

Käthe Petersen was born in 1903 in Elmshorn and died in 1981 in Hamburg (Germany). Her mother divorced Käthe's biological father and brought Käthe and her two siblings into her marriage to Johannes Petersen, who never adopted them. This marriage also ended in divorce. Käthe Petersen graduated from a convent school and studied law, constitutional-law, psychology and political economy. She joined social services in 1932 where she worked as a 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 in 1966 from her role as leading governmental director. Her conceptions of caretaking and social work were held in high regard until she died.

Her mission was to watch over the morale of women. In so doing, she persecuted and placed thousands of women into re-education facilities, where incapacitation, forced labour and sterilisation were part of the program. This re-socialising of 'fallen women' was not a phenomenon restricted to Nazi-Germany. It was not until 1974 that these methods were declared to be violations of our fundamental human rights. The catholic church had 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 Ireland in 1996.

TABOO puts topics such as female sexual self-determination and the image of women up for discussion, playing delicate

game between the past and the present. It premiered in Austria and received the dramatics award from the region of Upper Austria in 2018.



written, produced and
performed by
Karin Schmid
www.karin-schmid.com



directed by
Nora Dirisamer
www.noradirisamer.com

Special thanks to

Sweet Venues

Sebastian Six: audio-files

Sam Bunn: translation and male voices

Reinhard Zach: trailer

Reinhard Winkler: photography

Schmid Family: being awesome

Let's talk about it! Find me after the show or let me know what you think and send me an e-mail to mail@karin-schmid.com

Thank you for watching!