

Käthe Petersen was born in 1903 in Elmshorn and died in 1981 in Hamburg (Germany). Her mother divorced Käthes biological father and brought her 3 children into the marriage with Johannes Petersen, who never adopted them. This marriage also got divorced. Käthe Petersen graduated at a convent school and studied law, constitutional-law, psychology and political economy and joined social services in 1932 where she worked as caretaker and collective guardian. During WWII she kept everything in order on the home-front. After the end of the war she was found to be innocent in the trials following the Third Reich. She retired 1966 as leading governmental director and her conceptions of caretaking and social work were very well respected until she died.

Her mission was to watch over the morale of women. Doing so, she persecuted and placed thousands of women into re-education facilities, where incapacitation, forced labour and forced sterilisation was part of the program. The re-socialising of "fallen women" is not a phenomenon restricted to Nazi-Germany. It was not until 1974 that these methods were declared violations of fundamental human rights. Also the catholic church has built similar institutions called "Magdalena Asylums" in Ireland, Scotland, England, United States, Canada, Australia and Sweden, where women labelled as "anti-social" had to endure forced labour and inhuman treatment. The last of these asylums was closed in 1996 in Ireland.

TABOO puts topics like female sexual self-determination and the image of woman from back then until today up for discussion. It premiered in Austria and received the dramatics award of the region of Upper Austria in 2018 and travelled to the Brighton and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals in 2019.



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Special thanks to

Sebastian Six: audio-files
Sam Bunn: translation and male voices
Reinhard Zach: trailer
Reinhard Winkler: photography

Sponsored by

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