

Interview der Schering Stiftung mit der Regisseurin Jessica Hausner

Was reizt Sie daran, gerade die Wissenschaft zum Gegenstand eines Mysterythrillers zu machen?

Das Thema der Verantwortlichkeit der Wissenschaft ist heute wichtiger geworden, da unser Leben (in der kapitalistischen Welt) nicht mehr durch religiöse Moralvorstellungen bestimmt ist. Daher herrscht momentan ein Vakuum an Richtlinien, was in der Forschung erlaubt sein soll und was nicht. Ich habe gehört, es wird an einer Guideline in der Gentechnik gearbeitet, um zu regeln, wie weit die Wissenschaft hier gehen darf. Das betrifft vor allem auch die Genmanipulation an menschlichen Embryos. Wissenschaft hat Religion quasi ersetzt und wir erhoffen uns ultimative klare Antworten. Mein Film handelt davon, dass auch die Wissenschaft diese Antworten nicht hat, sondern im Dunkeln tappt.

What fascinates you about making science the subject of a mystery thriller?

The issue of scientific responsibility and accountability has become more important, since our lives (in a capitalist world) are no longer defined by a religious sense of ethics. We therefore lack guidance on what should – and should not – be permitted in scientific research. I heard that, in the field of genetic engineering, guidelines are being developed for regulating how far science is allowed to go. This applies especially to the genetic manipulation of human embryos. Science has effectively replaced religion, and we are hoping for definitive, clear answers. My film shows that science does not have these answers either but is groping in the dark.

In your opinion, how strongly is society's image of science defined by its representation in film and literature?

I think that most films offer a very simplistic representation of the world. But this gives us little insight. Science, too, is presented in most film in a simplistic way – and used to trigger the old game between good and evil. The image that is created in the viewer's mind is that the scientist is either a good person or an evil person, and the only question is who will win. But what if you realize that good and evil are two sides of the same coin? That with science you often cannot predict what will happen in the end but you take the risk anyway, since you act with good intent and the result may be able to save lives? And perhaps also create damage that cannot be foreseen? "Little Joe" attempts to show this ambivalent image of science.

Would you like to have a flower that makes us happy?

No, I don't believe that our pursuit of happiness makes us happy. That's mostly a marketing idea in order to sell certain products that are supposed to make us happy. But everybody knows that happiness is a rare moment that we cannot summon at will and hold on to and that most of the time happiness comes not when and where we expect it ... so, no, I do not believe in happiness as a goal in life. It's really no more than a word.

Thank you very much!