 'best years', suddenly loses her voice after meeting her estranged husband Herbert at an art auction. She retreats to their joint holiday cottage in the south of France, where she hasn't been for a while, only to find her daughter Anna in bed with the local lover Franck, who are both a little less surprised by Kristine's arrival, despite the bad timing. Still speechless but rather laid back, Kristine listens to her daughter's confession about some failed university exams and her consequently retreating to family resort.

The small village community of locals and a few German Francophiles are surprised to see Kristine after such a long time but her

muteness does not really seem to bother them. Just the opposite, Kristine seems the perfect, silent audience for their need to talk. Kristine gives herself to their need to speak as well as to Franck's erotic signals. The arrival of her husband Herbert strangely marks the end of Kristine's floating through the French summer. The re-united 'family' does not quiet harmonize with each other and it becomes clear that their marriage has a dark spot that started here way back. Kristine and Herbert have to face up to something that happened here a long time ago. Something that has not been uttered and something which both of them have their very own perspective.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



“Silent Summer” is a “romantic” film. Romantic means something sensual, adventurous, wonderful, fantastic, spooky, turning away from civilization, immersion in nature and living the unknown. The southern French landscape of Cevennes mirrors the emotions of the main characters, but also visually tells the viewer about their torn insides. The Cevennes can be beautiful, sensual and breathtaking but also dark, rough and lonely. The theme is two point of views, because that is what marriage is about. The first point of view is the ‘coming of age’ story of a 50-year old: Kristine wants no explanation for her new emotions, she does not want to reflect, she wants to feel herself again. The second point of view explains why the marriage suffered and suffers, and what has been suppressed. That the marriage has not been failing because of a lack of love, but because of sexual orientation and a suppression that has been a burden on everyone’s shoulders. The movie tells of lies never helping anyone on. That it is possible to want the good but create the bad, just because one does not communicate, and because of the thinking that ‘global’ problems can be solved by oneself. Every action provokes a reaction, and we can only master the mess we have created

by ourselves together. But a long and rocky road lies between the characters and this understanding.

Both characters are locked into their own point of view, and are incapable of communicating it to the other. Kristine cannot, because she has lost her voice and Herbert doesn’t want to because he believes that he needs to protect his marriage from the sins of his past. Meanwhile Kristine has long realized that something is awry, but had to become mute to hear what Herbert had to say. Herbert is forced to speak by Kristine’s silence. The non-understanding leaves much room for comedy, but also tragedy. A film about the difficulty of expressing matters of importance in words.

But “Silent Summer” is also a love story. A love story that begins when everything seems to be over: after 25 years of married life.

Why two points of view?

Kristine is only lacking a few pieces of the puzzle but still sees her marriage in a completely different light from Herbert.

The film is told in two colors. Two films roll, yet tell one story: Kristine’s film is a very different one from Herbert’s. Kristine looks for the problem within herself, tries to change her life, begins a love affaire. Only through Kristine becoming active does Herbert’s film gathers speed. A very different drama lies at the bottom of his story. Even though their two lives are so closely entwined, they still live separate lives, thinking to understand, they barely know each other at all.

Two points of view. One story. The second explains the first and allows the audience to understand- and insight.

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

After studying film and screenwriting in Cologne and Munich Nana Neul wrote and directed her feature debut „My friend from Faro“, which received the ‘best screenplay’ award at the Max-Ophüls Prize in 2008 and went on to have its world premiere in official competition at the 2008 Karlovy

Vary International Film Festival. Following her feature debut, Nana worked on various television projects. „Silent Summer“ started production in late summer 2012 in Southern France and continues Nana’s career as a feature film director.

## DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

„A Taste of Snow“ – scriptwriter/director  
(16mm, 6:30min, B/W) - 1997

Mix out of real-und animation movie:  
A man without a face feels so desperate,  
that he decides to become invisible.

„The Yellow Emperor“ – scriptwriter/  
director (16mm, 15min, colour) – 1998.

A modern fairy-tale about a girl, who  
becomes a puppet.  
International film festival Lodz

„9h11“ - scriptwriting/directing together  
with Wolfgang Fischer  
(16mm, 17:30min, S/W) - 1999  
Handicapped people play train-fanatic  
mathematics. Their daily life depends on  
the time the trains pass by.

The film was supported by the BKA Vienna  
und the Lebenshilfe NÖ.

„Beautiful 2000“ – scriptwriter/director  
(16mm, 15min, colour) – 2000

A stylish portrait about a modern family.

„Ligustrum Vulgare“ – scriptwriter/director  
(35mm, 12.40 min, colour)

The film was supported by Filmbüro NW  
Production company: discofilm

„Mein Freund aus Faro“ – scriptwriter/  
director Wüstefilm West+ WDR, 90 min,

Awards: SR/ZDF Drehbuchpreis (Max  
Ophüls Festival 2008), First Price Mezipatra  
Prag, Int. Competition in Torino, Karlovy  
Vary, int. Woman Film Festival Seoul, etc.

## PRINCIPAL CAST:

Dagmar Manzel	KRISTINE
Ernst Stötzner	HERBERT
Victoria Trauttmansdorff	BARBARA
Marie Tietjen	ANNA
Arthur Igual	FRANCK
Hans-Jochen Wagner	MAURICE
Sylvie Granotier	CLAIRE
Rainer Ewerrien	BERNARD
Jef Bayonne	JEAN PIERRE
Rainer Galke	JOE

## PRINCIPAL CREW:

Directed by	NANA NEUL
Screenplay	NANA NEUL
Producer	JÖRG SIEPMANN, HARRY FLÖTER, ARNE LUDWIG
Director of Photography	LEAH STRIKER
Edited by	ISABEL MEIER, DORA VAJDA
Music	HENNING GRAMBOW, JÖRG-MARTIN WAGNER
Sound	MATTHIAS HAEB
Set Design	JOCHEN DEHN, FRÉDÉRIC DANOS
Costumes	CINDY SPIEKERMANN
Special Effects	ROGER KLEIBER
Casting	SUSANNE RITTER(GERMANY), KRIS DE BELAIR (FRANCE)
Production Manager	MONIKA KINTNER

## PRODUCER'S NOTE:

In January 2008 writer and director Nana Neul won one of Germany's most acclaimed script awards at the Max-Ophüls-Festival in Saarbrücken for her well-acclaimed feature debut TO FARO (MEIN FREUND AUS FARO). With her project SILENT SUMMER she accomplished an autobiographical German-French family drama.

When you search through the programmes of French cinema based on genre categories, you'll find most entries under the heading of "comédie dramatique". Translating this term with "tragicomedy" would be insufficient as this would implicate a strong emotional reaction. The

idea behind it rather implies how much drama needs an ironic element, whereas comedy at the same time needs anticipation of wounding. I was in a similar state of limbo, somewhere between melancholy and cheerfulness, when I read Nana Neul's story "Silent Summer" for the first time.

For me, "Silent Summer" is a light-hearted reflection on the need to free yourself from old-constraints and feelings of guilt. The story follows a rhythm of reservedness and curiosity, thus mirroring the main characters' desires.

Jörg Siepmann, producer

## WORLD SALES:

**Picture Tree International GmbH** was founded by Andreas Rothbauer and Alec Schulmann an internationally aligned and integrated worldsales and production company with headquarters in Berlin.

The core business of **Picture Tree International** is worldwide licensing of film rights and the coproduction of international feature films in an integrated business model.

The company will handle an overall international sales line-up of up to eight films per year and will internally coproduce two projects.

Picture Tree will secure a large part of its film portfolio by sales agreements with independent production companies. It is planned in medium to long terms to increase the number of own productions and co-productions.

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