

Interview with Franciska Friede



Foto: © Patrik Ludolph

JJ: First off, we'd like to thank you for doing this interview for our Advent Calendar! Even though we're called "Jemma International," our followers are always excited to hear from our Honorary Members!

Franci: You're welcome! I'm happy to do it!

JJ: What did you do before you won the role of ‚Sophie‘ on Hand aufs Herz?

Franci: I was in my final year of drama school when I received the call telling me that I had gotten the part on HaHe. I had already shot a few short films, but I had never done anything "REAL" - nothing that was really going to be OUT THERE, so it was actually a little scary to me. The first thing we did was shoot the pilot, and after that we had to wait for two things:
#1 - Would the show get picked up
#2 - Would they keep me in the role
It was VERY nerve racking!

JJ: Wow! I bet that was nerve racking! I don't think that many of us knew that ‚Sophie‘ was your first major role - I mean, you played the character SO WELL that it's hard to believe that! Ok next questions! Do you have any more short film projections in the works? If so, any hints for us on what they are?

Franci: I do! Right now I'm in the early stages of getting my very first short film off the ground! I wrote the script in German and then decided that I needed some help with the English, so I contacted Sones (of the JJ team!) to ask for some help - and she gladly agreed! (Thank you so much, Sones!) The topic of the film is going to be very controversial, but I don't want to spoil anything so that's all I can say for now! You're all just going to have to wait for the film to be released! I can't be specific on the release

date yet, but I do hope it won't take too long to finish everything!

JJ: That's so exciting! We will be waiting anxiously for further news about that! Ok, so we know that you've recently been doing a lot of voiceover work. Is there any specific character that you'd like to lend your voice to?

Franci: Well, my biggest dream would be to dub a Disney character! To be honest, if given the chance, I think I would have a nervous breakdown - but it would be THE BEST nervous breakdown EVER! The cherry on top would be also getting to do the singing for a Disney character, but I won't be greedy!

JJ: You would be great as a Disney character! Hey Disney, if you're listening - snap Ms. Friede up! Honestly, they would be lucky to have you! Alright, moving forward! If you could work wherever you wanted, where would that be? Why?

Franci: Well, as a voice actress I would totally love to work in America, or in any Asian country. Voice acting is so much more appreciated in those markets! I mean, in Germany, it's not uncommon to find the names of the voice actors left off of the credits - or to see them just sort of added on at the very end of them - you know, that last page of the credits that no one stays in the theater to see? That can be very disappointing. For many of those same reasons I would also love to work abroad as an actress. It is very hard to get a job in Germany if you're not famous. Of course that is a common problem everywhere, but still - you won't find a production like Game of Thrones that is full of so many new faces and is so successful here in Germany. You also receive a different kind of recognition for doing a good job elsewhere.

In many of the markets abroad it's not ONLY about the ratings – if the show is good, there is a chance it will go on and be given a chance to build it's market up. Here in Germany nearly everything is about the ratings, which kind of sucks because no one is brave enough to try new things because of the fear that the ratings could be bad. I don't think that a show like Breaking Bad would have worked in Germany because it would have been cancelled after the first season for bad ratings. Isn't that disappointing?! Right now I'm looking for an Agent in London so that I know that I've really tried everything. SO – if there happens to be an Agent reading this - “HELLO! Here I am! Let's get together and talk!”

JJ: Yes! Agents – call her! She comes with a built-in and loyal fan base! If you hire Franci, we will come! Ok, back to the interview! What is your favorite medium to work in – TV, Movies or the Stage?

Franci: I have to admit that I have never been the stage type. Of course I would LOVE to do a musical, but pure acting on stage?! I've never felt good enough for that! I'm always scared to death that I will forget my lines and then ruin the whole play for everyone...so I guess I have to stick with acting in front of the camera because I am just too scared for the stage!

JJ: Well we think you would ROCK the stage! Ok then, building on that....if you weren't an actress, what do you think you'd be doing?

Franci: Hummmm.....that's actually a really hard question! Actually, I can't really imagine anything else for myself....and believe me, I've tried A LOT of jobs – but I've always come back to acting!

JJ: So it is your true calling! Well, our time is running out – so let's close this out with a HaHe question! Do you have a favorite memory from your time on Hand aufs Herz that you'd like to share with us?

Franci: I have a lot of precious memories from that time. I met so many awesome people during my time on HaHe, both in front of and behind the camera. It was a very good learning experience for me too! I learned so much there – not only how the production of a series works, but to always be on point, to show up ready to work even if you are sick, to learn lines your lines fast and what it's like to meet new people first the first time and then wind up kissing them only a few short hours later! It was a fun, extremely informative and great time in my life and I really wish it would have lasted longer.

JJ: Well I that that I can speak for every member of the JemmaNation when I say that we ALL wish it would have lasted longer! Thank you so much for agreeing to sit down with us again and catch us up with what you've been doing, will be doing and would like to do Ms. Friede! As always, it's been a pleasure speaking with you!

Franci: Thank you! I was happy to be asked! I hope that everyone has enjoyed my answers – and I hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season!

JJ: Happy Holidays to you and yours from everyone here at JJ.Org, Ms Friede! We hope that you have all enjoyed this surprise interview behind today's Advent Calendar Door!

Interview by Sones



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