

Jos Näpflin

Location: Fondue Gädeli Hotel St. Josefshaus (Kloster Gastbetriebe)

The movie critics were not enthusiastic in 1955. What they wrote was downright mean: they attested *Heidemarie – S'Waisechind vo Engelberg* an astonishing intellectual and artistic paucity. Based on two stories by Johanna Spyri, this Heimatfilm [local movie] at least has an interesting genesis. The story of the orphan Heidemarie was published in three languages: Swiss German, High German and French. Some scenes were shot in Engelberg. Whole families participated as extras, including Jos Näpflin's family. The artist, who was five years old at the time, still remembers it.

For his video work *Dörfli 1955*, he stretched a nearly one-minute movie scene to 15 minutes. The actresses appear in unnatural colors, and the sound is replaced by a string quartet. Näpflin researched the names of the extras, they can be read in the video. The Engelberg people who appear here are no longer anonymous, they have a name, spoken by a child's voice in dialect, just as they are known in the village: S'Lindlinger Marie, D'Fraij Scheens, S'Eij-Wouters Sepp. The dialect knows that belonging to a family or a farm is important for collective memory. The drama of the orphan in the movie is that this is exactly what she lacks. *Dörfli 1955* thus also reconstructs a piece of local history. (ah)

Jos Näpflin was born 1950 in Wolfenschiessen in the Swiss Canton of Nidwalden in 1950 and lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland. His work has been exhibited at the Kunsthaus Zürich (2023), the Kunsthalle Winterthur (2022) and the Nidwalden Museum (2021). In 2020, he was awarded a one-year scholarship from the Frey-Näpflin Foundation and the Canton of Nidwalden.

Further information: josnaepflin.ch