

THE FAMILY APPROACH

by Daniel Abma



SYNOPSIS

When parents can no longer fulfil their duty of care, the children's world often falls apart. Nothing stays as it was. Suddenly it is no longer mum or dad who are in charge but the youth welfare system. Daniel Abma followed a youth housing group in a rural area over several years, showing professional educators who want to give five boys between the ages of seven and fourteen what they need most urgently, day by day: security, orientation, a home.

The documentary focus is not on the children but on those who take the parents' place. They sometimes remind us of Don Quixote tilting at the windmills, for there is a diffusion of responsibility between school, youth welfare services, and absent mothers and fathers. Words fail when adults do not keep appointments, when those in charge capitulate in the face of racist bullying and propose some "time out" – for the bullied boy – in a psychiatric facility. It would be easy to denounce these mechanisms, but that is not the point...

FESTIVALS

2024

ver.di prize for solidarity, humanity – 67 DOK Leipzig
fairness and film.land.sachsen prize – 67 DOK Leipzig
Gedanken-Aufschluss Prize – 67 DOK Leipzig
Filmz - Festival des deutschen Kinos
FilmFestival Cottbus

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Daniel Abma · PRODUCER Britta Strampe
(BANDENFILM), Laura Klippel (BANDENFILM) · SCORE
Henning Fuchs · SOUND Alexandra Praet, Christoph Walter ·
EDITOR Jana Dugnus (Jana Stullibrot) · DOP Johannes Praus ·
SOUND DESIGN Alexandra Praet, Roman Pogorzelski

Germany 2024

91 min

ORIGINAL TITLE
IM PRINZIP FAMILIE

FORMAL CATEGORIES
Biographie/Portrait, Family,
Children / Youth, Human Rights,
Migration, Social issues

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES
German

PREMIERE
Germany (2024)

COPRODUCTION COMPANY
CAMINO FILMVERLEIH GmbH
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LINKS / REFERENCE
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